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INSIDE

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You're a grand old flag, you're a tattered old flag?



KEVIN PEEL
Staff Writer

On President's Day, American flags were seen waving along Main Street and outside homes throughout Logan. With both President's Day and George Washington's birthday being remembered this week, the flag has been a prominent feature in the celebrations. However, one flag on campus was taken down and

retired for good Wednesday night. Facilities maintenance workers at the Taggart Student Center replaced the United States' flag flying next to a main walkway south of the building with a new one Thursday morning. The old flag, near a sidewalk connecting the TSC and the Quad, has been flying with several rips in the fabric, as well as considerable discoloration. To some Utah State University students, the flag was an embarrassment and sign of disrespect. David Smith, a senior majoring in history, saw the

poor condition of the flag while walking home Jan. 28. Smith helped the TSC night manager lower the flag and noticed the damage, he said. "I'm afraid that the people in this country seem to be ambivalent about the symbols of the country when so many people fought and died for it," Smith said. "It kind of got me fired up." Smith wrote an e-mail Feb. 11 to Allen Lundgreen, facilities coordinator. Lundgreen said he was having problems with his e-mail and didn't remember seeing the message. "I agree that when a flag is damaged it should not be flown," Lundgreen said. "I try to tell them (maintenance managers) to let me know when it gets to the point of replacement. And usually they are pretty good about that." Major Scott Parkhurst, Commandant of Cadets at USU's ROTC, said, "As soon as you notice the flag is unserviceable, you should take it down until a new one is available." The ordering process for a new flag, according to Lundgreen, took two weeks and will probably last six months. The new flag is made of an all-weather material, which is superior to the old one, he said. The United States Code dealing with flags states that when a flag "is so worn it's no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be burned in a dignified manner." The old flags are usually donated to local scout troops to be burned, and this flag will probably meet the same fate, Lundgreen said.

Treat it **RIGHT**

How to respectfully treat the flag:

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- Clean and mend when necessary.
- Burn it in a dignified manner when it's so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country.
- Display it only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.
- The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when an all-weather flag is displayed.

Information from the U.S. Code Title

Voters, candidates needed for upcoming ASUSU elections

LAURA BELLAMY
Senior News Writer

With March quickly approaching, the Associated Students of Utah State University Executive Council is out encouraging students not only to vote in the upcoming student government elections, but also to run for office.

"Being part of student government is a great experience, and it has definitely been a highlight in my academic career," said Science Senator Dave Duke. "I would encourage anyone who is serious about it to go ahead and run."

According to Duke, student government officers have a lot of fun, but also have a lot of obligations most students are unaware of.

"When I first got in office, I'll be honest ... I wasn't aware that I sat on 11 university committees," said Arts & Lectures Vice President Liz Adams. "I wasn't aware of what that entailed or how much time it meant."

Officers are compensated for their time and efforts. According to Public Relations Vice President Christina Domichel, all officers are given full tuition waivers and a \$150 a month stipend. The student body president receives a \$175 a month stipend.

"You don't do it for the money," Domichel said. "You do it for the experience." Engineering Senator Kalem Sessions said the money was not a factor in his decision to run for office.

"There's money in this, but I would have done it even if there was no money involved," Sessions said. According to Domichel, undergraduate students who want to run for office must carry 12 credits. Graduate

students are allowed to run for office, but must be taking at least six credits.

In addition to being a full-time student, candidates should be aware of the time commitment and workload that comes with being an ASUSU officer, Domichel said.

According to Domichel, all offices are assigned to different university committees to sit on.

All senators have committee meetings and meetings with deans and colleges.

"I was told five to 10 hours a week," Duke said. "If you don't address any issues in the college or you have the world's most efficient council, then you might get away with it."

Duke said he sits on 18 university committees and spends between five to 15 hours a week in meetings.

"A person who researches the issues and polls student opinion will spend another five to 15 hours on Executive Council," Duke said.

He said his schoolwork has had to take a backseat to the obligations of his office at times.

"I spend 35 to 40 hours a week in meetings or doing various tasks," Duke said. "I work full time. I was taking 22 credits last semester. My GPA was lower than it had ever been before. It's frustrating at times. It's rewarding at times."

According to Academics Vice President Emily Croshaw, who said she sits on 18 different committees, the pressure can be difficult to deal with.

"There are some weeks when I think 'What have I gotten myself into,'" Croshaw said. "I feel this huge weight and responsibility to do what's best for the students."

Croshaw said candidates should be prepared to handle

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Utah's first lady pleads with parents: read to kids

KEVIN PEEL
Staff Writer

"We can read books in a place that is tall. We can read books in a place that is small. We can read books in cities or in towns. We can read sitting, or standing, or lying down. But of all the places I like to be; it's sitting in your lap when you read to me."

Such is Jacalyn Leavitt's message to Utah parents put into the mouth of a young child. The words are the text of a new book, "Read to Me," written by Utah's first lady, which is part of a packet being given to the parents of 50,000 babies expected to be born in the state this year.

According to Leavitt, the packet, which includes a "Read to Me" T-shirt and pamphlet, is aimed at helping impress upon new parents their role as a child's first teacher and the pivotal part they play in teaching a child to enjoy reading.

"The most important activity that can be done is build-

ing the knowledge required to be successful in reading," Leavitt said. "If children come to kindergarten and don't know the basic things, then they are really starting back a few steps. We need our kindergartners up to speed."

According to Leavitt, parents can teach children that reading can be a joy. Parents have the chance to lay the foundation of language, and they need to realize that before children begin to talk they love to sit on a parent's lap. They will associate the warmth of family bonds with the fun of reading, Leavitt said.

Leavitt was inspired to write the book herself because she wanted "a direct message in the hands of the parents of newborns," she said.

Leavitt approached illustrator Lily Toy Hong and asked

her to draw simple, warm and fun pictures. The packets are funded through private donations from businesses interested in the literacy issue, Leavitt said.

Diane Burts, the director of the Emma Eccles Jones Center for Early Childhood Education at Utah State University, agrees with Leavitt that reading to children improves their literacy development. She said it may also help with verbal development and general reasoning skills.

Burts' department has been awarded a Goals 2000 Grant. This grant, according to a department statement, "will allow the center to provide a set of 10 Family Literacy Bags to each kindergarten classroom in Box Elder, Cache, Logan and Rich school districts."

The bags are, in part, an effort to encourage parents to read to their children, and the

department estimates a total of 1,250 bags will be prepared for nearly 125 classrooms. According to the statement, each bag contains three to four children's books relating to a specific theme, such as emotions, growth and self-esteem as well as a guide for parents.

As part of the rationale for use of the grant, Burts has written a statement claiming the data from several studies "are compelling for the benefits of reading books at home to young children and the strong relationship of lower levels of literacy achievement associated with infrequency of limited reading of story books in the home."

Burts cites a study done by nationally respected Temple University education professor Susan B. Newman in which she argues that "engaging parents and children in mutual activities that include reading, but are not limited to it, may constitute the richest potential for supporting children's early literacy development."

CampusRESEARCH

Concern about pets often keep battered women from leaving relationship

LARA GALE
Staff Writer

Shelters are available for women and children caught in a violent home, but another victim who is as much a part of the family is often overlooked: the pet.

Domestic animals are a very significant part of the picture of a violent home, said Frank R. Ascione, Utah State University psychology professor and adjunct professor in family and human development. Ascione spent eight months researching crisis centers that run programs to house animals of people in violent homes and has written the book "Safe Havens for Pets" as a guide for other crisis centers to begin similar programs.

These programs are important because domestic animals can be a major factor keeping battered women

from seeking help, Ascione said. Three separate studies have shown that between 18 and 40 percent of women seeking shelter at a crisis center delayed seeking help because of concerns about their animals' safety, sometimes for more than two months, Ascione said.

Batterers often use animals as a way to lure women into coming home from shelters, sending them photos of the animal being harmed or threats of their intent to do so, he said.

People, especially children, form very strong bonds with their animals, to the point where they are willing to put themselves in harm's way to protect their pet from an abuser.

"This is good and bad," Ascione said. "It shows that they still have empathy and they care about the pet. But in some cases, it's actually endangering the child."

Ascione said for as long as there have been shelters for people in abusive relationships, there have also been programs for their animals. But only in the past five to 10 years has animal sheltering become systematic. The number of programs is growing, and with the help of this book, they may grow even faster, he said. Domestic violence and animal welfare agencies from as far as Canada have contacted him by phone and e-mail to request copies of his book, he said.

Originally, only 200 copies of the book were going to be printed. The project became larger than originally anticipated, and as research went on, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, which supplied the grant for Ascione's research and the printing of the books, decided

[Jump to BATTERED PETS, Page 3](#)

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Mortar Board members honor professors at Top Prof night

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Media Services

Members of the Utah State University Sigma Phi Eta chapter of Mortar Board honored professors whose zest and dedication for teaching positively influenced their academic experience during the annual Top Prof night at the Skyroom Restaurant on Feb. 17.

Betsy Spackman, president of the senior honors society, said the evening is an opportunity to publicly thank educators whose influence continues after the graduation ceremonies are over.

"Those professors that excel in education need to be recognized because they value education. They have made a powerful difference in our lives and that won't end," Spackman said.

The evening included dinner and a presentation by each Mortar Board member to their professor. The 14 professors honored were: Dale Barnard, animal dairy and veterinary sciences; Martin Tadlock, elementary education; Joyce Kinkead, English; Sonia Manual-Dupont, communicative disorders and deaf education; Tim Vitale, communication; Sheri Haderlie, instructional technology; Robyn Kratzer, communication; Beth Foley, communicative disorders and deaf education; Thomas Johnson, department head and professor of communicative disorders and deaf education; William Furlong, political science; Frances Titchener, history; Patricia Gantt, English; Peter Ruben, biology; and Stan Allen, animal, dairy and veterinary sciences.

Campaigning:

It's a tough job, but officers say it's worth it

LAURA BELLAMY
Senior News Writer

For students who thought being a student government officer was work enough, don't forget half of the job is getting elected — and that means campaigning.

For the current Associated Students of Utah State University Executive Council members, the experience left them with mixed feelings.

"The time commitment and the emotional drain is enormous, but it's worth it," said Public Relations Vice President Christina Domichel. "I've met people that haven't won and have said they've learned from the experience."

Each year campaigning involves a week of primaries and a week of final elections. Last year it occurred during midterms. This year ASUSU adjusted the election times to avoid tests, Domichel said.

"Campaigning was a terrible experience," said Science Senator Dave Duke. "It occurred during midterms and I did very poorly academically during that week."

According to Domichel, often times campaigning can be the hardest and most rewarding part of the job.

"I would say it's definitely worth all the effort that goes into campaigning and it's a great experience," Domichel said. "I think you just have to jump in with both feet. You can't campaign halfheartedly on this campus."

The interaction candidates have with students during campaigning can give them enough ideas to last the entire semester, Duke said.

"This is where they can get all the ideas they will ever need during the year," he said. "Another great part of campaigning is that they will meet a lot of great people. They can meet great resources."

If they're out there presenting their platform, they're inadvertently going to hear the concerns of the students.

Last year during campaigning, candidates often had to miss classes to attend forums. This is something this year's council is trying to discourage.

"The time issue is huge," said Arts & Lectures Vice President Liz Adams. "I think it's important that students inform their teachers and try to get ahead in class. I also think it's important for students to attend all their classes even if it means missing a forum. Being a student should be the No. 1 priority, not being an officer. Education should always come first."

According to Domichel, the most difficult part of campaigning is dealing with the competitiveness between candidates.

"I think it's how catty people get," Domichel said. "We're really striving this year to make the rules as clear as possible. I think a lot of times, it's just a miscommunication."

Each office has a proctor assigned to it to help candidates understand the rules and requirements of campaigning for student body office.

"One thing that I would tell any prospective candidate is to talk to people who have campaigned before," said Athletics Vice President Sam Winward. "Ask them what they felt was effective because there are 100 ways to dorm storm."

Current officers are prohibited from being involved with candidates' campaigns, but are still allowed to show support for a candidate.

"There are no formal rules against it," Domichel said. "I think in a way it's important for the officer to be able to express their opinions."

According to Domichel, she is in a unique position because her sister is running for office in this coming election.

"I would feel more comfortable in my position remaining neutral," said Academic Vice President Emily Croshaw. "In the past I've seen the officers remain neutral. Hopefully people will vote for who they personally support."

Students shouldn't be relying on someone else to make up their minds for them. It kind of takes away the responsibility of the voter," she said.

According to Domichel, primary campaigning begins March 20 at 7 a.m.

ELECTIONS

Continued from Page 1

both good and bad news if they become officers.

"There have been so many things that I've been excited to be a part of," Croshaw said. "I love being on the forefront of an issue and making things happen, but it's hard to make a decision and then read in the paper and see a student editorial criticizing you."

Athletics Vice President Sam Winward said the most rewarding part of being an officer has been the chance to meet so many different people.

