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Utah Statesman

Campus Voice Since 1902

Statesman
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Utah State University, Logan Utah

Monday, Feb. 7, 2000

Bull Pen adds new wheelchair-accessible pool table to collection

JESSICA WARREN
Staff Writer

The Bull Pen added a new table last Tuesday to accommodate patrons in wheelchairs.

Manufactured by American Billiards, a Salt Lake company, the wheelchair-accessible pool table is only slightly different from a standard table, according to Bull Pen Manager Rick Skinner.

A typical table has four legs and a thick table top. Wheelchair-accessible tables have a pedestal stand and a thinner table top, allowing wheelchairs to get closer to the table.

"With this table, hopefully they'll be able to get up close," Skinner said.

He said with other tables, wheelchairs are unable to get close because the table legs get in the way. People with certain types of chairs are unable to get under the table at all because of the thickness of the table top.

American Billiards has been making the wheelchair-accessible tables for about a year now, Skinner said.

The custom-made tables actually cost less than standard tables, Skinner said — \$4,000 compared to \$4,500-\$5,000 for a standard table.

He said there are no students in his billiards classes

right now in wheelchairs.

"That's why we picked up the table — to draw on those who might have some interest," Skinner said.

Right now, the table is not being used because the bumpers are not on correctly, making the corner pockets smaller than they're supposed to be by about an inch, according to Sel Lane, an employee of the Bull Pen.

Lane said problem should be fixed sometime this week.

Skinner said he hopes to have some wheelchair competitions. He said he has friends in wheelchairs who have been interested in playing in the Bull Pen.

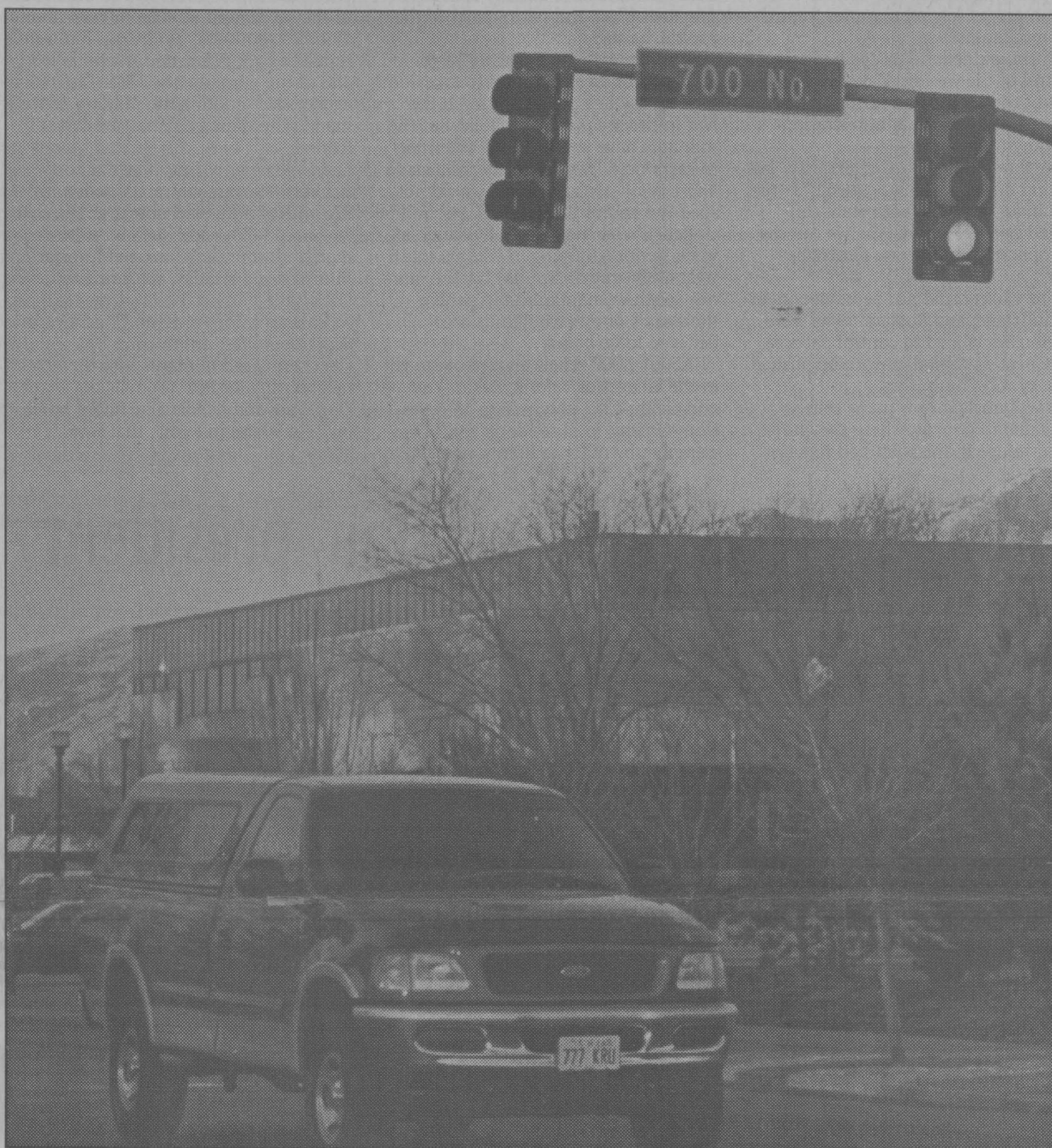
He said there are only some slight rule changes, such as no part of the body can be touching the floor, as opposed to standard competitions where participants must have at least one foot on the floor when making a shot.

Anyone can use the table, it is regulation size, width and height, Skinner said.

The Bull Pen is open from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday 11 a.m. to midnight and 2 p.m. to midnight Saturday.

Prices are \$2.50 an hour for one student, or \$3.50 an hour for a party including at least one student and \$4.50 an hour for a party of non-students.

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS



Dust in the wind

A street light on the intersection of 700 N. and 1200 East is twisted as the result of high speed canyon winds last week. The wind left tree branches and debris littering campus.

Courtesy: Utah Statesman

Police raid university in Mexico, end nine-month student strike

MEXICO CITY (AP) — In a surprisingly smooth conclusion to the nine-month occupation of Latin America's largest university, police raided the main campus Sunday and arrested 632 striking students.

The raid ended an exasperating ordeal in which Mexican authorities from President Ernesto Zedillo on down seemed unable to wrest the country's most important academic institution from a tiny band of radical students with names like Mosh and The Devil.

Armed only with batons and shields, about 2,400 federal police marched into an all-night meeting of the student strike council at 6:45 a.m. and rounded up about 430 students, including the eight top strike leaders.

The strikers didn't resist arrest and there were no injuries. Police then swept through the giant campus, detaining hundreds more strikers.

"A democratic society cannot allow the kidnapping of

the national university," said Interior Secretary Diodoro Carrasco.

The 291-day strike at the 260,000-student National Autonomous University of Mexico began in April to protest plans to raise annual tuition, which had been just a few cents, to the equivalent of \$140.

The university backed down, but a small core of radical students continued to occupy the campus. They pushed a six-point agenda to reverse recent academic reforms and give students more power within the university administration. They also used the strike as a stage to denounce the free-market economy and Mexico's political system.

What little public sympathy that may have existed for the strikers gradually faded as a result of their traffic-clogging and sometimes violent protests, vandalism of university buildings, intolerance of

Jump to STRIKE, Page 3

Author says the written word evolved from 'tokens'

BROOK COX
Staff Writer

In a forum on Feb. 4, Denise Schmandt-Besserat, a professor of art and middle eastern studies at the University of Texas at Austin, told Utah State University students how she interprets the invention of writing.

"Writing is the greatest invention of mankind," Schmandt-Besserat said. "It is necessary for mankind."

A revolution in communications took place with writing, Schmandt-Besserat said. "The voice only goes so far."

Tablets of writing found in Iraq have been dated back to 3100 B.C., but Schmandt-Besserat proposes the existence of pre-writing forms that led to writing on tablets can be dated back to 8000 B.C.

The invention of writing also brought about record

keeping, which is a part of everyday life today, she said.

The university uses writing to record whether or not you've paid your tuition and to record what grades you get in your classes and the government uses writing to tell whether or not you've paid your taxes, Schmandt-Besserat said.

"Writing also gives us the possibility to jot our ideas down and come back to them later and scrutinize them," Schmandt-Besserat said.

To have a major invention or to send a rocket into outer space takes a system of writing, Schmandt-Besserat said.

Schmandt-Besserat began visiting museums with clay artifact collections and noticed a lot of small various shaped clay "tokens" had been found and labeled as "objects of uncertain use." These "tokens" interested her, she said, and she began to study

them.

"They are counters. Each of these counters represented one specific amount of one given merchandise," Schmandt-Besserat said. From these counters, or "tokens," the theory of the evolution of writing unfolds.

After just using pebbles, the people began to use different clay shapes to better distinguish what they were counting.

For example, she said, mothers could send their children to town with a sphere shaped token, a disc shaped token and four oblong tokens and by that they would be able to know what she wanted and how much she wanted.

From there, Schmandt-Besserat said, they started to put lines and other designs on the "tokens." After a while they started to make little pots to hold the tokens in and soon they turned the pots

into what Schmandt-Besserat called "envelopes."

The people would put their tokens into the pots and seal them off with a clay design, Schmandt-Besserat said. But they soon realized they couldn't see through the envelopes to remember what they had put in them. So, they started pressing the tokens onto the outsides of the envelopes and soon after that they realized they could just make the imprint of the tokens on the outsides of the envelopes, Schmandt-Besserat said. Since the pocket on the inside to hold the tokens was not needed anymore, she said, they flattened them out into tablets.

With the new flat surface, detailed carvings began to take the place of the imprints of the tokens, Schmandt-Besserat said. This explains

Jump to WRITING, Page 3

State tobacco funds threatened by four lawsuits, another pending

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah soon may have nothing to show for its battle against Big Tobacco.

The state won nearly \$1 billion from its settlement against major U.S. tobacco companies. But before the first wire payment arrived, lawyers slapped a lien on the award and sued for a cut.

The state now faces four lawsuits — including one filed by Sen. Orrin Hatch's son for disabled smokers — while a fifth suit from tobacco growers is pending.

Utah is not alone. In a handful of states including Illinois, Maryland and Iowa, law

firms hired to carry the tobacco suit are still battling for the high-stakes spoils of the settlement, worth \$206 billion nationwide.

And lawyers aren't the only ones suing.

In Utah and California, smokers who have to pay for the settlement through price increases want part of the settlement. Tobacco importers and independent distributors have sued every state and major U.S. tobacco companies, claiming the entire settlement is an antitrust violation. And Utah expects litigation from tobacco farmers around the country, who claim the settlement

squashed cigarette sales and is hurting their business.

"Any time money of this magnitude changes hands, it attracts people wanting a part of it," said James R. Soper, Utah's beleaguered solicitor general.

Soper, along with two staff lawyers and a paralegal, spends half his time defending Utah's tobacco fund, which is expected to be spent on education and health campaigns.

The task is so great, Soper also hired private attorneys to help represent Utah in a California federal court at a cost so far of \$55,000.

In 1996, when Attorney

General Jan Graham made Utah the 16th state to sue Big Tobacco, she hired a national and a local law firm to act as counsel.

"She insisted we agree to a contingency fee," said Stephen Crockett, a partner in Giauque Crockett Bendinger & Peterson of Salt Lake City. "The lawyers took all the risk, covered all the costs."

The original all-or-nothing deal promised 25 percent of any Utah winnings for Crockett's firm and the national partner that represented 18 states — Ness Motley Loadhold Richardson & Poole of Charleston, S.C.



Warming up

Shawn Miller, a member of the Blue Kilts, played for audiences Saturday night during Poetry and a Beverage in the TSC Skyroom.

Courtesy: Utah Statesman

WORLD & NATION

Battle for Grozny ends

GEKHI, Russia (AP) — Federal troops have seized the last rebel stronghold in Grozny, acting President Vladimir Putin said Sunday, pronouncing an end to Russia's months-long drive to take the Chechen capital.

Russian forces, meanwhile, tried to head off rebels heading south to their mountain strongholds, shelling villages where rebels had taken shelter. Russian planes and helicopter gunships blasted militant positions in the Vedeno and Argun gorges, key rebel routes toward the mountains.

Putin said federal troops had taken control of the western Zavodskoi district of the capital and raised the Russian flag over an administration building there.

"A short while ago, the terrorists' last bastion of resistance was seized," Putin said in an interview with state-controlled ORT television. "So, we can say the operation to liberate Grozny is over."

The claim could not be independently confirmed, and Russian forces have previously claimed to control parts of the Chechen capital, only to be pushed back by rebel ambushes.

It was unclear how many rebels remained in Grozny, where they have taken refuge in the shattered remains

of buildings and moved freely through underground pipes. About 3,000 broke out of the capital last week, rebels said, and the military reported that small groups were still putting up stiff resistance to Russian troops all week, including Sunday.

But Col. Gen. Ivan Golubev, a deputy interior minister, said the situation was stable enough to begin deploying regular police in the city. Several dozen officers have already arrived to prepare offices and patrol parts of the capital, he said.

Russian leaders have put a huge emphasis on the operation to take Grozny, the key political prize in the war in the breakaway republic. But the militants have stressed their intention to carry on a long-term, guerrilla war, and the fall of their capital would not spell the end of the conflict.

Rebels who broke out of Grozny last week were regrouping in villages southwest of Grozny on Sunday for the journey south to the mountains, where thousands of other militants are believed to be based.

About 2,000 rebels arrived overnight in the villages of Valerik, Zakan-Yurt and Gekhi-Chu, about 15 to 18 miles from Grozny, local residents said. They were met by other militants who came

from the mountains to lead them back to rebel strongholds in the southern Argun and Vedeno gorges.

After the rebels left Valerik for the mountains, Russian forces Sunday moved in to conduct mopping-up operations. They also shelled the nearby village of Katyr-Yurt, which the rebels had also left, residents said.

Meanwhile, clashes were reported in nearby settlements. A group of 250 rebels attempted overnight to break out of the settlement of Shaami-Yurt, about 18 miles southwest of Grozny, but were repulsed by Russian troops who killed 150 of the gunmen, the ITAR-Tass news agency said, quoting the military command. The claim could not be confirmed.

In the neighboring village of Achkhoy-Martan, gunmen opened fire 27 times at a Russian post over the past 24 hours, killing one Russian serviceman and wounding four, the Interior Ministry said Sunday, according to ITAR-Tass.

Russian troops entered Chechnya in September after an invasion by Chechen-based militants into the neighboring Russian republic of Dagestan, and deadly apartment bombings elsewhere in Russia that were blamed on Chechens.

World **GLANCE**

➤ Speeding suspected in German train crash

BRUEHL, Germany (AP) — An overnight express train filled with Alpine ski vacationers was racing far over the posted speed limit when it derailed Sunday south of Cologne, killing at least nine passengers and injuring almost 100, authorities said.

The sleeper train heading from Amsterdam to Basel, Switzerland, derailed shortly after midnight at a switch, said German railways spokesman Manfred Ziegerath. Several cars were crushed.

Rescue workers using heavy equipment and search dogs broke open mangled blue coaches at the debris-strewn site throughout the day. Medics had to amputate limbs to free several injured people.

More bodies might be buried under wrecked coaches that were still being cleared late Sunday, lead police investigator Winrich Granitzka said. Sixteen Germans, four Americans and two Dutch passengers were unaccounted for, he said, adding that they may have left the scene on their own.

Authorities were unable to immediately identify the dead or even determine their nationalities because their bodies were so badly mutilated. Granitzka said 52 passengers suffered serious injuries and 44 others had minor injuries.