"Honestly, I would do this again even knowing all the difficulties ... because of the people I've gotten to meet," Winward said. "I've met so many wonderful students and administrators that I'd recommend this to anyone."

He said another benefit of being an officer is the strong leadership skills being a part of student government developments.

"Really, how many classes do we have that teach leadership?" Winward said. "This has been the best real-world lab experience."

According to Duke, students running for office just to fill their resume will be disappointed when they miss out on what being an officer is truly about.

"I think a lot of people want to pad their resume to make themselves unique. And it does make me unique," Duke said. "But if this is just something used to put on your resume, then don't run."

Any student can run as long as they have a desire to help others, Winward said.

"The only thing that they need is a desire to serve students, the ability to organize and lead students and the desire to learn," Winward said. "All the resume and that part of it is just a side benefit. The best part of it is the personal leadership growth that you

can take into the marketplace now."

Duke said the largest qualification a candidate needs to become a good officer is an excellent sense of time management. Students should take into account the amount of time required not only when in office, but also during campaigning, he said.

"It was an enormous stress," Duke said. "I'm not discouraging anyone from running. Just know what you're getting into. I didn't."

According to Croshaw, for some candidates, the campaigning can be one of the hardest parts of the job.

"My advice to anyone running for office is that they need to really decide if they want to do this because it is a lot of time and is a huge commitment to this university and the students," Croshaw said.

Despite the hectic schedule and large responsibility, Adams said she doesn't regret her decision to run.

"I've loved it," Adams said. "Even with everything stressful that's going on. I've met so many incredible people from so many different backgrounds. It's taught me so much. It's all been worth it."

Croshaw said students shouldn't be discouraged from running if they really want to make a difference and be a part of student government.

"If you want to do it, then do it," Croshaw said. "Run for office. Get involved and make the university better. Help the students."

The filing deadline for students running for office is Monday at 1 p.m. in the Taggart Student Center Room 326.

According to Domichel, a mandatory meeting for candidates is that night at 5 p.m. in the TSC Auditorium.

Along with the filing application, a \$10 fee is required. According to Domichel, the fee goes toward advertising in the *Statesman* and a picture from photo services.

NewsBRIEFS

➤ Census takers needed

Temporary, short-term positions are currently available for census takers during Census 2000. Census takers are hired to work in the communities in which they live. To apply for a census job, individuals should first call 888-325-7733 to determine when and where to report for a testing and application session. They should then report to the test site on the given date and time and complete and submit a job application and other related forms.

Applicants will be asked to present identification which proves identity and employment eligibility, and take a written test of basic skills.

➤ House committee kills gun regulation bill

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — People convicted of violent misdemeanors will get to keep their guns.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 5-3 Wednesday to kill House Bill 363, which would have outlawed gun purchases and possession by people convicted of certain violent misdemeanors.

Republican leaders of the panel cut the debate short. They heard from the sole member of the public who showed up to support the measure and two opponents from the dozen who attended the meeting.

There was almost no debate among legislators before they rejected the proposal sponsored by Democratic Rep. Gary Cox, a West Jordan police officer.

The bill was drafted at the request of Republican Gov. Mike Leavitt and unanimously endorsed last summer by the Legislature's Judiciary Interim Committee.

But the gun-rights lobby proved too strong. The Utah Shooting Sports Council, the local affiliate of the National Rifle Association, made the bill its prime target, calling it gun owners' "worst nightmare," and Republicans dropped it from their anti-crime package.

"Why should we provide (convicted violent criminals) the opportunity to become more violent?" Cox asked. "It makes

➤ Report details the facts of helicopter crash

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah Highway Patrol helicopter flew for 15 minutes before it shook violently, its tail rotor came off and it slammed into the ground on its left side.

A preliminary report released Wednesday by the National Transportation Safety Board reveals details of the Feb. 11 crash that killed patrol Lt. Thomas Rettberg and mechanic Thomas Bahoravitch.

Investigator Jim Struhsaker said it was too early to draw conclusions about why the OH-58 chopper dropped from the sky north of the Skyharbor Airport in Woods Cross.

Radar patterns, examination of mechanical components and a thorough dissection of the engine are factors to be researched.

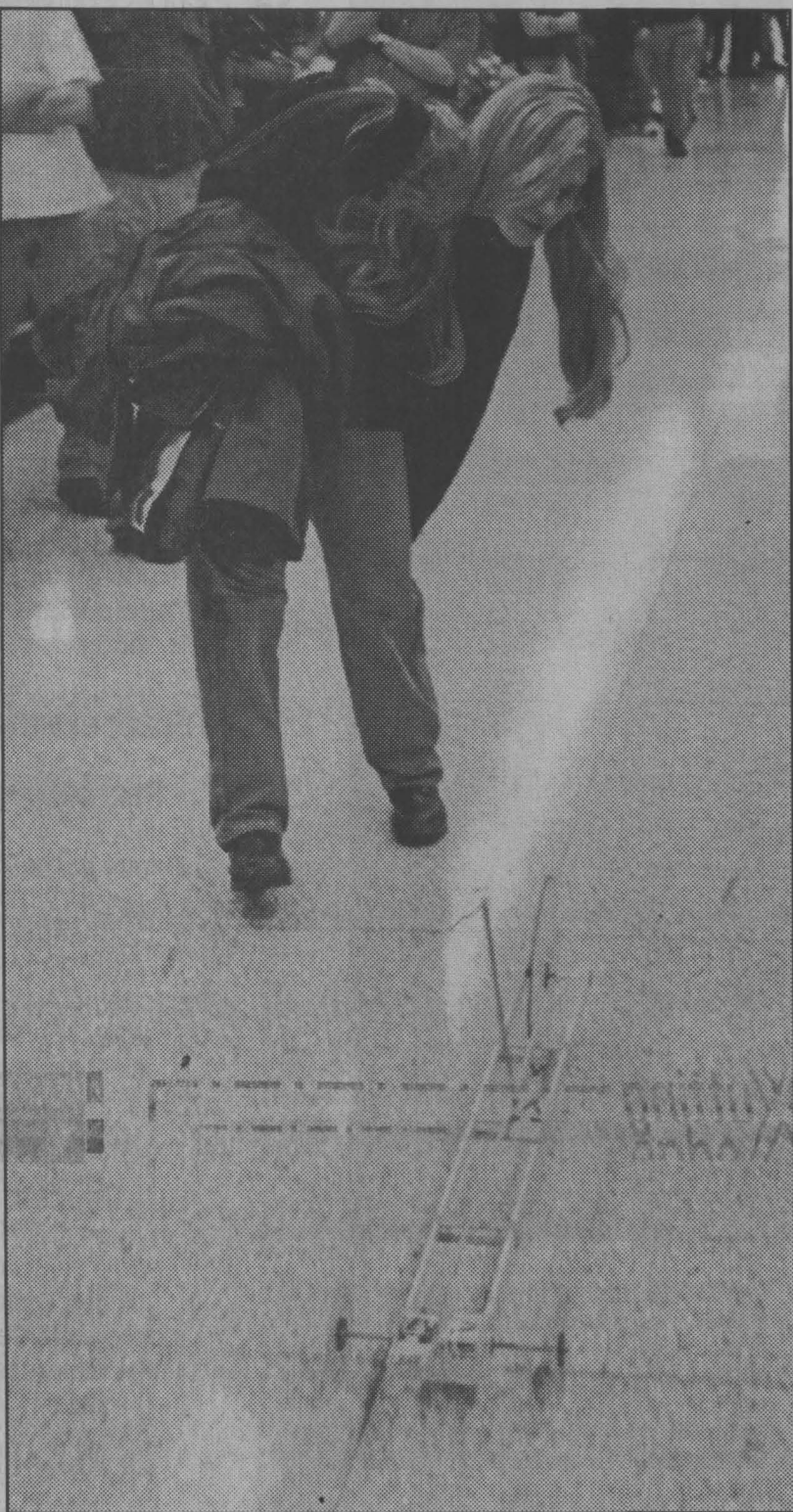
"My job is to pull all those details together and make some sense of it," Struhsaker said. "This preliminary report doesn't even begin to address the cause of the crash."

Preliminary findings indicate that Rettberg, a veteran pilot with more than 30 years of experience, was taking the helicopter on a maintenance flight to check the sprag clutch, a part much like a car's differential. It is responsible for sending power from the helicopter's transmission to the tail rotor.

Rettberg, the report says, was testing the clutch by performing an auto rotation when the crash occurred.

The maneuver involves cutting power to the engine and doing a controlled landing. Pilots say it's an essential technique in case of mechanical failure or an engine stall.

Briefs compiled by
USU and STATESMAN STAFF REPORTS



What the?

Brooke Oesterle watches as the mouse trap powered car that she and her engineering team designed races down the second floor hallway of the TSC Thursday.

OWEN COLE / Utah Statesman

Democrats says Republicans are underfunding prisons

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Democratic leaders say the Republican budget plan critically shortchanges Corrections and could lead to the early release of inmates.

"We're going to be soon turning prisoners out who should be kept in prison. We're going to be letting them back out of the system's early-release programs because we have not put basic dollars into funding these important facilities," House Minority Leader Dave Jones, D-Salt Lake City, said Wednesday.

"Instead of taking a bite out of crime," Jones said, "the Republican budget takes a big, huge bite out of crime-fighting. And what it says to criminals

across the state, and across the nation, is Utah's a pretty good place to commit crime."

Jones voted against GOP leaders' Corrections Department budget, which lacks money for operating a 300-bed minimum-security prison and 205 rented county jail beds. He also criticized the GOP for pushing crime-fighting bills with enhanced penalties without paying for cost of housing the inmates.

Pete Haun, the Corrections Department's executive director, has said that without an additional \$9 million to pay for 580 beds, the state's only recourse would be "to invoke emergency (prisoner) release orders."

November, 1999, Ascione has mailed out 1,400 copies and received between three and six requests from domestic violence and animal welfare agencies all over the United States and Canada.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," Ascione said.

Ascione, who has been a professor at USU for 27 years, has done previous research in children's relationships with their pets, and from there became involved in researching people's violent relationships with pets. He said he is very committed to this and it has been the most satisfying issue he's worked with in his career.

"I know it's important," he said "In some cases, these programs have actually been the lifesavers to get women into shelters."

Ascione will be looking next at interviewing people who do the battering, he said. He said the intent will be to see if speaking with abusers about their behavior toward animals might help counselors address their behavior toward other people.

BATTERED PETS

Continued from Page 1

instead to print 3,000 copies and send them to domestic violence and animal welfare agencies across the country, he said.

"The message is out," Ascione said. Agencies are aware of the need for 'safe haven' programs. They just needed a resource teaching them how to begin.

"People would contact me, knowing I did research in this area," Ascione said. "Rather than everybody reinventing the wheel, I went out and researched this book."

He spent eight months interviewing 41 different agencies with existing animal safety programs to find out how they had created their program and what the response was, among other things. All of this research is included in the book to help agencies start their own animal safety programs, he said.

Since the book was published in

HARRY POTTER MANIA

Book of the Semester fun for kids of all ages

KATHRYN SUMMERS
 Staff Writer

"I know who you are!" said Ron to the ghost. "You're Nearly Headless Nick!"

"Nearly Headless! How can you be nearly headless?" asked another boy.

"Like this," the ghost said irritably. He seized his left ear and pulled. His whole head swung off his neck and fell onto his shoulder as it if was on a hinge. Someone had obviously tried to behead him, but not done it properly. Looking pleased at the stunned looks on their faces, Nearly Headless Nick flipped his head back onto his neck, coughed, and said, "So — new Gryffindors! I hope you're going to help us win the house championship this year?"

— from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone"

Where can you find a cat named Mrs. Norris, Bertie Bott's Every Flavor Beans (and they do mean every flavor, even ear wax and pepper), and a ghost named Nearly Headless Nick? In the Utah State University book of the semester, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," by J.K. Rowling.

Like so many great heroes and heroines of childhood literature, Harry Potter begins his life as an orphan. He lives with his Muggle (ordinary people who don't have any magic) uncle and aunt, Vernon and Petunia Dursley, and their fat, spoiled son, Dudley. Harry is forced to sleep in a closet under the stairs while Dudley has a large bedroom and another room just for his old broken toys.

Then on Harry's eleventh birthday, the thing all mistreated orphans

Book REVIEW

/ Grade: A

dream of happens: Someone comes to take him away from his odious relatives. Hagrid, the gentle giant groundskeeper, brings an acceptance letter from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Harry learns he is a wizard and that, in the magic world, he is famous. A mysterious lightning bolt-shaped scar on his forehead from the day his parents died is a reminder that he has great potential — if only he can get through his first year at Hogwarts.

There are all kinds of mysteries surrounding Harry. His parents were killed by the evil wizard, Voldemort, but the wizard couldn't kill baby Harry. Professor Snape hates Harry for some unexplained reason. And there is a vicious three-headed dog guarding something none of the students are supposed to know about.