➤ Seventeen AFB instructors disciplined

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Seventeen boot camp instructors at Lackland Air Force Base were disciplined last year for misconduct, including one who was kicked out of the training corps after a recruit suffered heatstroke.

None of the instructors were court-martialed or discharged, although some later were promoted, the San Antonio Express-News reported Sunday.

Lackland has been the subject of two government probes since Airman Micah Schindler, 18, collapsed Sept. 10 after a 5.8-mile march during recruit training and died two days later.

A month before, another recruit, Rebecca Bice, suffered heatstroke during a 5-mile training run.

"I told everyone, you have got to stop this, someone's going to die," said Bice's mother, Karren Cirino.

Officials with the command said Bice had been ordered to run longer than the 25 minutes allowed for airmen in their first week of training. Her instructor, who was not identified, was reassigned to a new Air Force job.

Approximately 33,000 enlistees undergo basic training each year at the base, which has 326 trainers.

The Express-News also reported that three trainers used "inappropriate language, conveyed verbal threats to trainees and damaged government property in the dormitory" in a case involving 20-year-old recruit Justin Fuhler.

Finland elects first woman president

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Finns elected their first female president on Sunday after a tight runoff race that focused more on personalities than issues.

With 99.9 percent of the vote counted, Tarja Halonen had 51.6 percent to former Prime Minister Esko Aho's 48.4 percent.

"This is a historical moment for Finland," said Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen, a Social Democrat like

Halonen. "Her personality decided this election. Halonen is a person with her own individuality. Her openness and her genuine character appealed across party lines."

Halonen, who was foreign minister, takes office March 1 for a six-year term. Lipponen said he will appoint another Social Democrat to replace her in the foreign ministry.

"I know that there are still many areas where equality hasn't been

achieved, and I hope this result will be encouraging change," Halonen, 56, said on national television as she next to Aho late Sunday.

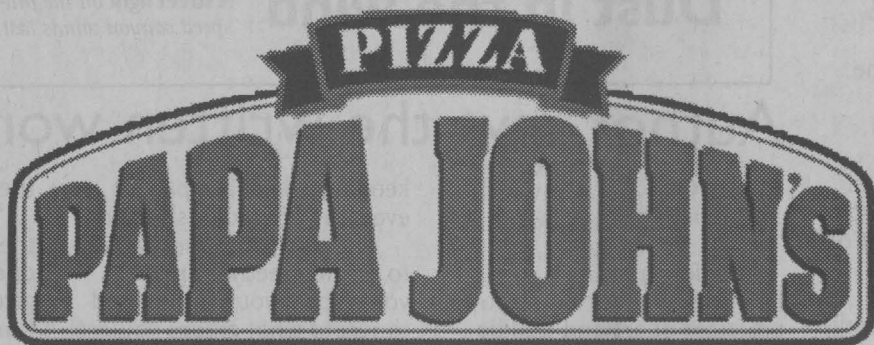
Aho also spoke, conceding defeat. "The final sprint was good, but not good enough," he said.

Finns turned out in high numbers Sunday for the election, lining up outside polling stations before they

Jump to FINLAND, Page 13

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Better Pizza.**

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(i.e. 6:15 pm = \$6.15 plus tax)

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STRUMMIN' ON HIS OLD BANJO**Bytheway, the man can play**

John Bytheway, a Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints motivational speaker/musician performed in the Kent Concert Hall Friday night.

Proposed bill attempts to make it more difficult for lawmakers to accept gifts

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A bill introduced in the House would keep lawmakers from accepting gifts that cost more than \$25 without reporting the handout.

Rep. Perry Buckner, D-Kearns, says his bill will lower from \$50 to \$25 the dollar value of gifts lawmakers may except from lobbyists and others.

By lowering the dollar amount, Buckner's bill would result in more lawmakers identified as accepting gifts.

"I'd like to place the limit down to zero. We shouldn't be taking any gifts," said Buckner, a police officer. "But I was told by some colleagues that I'd be lucky to get the \$25 level through."

House Speaker Marty Stephens, R-Farr West, said he agrees with Buckner.

"There's no reason legislators should receive gifts. And if you look at the record you'll see that in the last several years the House has supported" various government reform measures, the speaker said.

Stephens believes 20 or 25 percent of legislators are accepting such gifts. But

that's impossible to prove because the lion's share of gifts are below the \$50 reporting threshold.

Lobbyist reports filed last month show around \$200,000 was spent on entertaining lawmakers in 1999.

Stephens wouldn't point a finger at the Senate for killing reform bills in the 1990s but added "most of the bills have failed over there. Not over here."

Senate President Lane Beattie said if the Senate didn't act on reform bills "it was because we didn't see a problem. No one could really point out a problem or that the bill" under consideration would fix a problem.

Besides Buckner's bill, other reform measures include:

— A proposal by Rep. John Swallow, R-Sandy would clarify who is a paid lobbyist. He may tackle the issue of whether state employees who talk to legislators on behalf of their agencies must

file as lobbyists.

— A proposal by House

Minority Whip Ralph Becker, D-Salt Lake, would prevent legislators from giving themselves their campaign account money when they retire from the Legislature.

— A proposal by Rep. Brad King, D-Price, would require lobbyists to say on their lobbying registration form whom they represent. That information is currently available on different forms. But when one reads the financial statements and other forms, who the lobbyist is working for is often not listed.

— A proposal by House Majority Whip Dave Ure, R-Kamas, would apply to all state and local officials, not just legislators. He wants to put a stop to businesses or groups from promising money to local or state government entities or schools in exchange for their support.

'There's no reason legislators should receive gifts.'

• **MARTY STEPHENS** •
HOUSE SPEAKER

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

dissenting opinions and intransigence in negotiations. A referendum last month showed students and teachers overwhelmingly sided with the university in the dispute.

But, fearing bloodshed, officials were reluctant to forcibly retake the campus. The strikers were believed to have guns and explosives. No one wanted to risk repeating one of the darkest moments in modern Mexican history: a 1968 massacre of striking university students.

Sunday's raid came five days after a clash that injured 37 security guards and two days after a failed negotiating session. It seemed calculated to minimize the potential for violence. Police did not carry guns and human rights officials went along as observers.

Gen. Francisco Arrellano, general coordinator of the Federal Preventative Police, said his officers sealed off the campus, then moved in. Only a handful of strikers were guarding the barricades and, other than chanting about police repression, they didn't resist.

Roberto Garduno, a local reporter covering the strike council meeting at the Che Guevara auditorium, said strikers had heard rumors of a raid, but stopped worrying about it when it hadn't happened by 4 a.m.

Hours later, the police marched into the auditorium in a column, Garduno said. Students yelled at one another to stay calm, sit down and not provoke the police, he said. The students were moved to one side of the auditorium while police checked their identification. At the same time, police

swept the university building by building for the other strikers and took them to the auditorium.

Alberto Gonzalez Camacho, a 27-year-old law student, said he was sleeping when police arrived. He said he escaped by running into the hills behind the university.

"They were aggressive. They came in swinging," he said. "They took everyone they could. There was no resistance. We were sleeping."

The only weapons police reported finding were six bottles converted into Molotov cocktails, two screwdrivers, a pair of scissors and a souvenir machete. They also seized a few scraggly marijuana plants.

Sixteen buses carried the strikers from the university as parents and supporters outside the police line flashed victory signs at them and cursed at the police.

WRITING

Continued from Page 1

why they would use the soft clay, she said, instead of something they could scratch symbols into.

It also explains why the earlier tablets were circular and why they already had so many established signs in their writing, Schmandt-Besserat said.

The signs on the ancient tablets are hard to decipher as a few of the designs are actual pictures of what they represent, she said.

The use of the early tokens explains why they used these arbitrary signs, Schmandt-Besserat said.

For example, the sign of a sheep is a circle with perpendicular lines going through it.

That doesn't look like a sheep at all, she said, but it does look like a lot of the tokens she found.

They couldn't have made a sheep out of a token, instead they made a disc-shaped token with lines through it and that continued to represent a sheep on the writings of the tablets.

Schmandt-Besserat said. "Humans had developed with token a record keeping, a communication revolution and an organizational device," she said.

Schmandt-Besserat is the author of "How Writing Came About," which has been selected as one of the "Top 100 Science Books of the Century." It is currently available in the USU Bookstore. More information about Schmandt-Besserat and her research can be found at www.utexas.edu/cofa/a_ah/faculty/schnden.html

NewsBRIEFS**➤ USU to train for Olympic broadcasting**

Students at Utah State University are being invited to sign up for training to assist in broadcasting the 2002 Winter Olympics to the world.

A comprehensive training program, coordinated by International Sports Broadcasting, will be available at USU as well as Weber State University, the University of Utah, Brigham Young University and Salt Lake Community College.

Students interested in enrolling in the program must apply for positions and then enroll in the two-year sequence of coursework one of the five Utah training sites. Upon successful completion of the campus-based classes, students then qualify for the ISB workshops, which will begin in March 2001.

Preliminary informational meetings at USU are scheduled for later this month.

Contact the department of communication at 797-3292.

➤ 'Enemy of the State' to be shown Wednesday

ASUSU will present "Enemy of the State" Wednesday at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Kent Concert Hall.

It is free to students, and tickets are not needed.

The show, starring Will Smith And Gene Hackman is normally rated "R," but has been edited.

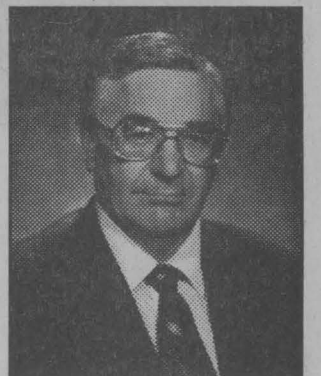
➤ Music department brings 'Sounds of Incas'

Live Andean Music and a picture collection of the "Altiplano" (Bolivia and Peru) will be presented in the Eccles Conference Center Tuesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the Utah State University music department, LLAJTAYKU — meaning our people or Pueblo Nuestro — will perform for students and faculty. Admission is free.

➤ Correction

In Friday's issue of the *Statesman*, the picture of Robert Sidwell was incorrect. The following is the correct picture:



Robert Sidwell

The *Statesman* regrets the error.

Briefs compiled by
USU AND STATESMAN STAFF REPORTS

PoliceBLOTTER

Information detailed in this section is a *Statesman* staff report obtained from USU Police incident reports.

Friday, Jan. 28

- An individual reported being threatened by another individual.
- Police responded to a report of concern for an individual's welfare at the Parking Office.
- Police were dispatched to the sidewalk just west of the Chemistry Building on a report of an untended suspicious black suitcase. The case contained psychological testing materials.
- An individual reported his vehicle was missing. Upon investigation, it was determined his vehicle had been impounded for unpaid parking tickets.

Saturday, Jan. 29

- Police were dispatched to Merrill Hall on a report of an individual driving on the lawn. The driver was warned for her actions.

Sunday, Jan. 30

- An individual reported the theft of her checkbook from her Davis Hall room. Twelve checks had been written on her account by someone.

Monday, Jan. 31

- Police received a report that numerous faculty and staff have complained about the disruptive behavior of an individual in the Natural Resources Building.
- An individual reported the theft of a laptop computer from his Natural Resources Building office. The computer was later found and returned to the owner.
- A laptop computer was reported stolen from the Natural

Resources department.

The computer is valued at \$4,000.

- An individual reported the loss of her wallet in the Taggart Student Center.
- USU Police obtained information on an assault that occurred off campus. The information was given to Logan City Police for follow-up.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

- An individual reported her vehicle had been struck with a paint ball at Bullen Hall. There didn't appear to be any permanent damage.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

- USU Police assisted Logan City Police on a traffic accident and provided traffic control until the accident was cleared.

Thursday, Feb. 3

- Police received a report that an individual was tampering with a parking gate at Bullen Hall. The individual was warned for his actions.

- An individual reported the theft of her wallet from the TSC. The wallet and contents were valued at \$330.

- Police were dispatched on a report of a group of juveniles smoking by the east side of Mountain View Tower. In addition, there were nine citations and four traffic accidents occurred, causing \$3,125 in damages.

If you have any information about these or any other crimes, contact the USU Police at 797-1939 or to remain anonymous, call 797-5000.

TODAY'S BEST BET

**EVERYTHING RED
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Cross Country and Telemark Ski
Cross Country and Telemark Boots
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THE TRAILHEAD

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MON.-SAT 10-6
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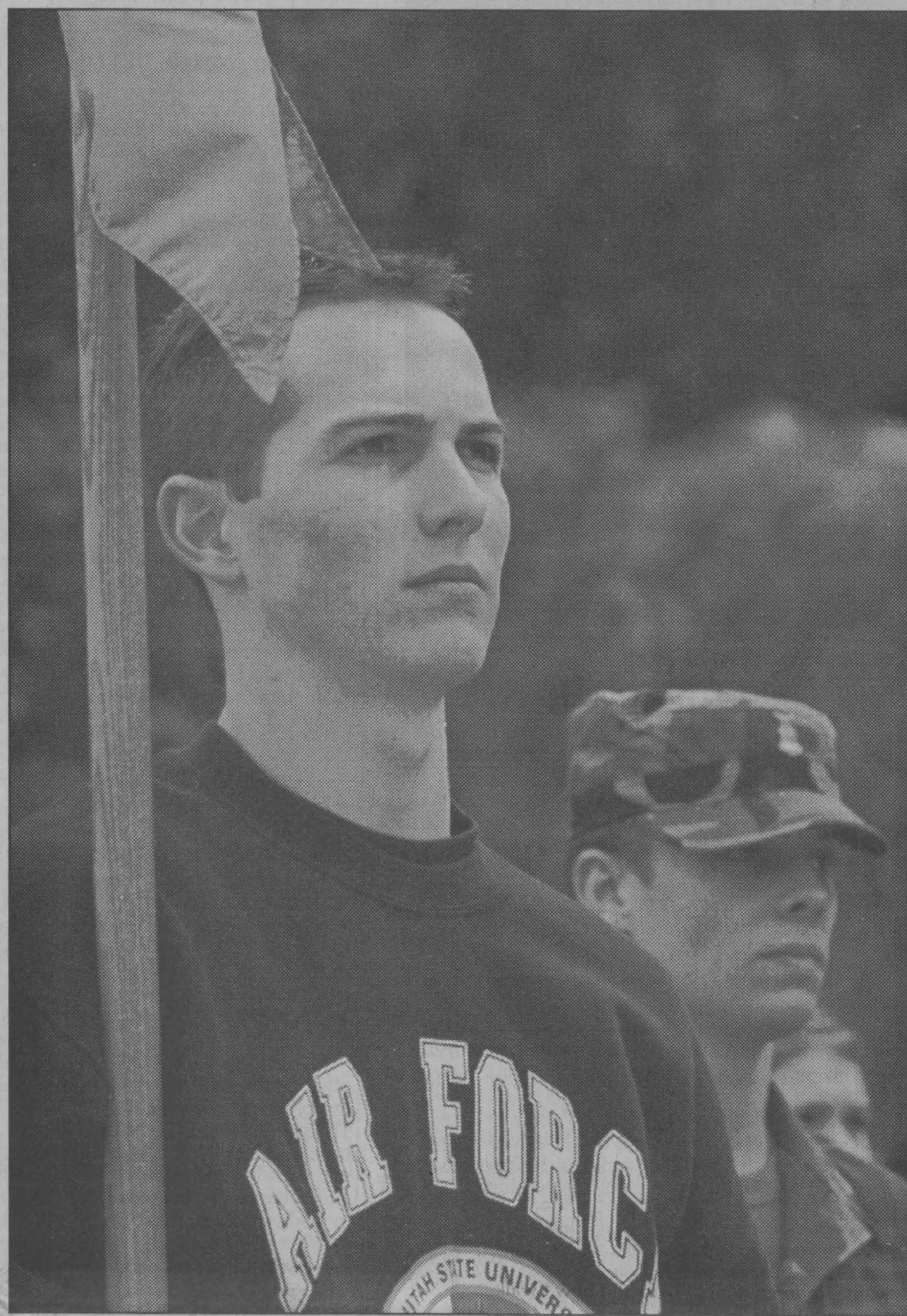
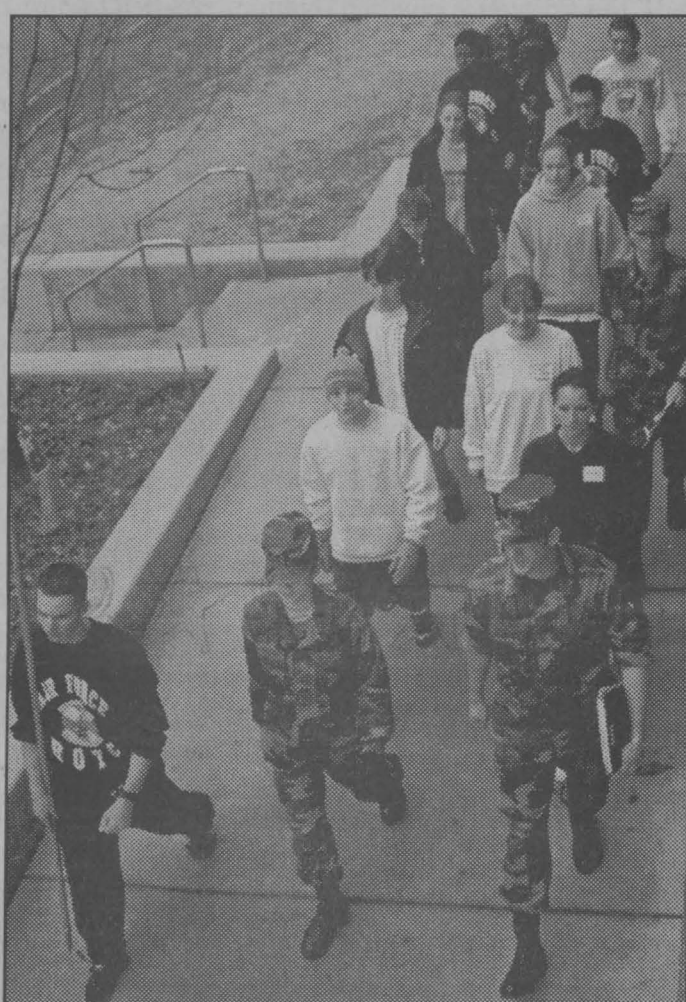
LIFESTYLES