Like any great hero, Harry makes some friends, Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, who help him out of all his scrapes. And there are plenty of those. Harry can't seem to stay out of trouble. With the help of an invisibility cloak which belonged to his father, Harry and his friends sneak around the school at night trying to solve the mystery of what the dog is guarding without getting caught.

Harry learns how to cast spells, ride a broom and play the wizard game Quidditch (it's kind of like

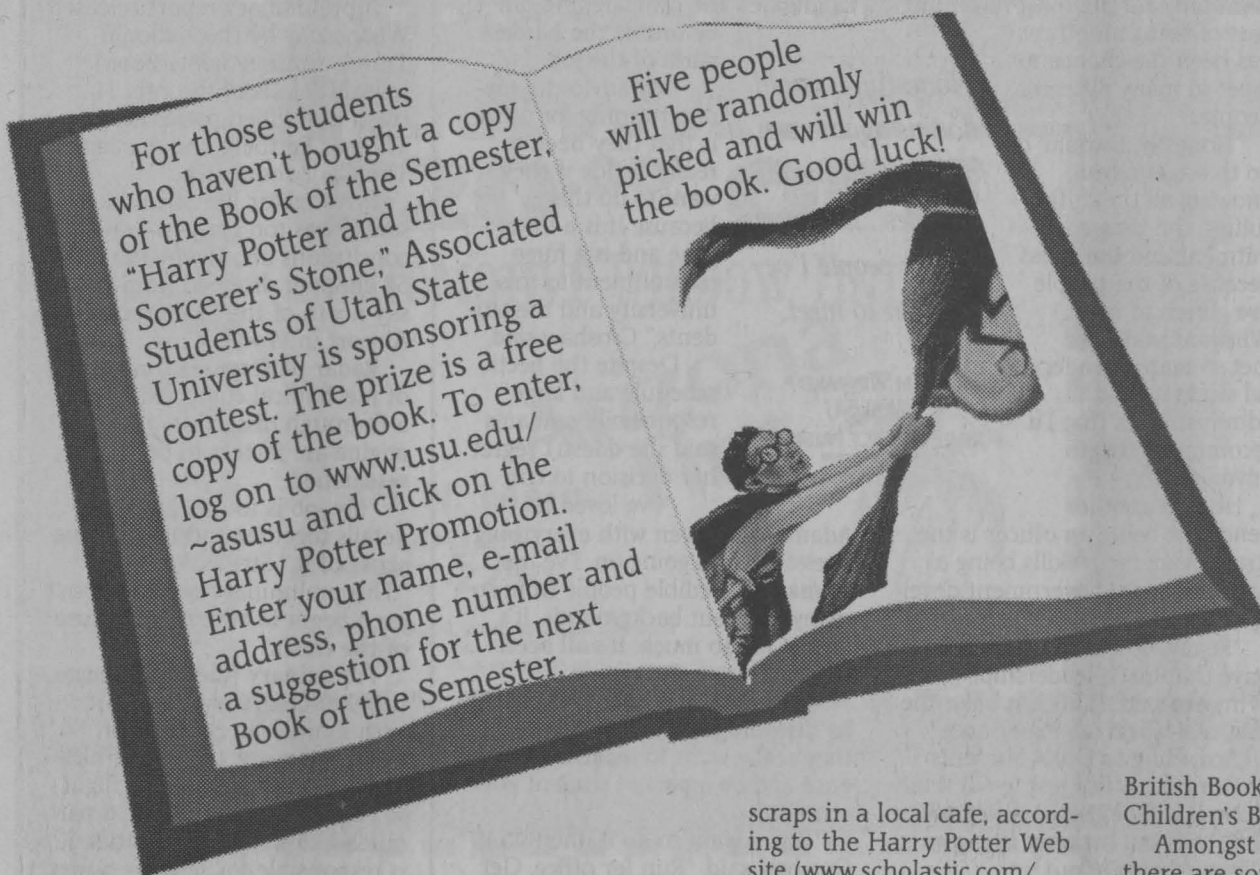
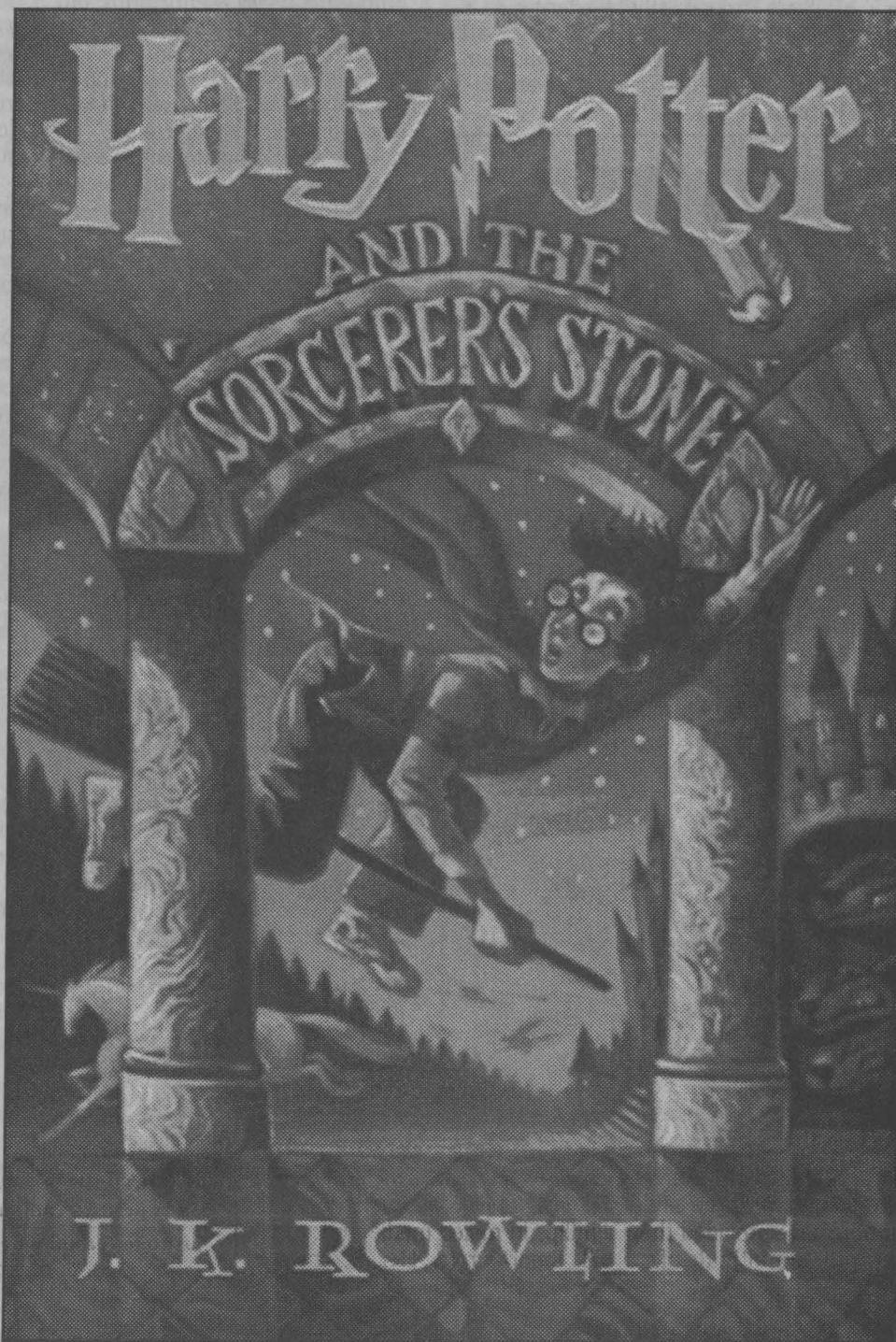
hockey, soccer and basketball played on broomsticks).

All these adventures keep children and adults turning pages eagerly, wondering what Harry will do next.

This book has all the elements of a great fantasy story: witches and wizards, magic wands, an evil sorcerer, dragons, unicorns and potions. It also has a very human dimension.

When Harry finds himself alone looking for the right train to get to school, his fear is something everyone can relate to. His search for where he belongs is also something everyone faces.

Even though it is written for kids, this is a book anyone can enjoy. For only \$4 in the USU Bookstore, definitely pick up a copy today. It's a great way to spend a few hours.



KATHRYN SUMMERS
 Staff Writer

Author's life a fairy tale, but books under fire

J.K. Rowling, author of the phenomenally popular "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," has been compared by "Publishers Weekly" to P.L. Travers and Roald Dahl for her delightful children's books adults seem to enjoy as much as children.

Like her book, her life has the ring of a fairy tale. Rowling was divorced and living on public assistance in Edinburgh with her daughter when she began writing about Harry Potter on napkin

scraps in a local cafe, according to the Harry Potter Web site (www.scholastic.com/harrypotter).

A grant from the Scottish Arts Council allowed her to finish the book, which she then sold to Bloomsbury and Scholastic Books, according to the site.

Then the praise started to roll in. "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" has spent the last 61 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list, according to the New York Times Web site. Rowling has won international acclaim and many awards for her first book including a "Publishers Weekly" Best Book of 1998, an ALA Notable Book and the

British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year.

Amongst all the cheers, there are some ominous jeers.

Who would expect a children's book could possibly rouse up such First Amendment furor?

Some concerned parents are calling for the books to be banned because they encourage kids in "occult activities" according to an article on the About.com Web site, a site where experts discuss news in their fields.

CNN reported the State Board of Education in South Carolina was reviewing the books to see if they would allow them to stay in schools.

In an interview with CNN,

Rowling said she can't understand what parents are so riled up about.

She said she has talked to hundreds of children and none have told her they want to be a wizard or witch because of her book.

"They see it for what it is. It is a fantasy world and they understand that completely," Rowling said of the children.

The controversy has found its way to the Internet, where many sites argue either for or against Harry Potter.

But despite all the controversy, Harry will probably be entertaining kids for years to come, with at least one more book planned, bringing the total to four, one for each year Harry spends at Hogwarts.



J.K. Rowling is the author of the wildly popular "Harry Potter" series of books. The first is book of the semester.

Out

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Steppin' Out

Places to go, things to see

Why must the Grammys always suck?

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT / Doug Smeath



In the words of the great Rosie O'Donnell, "What the hell was that and why did it scare me so bad?"

Of course, Rosie was talking about Kid Rock's frightening display of pseudo-patriotism posing as a live performance at Wednesday's Grammy Awards Ceremony, but I'd like to apply it to the entire night.

What the hell was that?

I should have known we were off to a bad start when I turned on the TV and saw the show was starting with Will Smith singing "Wild Wild West."

And — if you can believe this is possible — the show actually went downhill from there.

"What?" you ask. "Wild Wild West" isn't as low as you can get?"

Unfortunately, no. I once thought it was. But the Grammys proved me wrong — they can, and did, go much lower than that.

This is not to say it was all bad. After the "Wild Wild West" fiasco, things seemed to be on their way to improving.

I am talking about the award for best R&B album.

Now I probably can't be considered much of an R&B fan, but when

something good comes from the genre, I can recognize it. And TLC is something good.

Especially compared to Mary J. Blige, R. Kelly and Brian McKnight, a few of the artists against whose albums TLC's fun and creative *Fanmail* was competing. And whose albums *Fanmail* satisfyingly beat.

And then, suddenly we're in Latin Music Heaven. How did we get here, and how do I get out?

The Recording Academy, the group responsible for divvying out the Grammys, claims to be in the know, fully aware of the big trends in the music industry and always looking for the next big thing.

They at least claim to be qualified to tell the American public who's good at making music.

Why is it then that they seem to think Latin music is the next big thing — something all the kiddies will be cha-cha-cha-ing to in the very near future?

Wouldn't such a cutting-edge group of musical connoisseurs have at least noticed we have been inundated by that trend ever since we were taught to "Macarena" and that the Latin explosion is by now no more than a pile of ashes and a few burning cinders that really should be — please excuse the vulgarity — peed out and swept away?

But no, they announce they've

decided to start a Latin Grammy Ceremony. We watch Mark Anthony remind us which one song he is known for, and Christina Aguilera delivers the profound observation that Latin music is, well, kinda popular.

But back to the awards.

At first, I was heartbroken. Once again, Tori Amos was denied some much-deserved recognition. Once again, she was nominated twice — once for best female rock vocal performance for the song "Bliss," and again for best alternative performance for the phenomenal album *to venus and back*.

Need I say, she was beaten?

Well, she was.

It's not so bad that Beck's innovative *Mutations* beat *to venus and back*, and the fact that Tori's double album was also up against Nine Inch Nails' *The Fragile*, Moby's *Play* and Fatboy Slim's *You've Come A Long Way*, *Baby* leaves me satisfied that she was at least in worthy competition.

But if she had to be beaten for best female rock vocal, couldn't it at least have been Ani DiFranco who earned some long-overdue recognition with her sufficiently accessible but still Ani-to-the-bone song "Jukebox?"

No, of course

not.

They both lost to Ms. Grammy herself, Sheryl Crow. Sigh.

But as I said, at first I was heartbroken. More thought, however, leaves me relieved that Tori — and others with recognizable musical talent — lost.

After all, what good is recognition from an academy that claims Christina Aguilera is the best new artist of 1999? It should be clear to any discriminating ear that the soulful and amazing Macy Gray was by far most deserving of that award, or even Susan Tedeschi's unique take on the blues.

Maybe it's good that Aguilera won, though, because if she had lost, I am quite sure Gray and Tedeschi would have still been snubbed. The award probably would have gone to Kid Rock or Britney Spears.

Moment of optimism: At least Kid Rock didn't win.

Thank God Kid Rock didn't win.

No, I am not too disappointed that Tori Amos lost, nor am I all that upset at Sarah McLachlan's beautiful *Mirrorball*'s defeat at the hands of Sting's *Brand New Day* or Chris

Cornell's "Can't Change Me" falling to Lenny Kravitz's miserable cover of "American Woman."

After all, if Wednesday's televised portion of the ceremony is any indication, this year's Grammys were all about Britney Spears dancing around dressed like a peacock, the Backstreet Boys performing a tribute to themselves cleverly disguised as a tribute to male Grammy winners of the past and, in most cases, awarding the least deserving nominees.

In truth, if more truly talented artists — artists like Tori Amos, Macy Gray, Alanis Morissette, Chris Cornell and Rufus Wainwright — had won, it would probably have been more of an insult than a compliment.

So, in the tradition of Grammy acceptance speeches, I first would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for protecting talent from the mockery that was the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards ...

Doug Smeath is the Assistant Features Editor and a junior majoring in journalism. He really likes Tori Amos, and really dislikes Christina Aguilera. E-mail him at hejupiter1@hotmail.com.

Exhibit shows off museum's most recently acquired works

CORINNE KATOR
Senior Features Writer

Children show off the new toys they get for Christmas, grandparents show off new pictures of their grandchildren and the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art on the Utah State University campus is showing off its new acquisitions.

The museum's current exhibition, "XXI: Moving Monumentally into the New Millennium," features works the museum has acquired during the past two years. The show includes paintings, ceramics, photographs, mixed media works and sculptures. The museum's Upper and Upper West galleries will house the exhibit through March 19.

According to a brochure about the new exhibit, the museum added 262 works of art to its permanent collection in 1998 and 1999. The museum staff chose 72 of these new pieces for inclusion in the exhibit.

Steven Rosen, museum

director and chief curator, said this exhibit is a good compilation of regional and West Coast art created during the last quarter of the 20th century.

The pieces have come from a variety of sources, with funds or the pieces themselves donated to the museum from 42 different sources. Rosen said these donors have provided the museum with "a multitude of exquisite treasures reflecting the diverse ways in which creative minds see the world."

As usual, the museum staff has placed information labels next to each work. But for this exhibit additional commentary has been included. A press release from the museum explains that members of the Museum Advisory Board were asked to contribute personal comments about works of art that captured their interest. These remarks are located next to the customary information labels.

Board member Tim Vitale commented on "Mad Hatter's Party," a painting by Lee

Deffebach. Vitale wrote, "The painter with wide, sweeping brush strokes made me ready to jump into the liveliness of the abstract scene. For me there are no subtle passages here — never a dull moment for the eye and mind."

Board member Billie Emert chose to spotlight "Fine and Dandy," a piece by Bonnie G. Phillips in mixed media and silk. Emert wrote, "Her designs and the use of so many bright colors made me think about a single day's activities and how exciting each moment in the day can be."

This additional commentary gives board members a chance to help the museum show off its favorite new pieces.

The Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art at USU's Chase Fine Arts Center is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and weekends 2 to 5 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and holidays. All exhibits are free and open to the public.

'Pitch Black' fair, no career launcher

ANDY MORGAN
Staff Writer

Pitch Black isn't knocking on the door of any Academy Award nominations, and it looks to be the 1,000th unofficial spin-off of the *Alien* series.

Viewers can't expect much from a low-budget, low-talent film that has no hope of wreaking havoc at the box office and will soon find itself a couple of weeks away from languishing in dollar-movie hell. However, what makes the sci-fi flick appealing is its honesty. The film does not attempt to be anything more than a cheesy, special effects buffet, and that makes it fun.

Vin Diesel headlines the cast of unknowns and is best known for his portrayal of loud-mouth soldier Adrian Caparzo in Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan*. Although he only appeared in a portion of *Saving Private Ryan* (he was shot by a sniper midway through the movie), filmgoers will receive an extra helping of Diesel during the month of February, as the beefcake actor appears in this movie and in *The Boiler Room*. He definitely has potential in Hollywood — my guess is *Pitch Black* won't be his springboard to stardom.

The movie begins like almost every other in the genre, with an enormous galactic cruiser motoring across the screen from nose to rear (think *Star Wars*).

Captain Fry (Radha Mitchell) is the pilot of the ship and has to do some fancy flying as her ship is attacked by what appears to be several meteor-like objects. Facing death and the decision to jettison her cargo (which happens to be a load of passengers), Fry crash lands the ship on a bleak, uninhabited desert planet.

The survivors soon discover three suns pinnacle the planet, which makes cooler temperatures or nightfall virtually impossible. They also ascertain that one of the passengers, a murderer on his way back to prison, has escaped. Riddick (Diesel), a convicted murderer with really funky eyes is hiding somewhere on the planet, and his captor, lawman Johns (Cole Hauser), is desperate to find him before he tries to kill one of the other passengers.

Setting out to find water, the small band of survivors happen upon an abandoned mining settlement. While a ship remains and there is a water supply, signs of life are nonexistent. Wondering what has happened to the previous inhabitants, the group soon discovers they are not the only living creatures on the planet. Lurking in underground caves are hordes of bat-like monsters that only arise when the planet is dark, and Fry soon learns that a solar eclipse is hours away from occurring.

While *Pitch Black* is good, it's not great. The casting of

Movie REVIEW

/ Grade: C+

unknowns, the special effects and cinematography more than make up for the cheesy script and often limburger-cheesy plot details. I wouldn't recommend rushing out and seeing *Pitch Black*, however, it is worth six bucks and if you have nothing better to do, take a date and be scared.

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Let the sunshine in

The 5th Dimension to perform in Logan

DOUG SMEATH
 Assistant Features Editor

More than 30 years ago, they launched a career with their huge hit, "Up, Up and Away."

From then on, The 5th Dimension was no longer the unheard-of band they once were. In fact, songs like "Aquarius/Let the Sunshine In," "One Less Bell to Answer," "The Worst That Could Happen," "This Is Your Life," "Wedding Bell Blues," "Stoned Soul Picnic" and "Go Where You Wanna Go" have made The 5th Dimension one of the most popular singing groups in the world, according to a biography sheet from the Sterling/Winters Company.

And though they may be thought of as a late 1960s group, they are still around today, performing sometimes more than 30 weeks in a year, the biography said.

They regularly headline shows in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, and tonight, they will be performing in Logan.

The 5th Dimension, which is now made up of original members Florence LaRue and Lamonte McLemore as well as later additions Phylliss Battle, Greg Walker and Willie Williams, will be the featured entertainment at the Ellen Eccles Theatre fund-raising Gala 2000 Benefit.

The Ellen Eccles Theatre ticket office said the benefit is being held to raise money for the theater and the cultural events it brings to Cache Valley.

The 5th Dimension will be performing a few old numbers but will also probably surprise the audience with some new songs, LaRue said.

"People who come to hear The 5th Dimension expect to hear some of our hits, so of course they are included," LaRue said. "But we are more versatile and spontaneous now than we were in the past."

LaRue, who is the group's lead

singer, said she didn't always plan to become a musician.

"Actually, I got into music — into singing — as an accident," she said.

Growing up on the East Coast, LaRue said she studied ballet and violin. As she got older, she went to college and earned her teaching credentials.

It was in her last year of college, she said, that she was introduced to the possibility of being a professional musician.

LaRue said she had moved to California with the hope of becoming an actress. Her friend entered her in a beauty contest, which she reluctantly agreed to compete in.

She said it was there McLemore discovered her. She said he approached her and asked her to join a music group, then called the Versatiles, that he was forming.

"I have a very eclectic musical interest, from classical to jazz, and I really like country-western music," LaRue said.

It is these diverse musical interests that LaRue said have influenced her musical style today.

Growing up, she used to attend the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra with her parents, and she said this musical exposure got her interested in music.

As a child, LaRue also saw Lena Horne perform in New York.

She said it was at that moment she decided she wanted to be in show business.

She said she was also inspired musically by Sammy Davis.

"He was a big influence on me because of his versatility and talent," she said. "And I knew him, and he was a wonderful person."

Today, she said, she doesn't listen to a lot of new music, mainly because



The 5th Dimension has been a well known band since its 1967 hit "Up, Up and Away." Since then, they have had several big hits. They perform a benefit concert tonight at the Ellen Eccles Theatre.

she is too busy. When she does have time to hear music, it's usually jazz or classical.

"I don't particularly care for rap mainly because I don't understand it," she said.

However, she said she doesn't speak badly about rap at all. Instead, she said she just can't appreciate it because it is more rhythmical and less musical than what she typically listens to.

She said it's similar to the difficulty some young people have understanding opera.

LaRue is currently divorced, though she hinted there may be some romance in her life.

"I will say that Willie (Williams, a member of The 5th Dimension) is my best friend," she said. "Need I say more?"

LaRue said she recently returned

from a vacation in Mexico with Williams, McLemore and McLemore's wife. She said they were there to celebrate LaRue's birthday.

Though perhaps her most famous song hails the "dawning of the Age of Aquarius," and she said she herself is an Aquarian, she quickly clarified her religious beliefs and astrology do not mesh.

"As I am a Christian, I don't really delve into the occult," she said.

The 5th Dimension's show tonight will also include a five-course dinner, the Gala's press release said.

Tickets to the benefit, which range in price from \$37 to \$49, are available by calling 752-0026.

Half the cost of each is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

More information on the event can be obtained by calling the Ellen Eccles Theatre ticket office at 752-0026.

Morgan for President, 2026: He'll make people be nice

LAUGHING AT LIFE / Andy Morgan



Let's confirm something right now: In the year 2026, I will campaign for the presidency of the United States.

Whether or not I win remains to be seen. I will probably be running against Dan Quayle's offspring or some illegitimate love child that was fathered by Bill Clinton and an intern to be named later. Therefore, to say the least, my chances look slim.

Now I don't announce my future campaign with an air of cockiness. I just believe in the power of dreams. Lately I've been having a vision of myself in a blue suit, white shirt and power tie, sporting a cheesy

grin and kissing babies. Yeah, I know it's just a dream — a nocturnal fart, if you will — but I still think my dream has a better chance of being elected president than does Alan Keyes or Gary Bauer.

I have noticed some potential pitfalls in my future campaigning, and since I cannot afford to hire a political consultant (anyone willing to work for used Alan Parson's Project tapes?), I've decided to come clean with all my past sins and misdeeds rather than face the truth 25 years from now.

First, you must know, I hate animals. I realized this to a greater or lesser degree when I took my young daughter to a local pet store last week. I thought it would be cute. Unfortunately, due to some repressed memories involving childhood trauma, I had forgotten that pets are irritating, noisy, smelly and dangerous

(parakeets are prone to rabies, I swear), and they serve no useful purpose on Earth.

If I were made president, serious jail time would be given to people who let their dogs poop on other folks' lawns, adding more punishment if your cat is heard mating in your neighbor's backyard.

Second, I couldn't care less for the environment. I know that sounds harsh, but let's be honest — are you any different? Probably not. I'm just telling the truth.

Now, let's be real, it's not like I burn forests down or spray paint on cave drawings. I really don't even litter that much, in fact. I think I dropped a Bubble Yum wrapper on my way to the English building one day, and I can say for a surety that I flipped a cough drop wrapper out the window while buzzing through Sardine Canyon. And

as for pollution? If it speeds up global warming so that every place on earth is warm and sunny, then all I can say is amen.

My views on war are a tad bit different from those of my colleagues. Rather than march our troops off to war whenever someone steps on our toes, I think I would set up some type of international intramural program.

Basically, we would make it a policy — and this would go for other nations too — whenever a dispute surfaced concerning some infraction of world peace or the like, the offending parties would gather for some basketball and settle their differences.

Can you imagine Dennis Rodman and Slobodan Milosevic playing a game of horse to decide the fate of Yugoslavia? This is the way to do it. The winner would get his or her way and the loser

would be nuked. Simple as that.

Despite my sketchy past, I think I would be a good president. I would make life for women easier and more fair. I would abolish race differences — kicking bigots out of the country, sending them to the South Pole or something — I wouldn't take taxes from students, and if I had to, I'd make higher education free and pay teachers the NBA players salaries. And I'd make sure that as a nation, we were kind to one another. Yeah, I'd pass a law that required everyone to be nice. It's amazing what happens when you're nice.

Oh yeah, and I'd do something about the price of textbooks, too.