Spring Break Travel

Need some ideas on what to do when Spring Break gets here? Check out our travel section on Wednesday for some ideas.



USU AIR FORCE ROTC CADET FOR A DAY



Above: Cadet Mike Watts the flag carrier for Flight Beta stands at attention during the flag ceremony ending the Cadet For a Day training activities.

Left: The group of students who participated in the Cadet For a Day program were divided into two flights (teams) and marched between the HYPR and ROTC buildings and around the Quad.

Upper-left: The group was taught drill maneuvers such as a proper salute.

During Utah State University's Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (HASS) week, students were given the opportunity to take part in the Air Force ROTC Cadet For a Day program.

The event was held Saturday in the Military Science building with activities in the HYPR and on the Quad.

Students who participated were given a taste of what the ROTC program offers to cadets.

The day included activities like learning the proper way to march, how to salute, working as a team and utilizing problem solving skills.

ROTC cadet commander Gary Marlow said the day was a chance for students to see how someone else lives.

"For students, it's a day to play G.I. Joe just like they did when they were kids," Marlow said. "It's also a great way to find out more about the ROTC program especially if you've ever wondered about doing it."

The program was designed to be both educational and fun for those involved. Leaders hoped to give those interested an opportunity to take the ROTC for a test drive.

Photos by Zak Larsen



Left: A flag ceremony ended the cadet for a day training, the ceremony was performed with both flights (teams) standing at attention and saluting.

Right: The day's activities included drill training where the cadets learned to march and salute correctly and a course on the importance of team work and leadership in problem solving.

Above: The "cadets" were also put through some basic exercising drills.



ROTC great, but not for all

My NICKEL'S WORTH / Lynnette Hoffman



Maybe I'm just not nationalistic enough.

I could retire after 20 years and still receive base pay. I

wouldn't have to deal with trying to find cheap life insurance, or figuring out how to pay off medical or dental bills — not to mention post graduate studies.

I could travel the world. I could lounge on white, sandy beaches sipping guanabana juice during my 30-day paid vacation.

And the benefits of joining Air Force ROTC aren't all waiting in the distance. More than half the cadets at Utah State University have scholarships through the ROTC. This is overshadowed by other luxuries like free food on a regular basis, pool tables and air hockey.

All decked out in too big, but nonetheless free, ROTC T-shirts, 25 or 30 other students and I were cadets for about four hours on Saturday. We played tug-o-war, worked together to solve a riddle, and ate like savages. I asked myself, "What more could I want?"

"For-ward Harch... Left Harch... Pa-rade... Halt," commanded the shrill voice of our superior cadet, breaking her syllables as if she were chanting in an African dialect.

We were learning how to walk — oh, OK, fine — how to march. The list of rules for walking was endless: always step with your left foot first, look into infinity with your eyes "caged." Remain precisely a shoulder's width away from all other people, and whatever you do, when turning 180 degrees, put your right foot behind and pivot to the right. Trust me, I know the importance of this. And all that is just how you walk.

I soon realized what more I could want: independence, freedom, creativity, self expression and most of all, silence.

Every possible activity

required cheering, yelling and singing. Each exercise we performed while stretching had its own special song. For example, "A stretched groin is a happy groin, ma'am," was the chant that accompanied the groin stretch. Jogging through campus singing jodies, such as "when my grandma was 92, she did PT (physical training) better than you," isn't my idea of an enjoyable experience either, and it certainly isn't my idea of a good workout.

And then there's the flag issue. If someone walks past with a flag, it is proper etiquette to place your hand on your heart and wait until it is six paces away before moving. If it touches the ground the stars must be burned separately from the stripes. It should be folded precisely, and when it is lowered all cadets should have their hands behind their backs with their right hand on top.

The flag is a symbol of the most elite and most wonderful organization in the world — the United States of America, Cadet Meek proudly told us. I could picture my mom, born and raised in Canada, snidely making faces, and I could see my boyfriend, Australian to the core, scoffing as I shrunk into my seat, glad they were not around.

Maybe I just don't have enough pride in a nation whose elected leader sleeps around with his interns, or whose schools seem to erupt in violence on a monthly basis. Maybe I'm just not thrilled to be part of a country that imposes its values on the world and expects to be thanked for it. A country that bombs everything it can find an excuse to, yet wonders why it's children respond to adversity with anger, drugs and guns.

Sure the ROTC has benefits, and lots of them. But I guess I just don't have enough faith to trust someone else to decide where I go, what I say, what I do and how I walk.

Lynnette Hoffman is a senior at USU. Send comments to SLLMS@cc.usu.edu

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A new year with tradition, flare

DEBBIE LAMB
Staff Writer

Unlike the traditional American new year's party — centered on fun and games, the Chinese New Year is a combination of religion and celebration.

"China celebrates the Chinese New Year for half of a month from New Year's Day," said Allen Yang, vice president of the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA.) "During this time, people have a big holiday and visit friends and family, bring them gifts and say hello. Children are given a lot of money from parents and grandparents."

A party was held Saturday night at the Junction by CSSA to celebrate the Chinese New Year. Because many of the Chinese students' families live in China, friends gathered together to celebrate the new year, Yang said.

"We had about 300 people come to the party, and at least one-third were Americans. There was a lot more people than we expected," said Eyi Lu, president of the Chinese Student and Scholar Association. "We wanted to celebrate the party with American people."

Yang said the Chinese like having common games (like

those played in this country) not traditional ones at the party.

"We will have a big celebration with fireworks," Yang said. "During the olden times, people would have a dragon dance."

"In my opinion the new year is important because families have a chance to get together," Yang said.

Every year the new year falls on a different day because China follows a Lunar calendar.

This year the new year fell on Feb. 5. Each year there is also a new zodiac sign. This year is the year of the dragon.

"The Chinese New Year is the first day of Spring Common or Spring Festival," Lu said.

In old China, preparations for the new year started early. The 20th day of the 12th moon was set aside for house-cleaning, or "sweeping of the grounds," Yang said. Legend has it that every corner must be swept.

"Very religious — need to clean house to get away evil fortune," Yang said.

"In China they would put a god on the door too as a symbol to keep bad luck out of the family," Lu said. "The red color keeps the bad luck away from the children."

Chinese New Year: a celebration

So just what is the Chinese New Year? Here is a guide to the celebration and the reasons behind it.

- A time for family togetherness, bidding farewell to the old year and thanking ancestors and the gods for blessings and protection.

- New year starts with din of fireworks and ancestor worship followed by visits to family and friends.

- People must avoid cussing, quarreling and sweeping floors (the last to avoid casting out riches.)

- Celebration includes traditional dances such as dragon dancing, tiger dancing and other folk activities.

www.gio.gov.tw/info/festival_c/html_e/spring.htm

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The Mirror

by Dan Clark, author of the series
Chicken Soup for the Soul

Her name was Jillene Jones. Jillene Jones! The alliteration just added to her mystique. To me, she was a character in the great American novel; the star of a blockbuster movie; the president of my world. She was truly the woman for me. I just knew it. Now if I could only find out something about her.

I asked around. I was Jim Rockford, Sherlock Holmes and Magnum P.I. all rolled into one. First clue: She was into heavy metal. Cool! Well, not so cool. Actually, I couldn't stand heavy metal. My hearing's a little sensitive, especially when the noise level exceeds that of a cannon blast. So what - who needs to hear? A lot of unwanted noise in this world anyway. I started listening to heavy metal.

Second clue: She liked to work out. I joined her gym. The machines in there looked like they were designed for some sort of bizarre psychological testing. Since there didn't appear to be any instruction manuals, I decided to stick to something simple like the treadmill. What fun! What a high! Actually, I felt like a hamster in a wheel. No matter. I was moving closer to my goal.

Dan Clark Convocation
Thursday, February 17
TSC Ballroom, 12:30 p.m.
Free Admission

I decided to make some discreet inquiries among her friends. The fates were truly on my side because not only did the woman of my dreams, Jillene Jones, know who I was, but she didn't find me totally repulsive. The die was cast. The plot was set. She would be mine. Even though the die was cast and the plot was set, etc., it took me another week to get up the courage to ask her out.

More research. Third Clue: She loved Aramis. What an amazing coincidence! I love Aramis, too - until I smelled it. Yikes. But surely if Jillene Jones loved Aramis, it must be an acquired taste. I bought the econo-size bottle of Aramis and began wearing it every day, everywhere I went. Every time I smelled my unique odor, I thought of Jillene Jones. And strangely enough, I began to notice a change in the way others perceived me. I always found a seat on the bus. If I had to stand in line, people would step aside and let me move to the front. Animals and small children fled in fear as I walked down the street. No matter, because I was on a quest.

A little more research and I would be ready. Clues four, five and six: she loved the color peach, bowling and sushi. I bought a peach-colored bowling shirt, found a bowling alley that served sushi and learned to throw strikes. Finally, I got up my courage and made the call. Luck was in my favor; the most popular head-banging band around was playing at our

local college venue. I snagged great seats after draining my meager bank account. I put on my best Barry White baritone (which sounded more like Steve Urkel on a bad day) and asked Jillene Jones out on a date. She said yes.

The stars were aligned. All was right with the world. I saw my destiny and it had a name: Jillene Jones. The day of what would surely be the best night of my life began at the gym. Forty-five minutes on the hamster mill. I saw her out of the corner of my eye. Did she notice my Motley Crue T-shirt? I could only hope. The night finally arrived. I put on my peach bowling shirt, drenched myself in Aramis, spiked my hair and threw in a fake nose ring for good measure.

Her eyes lit up when she saw that peach bowling shirt. "You know I was watching you today," she said. "You looked pretty cute on that treadmill. I didn't know you were a metal-head!" I walked her to my car and popped in a little Ozzy. She didn't seem to notice that the volume blew out all four of my speakers. She just grooved to the buzzing.

We went to the concert and I screamed at her for three hours until my ears felt like they were bleeding. Then mercifully the band finally stopped and we were able to leave. Sushi. She ordered some really slimy, expensive stuff that slid down my throat like dead goldfish. I had to pretend to use the restroom and sneak out to my to gather all the spare change from the floorboards to pay the bill.

I drove her home and walked her to the door. She gave me a kiss that should be reserved for sailors going to sea. I had won her over. She was mine!!! Then she said the six words that I had never imagined, in my wildest fantasies, hearing: "Would you like to come in?"

Before my rational mind could answer, something came out from some part of my being that I heretofore did not know existed. "No," I said. I looked around, wondering where that had come from. She looked at me in disbelief and said goodnight.

I drove myself home in silence. Well, I really had no choice since my speakers were blown. I walked inside and went into the bathroom. I looked at myself in the mirror. There I was with spiky hair, a fake nose ring and wearing a peach bowling shirt. I reeked of dead fish and cheap cologne. My ears were ringing so loud I kept picking up the phone. Who was I? Jillene Jones. I remembered some *National Geographic* special I had once seen on TV where the narrator described how lions hunt. "They become their prey." But starting a relationship shouldn't be a hunt. That didn't seem right.

I took off the peach bowling shirt and the nose ring. I rinsed out my hair and put on some mellow jazz. I went back into the bathroom and looked again in the mirror. There I was. Me. And somewhere out there was a woman for me.

Every once in a while I pass an Aramis counter in a department store or smell someone wearing that potent scent and I think of Jillene Jones. The name still rolls off my tongue. I wish her well and hope she found that special peach-shirt-wearing, sushi-loving, treadmill-running, Aramis-drenched, bowling metal-head to love. -Dan Clark

UPFRONT all about ISSUES

"high noon for higher education"
A Supportive Rally for Salary Equity
Wednesday, February 16th in SLC
Bus leaves USU @ 9am and returns @ 4pm
Sign up in TSC 326

By Reuben Wadsworth

The Utah Council of Student Body Presidents will hold a rally on Wednesday Feb. 16, 2000 at noon at the Utah state capitol's south steps to lobby for faculty/staff equity at Utah's public colleges and universities. All nine state-supported schools will be represented.

The motto of the rally is "high noon for higher education," Associated Students of Utah State University president Nate Anderson said.

Anderson expects 1,000 students from around the state to be in attendance. He said the aim is to have a positive impact, not a negative demonstration.

The College of Eastern Utah will be closing down the day of the rally in order for students to attend and Anderson said a around 200 Snow College students are expected to be on hand. Student leaders from the different colleges will speak on the steps during the presentation.

Ben McAdams, University of Utah student body president, will be the Master of Ceremonies. The student body presidents have also invited state legislators to attend the event.

"Being seen there is as important as anything," Anderson said. There hasn't been a rally for education this big in the state of Utah for the last 15 years, he added.

The heart of the issue, Anderson said, is that USU has approximately 20 percent lower faculty and staff compensation than

other "peer institutions" (universities with similar enrollment) such as Colorado State University and Washington State University.

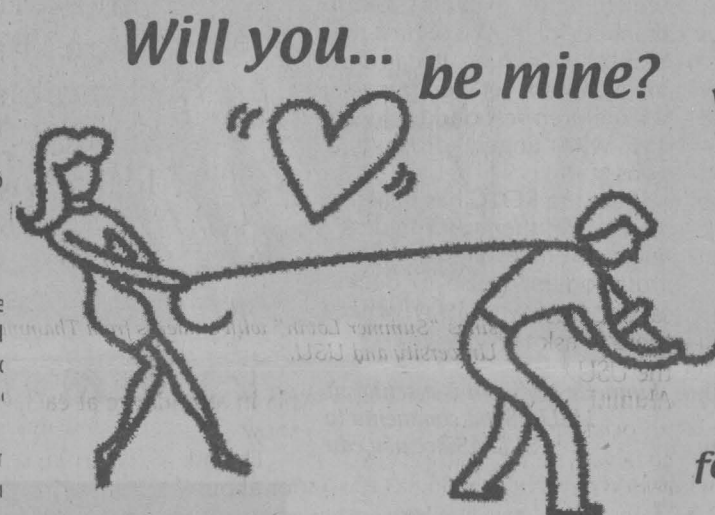
Utah Governor Mike Leavitt has issued a proposal to help the faculty and staff. Anderson said Leavitt has proposed a 4.6 percent increase in salary, however, there is not enough money currently in the budget to finance such a proposal. Leavitt favors extending the bond repayment on I-15 construction from seven years to 10 years to free the funds necessary to augment faculty and staff salaries, he said.

Anderson is in favor of the governor's proposal. However, state legislators have not supported the bond issue yet, he said.

"It is a painless way to put more money into education," Anderson said of the Governor's proposal.

Anderson feels it is vital to have qualified individuals run educational institutions. He thinks the future strength of the economy rides on today's education. Due to lack of competitive pay, Anderson said educators are leaving Utah at an alarming rate.

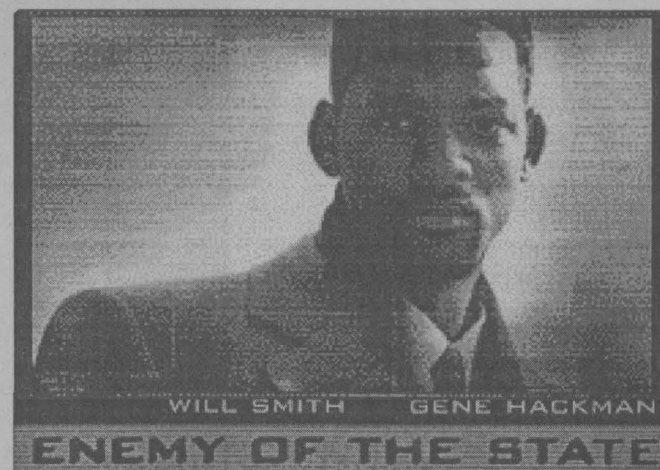
When faculty and staff leave USU, Anderson said they are almost irreplaceable. He thinks it sacrifices the integrity of the institution.



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* PRIZES * PRIZES *

What do you know about USU traditions?

During this week, questions will be posted in the statesman and around campus regarding Aggie traditions. Turn answers in at TSC 326. Prizes will be awarded on Saturday, Feb. 12th at the Valentine's Dance. You'd better be present to win though!

1st Question: What was the first year that the tradition of the "True Aggie" came about, and what is the story behind it?

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USU student Becca Hansen performs with students from Thailand's Thammasat University on a recent tour in that country. The Sunburst Singers and Dancers spent two weeks in Thailand.

Music: the unversial language

DOUG SMEATH
Assistant Features Editor

There's nothing like experiencing another culture to bring the citizens of both countries closer together. And all that jazz.

And that swing, big band and Broadway. Including a little *Grease*.

The Utah State University Sunburst Singers and Dancers used music to bridge the gap between two different cultures by experiencing it first hand in Thailand.

The group returned from a two-week tour in the Southeast Asian country Saturday, Jan. 29.

The tour to Thailand is nothing new for the USU group, but this year's trip was different.

According to Derek Furch, director of programming and entertainment, the Sunburst Singers and Dancers this year spent their time eating, interacting and even performing with Thai university students. "I've taken groups over there twice before, and we've just done our own show," said Furch.

This year, the singers shared the stage with musicians from Thailand's Thammasat University. And that made all the difference, Furch said.

"To be able to see our students and their students interact the way they did, it was really fulfilling," Furch said.

He also serves as director of the Sunburst Singers and Dancers.

"I went over there not really knowing what it would be like and I learned so much about the (Thai) culture," said freshman Jenny Bangarter, one of the singers. "They are such friendly people - always smiling."

The performers from both countries prepared for the shows in advance by sending video tapes to each other. The tapes showed the students how to perform the songs and the choreography of a culture on the other side of the world, Furch said.

Once in Thailand, the USU musicians spent one and one half days with the Thammasat students, putting the final touches on their shows and getting in sync with each other, Furch said.

"It turned out wonderfully," he said.

And the friendships that were formed were just as important as the success of the performances, Furch said.

"By the end of the time we

were there, (the students) had really gotten to know each other," Furch said.

He said they had a good-bye party, exchanged gifts and celebrated the time they had spent together.

Vic Saunders, director of development for the College of Agriculture at USU, was also in Thailand and traveled with the Sunburst performers.

Saunders said he was there to ask the USU Alumni Association in Thailand to consider the formation of an endowment in the United States to offset the disproportion between the U.S. Dollar and the Thai Baht.

As the Baht loses its value, it becomes harder and harder for Thai students to pay the approximately \$12,000 tuition it costs them to come to USU, Saunders said.

Because the Colleges of Agriculture and Engineering have high Thai enrollment, they have been working to help Thai students come to USU more easily, he said.

While he was there, Saunders said he had the chance to attend the Sunburst/Thammasat performances.

"The crowds were very enthusiastic," Saunders said.

He said the Thai audiences - which were made up of "packed" auditoriums full of the Thai public as well as U.S., Indian and Pakistani ambassadors to Thailand and several high-ranking ministers in the Japanese government - especially loved numbers the Thai and American students performed together.

"The Thai audiences really got a charge out of that," Saunders said.

The Sunburst performers did four shows in Thailand, Saunders said. Three performances were on Bangkok's Thammasat campus, with between 1,800 and 2,000 people

in attendance at each show.

The other performance was for about 900 people in Lampang, Thammasat's northern campus.

Furch said the Thai students had requested a few of their favorite American songs. These songs included "Summer Lovin'" from the musical *Grease*, during which an American man and a Thai woman sang the leads, the duet "Endless Love," "My Guy," performed by the USU women and Cherry Poppin' Daddies' "Zoot Suit Riot," performed by the USU men.

In addition, Furch said the king of Thailand, who just turned 72, an important birthday in Thailand's 12-year calendar system, is a "real fine musician." The USU and Thammasat performers sang a few songs the king had composed.

"The Sunburst Singers are really there for two purposes," Furch said.

The first purpose is education; for the students to learn Broadway and other music.

The second purpose is public relations for USU, he said. "Being in Sunburst Singers teaches you so much about how to present yourself because we are ambassadors for the university," Bangarter said.

But the singers and dancers served as more than university ambassadors this time.

Saunders said the American ambassador to Thailand told him the music would bring the two countries closer together.

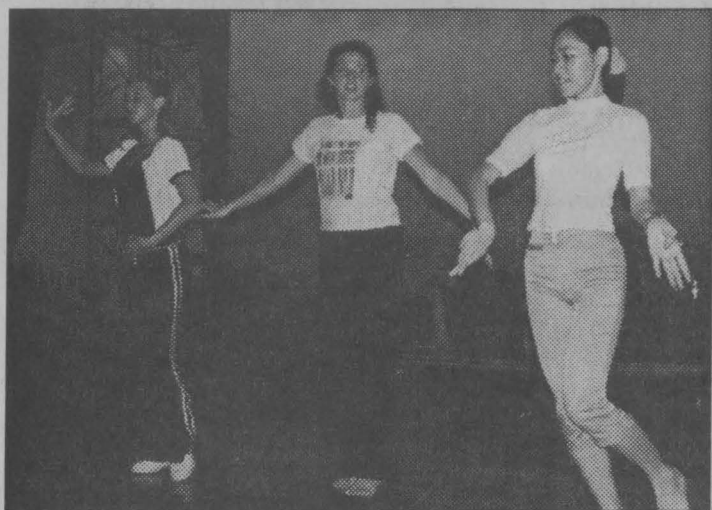
The Sunburst Singers and Dancers are planning another tour, this time to a big band festival in Pakefield, England.

Furch said this tour is being opened to the public. It will last nine days, including four days in Pakefield with day trips throughout the country and five more days in London. Anyone interested in the England tour can call 1-877-907-202.

Auditions for next year's Sunburst Singers and Dancers will begin April 10. Call 797-1738 for more information.

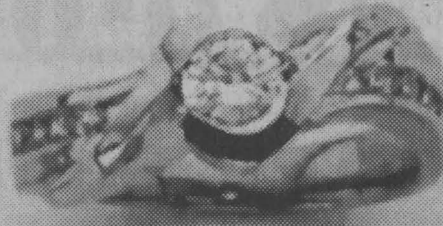


Dan Kartchner a USU student and Sunburst Singer sings "Summer Lovin'" with students from Thammasat University and USU.



Sunburst members Jenny Bangarter and Megan Miller rehearse a traditional dance with a Thai on their recent trip to Thailand.

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The International Student Council celebrates its annual International Banquet & Cultural Show on Feb. 26, at 6 p.m. in the TSC Ballroom. Tickets are on sale at the USU Ticket Office for \$10, \$12, and \$15. Food from a dozen countries will be prepared by students. A cultural show follows. No ticket sales at the door.

If you are a Junior or Senior REENTRY student, with a 3.0 overall USU GPA and 26 years of age or older, contact the Reentry Student Center, TSC 310, 797-1728, for more information concerning PINNACLE, the non-traditional national honor society.

Did you know that the Multicultural-Cross Cultural Leadership class will be taught Spring semester. The class will be held each Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 pm. If you have any questions contact the Multicultural Student Service office.

"What We Can't Do Alone
We Can Do Together"

Unbeatable Aggies keep on 'Plugging'

NEVER BEHIND / Aaron Morton



Eight newcomers. Only three players return from last year's 15-13 team.

I just thought you needed a reminder. It was easy to forget after Utah State University's easy 66-55 victory over New Mexico State University Saturday.

These Aggies now seem unstoppable. After whipping defending Big West Conference Champion and Eastern Division favorite NMSU, Utah State now sits high atop the Division — three games ahead of anybody else. The Aggies now have more wins than they had last year (17-5), and thanks to the greatest USU start in BWC history, the team has as many BWC wins (8) as last year's .500 team.

How do you beat this team?

Thursday the Aggies scorched the University of North Texas on the fast break and from the long range, as Tony Brown and Troy Rolle combined for 38 points.

I'm sure NMSU said to themselves Friday "get back and shut down Rolle and Brown and that should beat these guys."

Try again.

Although the Southern Aggies held the duo to only eight points combined — both were shut out in the first half where USU led 26-15 at half-time — and scored more fast break points, NMSU trailed the entire game.

And the USU defense came up big, especially in the first half — 15 points was the lowest an Aggie opponent had scored all season.

"That was as good of a defensive half we've had all year long," head coach Stew Morrill said.

Offensively, the Aggie bench resurrected itself from Thursday night's lackluster performance.

"Coach told us, 'you forget about the way we played on Thursday because we're going to need you guys on Saturday,'" junior forward Curtis Bobb said.

Bobb led the Aggies' bench resurgence with 13 points on 3-of-4 shooting from 3-point land.

Brennan Ray and Dion Bailey also came off the bench to lift USU, both offensively and defensively.

"We're kind of like a bench mob," Ray said of himself, Bailey and Bobb. "We play with a lot of energy, a lot of emotion."

Usually when a team runs off a string of victories, the opposition will eventually find a formula to beat them. A strategy like shutting down the top scorers or taking away the inside game, etc. I call this the "figured them out effect."

However, this doesn't seem to apply to USU.

"We don't have a main, key person," Bobb said.

The Aggies, going into Saturday's game, had five players in double figures in scoring, but they still don't have a player in the BWC's top 15.

"Playing as a team will get you somewhere," Bobb said.

Hopefully that somewhere will be a No. 1 seed at the BWC Tournament March 9 in Reno, Nev.

The celebration of the win and the commanding lead in the Division was flattened and put into perspective by Morrill's heavy dose of reality after the game.

"If we let up for a second, anybody in this league can beat us," he said.

"We just go and keep on plugging — game by game."

Aaron Morton, a sophomore from Kaysville, is the assistant sports editor at the Statesman. Comments are welcomed at slzqr@cc.usu.edu

Rejected: NMSU can't stop USU streak

WADE DENNISTON
Senior Sports Writer

It's official.

The Utah State University men's basketball team is off to its best start in Big West Conference history at 8-0 (17-5 overall) after defeating New Mexico State University Saturday night at the Spectrum.

The Aggies were still able to pull off the 66-51 win despite sophomore Tony Brown, junior Dimitri Jorssen and senior Troy Rolle combining for just 10 points in the game.

"We had guys not making shots," said USU head coach Stew Morrill.

"Troy and Tony were not getting shots down. Dimitri couldn't get shots down. We had guys come off the bench and help us. We had nobody worrying about their offense. Everybody, team-wise, was trying to find a way to win."

"That says a lot for these kids. They don't get off in their own little world," he said.

Junior forward Shawn Daniels led three Aggies in double figures with 17 points (tied career high), connecting on 6-of-10 shots from the field, and 5-for-10 from the free-throw line. Junior guard Bernard Rock and junior forward Curtis Bobb each added 13 points.

The 6-foot-6 Bobb left the game in the second half due to a hip injury he suffered while scrambling for a rebound. Bobb said when he got to his position, one of the NMSU Crimson Aggies went up and unintentionally elbowed him on his hip bone.

"I tried to play through it just hoping it would get better," Bobb said. "It just got worse and it got to the point where it was hurting to breathe, and I couldn't go no more."

In his 20 minutes of action, Bobb shot 4-for-5 from the field, and 3-for-4 from beyond the arc while pulling down three rebounds.