Andy Morgan needs your support. E-mail him at lordoofthejazz@hotmail.com and visit his new Web site at iwillbeprezohyewill.com.

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Tiger's not good, he's Gr-r-reat

FINALINE / Wade Denniston



"The truth can be more unbelievable than fiction."

Those were the last eight words uttered by Alan Shipnuck, in his recent story, "Sixth Sense," found in the Feb. 14 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

What Shipnuck was referring to was the unbelievable finish Tiger Woods had two weeks ago at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

Shipnuck couldn't have been more right.

Down seven strokes with seven holes to play, Woods made the biggest comeback victory of his PGA Tour career as he tapped in for birdie on the 18th hole, edging out Matt Gogel by one stroke.

The improbable finish included a 97-yard approach shot on the 15th hole — a par 4 — which landed a few feet to the right of the cup and rolled straight in for an eagle. Woods wasn't done, however.

On the par-4 16th hole, Woods nearly replicated what he accomplished on the 15th, as he landed his 114-yard approach shot even closer to the pin. The ball trickled by the cup as Woods just missed back-to-back eagles. The shot left him with a perfect birdie attempt.

The win gave Woods his sixth tournament victory in a row, considered by many to be one of the top 10 feats in modern sports history.

A week later, however, Woods' run to surpass Byron Nelson's streak of 11 consecutive victories set in 1945 ended when he finished in second place at the Buick Invitational in La Jolla, Calif., four strokes behind Phil Mickelson.

Woods has since lost again, this time over the weekend at the Nissan Open in Pacific Palisades, Calif., as he struggled mightily the entire tournament — especially on the green, where many of his putts could've dropped but didn't.

Still, the 24-year-old Woods has emerged as the best golfer on the PGA Tour today. Scratch that. Woods is the best golfer there ever has been or ever will be.

But what sets this 6-foot-1, 170-pounder, apart from all the rest? Here's five reasons why Tiger is ... well, Tiger.

No. 5: He has a good uniform. OK, so golfers aren't required to wear uniforms, but if merchandise people were to start marketing Woods uniforms, they would most definitely have to be red and black, the two colors he can most often be found wearing.

Woods surprised even me at his last tournament when he was wearing a more earth-tone colored outfit rather than his usual Chicago Bulls black and red.

Hey, at least he doesn't make himself look like a fool as Jesper Parnevik (Sweden) did Sunday in the final round of the Nissan Open. Parnevik, who is well known for a flipped up bill on his hats, decided to show his true colors by wearing pink pants and a black shirt.

No. 4: He's having more fun now. When Woods first started on the tour, he had a major attitude problem. But who could blame him with all the pressure that was put on him? Oftentimes now, Woods can be seen sporting a huge grin after a great shot.

No. 3: He can do just about anything he wants to on the course. Although he's known for his power, Woods' short game really struggled in the early part of his career, which hurt him. Now, Woods is mastering his short game, and often turns a miserable lie into a makeable birdie or par putt after an incredible lob shot from just off the green.

No. 2: He's the only golfer today that can win six straight tournaments.

No. 1: He keeps promises. Isn't that intriguing?

"What?" you may be asking. That's exactly what I said when I read Rick Reilly's column, "The Promise Keeper," in the most recent issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

Reilly was talking about a promise Woods kept to a junior high school friend he made three months ago about letting him caddy at the tournament he lost to Mickelson.

Isn't that amazing?

Woods, who was gunning for his seventh straight win, gave his regular caddy the tournament off, and let Bryon Bell tote his bag.

The reason? Bell was trying to earn some extra money for medical school.

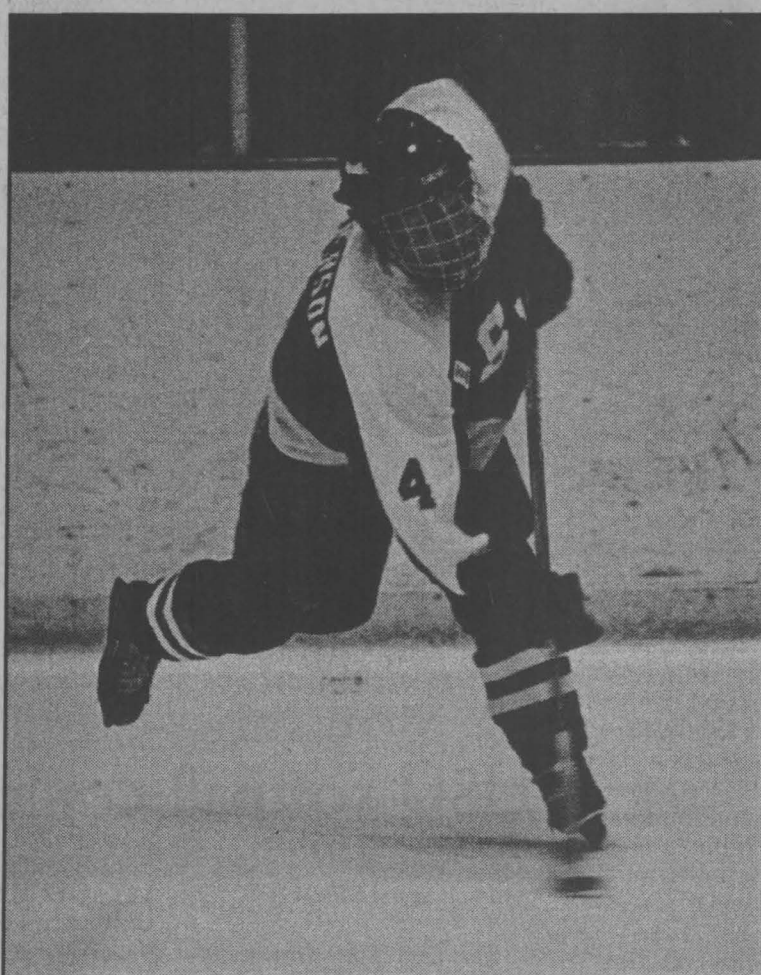
"My son has changed completely," Tiger's mother, Tida, told *Sports Illustrated*.

"He's all grown up now."

Yes, he has.

Wade Denniston is the senior sports writer at the Statesman. He recently helped lead the Statesman basketball team to a perfect 0-5 record. E-mail him at waded@pcu.net.

USU to play in title game tonight vs. Weber



USU's Rad Anderson shoots on goal against Weber State last weekend. The Aggies face the Wildcats again tonight at the Ice Sheet in Weber.

REUBEN WADSWORTH
Sports Writer

Having fun.

That's what the Utah State University hockey team was doing Wednesday afternoon as it defeated the Provo Icecats (Brigham Young University) 6-1. The victory earned the Aggies a trip to the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Hockey Association (RMCHA) championship game against Weber State University tonight at 8:30 p.m. at the Ogden Ice Sheet.

"We stepped out and had fun," USU's Clint Stosich said.

"When you have a good time, you execute better," teammate Kelly Froerer said.

The Aggies said they will have a good time when they meet archrival Weber once more on Friday. Utah State won the season series, but a victory on Friday should be even sweeter as it will mean the accomplishment of a goal the team set when the season began — winning the RMCHA title.

"This is one of the marquee games," head coach Jerry Crossley said. "We've been gearing for it all season."

Staying positive will be one of the keys against the Wildcats on Friday, Froerer said. If the Aggies

have confidence in themselves and execute well, they should pull out yet another win over Weber, he said.

"We know we can beat Weber," Stosich said.

The Icecats played the Aggies close in the first two periods on Wednesday. USU only had a two-goal edge after the first period. Provo cut that advantage to one after the second period with a goal from Jake Carlson with 11:47 remaining.

Even though it was tight during the first two periods, Crossley said he felt his team was still in control.

Froerer said the way the Aggies were playing, the score should have been 10-1, but Provo goaltender Tom Donohoe held his ground.

Utah State executed well in the third period, scoring four goals while blanking the Icecats. Froerer scored two goals in the period, assisted by Nick Thiros both times. Stosich scored unassisted when he picked up the puck from a defender that was struggling to gain possession with 10:05 left in the period to make the score 5-1.

Froerer's last goal, a little less than three minutes later, vaulted the Aggies to their five-goal winning

Jump to TOURNAMENT, Page 8

Aggies defeat Aggies, 70-66

Utah State extends winning streak to 13 games behind Tony Brown's 27 points

AARON MORTON
Assistant Sports Editor

The Aggies rode Tony Brown's career-best 27 points to a 70-66 victory over New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

The win gives Utah State University (22-5 overall, 13-0 Big West Conference) 13 wins in a row, clinching the BWC Eastern Division, and the first win over NMSU (17-8, 8-5) in Las Cruces in four years.

"It was a special win," head coach Stew Morrill said. "For us to go in here and win ... I can't express how happy I am for the kids."

Brown was unstoppable as he had 19 in the second half, scoring 17 out of USU's 19 points in one stretch. He hit four 3-pointers in that run with seven in the game.

"I guess that would be the zone," Brown said. "I just got some good screens from the big guys and got some shots to drop."

Brown's 27 is also the Northern Aggies' high for a player on the season. It's unusual for just one USU player to pull the team as most of the scoring is done by committee. He only had three points against NMSU in Logan on Feb. 3.

"It's hard to guard our team," Brown said. "We try to get it to

the hot guy."

Although the Northern Aggies led for almost the entire game after an early run by the Southern Aggies, NMSU knocked the lead to one on a Brad Bestor 3-pointer, 62-61, with 3:35 left in the game.

But then Brown fed Shawn Daniels inside, and the 6-foot-6 junior shot a quick hook off the glass to stop an NMSU 7-0 run.

"It might have taken the wind out of them," Brown said.

Daniels had 12 points and nine rebounds.

Bestor did hit another 3-pointer with 21 ticks left in the game, cutting the lead to two. But USU finished strong, hitting its last six shots from the free-throw line.

"We took charge when the game was on the line," Morrill said.

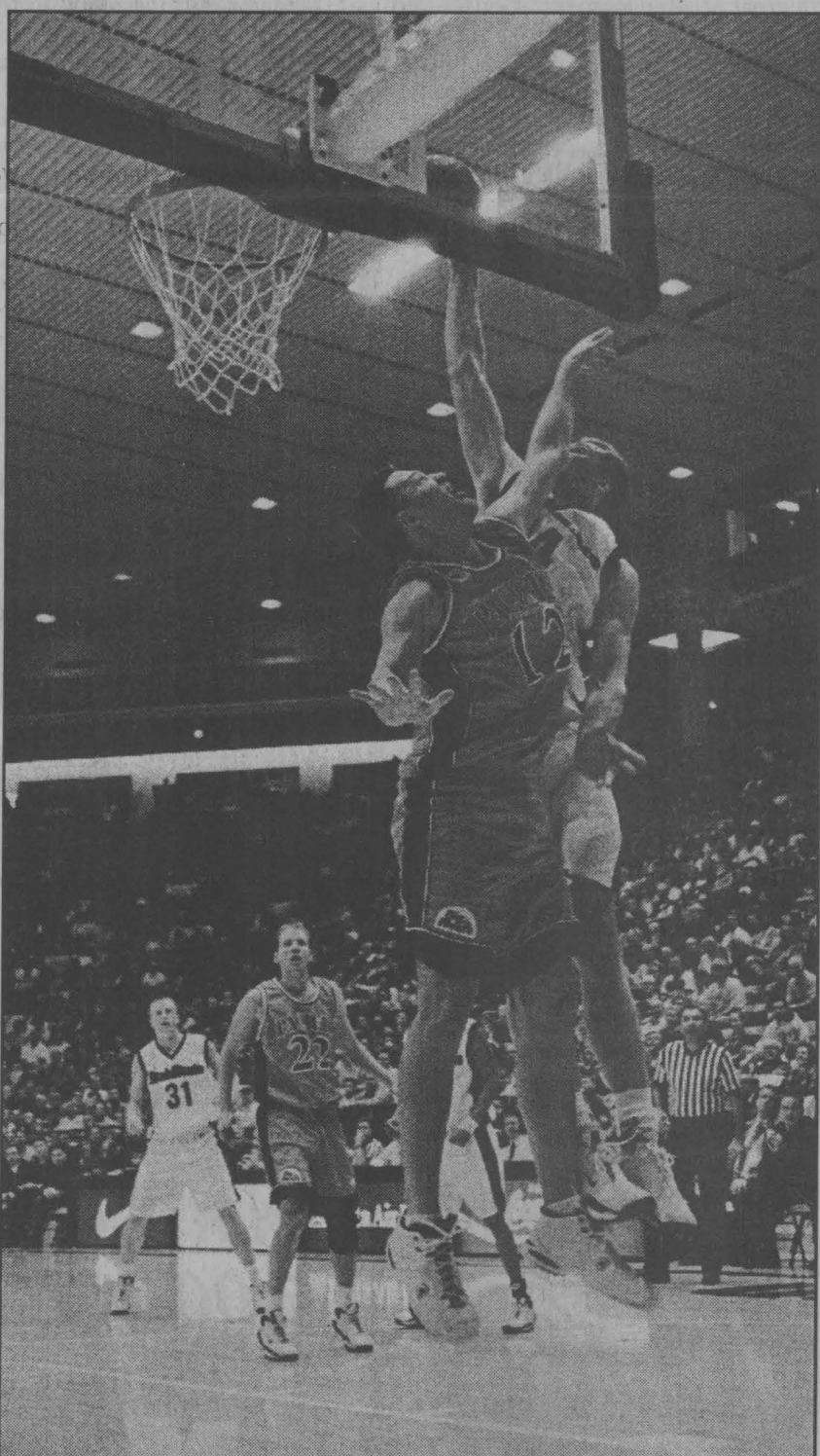
New Mexico State's offense caught fire to dwindle the visitor's 10-point halftime lead

to four.