"My shot felt good," Bobb said. "I

Jump to **SIREAK**, Page 10

USU 65
NMSU 51

Game MVP:

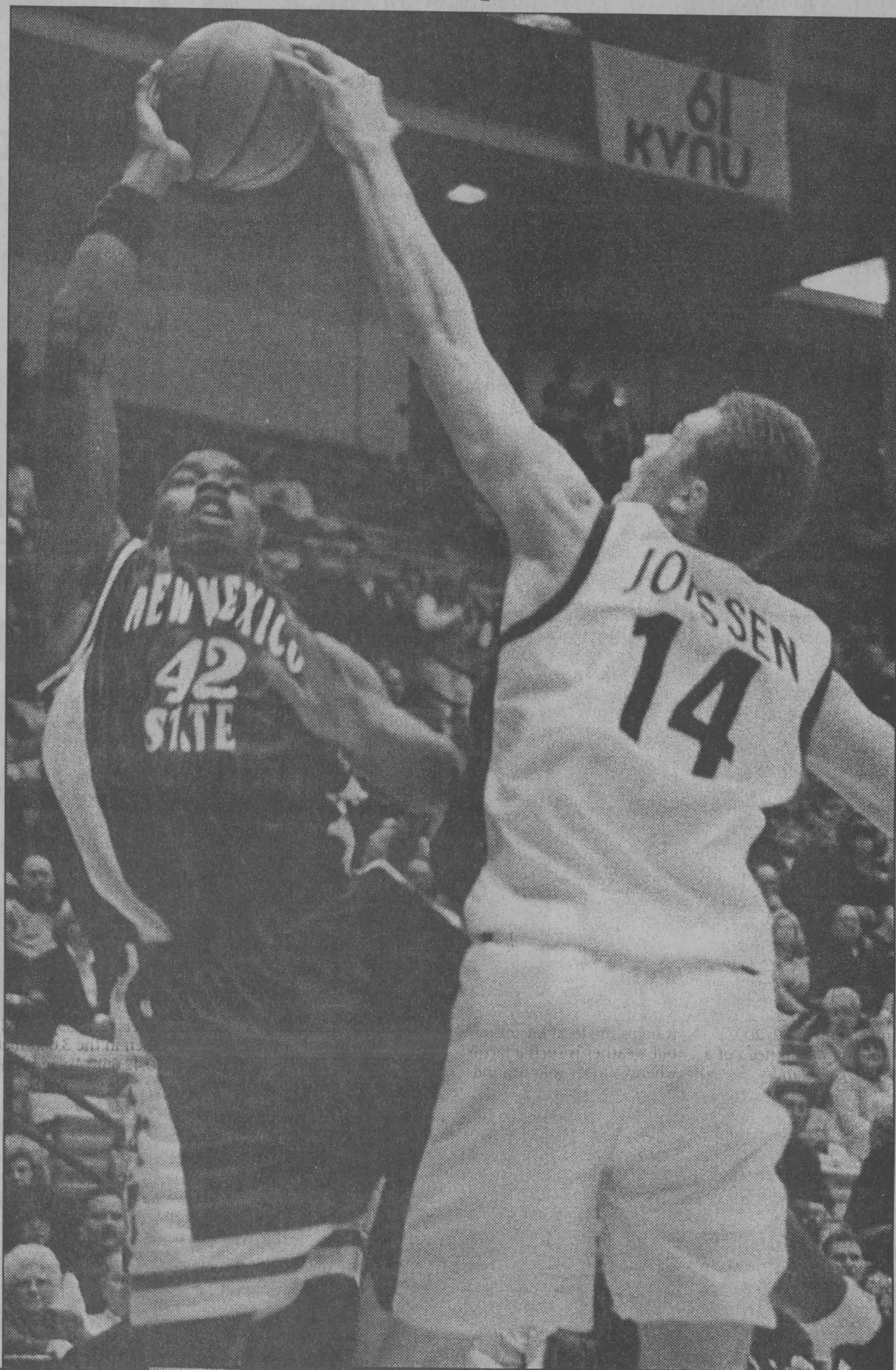
Curtis Bobb scored 13 points on 4-of-5 shooting, including three 3-pointers in 20 minutes off the bench.

Key Stat:

USU held NMSU to only 15 points in the first half.

Turning point:

Up only one point in the second half, Bobb draws an intentional foul to shift the momentum to USU's side.



Dimitri Jorssen (14) stuffs New Mexico State forward Daveeno Hines (42) Saturday night in the Spectrum. Jorssen as well as teammate Shawn Daniels each recorded three rejections and forced many NMSU shot adjustments on the night.

All good things ... hockey's run ends at 19

REUBEN WADSWORTH
Sports Writer

All good things must come to an end or so the cliché says.

That's exactly what happened to the Utah State University hockey team's 19-game winning streak and undefeated record during a trip to Colorado last weekend.

The Aggies fell 5-4 on Friday, 5-1 on Saturday to Colorado State University, and tied the University of Colorado at Boulder 5-5 on Thursday to end the trip with an overall record of 19-2-2.

USU assistant captain Alan Babicky said his team definitely wasn't happy with the outcome of the three games on the road trip, but he said he thinks his team is taking the results on a "positive stride" as a wake-up call.

"It showed how much work we have to do," he said.

"It's an eye-opener," USU defenseman Danny Wilson said.

"It was a good experience for us to have," assistant captain Nate Anderson said. "It makes us appreciate the weekends that go well."

The Aggies were a little overconfident going into the trip, Babicky said. The two losses will help them better prepare for nationals, he said.

In the first game against CSU, Babicky said the team didn't play aggressive enough and had some positioning breakdowns.

They quickly dug themselves a hole they weren't able to get out of, Wilson said.

However, Babicky said he was impressed with the way his team

fought back after being down 5-1 going into the third period Friday night versus the Rams. USU scored three goals in the final period and Babicky said his team nearly managed a tie. He said the team felt worse about the tie to CU the previous night than they did about their losing effort against CSU on Friday.

USU forward Aaron Burrell scored two goals in Friday night's contest, and defenseman Aaron Sutliff slipped two past the Ram goaltender. One of Sutliff's scores fluttered up in the air and floated over the CSU goalie's shoulder unseen, Anderson said.

"It was like the knuckle puck in *The Mighty Ducks*," Anderson said of the Sutliff goal.

'It was a good experience for us to have. It makes us appreciate the weekends that go well.'

•NATE ANDERSON •
ASSISTANT CAPTAIN

"We didn't lose that game," Anderson said of his team's 5-4 showing on Friday. "We just ran out of time."

On Saturday, USU was down 4-0 after two periods. The team could only muster one goal from Burrell in the final 20 minutes, while CSU scored a goal themselves. Burrell was a strong presence in front of the net during the Colorado trip, Anderson said.

According to Anderson, the 5-1 showing was closer than the score indicated. The Aggies just didn't get the breaks they needed in the contest, he said.

Penalties were not a big issue in any of the games, Babicky said. Part of the reason for that was the different style of officiating in Colorado, he said. The games were physical, but the players were able

Jump to **COLORADO**, Page 10



Aggies IN ACTION

Friday
Gymnastics
Utah State 190.475
Sacramento St. 190.450

Men's Volleyball
Utah State def.
Weber State,
25-15, 25-20, 25-18

Hockey
Utah State
Colorado State

Saturday
Hockey
Utah State
Colorado State

Basketball
4 Utah State 66
5 New Mexico State 51

Women's Tennis
Colorado 9
Utah State 0

Check the Statesman every Monday, Wednesday and Friday for complete and in-depth looks at all Aggie sporting events. Find us on the Web at www.statesman.usu.edu

Sac. St. upsets USU by 0.25

LYNNETTE HOFFMAN
Sports Writer

Competing on Sacramento turf, the Utah State University gymnastics team was defeated by California State University, Sacramento for the first time. The margin of victory was a mere 0.25.

Spectators were kept on edge throughout the competition which ended with a 190.475 to 190.450 win for the Hornets.

The win was not without controversy though, as start values for routines seemed uncharacteristically low, head coach Ray Corn said.

Routines which consistently had start values of 10.00 were scored out of 9.7s and 9.8s. Some skills and combinations performed by USU may have been unfamiliar to the judges, as the gymnasts did not receive credit for them, Corn said.

"It was a disappointment," he added. "It was probably the most frustrating meet in my 23 years of coaching."

Utah State freshman Kristen Bloom won the all-around with a score of 38.550 and led the Aggies with her performances on beam and vault. Christy Denson performed only on bars and beam in preparation for tonight's home meet against the University of Utah.

The last two meets were reversed for the Aggies who had struggled on beam and floor earlier in the season. This time they turned in six solid floor routines and didn't have to count a single beam fall. Junior Kristen O'Dell's 9.675 was USU's best floor score, and Bloom's 9.725 on beam was followed by sophomore Kirra Degener's 9.650. Degener has been one of the Aggies consistent competitors on beam and bars.

"We put on a clinic on our last two events — our scores just did not reflect it," Corn said.

Last week, against Boise State University the Aggies had an exceptional bar set and hit all six of their vaults. Yet in Friday

night's meet against CSUS, they had to count a fall on each event.

Freshman Tina Ellis led USU on bars with a career high score of 9.80. Bloom and another freshman, Kristen Fargo, both scored 9.60 on vault.

Sacramento State had to count two falls on beam and one on floor, and the team was only .125 ahead of USU on vault.

Despite the disappointing meet, the Aggies have another chance to better their scores against the University of Utah in the Spectrum at 7 p.m. Utah's leading all-arounder, Theresa Kulikowski, the defending national champion, recently tore her ACL and will be unable to compete. The Aggies plan to have a stronger lineup at the Utah meet.

"If we have the same type of beam and floor performance that we did on Friday, and the same type of vault and bars we did against Boise State, we will challenge Utah," Corn said.

Kimberly Scharman concentrates during her beam routine in an earlier meet against Boise State Jan. 28. The Aggies scored a 48.175 on the beam in Sacramento, Calif. Friday night.



Zak Linsen / Utah Statesman

USU FOOTBALL

USU will play Texas Tech instead of Wyoming

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Athletic Media Relations

Utah State University has announced a schedule change for the upcoming 2000 football season. Instead of opening the year at Wyoming on Sept. 2, the Aggies will head to Lubbock, Texas to meet Texas Tech on that same date.

The change was made in order to pick up an additional two games with Wyoming in the near future. The Aggies agreed to postpone the 2000 opener in Laramie until 2004. Wyoming will play USU in Logan September 22, 2001.

Wyoming was in need of a guarantee game and will travel to Auburn on Sept. 2 this year, which is where Texas Tech was originally opening its season. The schedule change is a positive one according to USU director of athletics Rance Pugmire as well as Aggie football coach Mick Dennehy.

"This is a great opportunity to pick up two more games against Wyoming. We will continue to schedule as many Mountain West and Western Athletic Conference schools as possible," Pugmire said. "Game guarantees were not an issue in this decision for us."

According to Pugmire, the negotiations with Wyoming also include a four-year arrangement in basketball scheduling. The two schools

are working on those dates.

"It certainly will be a privilege for us to lineup and play against Texas Tech," commented Dennehy. "We are excited to get going and learn everything we can about the Red Raiders. It should be a great test for our program."

Pugmire also noted that outside of the season opener against Southern Utah, USU's other four home games will kickoff at 3 p.m. The SUU game will start at 7 p.m.

"If it was possible we would play every home game at night," Pugmire said. "It helps increase our attendance and it helps the local businesses, but weather is such a factor when October rolls around, that we have traditionally played earlier in the day. We are hoping that 3 p.m. kick-offs will allow our fans more time during the day for other activities and it will also help local businesses generate more activity during the day."

The game against the University of Utah on September 30 was moved to 3 p.m. to accommodate SportsWest's television broadcast as well as homecoming activities. The next home game isn't until October 21 vs. the University of Idaho, and the Aggies are home on October 28 and November 18 as well.

"I think being as consistent as possible with starting times helps our fans plan their day," Pugmire added.

Broken record highlights Pocatello track meet

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Athletic Media Relations

At the Mountain States Games held in Pocatello, Idaho last weekend, Utah State University women's distance medley relay team broke the school record with a time of 11:50.77. The Aggies also had two first-place finishes in the meet that wasn't team scored.

The team's time was good for a third-place finish and beat last year's record time of 11:54.94. Members of the relay consist of Kristy Guymon, who ran the 1200-meters, Kristi Connors, 400-meters, Melissa Jensen, 800-meters, and Rebekah Thornley, 1600-meters.

"These girls came prepared to go after it, and they did," USU head coach Gregg Gensel said. "I'm proud of them because they had a determination of what they wanted to do, and each of them did it."

The Aggies also had 11 men and 14 women qualify for the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships to be held in Reno, Nev., Feb. 25 and 26, bringing USU's totals up to 28 men and 23 women, who have qualified for the indoor championships.

Top performance on the men's side included, senior Marcus Morgan who set a personal record in the mile, barley missing NCAA qualifying standards with a time of 4:10.11.

Junior, James Parker had an impressive showing in the weight throw with a toss of 70-feet 2.75-inches good for a second place finish. Parker also

earned a seventh place finish in the shot put with a mark of 58-01.00.

Earning second place finishes for the Aggies were, Brett Guymon in the 400-meters (49.07), Lawrence Ringwald in the 200-meters (21.87), Bruce McCannel in the long jump (21-11) and Brad Reed in the men's open weight throw (53-09).

In women's action, freshman Tatyana Hovhannisyan finished first in the triple jump with a personal record (PR) jump of 40-feet 3.25-inches. Junior Kristy Funk-Guymon also earned a first-place finish in the 800-meters with a time of 2:14.22.

Other top finishers for the Aggies were Rebekah Thornley finishing second in the 800-meters (2:14.39), as did Karen Olsen in the 3,000-meters (10:42.66), Angie Winkler in the mile (5:03.00) and Andrea Jeppsen in the 60-meters (7.93).

"As a team, we set goals to get better and set PR during this part of the season," said Gensel. "We have already set a lot of PR's and season best, but we want to keep building on that in these last two meets. I think we will see good things when we go to Montana."

Top Aggie Finishers Men

2nd --Lawrence Ringwald, 200-meters (21.87)
4th-- Lawrence Ringwald, 60-meter (6.90)
2nd --Bret Guymon, 400-meters (49.07)
4th-- Bret Guymon, 60-m



Trevor Betenson runs his leg of the 4X400 relay Saturday at the Mountain States Games.

Hurdles (8.31)
2nd--Marcus Morgan, mile (4:11.11)
2nd --Bruce McCannel, long jump (22-11)
2nd--Brad Reed, weight open (53-09.00)
2nd--James Parker, weight Inv. (70-2.75)
3rd -- Joel Johnson, pentathlon (3,904)
5th--Jacob Pugsley, pentathlon (3,600)
Women

1st-Tatyana Hovhannisyan triple-Jump (40-03.25)
1st--Krisy Guymon, 800-meters (2:14.22)
2nd--Karen Olsen, 3,00-meters (10:42.66)
2nd--Rebekah Thornley, 800-meters (2:14.39)
3rd--USU Distance medley team (11:50.77)
4th--Michala Thompson, 400-meters (57.30)
4th--Andera Jeppson, 200-meters (25.27)

Women's tennis drops to Colorado, now 0-4

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Athletic Media Relations

Utah State University's women's tennis team lost its fourth straight match of the season Saturday to University of Colorado 9-0. The loss drops the Aggies to 0-2 at home and 0-4 overall on the season.

In singles play the Aggies "started out strong in the first sets with Colorado, but

after some missed opportunities the Utah State became timid and stopped competing," said USU head coach Chris Wright.

Utah State's next action will come on Feb. 8 as the Aggies host Weber State at the Sports Academy at 1:30 p.m. USU's men's team will also will be in action next week as the team travels to Idaho State on Feb. 9.