"We got a little tired in the second half," Morrill said.

Billy Keys started to carry his Aggies, hitting three consecutive shots, but Brown was with him all the way as they traded 3-

Jump to BROWN, Page 9



USU's Dimitri Jorssen (14) takes an elbow in the face from Pacific's Eli Kiedrowski during USU's 64-55 victory Saturday night in the Spectrum. USU beat NMSU Thursday.

Track team building on last week's success, heads to Reno

LYNNETTE HOFFMAN
Sports Writer

Talent-packed Pac-10 schools will dominate the field as the Utah State University track and field team heads to Reno, Nev., for the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championship this weekend.

USU head coach Gregg Gensel said the Aggies will face some tough competition, but the team has improved dramatically over the course of the short indoor season.

The men's team has been competing particularly well, with

stand outs like James Parker in the 35-pound weight throw. Parker has already automatically qualified for nationals, and is favored in the event.

Although Washington State University, Stanford University and Arizona State University are the current favorites to win the men's conference, the Utah State men could challenge for one of the top three spots, Gensel said.

Last weekend Utah State had a successful showing at the Montana State double dual meet in Bozeman, Mont., with 18 athletes achieving personal records and two provisionally qualifying

for nationals.

Six event winners, along with five second- and five third-place finishes helped the men's team beat the other teams. The Aggie men beat Montana State University by 18 points, and the University of Montana by nine points. The Utah State women recorded a five-point win over Montana, but were 20 points behind MSU.

"The veterans are doing what's expected, and the younger kids are really pulling through," Gensel said.

The mile was one of the biggest successes for both the

men and the women, Gensel said. Senior Marcus Morgan and junior Rebekah Thornley both won the event and provisionally qualified for nationals. Morgan's 4:07.32 was more than four seconds faster than the second place finisher's time. Thornley finished the race in 4:55.19, just over 17 seconds ahead of the next runner.

Gensel said Morgan's time converts to 4:03.07, with altitude adjustments, which is a strong provisional time.

Although he hadn't raced there

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TOURNAMENT

Continued from Page 7

margin. Other Aggie scorers were Aaron Matern, Nate Anderson and Aaron Burrell.

"If we play defense, our goals will come," Stosich said.

Both coach and players agreed the team was passing the puck better.

"Our passing paid off tonight," Froerer said. "We were right on the tape."

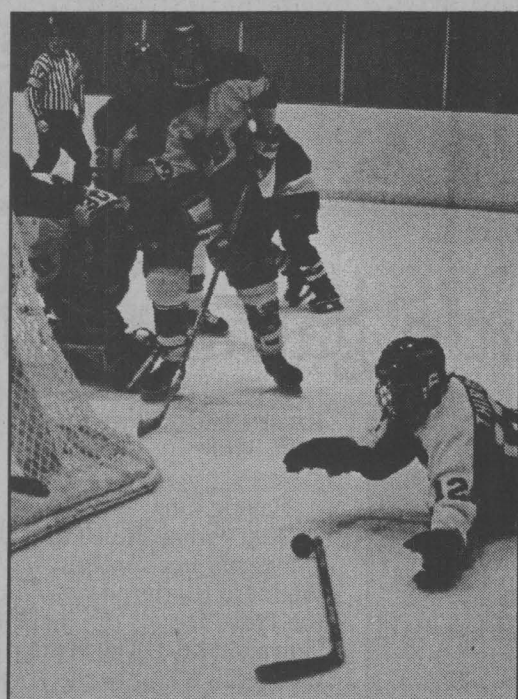
Crossley said the passing game against the Icecats was the biggest improvement he has seen since the four-game losing streak. He and the players said the improved passing led to more scoring opportunities.

Crossley said the team is playing the same as it did during the 19-game winning streak. Wednesday's win boosted team morale, and the team is playing better as a unit, he said.

USU was called for 11 penalties in the contest. The Icecats were only called for one, and that was with 47.9 seconds left in the third period.

The Aggies attempted 29 shots on goal in the game while the Icecats managed just 17.

Crossley and his players are hoping for a full house on Friday. The game will be the last chance USU fans will have to see their



USU's Nick Thiros (12) loses the puck, his stick and his balance in a game against Weber on Friday night.

team in action at home until next season.

"Fans always make a difference," Crossley said. "They help pick up the pace."

Crossley said he would like to thank the fans for all their support this season.

Gymnastics team loses to Brigham Young

LYNNETTE HOFFMAN
Sports Writer

Brigham Young University got a taste of revenge Wednesday.

After losing to the Utah State University gymnastics team by one-tenth two weeks ago in the Spectrum, and losses in both meets last year, the Cougars were hungry for victory.

With the Aggies forced to count a fall on beam, the Cougars got their wish. BYU won with a score of 195.60 to USU's 145.950.

"This team has got to learn how to tough it up on balance beam — we're holding ourselves back from big scores. We have to make some adjustments," head coach Ray Corn said.

USU began the meet on bars with a season high score of 49.125. Freshmen Tina Ellis and Kristen Bloom both scored 9.875s, and senior Christy Denson once again

scored 9.9.

The Aggies had another strong vault rotation, scoring 48.60. Denson increased the difficulty level of her Yurchenko vault by adding a full twist, but a piked landing lowered her score to 9.65. Sophomore Stephanie Huff and freshman Kristen Fargo led the Aggies with 9.75s.

Even with solid performances on the first two events, the Aggies were behind heading into the third rotation. BYU scored two 9.8s on vault, and Leah Nieprach received the highest score of the evening on bars with a 9.95.

Floor began well with sophomore Kirra Degener and junior Kristin O'Dell both scoring above 9.7. But Huff and Bloom scored 9.475

and 9.55, respectively.

"I inquired, but they (the judges) justified it, saying they didn't receive credit on some of their dance skills," Corn said of the scores.

Four of the six Aggies hit their beam routines, but it wasn't enough to clinch a win. Degener started the team off

with a season high 9.825. Bloom earned a 9.85, and freshman Nicole Kilpatrick scored a career high 9.8.

BYU was solid and consistent.

"The right team won tonight," Corn said.

The Aggies will be on the road competing against the University of Nebraska on Sunday.

"No rest for the weary," Corn said.

'This team has got to learn how to tough it up on balance beam.'

• RAY CORN •
USU HEAD COACH

TRACK

Continued from Page 7

before, Morgan knew Montana State's banked track had a reputation for being fast. Shane Bingham, the last miler from Utah State to race at nationals, had also qualified there.

"I thought it was a perfect opportunity to try to qualify for nationals. I wanted to push myself to see how fast I could go," he said.

Morgan and Thornley are both hoping to improve their times this weekend to ensure a spot at nationals.

Utah State also grabbed up the first three spots in the women's 800-meters, with Melissa Jensen, Kristy Funk-Guyman, and Amber Jensen placing first, second and third, respectively. All three earned personal records, as well as places on USU's all-time rankings.

"They've been practicing really well, it's just a great accomplishment," Gensel said.

Melissa Jensen's 2:11.74 broke the school record she set in 1997, and Amber Jensen's 2:13.21 was a five-second improvement. Amber Jensen had only run the 800 two other times in her college career and considered herself primarily a miler.

"I didn't even believe it when they said that was my time — I was surprised," she said.

Freshman Dennis Ogilvie came from behind in the last lap of the men's 800 to narrowly miss beating Montana's Kyle Weis, who won the race. Ogilvie's 1:53.57 was a three-second personal record.

USU also placed first, second and third in the men's 55-meter hurdles. Sophomore Bret Guymon won the event in 7.69 seconds, followed by Trevor Bentensen and Joel Johnson. Guymon also won the 400, while Lawrence Ringwald took first in the 200. The men's 4 by 400 added another first place to the collection. Freshman Josh Sides won the shot put with a personal record as well.

The women were not without their share of personal records and strong finishes. Freshman Katie Farner jumped 5-7.75, winning the event by four inches.

"It was a huge PR," Gensel said. In addition, Sandra Reategui won the 200, Jessica Benson was first in the 55-meter hurdles, and senior Angie Winkler was a close second in the 3000-meter race.

Twenty-six men and 18 women will compete for Utah State at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships in Reno, Nev., this weekend.

USU softball could move above .500

AARON MORTON
Assistant Sports Editor

The Utah State University softball team looks to move above .500 this weekend as they take on in-state rivals and nationally ranked teams at the Utah Tournament in St. George.

The Aggies (2-3) will take on No. 25 Oklahoma State University and Southern Utah University on Friday, Brigham Young University and the University of Tulsa on Saturday and finally top-10 Stanford University on Saturday.

"We're really excited about this weekend," head coach Pam McCreesh said.

USU opens up against OSU at noon today, where the Cowboys own a 7-4 record vs. the Aggies. After beating top-40 University of

Kansas and almost tripping up No. 43 Mississippi State University, USU is confident it can compete with a higher ranked team.

"They are not afraid," McCreesh said of the Aggies. "They just keep fighting and fighting."

USU will then take on SUU at 2 p.m., where the Aggies have a commanding 48-2 record against the Thunderbirds. However, McCreesh warned they can sneak up on teams — USU had to come back from an early deficit to whip them 9-5 last season.

"We can't look over them," McCreesh said.

USU swept the season series 4-0 in 1999.

Saturday at 11 a.m. USU will take on BYU. The Aggies are 22-5 against the Cougars, but the last game between

the two was in 1987 because BYU hasn't competed in softball for several years. This is the Cougars first year back, but the Aggies shouldn't treat them that way, McCreesh said. They have 11 junior college transfers and are already above .500.

Later that evening, USU will play Tulsa at 7. McCreesh doesn't know much about the team, but that's OK because she said the Aggies will just worry about playing their own game.

In the finale against Stanford, McCreesh concedes that the Cardinal will get their hits. She said she hopes they will come at bad times for Stanford to allow USU to hang with them. The Cardinal will probably be the toughest team the Aggies play all year, she said.

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Only one minor deal as trading deadline passes

(AP) — On the slowest NBA trading deadline day in 13 years, only one minor deal was made between Orlando and Atlanta. A three-way trade that would have sent Los Angeles Clippers forward Maurice Taylor to the New York Knicks fell through.

Thursday's lone trade sent guard Anthony Johnson from the Hawks to the Magic for a conditional second-round draft pick.

The deal that was scuttled, for reasons that were unclear, would have sent Taylor to the Knicks, John Wallace from New York to Vancouver and Othella Harrington from the Grizzlies to the Clippers, several league sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press.

Taylor was so upset that the deal fell through that he initially refused to get off the team bus when the Clippers arrived at the Target Center

in Minneapolis for their game against the Timberwolves.

Taylor, who has said he won't re-sign with the Clippers when he becomes a free agent next summer, eventually relented and played in Los Angeles' 116-91 loss to the Timberwolves.

"I'm disappointed," Taylor said. "I had a chance to go to a team that maybe has a chance to get to the championship."

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High and tight, with Wade Denniston

Daniels' big week earns him athlete-of-the-week

Shawn Daniels averaged 15.5 points, 10.5 rebounds and 3 blocks in Utah State University's two games last week, and boasted a shooting percentage of 68.4 percent.

Daniels' performance helped pilot the Aggies past the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Pacific and also earned him USU athlete-of-the-week honors.

Senior sports writer Wade Denniston sat down with Daniels on Tuesday and talked about Utah State's 13-game winning streak, Hawaii, Gary Payton and Tiger Woods in this week's edition of *High and tight*.

Wade Denniston: You guys have the nation's longest winning streak at 13 games. You've already clinched a tie for first place in the Eastern Division. With so many new faces on the team this year, is all this success something you would've imagined at the start of the season?

Shawn Daniels: It was pretty tough at the beginning. Everybody was getting used to everybody's different personalities (and) playing style.

Personally, I thought we were gonna be pretty good, but I didn't think we were gonna go off and win 12 straight. But, once we started playing and started winning games, when we got to conference I thought we would do pretty good and win some games.

WD: What's been the biggest key to your success in winning 12 in a row?

SD: Teamwork. Everybody playing as a team. No one's coming out just shooting wild shots outside the offense. Everybody is doing what coach says to do.

WD: The team's defense is one of the best in the conference, and probably nation. Why is that?