Singles

1. Jessica Garrow (CU) def. Sarah Lowe (USU), 7-5, 6-3
2. Dominique Lempene (CU) def. Tracy Bertagna (USU), 6-0, 6-0
3. Nadine Kenzelmann (CU) def. Amy Thatcher (USU), 6-0, 6-0
4. Tracy Moore (CU) def. Jackie Ellis (USU), 6-4, 6-0
5. Mara Berzins (CU) def. Amelia Martinez (USU), 6-2, 2-6, 6-1

6. Suzanne Bjorkman (CU) def. Johanna Johnson (USU), 6-3, 6-3

Doubles

1. Garrow/Lempene (CU) def. Lowe/Thatcher (USU), 8-4
2. Berzins/Kenzelman (CU) def. Martinez/Johnson (USU), 8-1
3. Bjorkman/Moore (CU) def. Bertagna/ Scott (USU), 8-0

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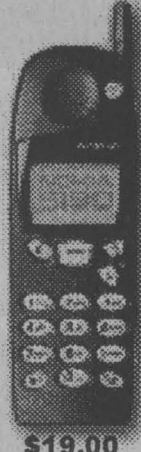


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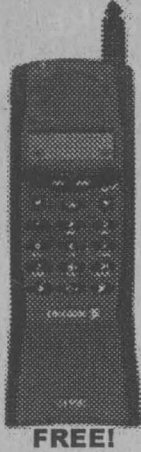
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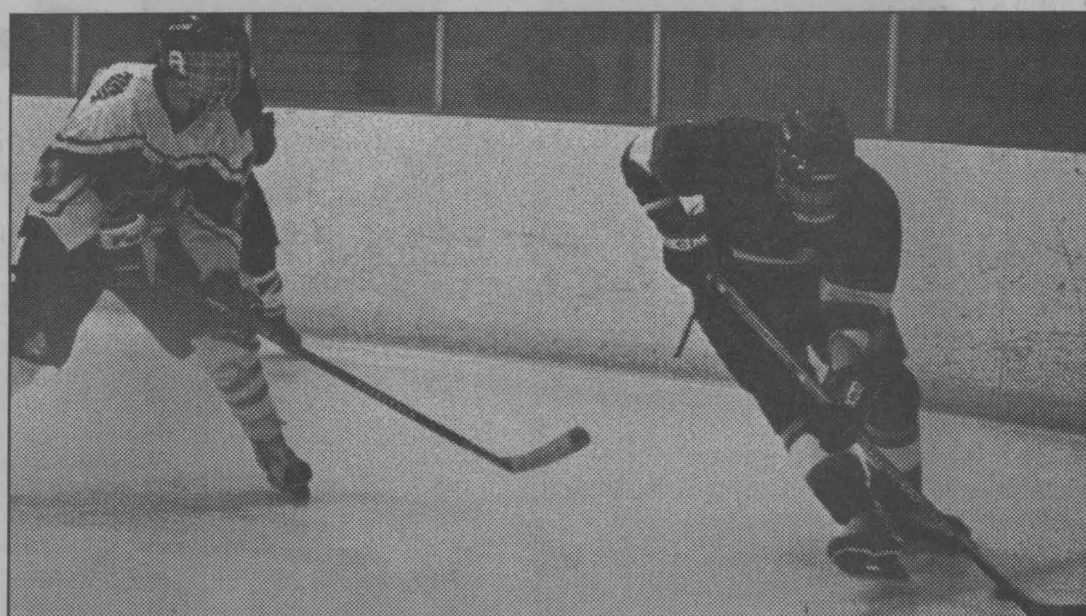
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Colby Thurston (23) tries to track down a San Diego State player earlier in the season at the Ice Sheet.

COLORADO

Continued from Page 8

to get away with more "stick work" than they are used to, he said. The officials weren't making as many calls as when the team plays in Utah, he said.

CSU is a good, fast team that plays tough defense, Wilson said. Yet Wilson is confident the Aggies can beat the Rams if the two teams meet in the playoffs.

The Aggies already have shown they can beat the Rams by defeating them 2-1 at the Ogden Ice Sheet two weeks ago.

Against CU on Thursday

night, USU head coach Jerry Crossley said the Aggies got into a scramble game and had some defensive breakdowns.

His team was trying to score rather than prevent scores, he said, which gave too many good scoring opportunities to the Buffaloes.

In that game, Babicky scored two goals and showed a lot of team leadership, Anderson said.

Babicky scored once at the beginning of the third period to make it 4-3, then did it again with five minutes to go to tie the game.

With these two losses, USU's No. 1 ranking in the

West may be in jeopardy. The new rankings haven't been released, Wilson said. He said he thinks USU could fall to second after the two losses, but it's all still up in the air.

The team has a new attitude now to work harder and have fun while doing it, Babicky said. They also must work harder in practice, he said.

Anderson said the team needs to work on its pregame focus on the road. He said there were a lot of distractions and the trip was good practice in order to be better prepared for nationals.

"Team spirits are still good," he said. "We're ready to recommit."

STREAK

Continued from Page 8

was in a rhythm. I'm just grateful I had a chance to play and help our team."

Utah State came out smoking on the offensive end as it started the game on a 7-0 run. NMSU (5-3, 14-6) was finally able to score its first two points of the game on a layup from sophomore guard Eric Channing with 16:42 left in the first half.

The Crimson Aggies were able to close the gap to two following a Channing 4-footer, but the Aggies went on a 12-0 run after that, opening up a 14-point lead, 23-9, with 4:30 to go before the half. Utah State was able to go into the break with a 26-15 lead.

New Mexico State shot just 31.8 percent in the first half (7-for-22), but USU was not much better at 34.6 percent (9-of-26).

The Aggies came out sluggish in the second half as the Crimson Aggies went on a 20-10 run behind 12 points from senior guard Billy Keys, cutting the lead to just one, 36-35, with 12:49 to go in the game.

Bobb helped lead the Aggies back out to a double-figure lead, 48-36, as he scored five points in a 12-1 run. Two of Bobb's points came from the free-throw line after he was fouled by Crimson Aggie senior guard Brad Bestor.

"That was a big play," Keys said of Bestor's foul. "When guys push us, we've got to be smarter. We were on a run at the time."

NMSU head coach Lou Henson, agreed.

"Intentional fouls just killed us," he said. "On Brad's, I don't know what he did, but I'm assuming he did something."

What did Bobb think of

the hard foul?

"I think he was just a little upset," he said. "Their offense wasn't clicking ... He gave me a little elbow. I was into the game, I was hyper — it didn't really bother me. I'm glad the ref saw it."

"It did kind of turn the game around ... When you do little careless things like that, it makes the momentum on our side even more. We were already ahead and the crowd just got into it more, he said."

NMSU was able to cut the lead back down to seven, 52-45, with 6:34 left, following five straight points from Keys, who led all scorers in the game with 21 points.

Utah State was able to push its lead back into double figures for good with under four minutes to go as NMSU somewhat lost its composure by committing another foul.

And if that wasn't enough, the Crimson Aggies committed a flagrant foul by junior forward Daveeno Hines, who hit Aggie sophomore forward Brennan Ray in the head.

"I was just going for the steal," Hines said.

Ray connected on one of the freebies, giving him five points in the game, which tied his career high.

The 6-foot-5 Ray also pulled down five rebounds (tying his career high), four on the offensive end, and took several charges.

"I had to make up for the last game (against the University of North Texas)," Ray said. "The second half, I kind of relaxed a bit and made some guys look out to be all stars."

Morrill was certainly pleased with Ray's efforts.

"He is a tough, hard-nosed kid," Morrill said. "He is a defensive specialist. The other night, he played great defense the first half against North

Texas, and was not himself the second half. He comes up to me in practice (Friday) and apologizes, 'Coach, I'm real sorry about my second half defensive effort, it won't happen again.'"

"You've got to love it. You've got to love that kind of attitude. He was huge for us out there defensively," Morrill said.

Besides Ray, the bench as a whole unit stepped up big, scoring 26 points overall, which is the first time since the University of California at Irvine game (Jan. 15) that the USU bench has scored in double figures.

In the North Texas game, the Utah State bench scored just five points.

"We're kind of like the bench mob," Ray said. "Myself, Dion (Bailey) and Curtis, we play with a lot of energy, a lot of emotion. That's fun. That's a great position for us to come in and see how the game's going and get everybody fired up."

BASKETBALL SUMMARY

NMSU	Min	FG	FT	Reb.	A	TP
Channing	36	4/10	5/6	2	2	13
Hines	28	1/5	3/6	8	0	5
Brodt	33	1/6	0/0	8	0	2
Keys	36	8/16	4/4	2	1	21
Norvell	31	4/6	0/2	5	3	8
Desmond	6	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
Bestor	8	0/1	0/0	0	0	0
Noopila	10	0/1	0/2	1	0	0
Mason	3	0/0	0/0	0	0	0
McDermott	9	1/1	0/0	3	0	2
TOTALS	200	19/46	12/20	30	6	51

USU	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	TP
Daniels	32	6/10	5/10	10	1	17
Brown	20	1/5	0/0	2	1	3
Jorssen	25	1/8	0/0	8	1	2
Rock	31	5/8	3/4	0	5	13
Rolle	29	1/7	2/2	3	1	5
Thomas	9	0/1	4/4	1	2	4
Ray	23	2/4	1/3	5	1	5
Bailey	11	2/5	0/0	3	0	4
Bobb	20	4/5	2/2	3	1	13
TOTALS	200	22/53	17/25	36	13	66

3pt FG: NMSU 1/7 (Keys 1/4), USU 5/15 (Bobb 3/4, Rolle 1/4, Brown 1/3). Steals: NMSU 8 (Keys 2, Norvell 2); USU 6 (Jorssen 2, Rock 2). Blocks: NMSU 4 (four with 1); USU 8 (Daniels 3, Jorssen 3, Ray 2) Attendance: 9264

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Hillary Clinton announces candidacy

PURCHASE, N.Y. (AP) — With the president beside her and 2,000 supporters chanting her name, Hillary Rodham Clinton formally launched her campaign Sunday to be U.S. senator from New York, a state she has lived in only a month.

The race for the seat being vacated by fellow Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan is likely to pit Clinton against New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in what could be one of the most flamboyant political campaigns in memory.

No other first lady has ever run for public office.

"I am honored today to announce my candidacy for the U.S. Senate from New York," Clinton said as shouts of "Hillary! Hillary!" rang through a university gymnasium not far from her new home the suburbs north of New York City.

"I may be new to the neighborhood, but I'm not new to your concerns," she said, while President Clinton; her mother, Dorothy; and daughter Chelsea sat beaming behind her.

The president is said to be one of his wife's top advisers as she resumes the career she put aside to help him capture the White House.

Recalling a speech she made at her college commencement

at Wellesley in 1969, Clinton said: "I often return to one thing I said back then, that politics is the art of making possible what appears to be impossible. I still believe that today. We can do what seems impossible if we have the vision the passion and the will to do it together."

Clinton described her commitment to better schools, better health care and gun control. But she also took pains to describe herself as a "new Democrat."

"I don't believe that government is the source of all our problems or the solutions to them," she said.

Her remarks were preceded by tributes from Moynihan, Sen. Charles Schumer and Reps. Nita Lowey of Westchester and Charles Rangel of Harlem, who joined her on stage during her speech and stayed after to shake hands with supporters.

Recent polls have shown Giuliani with a slight lead over Clinton and running even with her among women voters.

That's a far cry from a year ago

when sympathy was strong from the Monica Lewinsky scandal and polls showed her well ahead of the mayor.

On Sunday morning talk shows, Giuliani reminded viewers of Clinton's late arrival to New York politics.

'I don't believe that government is the source of all our problems or the solutions to them.'

• HILLARY CLINTON •
NEW YORK SENATE CANDIDATE

Democratic Party can't come up with a candidate for the Senate from the state of New York? What does that say about the Democratic Party?"

Giuliani has not made a formal campaign announcement, but he came close on ABC's "This Week," one of the five TV talk shows he appeared on Sunday.

When asked if he planned to run, he said: "Looks that way."

Last July at Moynihan's sprawling farm, Clinton kicked off a summer-long "listening

tour" of the state that extended into the fall and took her from Broadway to Buffalo.

By December, she was assuring supporters she intended to run. And in early January, she moved into a \$1.7 million house in suburban Westchester County to establish residency.

Political experts said there was good reason Clinton chose the State University of New York at Purchase to make her announcement.

"When duck hunting, one goes where the ducks are," Republican consultant Jay Severin said. "The independent suburban ducks are the ducks in this campaign that are yet to be bagged."

As of the end of the year, Clinton had raised \$8 million and Giuliani, who started fund raising three months earlier, had raised almost \$12 million. It is expected to be the most expensive Senate race in the nation's history.

The Clinton campaign also arranged for about 500 house parties to be held simultaneously around the state during Clinton's announcement so more than 20,000 supporters could watch on television and then listen in on a conference telephone call from the candidate.

Haider says he'll abstain from government meddling

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Right-wing populist Joerg Haider said Sunday the new Austrian government in which his party shares power will take appropriate measures to compensate Holocaust victims.

In a televised interview, Haider also promised to moderate his tough talk and refrain from meddling in the coalition Cabinet. He will not hold a Cabinet post.

Haider's comments came two days after the new government — made up of his far-right Freedom Party and the center-right Austrian People's Party — was sworn in by a stone-faced President Thomas Klestil.

The coalition won approval despite a wave of protests and moves by the European Union and other nations to isolate Austria diplomatically.

Haider's remarks Sunday were relatively conciliatory compared to the verbal salvos he has fired recently against foreign leaders.

He told his interviewers that the previous government led by Austria's Social Democrats had not really dealt with the Nazi past, including issues like the compensation of forced laborers. He said the new government would seek to redress their grievances and those of Holocaust victims.

"Where we have inflicted great injustice on our Jewish fellow citizens or wiped out their families, we must take pertinent measures," he said.

Haider won international notoriety for statements praising Adolf Hitler's "orderly employment" policies and lauding veterans of the Waffen SS as "decent people of good character" — comments for which he has since apologized. The rise to power of his party has polarized a society with dark memories of defeats in two world wars.

Referring to his past vitriolic attacks on other Austrian leaders, Haider said his party would refrain from "oppositional reflexes and unnecessary sharpness ... and prove that, factually, we can reason very well."

However, Haider also said there was need to clarify reports that former Chancellor Viktor Klima and President Klestil allegedly solicited international criticism of the new coalition government.

He said he could "not rule out" a parliamentary inquiry should the suspicions be substantiated.

An inquiry would be "in the interest of those (involved) ... so they can credibly prove ... that they have not committed a kind of political high treason against Austria," he added.

Austria's new chancellor defended his coalition with Haider's party. Wolfgang Schuessel said Sunday he is deeply disappointed by what he called Europe's exaggerated reaction to the inclusion of a far-right party in the government.

"Yes, Haider is a populist, but he is no Hitler," Schuessel said during a television appearance on Germany's ARD network. "Why should the big European Union with 360 million people be afraid of a state of eight million like Austria? That's ridiculous."

Elsewhere Sunday, Israeli Interior Minister Natan Sharansky announced that Haider is banned from entering Israel.

The ban is the latest formal Israeli protest against the Freedom Party's inclusion in government. Israel recalled its ambassador from Vienna as soon as the Austrian coalition was approved.

"It is a very important symbolic act to know that he is not desired in our country. We hope that other countries follow our example," Sharansky said.

Israeli soldier killed and seven wounded

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (AP) — A roadside bombing in southern Lebanon on Sunday killed one Israeli soldier and injured seven others, prompting Israel to vow retaliation against the Muslim guerrillas who claimed responsibility.

The Israeli army said 1st Sgt. Jedidia Gefen, 20, was killed during the evacuation of the area following the bombing, when Hezbollah fighters fired on the troops. The death was the fifth Israeli fatality in southern Lebanon in less than two weeks.

The bombing is certain to escalate a week of fighting — the worst in six months — which has claimed the lives of three Israeli soldiers, the No. 2 officer in the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army militia and a Hezbollah guerrilla.

An Israeli soldier also was killed in a guerrilla rocket attack Jan. 25.

In the past, Israel has sometimes responded to such attacks by launching commando operations targeting guerrilla leaders deep inside Lebanon. Amid fears that Israeli threats of retaliation could mean more such operations, the Lebanese government put its armed forces on "the highest state of alert," a security official said on condition of anonymity.


The official said the move was made "in anticipation of any possible Israeli aggression." The orders applied to all army and police personnel and their weapon formations — units numbering about 85,000 that largely stayed out of the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel.

Hezbollah claimed responsibility for Sunday's attack near Blatt, three miles from the Israeli border, saying the group targeted an Israeli foot patrol of nine soldiers.

As an Israeli unit rushed to evacuate the patrol, fighters pounded the area with rockets, inflicting more casualties, a Hezbollah statement said.