SD: I think everybody just bought into what coach said at the beginning of the year that if we wanted to be good everybody's gonna have to play defense. Basically, that's about it. Everybody goes out every night and tries to stop their man.

WD: Especially someone like B-Ray.

SD: B-Ray, yeah, he's a great defensive player. Anytime he checks in the game he's always gonna be ready to play defense. He's not looking for a shot on offense, but when it comes, he shoots the ball. But you know, he just plays within the

offense.

WD: So, how does it feel to be on top of the basketball world right now, with everybody gunning for ya?

SD: It feels good. Like

coach said, every night out we just gotta concentrate and play on defense. We're gonna get everybody's best effort every night and we don't have nothing to lose, really. People are gunning for us, we're not trying to get back in the conference race. We're on top.

WD: What's been your most memorable experience so far this season?

SD: Probably the trip to Maui and how good we played as a team.

WD: Was that your first time in Hawaii?

SD: Yeah.

WD: That's cool. Yeah, you guys played awesome. I listened to every game. I wish we could've seen you guys on TV.

SD: Oh yeah.

WD: I heard the Florida game you were kind of jipped on.

SD: Yeah, that was a tough game.

WD: You guys were able to stay with the seventh-rated team in the nation at that time.

SD: Yeah, they're still in the top-10 (No. 9 in Associated Press and No. 10 in coaches). It was a great experience for us to play against a top-ranked team like that to see where we stood at that point of the season.

WD: It's obvious you have a lot of fun on the court. You're always smiling, laughing, chest-bumping, Bernard and other players, why is that?

SD: My mom told me anything I do to always have fun. Basically, that's what I try to do — don't be too serious out there. I think when you're having fun, you're more relaxed and you're more in the flow of the game when you're relaxed.

WD: Shaquille O'Neal likes to run the break at times I've noticed, similar to you. I know he's a center, but is there a part of his game that is similar to yours?

SD: Yeah, free throws. (Laughing).



DENNISTON

WD: Besides free throws. I figured you might've said that.

SD: Yeah, Shaq does a lot of things out there on the court. I try to stay involved in the offense too, go out there and show what I can do when I'm in the open court.

WD: Are your hands too big, like his are, to shoot the free throws, or is it mental?

SD: No, it's just a mental thing with me.

WD: Is it?

SD: Yeah, basically that's all.

WD: Yeah, I saw you knocking them down (during practice).

SD: It's just a thing about me relaxing, that's about it.

WD: Well, you hit 1-of-2 in Nevada. That helped you guys out a lot when you hit 16 in a row.

SD: Oh yeah. I hit them in the stretch when it counts. That's the only time it really counts; when the game is on the line. Coach has faith in me to leave me in the game at the end, so you gotta hit them then.

WD: You're at New Mexico State on Thursday, the team that was picked in the preseason by the media and coaches poll to win the East. How sweet would it be for you guys to wrap up the division on the Crimson Aggies' home court?

SD: It would be great because like you said, they were picked to win the conference. Just to go out and get another win on the road. It's always good when you get a win on the road. They're a pretty good team and they're real good on their home court.

WD: Do you have any friendly predictions about the outcome of the game?

SD: Nah. I just think we're gonna come out and play our game. If we play our game, we'll have a chance at the end of the game.

WD: I know you've got another year of eligibility left after this season, but where do you see yourself after college?

SD: Just somewhere having fun. Working, basketball, whatever it is so I can take care of my daughter.

WD: Is it a dream of yours to play professional ball?

SD: Yeah.



DANIELS

WD: Do you have a favorite team that you'd like to play with?

SD: Oh yeah, the Lakers are my favorite team, but hey, I'll play for anybody.

WD: That's cool. The Lakers are in my favorite team's division, the Sonics.

SD: (Somewhat of a groan).

WD: You don't like them?

SD: Nah.

WD: Yeah, I've always liked Gary Payton.

SD: I like Gary Payton.

WD: Well, that's cool too. If you could make, say, \$5 million a year playing professional basketball or golf, which one would you choose?

SD: Basketball, of course.

WD: I've never hit a golf ball.

WD: Never hit a golf ball?

SD: Nah.

WD: Have you been following much with Tiger Woods' success?

SD: Highlights, I'll watch and see who's winning. But hey, golf's an easier sport, just

go out there and swing a golf club, so I don't know. I'll have to think about that one.

WD: One more question. You've obviously been interviewed many times. Give me a silly question you wouldn't ask an athlete.

SD: That I wouldn't ask an athlete?

WD: Yeah.

SD: Whoa.

WD: Like maybe a dumb one someone asked you once.

SD: (Deep in thought) ...

Hmm.

WD: I don't mean to put you on the spot here, man.

SD: (Laughs) Dang, I don't know. I've heard a lot of crazy questions.

WD: Is there one that sticks out in your mind that is just like, 'Man, what was he thinking?'

SD: No, not right now. Man. I don't know. That's tough, I don't know.

WD: That's cool. I'll take that as an answer.

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NAVY

LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN.

BROWN

Continued from Page 7

pointers five straight times down the court. When the dust settled after Bernard Rock hit one of his two 3-pointers, Utah State had a 62-54 lead.

NMSU was hot early in the game as its two top scorers kicked off the game with back-to-back baskets. Keys scored inside and Eric Channing canned a 3-pointer, one of his three in the game, giving the Southern Aggies a 5-0 lead after only two NMSU possessions.

But again the USU defense came up big as they switched to zone.

Brown had three steals and Jorssen had two blocks leading to six fast-break points and a 19-10 lead with about 12:30 left in the half. Brown was also on fire early as he had eight in the first eight minutes of the half, hitting two 3-pointers and a slam dunk.

"That was for a fan in the front," Brown said of a heckler. "He said he had never seen a white guy dunk."

Rock was strong Thursday night in his return to New Mexico where he played junior

college ball at the New Mexico Military Institute. He scored seven in the first half, including USU's opening points with a 3-pointer to spark USU's early 12-2 run.

Rock, who was featured in *USA Today*, played toe-to-toe with Southern Aggie star guard Keys, forcing a charge from Keys with 30 seconds left in the game up only three points.

"My (NMMI) coach said I wasn't good enough to play with New Mexico State," Rock said. He proved the critics wrong with two 3-pointers and 16 points.

New Mexico State kept the game close in the first half by hitting three shots from three-point land. They ran off eight straight points as the Northern Aggie offense stalled. The closest NMSU got was one point after USU took the lead about eight minutes in.

Then the scoring by committee awakened again to grind a 12-point halftime lead on a 12-3 run led by Daniels' inside play. He scored three buckets near the paint.

Utah State will now try to go a perfect 8-0 on the road in Big West play — something the school has never done — when they take on the University of North Texas in Denton, Texas, Saturday at 6:05 p.m.

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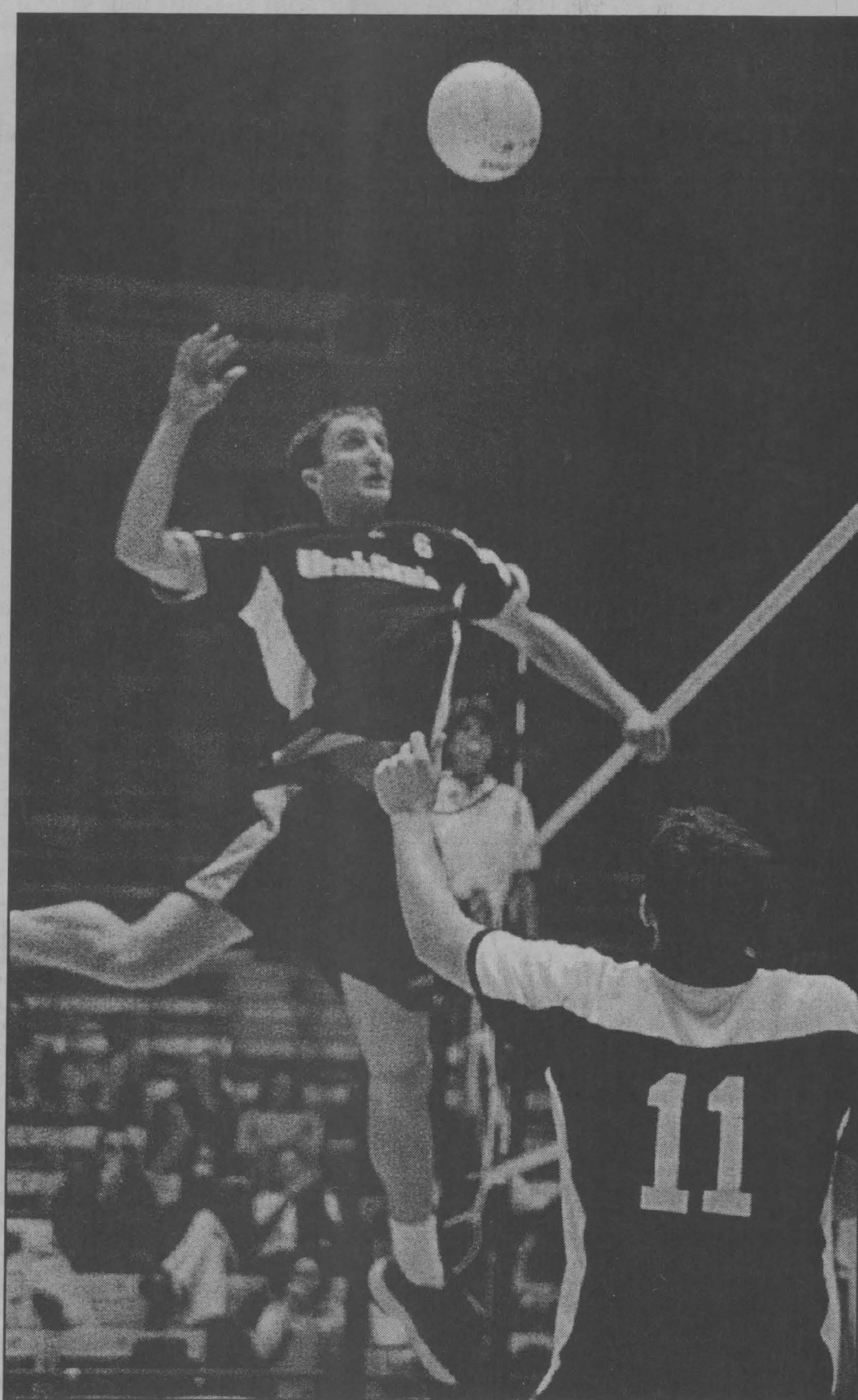
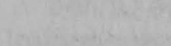


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USU's David Johnston (6) spikes the ball during Thursday evening's match against Salt Lake Community College in the Spectrum. Greg Jorganson (11) set the ball. USU beat SLCC in four games.

Men's volleyball downs SLCC

KADE MINCHEY
Sports Writer

In front of about 64 die-hard volleyball fans, the Utah State University men's volleyball club won their game in three of four matches Thursday night against Salt Lake Community College.

USU went into Thursday's game ranked nineteenth while SLCC was twentieth. The win elevates USU to the top spot in the state.

"We didn't feel like we played up to par," Aggie David Johnston said.

Greg Jorgenson helped the Aggies by setting up hits that converted into points while Todd McArthur provided key blocks.

The volleyball club practices with the women's volleyball team twice a week. Jorgenson said these scrimmages give the men's team practice in defending against an organized offense. Practicing with the women's team gives them the challenge they need to win each game.

The men's volleyball team season starts in mid-October and goes through May. Most of the games played are in tournaments throughout the eight-month period.

The Aggies' next game will be March 4 and 5 in a tournament at UVSC.

"We didn't feel like we played up to par."

• DAVID JOHNSTON •
USU PLAYER

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Brown's performance night-and-day difference

WADE DENNISTON
Senior Sports Writer

What a difference a game makes.

In the first meeting between New Mexico State University and Utah State University Feb. 5 at the Spectrum, sophomore Tony Brown had just three points on a 3-pointer late in the second half.

The 6-foot-3 guard attempted just five shots in the game, but the Aggies were still able to win, 66-51.

But in the rematch with New Mexico State Thursday night in Las Cruces, N.M., Brown had nine times as many points as he tallied in the first game, helping lead Utah State to its 13th straight overall victory, seventh consecutive on the road, 70-66.

In 35 minutes of action, the native of Hyrum connected on 9-of-16 shots from the field and an incredible 7-for-10 from three-point land for a career-high 27 points.

Why the big difference for Brown in the two games?

"I don't know," Brown told KVNU radio. "Maybe they didn't think I was going to come out on fire, or they keyed on somebody else."

Regardless, head coach Stew Morrill was pleased with Brown's effort in leading the Aggies to the Eastern Division Championship of the Big West Conference.

"As I said to Tony in the locker room," Morrill told KVNU, "he picked a great night to make some shots."

Brown single-handedly kept Utah State in the lead

during the second half by scoring 19 of his points, including 17 of the team's 19 points during one stretch, as well as five threes in a row.