The attack was "in retaliation to repeated Israeli aggression," the statement issued in Beirut said.

Hezbollah is trying to oust 1,500 Israeli troops and 2,500 SLA militiamen from a buffer zone Israel established in 1985 to protect its northern towns from guerrilla attacks. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has pledged to withdraw from South Lebanon by July, and he reiterated that Sunday despite the attack.



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Quotes 'n
NOTESVoter
dilemma

While primary election season is just around the corner, a survey conducted by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government finds voters across the nation remain largely uninterested.

Seventy percent of the 1,000 Americans questioned said they're no closer to selecting a presidential candidate now than they were at the start of the year, when 75 percent were undecided.

• UNITED PRESS
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About
LETTERS

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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Hockey fans
have the right
to be roudy

First of all, we as hockey fans would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your positive article which we are sure will do much for the sad lack of funding we already receive for our hockey team. The hockey team already has a hard enough time getting funding without your positive propaganda.

We don't know how sports are played in "your world," but in ours, sports include a large amount of adrenaline, excitement and competition. These elements combined are what make sports addictive and popular. When our hockey players get worked up, their tempers tend to flare, however they leave the game with no apparent hard feelings. This is part of every sport, except perhaps golf and bowling. What kind of fan attends a game and passively watches as their team tears up the competition?

We are passionate about our hockey team whose "lack of skill" has led them to be number one in the West Conference. Our hockey team

To the
EDITOR

played a beautiful game against Colorado State (the only team that gave us any kind of a challenge) two weeks ago and made us all proud. You may not think they have skill, but their record indicates otherwise. Though it may look easy skating around with a stick trying to hit a puck, it is not. It takes coordination, precision and yes maybe even a little talent.

As far as penalty boxes go, getting the opposing team off the ice for a couple of minutes is part of the overall game strategy. As fans, we reserve the right to get upset when someone from the opposite team roughs up one of our beloved players. In every sports event you will find out-of-control fans that cause trouble and make everyone else look bad. Recently a friend of ours visited from a university on the East Coast and mentioned how tame our fans are compared with the fans attending East Coast hockey games. According to him, we aren't even a fraction as vile and lewd as the fans he is accustomed to being around.

Andrea Frahm
Carlene Jelovchan
Jake McAllister
Jennifer Minharo
Racheal Neary

Chocolate, music highlights
this week in Logan

SOCIAL CALENDARING WITH ANN / Ann Bluemlein



I have to confess. I have thesis brain. And I have it bad. Now to my fellow 2,000 grad students on campus, you understand my pain.

To my former undergraduate colleagues — let me explain what a thesis is (besides a bad word). It's when your professors gleefully torture you for as long as possible. You know how when you walk home from your social engagement late at night and there are lights on in some of the buildings and you think to yourself "What idiot is still at work?" Well, that's us — the graduate students.

So be kind to your T.A. this week. Offer a tissue to the weeping student in the library who is screaming "What do you mean you don't have the Weekly Guide to Ethiopian Insects?" And don't forget, you may be here someday soon yourself (this is you Michelle).

Anyway, here is this week's list of ideas. Go. Play. Have fun. Spare a thought for me (and all those other poor grad students).

Monday — Only one Monday to go before another break. Yah! If you are looking for a way to be service orientated, consider this. A local Boy Scout troop needs adult Scouts and volunteers who speak Spanish. It is a multi-cultural troop that needs some help. Call 752-6662.

Tuesday — Be multi-cultural yourself and go see "Sounds of the Incas" at 7:30 p.m. in the Eccles Conference Center. Take a date. Wear bright colors.

If you are into music, but want something else, try the Logan High concerto at 7 p.m. in the school's auditorium. Cost is \$2 (but probably less if you are late). Local people sing and perform good music.

Wednesday — Switch music sounds and go to the quartet

(string instruments) at 8 p.m. in the Eccles also. But this costs (\$5) so if you go about 9 p.m. you get in free!

Also today you can plan your date and adventure with the Banff Film Festival next Wednesday and Thursday. Tickets cost about \$11 at the door.

You and your social companion can see the movies then head up to Beaver Mountain for night skiing.

Thursday — If you are really into civic awareness, attend the Logan Plan Commission meeting (you can even sit by me) at 5:30 p.m. It's only an hour or so and you can learn about what Logan is really like.

And you can even give public comment! (Come on, I am sure you can come up with a comment on SOMETHING) In the city building, look for the glassed-in court room.

Friday — Famous jazz singer Nenna Freelon performs at 7:30 p.m. in Kent. \$3 with ID. Have some barbecue ribs and listen to blues/jazz music and head to the show - what a date.

Or eat flexible things like licorice and spaghetti and then go to the gymnastics meet at 7 p.m. in the Spectrum. Take a sign that says 10.0 and one that says 5.0. Hold up the appropriate sign when the team of your choice takes the mat.

Saturday — Celebrate Abraham Lincoln's real birthday. Read a book. Abe loved books. And take a second to be grateful for your education.

And then be grateful for CHOCOLATE. Yes, \$5 will get you into (and eating) the Chocolate Festival, Bullen Center. Starting at 6:30 p.m. (and don't be late) you can taste and vote for the best chocolate in the area.

Ann Bluemlein will not be able to talk this week until Wednesday at noon. After she hands her thesis over to her committee members, you can e-mail her at slzk7@cc.usu.edu.

Cell phone
criminals suffer
impaired judgment

SLIGHTLY OFF CENTER / Dennis Hinkamp



Let's make a deal. I won't drive drunk, you won't drive and talk on your cell phone. I won't eat Kung Po chicken with chopsticks while I drive, you won't drive and talk on your cell phone. I won't practice my one-legged yoga poses while I drive, you don't talk on your cell phone. Together we can save lives and the insurance companies billions of dollars.

Take your cell phone and stick it where the sun don't shine — your glove compartment.

It's not like I don't love gadgets. I have an unhealthy, verging on unholy, relationship with my computer and have my eyes on a GPS locator for my birthday. However, the telephone has actually changed little since the day in 1876 when Alexander Graham Bell first said, "Watson come here."

The second call had something to do with free copies of the Gideons Bible. The phone and the conversations we have on it are just as banal as ever — the device itself is just more portable now. I will always think of the phone as an instrument of torture — telemarketers, insurance salesmen, telemarketers, religious zealots, the boss calling you at home and telemarketers. So now you get to carry that bliss-producing instrument around with you all the time?

Oh wow. There are quite a few studies coming out now that rank the

risk of talking on a phone while driving close to that of driving while intoxicated. Even if you do not read or believe such studies, simple observation should bring you to the conclusion that cell phones impair judgment. Just look at the people who use them. They talk louder, look stupider and run into inanimate objects while they are narrating their lives.

"Hey Bob? Yeah it is so cool — I'm walking down the street and talking to you at the same time. Wow, is technology great or what? I have to hang up now, but I'll get back to once I get in my car and the traffic gets heavy."

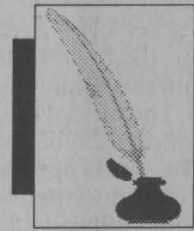
The other studies are also true. Cell phones do cause brain damage. People who would normally be cautious drivers and would be willing to send anyone with a .00000001 percent blood alcohol level to a life in Shawshank without redemption, think nothing of blathering to their eight-year-old while they are whizzing through traffic, shifting into four wheel drive, while changing lanes in a snowstorm. I'm one of those people who turns down the radio when the traffic starts getting thick.

What is it that can't wait? Are you trading stocks? Running a suicide hot-line out of your car? Raising funds for George W. Bush, Jr.? When you come up with a truly Mother Teresa-like reason for talking on your cell phone while you drive, let me know. Just don't call me.

Dennis Hinkamp's column, *Slightly off Center*, appears every Monday in The Utah Statesman.

Being Mr. Nice Guy

ADAM SHIVER / Central Florida Future



Have you ever listened to women talk about what kind of guy they are looking for? If so, then you have probably overheard the same things I have.

When they get around to naming qualities they want in a man, they almost always list honesty, kindness, a good sense of humor and chivalry.

I laugh at this. I think they're just making all that up.

One woman explained to me recently that I was "too nice." Too nice?! Is there such a thing — and if there is, is that any reason not to give a good guy a chance? I don't think so. In fact, I don't think there is enough niceness in this day and age.

I open doors, pay for dates and strive hard to be caring and sweet, but none of that gets me very far. But the guy

who stands in a corner, aloof and playing hard to get? He's golden. He's got no trouble finding a date. The guy who runs around with his buds, gets drunk and finally thinks to call around 1 a.m., hoping he can spend the night? 'No problem, come right on over, a lot of women say.' They flock to him.

I just don't get it. These girls must love being the caretakers of their boyfriends. They get caught in cycles of always trying to "keep his attention" or "win him back" — usually employing tactics that involve sex. All of their energy and focus is consumed with trying to hang on to a person, so they fail to notice the nice guys all around them.

Instead of trying to hold on to a loser, they could be getting to know all the nice guys who out there — the real marriage material — the guys like me.

I also have another guess as to why a lot of girls seem to settle for whomever (make that "whatever") they come

across: They are just as shallow as a lot of men. Oh, looks aren't as important as personality and all those other fine qualities that typically make their Top-10 lists.

Yeah, right. So, where does that leave me — and all the other "too nice" guys?

Well, we're going to continue to maintain our honesty, integrity and charm. We're going to keep on opening doors and sharing our feelings. We aren't going to play games. We'll assume responsibility for ourselves and for any hurt feelings we may cause. We will always try to take care of those whom we care for.

And will we have time for women who expect less of us? Probably not.

This student-written column appeared in the Tuesday Central Florida Future and was distributed by TMS Campus News Service media services.



IRA dissidents' bomb damages hotel

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Suspected Irish Republican Army dissidents bombed a rural hotel Sunday — an attack that caused no reported injuries but gave Northern Ireland a bitter reminder of the days the province is struggling to leave behind.

It was the first such attack here since 1998, and it came as international pressure was building on the mainstream IRA to begin disarming in support of Northern Ireland's peace accord.

A caller claiming to be from the Continuity IRA, a small dissident group opposed to the IRA's 1997 truce, told the BBC in Belfast that bombs had been left at two hotels in rural County Fermanagh.

Police evacuated both hotels shortly before a bomb went off at the rear of Mahon's Hotel in the village of Irvinestown. They said the bomb was placed beneath the hotel's main oil

storage tank, causing a fire that spread to nearby cars.

Officers and British soldiers couldn't immediately find any suspicious devices at the other threatened hotel. They expected to resume their search at daybreak.

No IRA dissident group had launched such an attack since 1998. There were several bombings in the province last year, but they were the work of pro-British Protestant groups.

Every political party in Ireland condemned the attack, including the IRA-allied Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness, a former IRA commander who is education minister in Northern Ireland's power-sharing Cabinet, said

the Continuity IRA was "unrepresentative of Irish republicans" and should "disband immediately."

But the blast underscored demands from the province's major Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, for an immediate start to IRA disarmament.

"We cannot allow any paramilitary organization ... to remain in existence with illegal guns and explosives," said Ken Maginnis, Fermanagh's Ulster Unionist member of British Parliament. "Even if they adhere to their own cease-fires, their weapons of war will inevitably end up in the hands of dissidents."

The Continuity IRA began bombing targets after the IRA

called a 1994 cease-fire. The shadowy group's sporadic attacks have caused only minor injuries and no deaths, but it has never called a formal cease-fire. Only last month, police in the neighboring Irish Republic arrested a suspected Continuity IRA activist in possession of a van loaded with weapons and explosives.

"There will always be people who try to undermine the peace process," a spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair's Downing Street office said in London. "We will do what we can to make sure they do not succeed."

The bombing came as Protestants and Catholics are hoping for the salvation of Northern Ireland's peace process — and for an unprecedented leap of faith from the IRA. The IRA's refusal to say whether it will disarm has left the province's new government teetering on the brink of collapse.

Cohen says test confirms Russian ship carrying Iraqi oil

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tests confirm a Russian tanker seized by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf was carrying Iraqi oil in violation of the U.N. economic embargo, Defense Secretary William Cohen said Sunday.

The Volga-Neft-147 was being taken to Muscat, the capital of Oman, and the Omani government will determine the fate of the merchant vessel and its crew, Cohen told reporters while flying back from Germany, where he attended a conference on European security.

Cohen also disclosed that an Iraqi naval officer was on board the ship when it was seized by U.S. Navy SEAL commandoes.

The tests were completed Sunday on samples of oil from the tanker that was

seized Wednesday on suspicions it was carrying Iraqi oil.

"They do reveal that the oil was from Iraq," Cohen said. "But the government of Oman will make a determination as to what they will do with the ship itself. That's up to the Omanis at this point."

He said the Russians were informed of results of the tests but was unaware of any immediate response from Moscow.

Asked what effect the development might have on U.S.-Russian ties, he said: "I don't think it will have any impact on relations."

Cohen pointed out that the ship was privately owned, and not the property of the government. Moscow had protested the seizure and demanded the vessel's

release.

When it was ordered to stop on Wednesday, the tanker ignored U.S. Navy demands, so armed Navy SEALs were dispatched by helicopter to board and seize the vessel, the Pentagon said Saturday.

U.S. officials had said earlier that the Russian crew offered no resistance to being boarded Wednesday and cooperated with U.S. Navy personnel involved.

Once the SEALs got on board, the Russian crew cooperated, and no shots were fired, a Pentagon official said Saturday.

Russia, which maintained that the oil was from Iran, long has supported steps that would lead to the eventual lifting of the U.N. economic embargo against Iraq.

Drug company Pfizer to acquire Warner-Lambert

NEW YORK (AP) — In a deal that will create the world's second-largest drug company, Pfizer Inc. is expected to announce Monday that it is acquiring Warner-Lambert Co. for \$84.4 billion in stock, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

The combined company will keep Pfizer's name and headquarters in New York. Its medicine chest will include both impotence treatment Viagra and the blockbuster cholesterol fighting drug Lipitor.

The deal will mark the end

of a takeover battle that started in November when Warner-Lambert announced a \$58.3 billion merger with American Home Products Corp. and Pfizer followed with a hostile bid for Warner-Lambert.

To sever the contract between Warner-Lambert and American Home Products, Pfizer will pay American Home Products \$1.8 billion — the largest breakup fee in history.

American Home Products could use the windfall as a cushion against verdicts or set-

tlements related to its part of the fen-phen diet drug combination. The company has already set aside \$4.7 billion to pay claims.

Meanwhile, relations between the top executives at Pfizer and Warner-Lambert are anything but friendly.

Warner-Lambert's chairman and chief executive officer, Lodewijk J.R. de Vink, 54, will leave the company after the deal closes in four to six months, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

FINLAND

Continued from Page 2

opened. The stations reported 76.8 percent turnout among the 4.2 million person electorate.

Voter Sinikka Peltomaa said both candidates were equally qualified, but she wanted Finland to have its first female president.

"I have nothing against men, but we've had so many men before," the 44-year-old secretary said.

Halonen, a Social Democrat, won the Jan. 16 first-round election with 40 percent support to Aho's 34 percent, but none of the original seven candidates had a majority, forcing Sunday's

runoff.

The candidates sparred in last-minute campaigning over the European Union's denunciation of the new right-wing Austrian government. Aho said he didn't think the EU should meddle in the internal affairs of a member country, while Halonen defended the stand of the other 14 members.

The dispute was the first major point of disagreement in a largely issue-free race for the presidency, a mostly symbolic post whose powers will be further reduced when a new constitution takes effect in March. The candidates agreed on foreign and defense policies — the domain of the Finnish head of state, who mostly leaves domestic politics to the prime minister and the parliament.

The jovial, red-haired Halonen, a former trade union lawyer who still lives in

the working-class section of Helsinki where she grew up, is backed by leading unions. She is divorced and lives with her longtime boyfriend. She has quit the Evangelical Lutheran Church in a country where 85 percent of the residents are members.

Aho, dubbed the "Kennedy of Finland" by media for his youthful manner, comes from the opposition Center Party, which traditionally has been supported by farmers and landowners. But he shook off that image, winning the support of high-powered conservative politicians and businessmen. He extolled family and Christian values, going against Finnish custom by including his four children and wife in the campaign.

Finns chose a president for only the second time since the Nordic country gained independence from Russia in 1917.

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by Daryl Cagle



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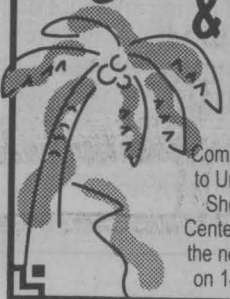
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Trouble IN THE AIR

Hijacked Afghan plane leaves Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — The Afghan passenger airliner forced by hijackers on a tense journey across Central Asia and Europe left Moscow early Monday after nine passengers were freed.

The plane's destination was not immediately known, but a spokesman for Russia's Federal Security Service said the hijackers had demanded European flight maps before leaving.

There was no immediate indication of why the nine passengers were released, security service spokesman Alexander Zdanovich told reporters at Moscow's Sheremetyevo-1 airport. He said the hijackers had made no political demands.

Similar releases took place at the plane's previous refueling stops in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

None of the people aboard the Boeing 727 belonging to Afghanistan's Ariana Airlines had been harmed, Zdanovich said, although it remained unclear how many people were aboard. Russian news reports said there were 131 passengers and nine crew before the release in Moscow, but other sources said there were as many as 160

aboard.

In Moscow about 9:20 p.m. Sunday. Trucks and buses loaded with elite commando teams, police and rescue workers converged on the airport.

Sniper teams moved into Sheremetyevo-1, the terminal where the plane landed, and security was heavy in the area.

Afghan diplomats arrived at the airport about 90 minutes after the plane landed and Russian news agencies said they were in negotiations with the hijackers.

One diplomat who declined to give his name said the hijackers were seeking the release of a prisoner from the Afghan city of Kandahar.

An emergency official in Kazakhstan, where the plane landed before heading to Moscow Sunday morning, said there were 20 hijackers aboard the Boeing 727, but three passengers who were released in Kazakhstan said eight to 10 hijackers were aboard.

Ten passengers were released in Uzbekistan, the hijacked plane's first stop, according to an Afghan opposition spokesman, identified only as

Abdullah. A further three were released in Kazakhstan.

The hijacking comes six weeks after an eight-day hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane ended peacefully in southern Afghanistan. The hijackers in that case freed their hostages after India released three pro-Kashmiri militants from jail.

Abdullah denied that the Afghan opposition was responsible for the latest hijacking, saying, "We condemn any act of terrorism."

Afghan media earlier had speculated that the hijackers wanted the release of opposition figure Ismail Khan, a former regional governor who has been held since 1997 by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement. He reportedly is being held in Kandahar.

Russia does not recognize the Taliban and the Afghan diplomats in Russia have ties to the opposition.

The Ariana Airlines plane was seized earlier Sunday while on a domestic flight from the Afghan capital, Kabul, to the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif. After four hours in the Uzbek capital, Tashkent, it took off for Kazakhstan.

For relatives, evidence of lost loved ones important for healing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A pocket knife, even a solitary button, can take on profound significance when they're the only links that families have to loved ones lost in plane crashes.

United Airlines Capt. Harold Green's silver pocket knife was misplaced during the recovery of personal effects of the 24 people killed when his Flight 585 crashed in Colorado Springs, Colo., in 1991. The loss still weighs heavily on his ex-wife, Gail Dunham, now president of the National Air Disaster Alliance in Washington, D.C.

A friend of hers clings tightly to a button from a military uniform — the only thing connected to her son that was left after the ValuJet crash in the Everglades in 1996.

"They need to recover every single thing," said Dunham, whose support group has a mailing list of 3,000 members.

The recovery of the bodies from Alaska Airlines Flight 261 — if they can be recovered — will help ease the shock, numbness and denial that are constant companions of victims' loved ones, said a clinical psychologist working with the families.

"What will allow them to move out of that stage is the actual tangible evidence their loved one is gone," said Robert T. Scott, a member of the American Red Cross disaster mental health team formed after the crash.

So far, bodies of only four of the 88 people on board the MD-83 airliner have been recovered.

"Our first priority is to recover as many of the remains as possible," said NTSB spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi.

However, NTSB officials say the wreckage will be mapped on the sea floor before more remains are recovered.

Identifying remains can take months and the wait can take a toll on families, delaying a proper funeral as well as details such as death certificates, wills and life insurance, Dunham

Navy mapping Alaskan Airlines wreckage, collecting remains

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (AP) — Navy crews on Sunday mapped more of the ocean floor near the crash site of Alaska Airlines Flight 261, leaving the plane's wreckage alone but collecting some human remains.

The National Transportation Safety Board wants a detailed picture of the aircraft debris before pieces of the plane are brought to the surface.

Exactly what will be brought up will depend on further interpretation of flight data and cockpit voice recorders, which were still being analyzed in Washington, an NTSB spokesman said.

"The ships have been out all night long," said Terry Williams. "There's more mapping that's going on. Naturally, in the process, if they find any bodies or other remains they're bringing them up."

The debris area is about 10 miles offshore in the Santa Barbara Channel, covering an area about the size of a football field in water 640 feet deep.

Meanwhile, more memorials were

held for families and friends of the 88 people lost with the plane. Among them was a service by Cardinal Roger Mahony, archbishop of Los Angeles, who led a service near Los Angeles International Airport.

The Alaska Airlines MD-83 crashed a week ago, killing all 88 people on board, during a flight from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, bound for San Francisco and Seattle.

The plane's voice recorder shows that for at least 30 minutes prior to the crash the pilots were struggling to correct a problem with the tail-mounted horizontal stabilizer, which they said had jammed.

Witnesses who saw the plane go down said it rolled upside down and spiraled into the ocean.

The Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office, which is responsible for identifying the victims, has said that it has several nearly complete bodies. Sheriff's spokesman Eric Nishimoto said it could be a week before any are identified.

Disaster Family Assistance Act of 1996, which spells out how the NTSB, airlines and agencies such as the Red Cross should respond to crashes.

"Each time we learn lessons, we take those lessons and move forward," Peduzzi said. "We are very attuned to the needs and concerns of families."

Before the 1996 act, it could be three days before airlines even told families a loved one had died in a crash, said Dunham, whose organization lobbied for the legislation. Access to crash areas also was sometimes restricted, even for families whose religions required them to visit the site.

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Plane crash in Alaskan jet forced to return to Reno

RENO, Nev. (AP) — An Alaska Airlines MD-83 jetliner returned to Reno's airport shortly after takeoff when the pilot reported problems with the horizontal stabilizer — the third such incident involving that jet model within a week.

The Seattle-bound jet's problems Saturday night were similar to those discussed by pilots in the tense minutes before Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashed into the Pacific on Monday.

The cause of that accident, in which 88 people died, has not been determined.

On Tuesday, an American Airlines MD-83 had trouble with its horizontal stabilizer after takeoff from Phoenix. It returned safely to the airport.

Alaska Airlines does not plan to ground its 35 MD-83 jetliners or to make any unscheduled maintenance checks, said Jack Evans, a spokesman for the Seattle-based airline.

"We obviously understand there's some stress out there," he said in a telephone interview Sunday. "Despite the accident, we're launching about 400 flights a day and trying to conduct the normal side of our business."

Alaska Airlines believes the Reno prob-

lem occurred because pilots are being overly cautious and running the stabilizer through several complete up-and-down cycles before takeoff, "overheating the motors," Evans said.

"There was a lot of crying and a lot of praying because a lot of people were probably thinking about that (earlier) crash."

• DENNIS SMYTHE •
PASSENGER

The Seattle-bound jet, Flight 631, left Reno/Tahoe International Airport at about 7 p.m. Saturday. It headed back after seven or eight minutes when the pilot reported that the motors that control the stabilizer were operating improperly, Evans said.

The pilot told passengers he had a major mechanical problem, said passenger Dennis Smythe of Anchorage, Alaska. Smythe, who has a commercial pilots' license,

said the plane was moving up and down. As the plane crossed Interstate 80 on its descent, Smythe said he felt the right wing pitch and wondered if the pilot was in control of the plane.

"There was a lot of crying and a lot of praying because a lot of people were probably thinking about that (earlier) crash," he said. Passengers cheered as the pilot made a rough landing.

Federal Aviation Administration officials did not immediately return calls seeking comment on the flight.

COMICS CORNER*

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Something's wrong in Ohio

DAVE'S WORLD / Dave Barry



The article makes this fascinating statement: "Despite persistent rumors, poinsettias are NOT poisonous. Ohio State University testing has found that a 50-pound child could eat more than 500 poinsettia bracts with no ill effects other than possibly a sick stomach from eating that much foliage."

The two questions that immediately come to mind are:

1. What is a "bract"?
2. Would "Bill and the Bracts" be a good name for a rock band?

(Answers: 1. Part of a plant; 2. No, but "The Foliage Eaters" would.)

Another question is: How did Ohio State University conduct this research? Did researchers actually feed 500 poinsettia bracts to a 50-pound child? How? ("Eat your bracts, Jason, or NO MORE POKEMON CARDS FOR YOU!") And does this experiment really prove that poinsettias are safe? We personally have seen 50-pound children eat a LOT of things that would probably kill an adult, such as "Fruit Roll-Ups," which we do not believe are fruit at all. We believe they are the offspring of a biological mating experiment involving Kool-Aid and flypaper.

So our feeling is that you consumers should resist the temptation to rush out and start wolfing down poinsettias. Instead, you should take the wise scientific precaution of serving them to dinner guests ("Marge, try some of this delicious brie-on-a-bract!") and then watching the guests closely for common symptoms of death, such as not moving for several days, or purchasing an Oldsmobile.

But here's what really gets our goat: While so-called "researchers" at Ohio State University were busily stuffing poinsettias down the throat of an innocent 50-pound child, a potentially MUCH greater menace to humanity was running loose in the very same state (Ohio). We know this because we have received, from an anonymous source who shall remain nameless, a newspaper article from the Oct. 29, 1999, edition of The Youngstown, Ohio, Vindicator, which bills

itself - and not without reason - as the premier newspaper in the Mahoning Valley. This article, which we are not making up, begins with the following statement:

"WARREN - The possibility that radioactive muskrats are lurking in the city bothers Pierson 'Butch' Butcher Jr."

The article states that Butcher, an unsuccessful Republican candidate for the Warren City Council, had said it was possible that local muskrats were eating radioactive materials they found on the grounds of a recently demolished power plant. By way of rebuttal, the story quotes the mayor, Democrat Hank Angelo, as stating: "There are no green, glowing-eyed rats running the streets of Warren."

In professional journalism, the first thing we do when we need to check out this type of story is try to find out what a muskrat is. The sum total of our knowledge on this subject is the song "Muskrat Love," performed by The Captain and Tennille, both of whom are, incredibly, still at large. So we checked the encyclopedia, which states that muskrats are "closely related to voles." We have never heard of "voles," and suspect that the encyclopedia is just kidding around.

Armed with this information, we called Warren, Ohio, and spoke with Pierson "Butch" Butcher Jr., who, it turns out, is not a shy person. During a lengthy and wide-ranging interview, he stated that although there are muskrats running around Warren, and SOMEBODY at a public meeting expressed concern that they (the muskrats) might be radioactive, that person was not Pierson "Butch" Butcher Jr. Mr. Butcher further stated that he had read an article somewhere regarding reports of radioactive deer in Pennsylvania.

So to summarize the key findings of our investigation:

1. There may or may not be radioactive muskrats and/or deer in Ohio and/or Pennsylvania.
2. Just in case, both of these states should be evacuated immediately.
3. Another good name for a band would be "The Radioactive Muskrats."
4. Speaking of musical groups, if The Captain and Tennille ever decide to try for a comeback, the obvious song for them to do would be "Vole Love."
5. In which case, please pass the poinsettias.

Dave Barry is a humor columnist for the Miami Herald. Write to him c/o The Miami Herald, One Herald Plaza, Miami FL 33132.

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✱USU Gymnastics vs Utah, 7 p.m., Spectrum

T

Tuesday, February 8
✱Religion in Life, Deanna Elggren, 12:30 p.m., Institute

W

Wednesday, February 9
✱STAB movies presents, "Enemy of the State" edited. Kent Concert Hall, 7 & 9:30 p.m. Free for students

F.Y.I.

- Valentine's Flower Sale, PLSC is having our annual sale. Look for the ad on Feb. 9 or check out the table in the TSC.
- Valentine's Day Drawing, Sponsored by Student Assoc. of American Instructors of the Deaf, Tickets Feb. 9 through 11, TSC. \$1 per ticket. PRIZES!! Drawing Feb. 12.
- 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
- Hospice, Grieving Support Group begins a nine week session Feb. 9 Call 716-5349 for info.
- 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.
- Mt. Club is putting on ski tune-up clinic for anyone interested in learning to tune-up your own skis. Feb. 9, 33 N. 200 East, Call Brian 713-0399. \$1 for non Mt. Club Members.
- Study Abroad Info. Session, Feb. 9, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., TSC Room 215. Info on available programs, costs, financial aid,

- meet USU foreign exchange students, questions & concerns
- Sailing Club is having a reorganizational meeting Feb. 10, 5:15 p.m., TSC Room 335. Everyone is welcome, even if you have never sailed.
- Wanna get down with the Brown? Cinnamon Brown & the Eskimos & the Trigger Locks will be jammin to raise money for the Bear River Institute on Feb. 11, 8:30 p.m. to midnight in the TSC Sunburst Lounge. Admission \$5. Call 797-7379 for info.
- The International Student Council invites everyone to join them at the Cache Valley Mall for a culture display. Come see all the fun and interesting artifacts. Feb. 12.
- The ASUSU Science Council is looking for fun, dedicated, outgoing students within the College of Science. (geology, math, physics, chemistry, computer science & biology) David Duke 797-1737 or slb9s@cc.usu.edu or TSC 332D.
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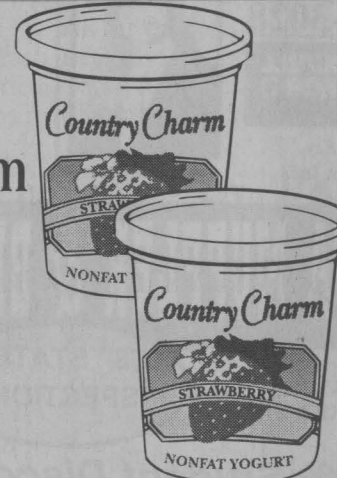


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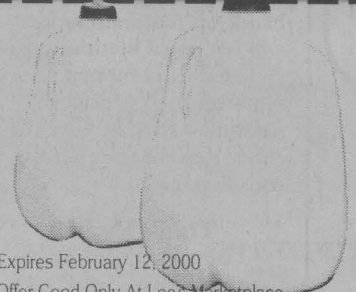
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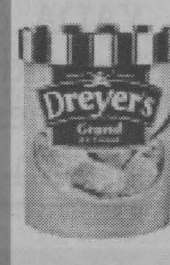
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Ice Cream**

\$2.99



Fresh Boneless Skinless
**Chicken
Breasts**

\$1.89
lb.

Expires February 12, 2000
Offer Good Only At Lee's Marketplace