"I guess that would be the zone," a humble Brown told KVNU. "I got a lot of good screens from our big guys. They weren't there, so I was wide open and hit the shots."

Several of the 3-point baskets by Brown came on new plays USU put in this week.

"We added a couple plays this past week," Brown told KVNU. "I think we got a few off of a flare screen off the new play. The other ones were just off of older plays that they tried to do something, and I just countered what they did and got wide open."

And when he wasn't hitting threes, Brown was taking it to the hole and dunking.

With the Aggies leading 14-10 in the first half, Brown stole the ball from a Crimson Aggie and went coast-to-coast for a break-away slam dunk.

"That was for a fan in the front row," Brown told KVNU. "He said he'd never seen a white guy dunk in this gym before, so that was for him."

When he wasn't scoring, the 194-pound Brown was playing tremendous defense, as he swiped a team-high three steals.

"We got our hands on a lot of passes when we went into that zone," Brown told KVNU.

Brown also added three assists and two rebounds.



USU's Shawn Daniels dunks on a fast break in USU's win over North Texas on Feb. 3 in the Spectrum. USU has won 13 straight games.

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Quotes 'n NOTES

Kiss and tell

8 Percentage of kissers who keep their eyes open.

20 Percentage of kissers who confessed to an occasional peek.

41 Percentage of kissers who experienced their first smooch when they were 13, 14 or 15 years old.

41 Percentage of kissers who experienced their first smooch when they were between the ages of 16 and 21.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

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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Artist should have spelled Schulz's name right in Friday's cartoon

I couldn't help but notice the drawing in *The Utah Statesman* on last Friday in memorial of the great American cartoonist. The illustrator of the cartoon Peanuts was definitely a contributor to our American culture. For fifty years, children and adults alike have been able to enjoy and relate to the cartoon characters that appeared in newspapers and on television specials. I have to agree with the Statesman cartoonist, Mr. Hardcastle, in his efforts to memorialize the creator of the Peanuts gang.

Yet one of the real reasons Snoopy was crying in Hardcastle's memorial cartoon was because Hardcastle misspelled the name on the headstone of Charles M. Schulz (which was spelled Shultz). Before illustrating such a bold statement, I would hope that an aspiring cartoonist would have the respect to at least have some general knowledge of that which he was illustrating to begin with.

Objective research essential to USU

Like many others on campus, I too had concerns over the Statesman's "Research Focus" on Dr. Randy Simmons, suburban sprawl study. Unfortunately, Dr. Simmons' response to Mr. Stevenson's criticism not only missed the point, but sadly reinforced my concerns.

Indeed, the concern isn't over the materials in Dr. Simmons' files, but rather what is likely missing from them. Download a copy of the report, and you'll see what I mean (www.sutherlandinstitute.org). The study presents a laundry list of facts supportive of Simmons' libertarian agenda that promotes private property rights, free markets and limited government (a philosophy shared by the Sutherland Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute, which funded the study).

Indeed, after what is an obviously highly-selective and biased review of the facts, Simmons' main conclusions are that sprawl is good and government should protect private property rights and eliminate zoning (ironically, it was the irresponsibility of unregulated private actions that spurred our zoning laws in the first place). When arguing for the elimination of community zoning, the report has the chutzpah to quote well-known writer Jim Kunstler, one of sprawl's most vocal critics. Somehow, Kunstler's description of sprawl as "the mindless twitchings of a brain-dead culture, artificially sustained by the

To the EDITOR

intravenous feeding of cheap oil" didn't make it into Simmons, 84-page report. Nor did Kunstler's lament that "we have managed to ruin our greatest cities, throw away our small towns and impose over the countryside a joyless junk habitat which we can no longer afford to support. We created a landscape of scary places and became a nation of scary people."

While one can argue over the costs and benefits of sprawl (yes, there are both), it does a disservice to confuse objective, peer-reviewed research with biased studies of high-visibility issues funded by organizations with clear political agendas timed to meet the schedules of legislative sessions. I am even more concerned when our democratic principles are endangered by free-market enthusiasts that, one fears, know the price of everything, and the value of nothing.

Rob Lilieholm
Associate Professor
Department of Resource Management

Snowmobiles disrupt backcountry skiers

Kristi Smith

I am writing in response to Darin Noorda's letter to the editor of "Conflict in the Backcountry." If snowmobilers are lovers of the winter outdoors then why do you fly by wilderness area signs that clearly state "NO Motorized Vehicles" (and don't say you don't, because I've seen it). Wilderness areas were created to protect the natural beauty within, and to protect those species of wild animals who call those areas home. Snowmobiles scare and disrupt the lives of these animals. If you question this talk to some wildlife professors here and ask them.

And if you love the winter outdoors why do you snowmobile in early season conditions, when your tracks dig through the shallow snow and spit out trails of dirt and rock. And last but not least if you love the environment, why are you so intent on spewing out your toxic gases and contributing to the global warming that creates these bad warm winters like we are having now?

As far as the gas tax goes, we all know that is just an excuse. Gas taxes are in part an environmental economic policy to decrease gasoline consumption. The hope is that if gas prices are high enough, people will decide that the joy of polluting the air is not worth the price of the gas required to do so. When my skis start using gasoline, start spewing out toxic fumes or start creating a noise loud enough to be heard miles away, then I will license them and pay taxes on them. Also, lets make a distinction between cross-country skiers and backcountry skiers. We (Backcountry skiers) do not like flat groomed trails, we enjoy the steep and the deep and untracked and we would never ask for grooming services. If we wanted that we would be at the Beaver.

Dave Kikkert

A long night's journey into sleep

UNDERGRADUATED / Kevin Peel



11 p.m. — Getting up at 6 o'clock tomorrow morning, better hit the hay. Alarm clock set? Check. Ear plugs? Check. Classical "Meditation" CD? Check. I'm so tired. Bed feels so good. Come sweet slumber ... ZZZZZ.

11:15 p.m. — SLAM! Huh? Oh, two roommates are home. Singing duet. "HEY NOW YOU'RE AN ALL-STAR, GET YOUR GAME ON, GO PLAY!" Ugh, make them stop, God. I promise to give my right arm to charity. Hey, they stopped. Thank you, God, let me know when you need that arm. I'll just keep it around for now, if nobody's using it.

11:20 p.m. — REE REE REE DOAW DOAW DOAW! No! That blasted car alarm — it ALWAYS goes off when I need sleep most! It's a freaking Oldsmobile Cutlass

for crying out loud, what are they protecting? The fuzzy dice on the mirror, or the "Phish" sticker on the back window?

11:50 p.m. — Huh? The upstairs girls are playing screaming tag again? They look so thin and dainty during the day, how do they turn into 4,000-pound hippos after dark? Are hippos even nocturnal?!

12:15 a.m. — RAAAAWR! What? Huh? Damn that warm weather. Those cats aren't supposed to be in heat until mid-April! What are they fighting about?!

12:45 a.m. — A little more than five hours left. That's not enough time. Can't fall asleep.

1:15 a.m. — SLAM! Oh no, the rest of the roommates are home. Sounds like they have a movie. TV loud enough to shatter plastic. What are they watching? Can't tell what it is, but it has three explosions, squealing tires and five shouting Bulgarians in every scene. All they need is a herd of 4,000-

pound hippos.

1:20 a.m. — What is that? Roommate having heart-to-heart through the wall? Was that a sob?

2:15 a.m. — BOOWAP BOOWAP BOOWAP! RAAAWR! BOOWAP! Aaaaaaaah! Those stupid cats are fighting on top of the Oldsmobile! Or near it, at least — snowfall or a stiff breeze sets that stupid alarm off! Shoo kitty! @#\$%^&* car even has rust on the doors. Sound system doesn't sound that great. WHY THE ALARM?!

2:30 a.m. — "SCRUB IS A GUY THAT CAN'T GET NO LOVE FROM ME!!!" Now THAT'S a great sound system. Too bad it's 2:30 in the morning! I bet it's that truck with tinted windows and the woofer the size of South Dakota. That guy is such a showoff and scrub is what he does to that truck 24 hours a day. He's the one who should have the alarm.

2:40 a.m. — Gag! I think I swallowed an earplug! Will I get wax poisoning? Do I need to go to the emergency room? Will it plug

other things down there?

3:15 a.m. — Heart-to-heart has turned into fist-to-gut. Wow, she's mad. I wonder if she found out about last weekend? I TOLD him not to grab Jodie Foster at that Park City restaurant. I wonder if cats fight about the same sorts of things? Do cats have a Jodie Foster?

3:35 a.m. — Ambulance? Who? Huh? Oh, the shouting ambulance driver has a Bulgarian accent. That movie is still going? I didn't know ambulances could burn rubber like that. Oh wait, that's not squealing tires, that's the girl downstairs. She must have settled into bed for a long phone conversation. Must be noon in London or something. She must call the Monty Python joke-line because she squeaks and giggles like "the Nanny" the whole time.

3:55 a.m. — Roommate must have made amends. I hear make-up wrestling. Why against MY wall?!! Why now? Two hours left. Kill me, God. I'm an organ donor, you can have ALL of my limbs and

vital organs — just send me to sweet oblivion.

4:05 a.m. — ONK RONK RONK WOO WOO WOO! That does it! I will be forced to write a highly irritated note to that Oldsmobile owner. Would two dead cats on the windshield be too strong a statement? Didn't fuzzy dice go out in the '70s? Whatever happened to Phish?

4:30 a.m. — CLANK! BUMP! WRRRRRR! Garbage truck? I swear that thing comes around three times a week! Is that good use of our tax dollars? Maybe if they kept the dumpsters full longer, those stupid cats would be in a more agreeable mood.

5:00 a.m. — What's the use? I might as well go to work early.

5:30 a.m. — Stupid ice. How am I supposed to get my car out of this parking spot? Who's in charge of shoveling the snow? Who ... ZZZZZ.

Kevin Peel's column appears every Friday in *The Statesman*.

Do we implode or explode politics?

KADE'S KORNER / Kade Minchey



While watching TV this weekend I saw two large buildings demol-

Republican for one day so they can vote for him. It eludes me even further that he then goes on to tell them [Democrats] to change back the next day. Once again let me say Republican primaries are won by Republican voters!

Why is McCain having such a heart attack about Republicans "shooting" at him? Because he is the "straight talk express" he can't win on all Democratic and Independent votes.

Who is shooting at him? It turns out that most every Republican who holds public office seemingly has his laser gun out.

McCain went on to identify just whom these John Wayne's are by saying, "Gov. Engler (of Michigan) is against me, Gov. Bush is against me ... all the Governors and Senators are against me."

Now, I find this whole McCain thing extremely ironic. McCain's axiomatic platform is reform. He is going to change campaign finance laws, he is going to reform the political system, yet no one supports him. According to Gov. Leavitt, all but four members of Congress support Bush. Even more, two of the most powerful men in Washington, Trent Lott (majority leader) and Tom DeLay (majority whip), oppose McCain. Utah's own Sen. Bob Bennett says McCain is too "polarizing to be president."

So, my question to the Arizona Senator is: How are you going to reform anything when no one supports you? Whether anyone likes it or not, politics is a dirty game of back scratching. The music has stopped and McCain doesn't have too many backs left to scratch.

It is up to the voter to decide if implosion politics can work and bring about reform, or if Bush's popularity can explode politics by bringing about change from within.

Regardless of which is better, Al Gore has to be sitting back smiling while he watches the Republican Party tear itself apart.

Break down of polls for Michigan's open primary: 48 percent Republican, 35 percent Independent and 17 percent Democrats. Bush won Republican vote 2to1 over McCain

Kade Minchey's column runs every week in *The Utah Statesman*.

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WORLD & NATION

Philippine volcano erupts

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) — A 1-mile-high volcano erupted Thursday, spewing superheated ash into the air and sending streams of superhot, bright orange lava down its slopes.

Thousands of nearby villagers, many jarred from sleep by rumblings before the pre-dawn eruption, boarded army trucks to leave the area. Evacuees crammed into school classrooms and some took refuge under trees in the schoolyard. No injuries were reported.

The Mayon volcano's eruption began with lava gushing out of the crater, accompanied by loud rumblings that some nearby residents compared to thunder. Lava with temperatures that reached well above 1,000 degrees cascaded 3 miles down the mountain's near-perfect conical slopes. Ash rained as far as seven miles away.

Fourteen explosions were recorded by late afternoon, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

said. The fiercest sent ash flying 4 miles into the air and spread it across the sky, darkening some villages and forcing cars to use their headlights at midday.

Officials warned that a more violent explosion could occur at any time.

The area is most vulnerable to lava, falling rocks and deadly pyroclastic flows — superheated clouds of volcanic ash that travel up to 50 mph and can instantly incinerate anything in their path.

Raymundo Punongbayan, director of the volcanology institute, urged residents of villages up to 5 miles away along the mountain's southeastern side to evacuate.

As of noon Thursday, more than 18,000 people had left 18 villages, said Cedric Daep, head of the Albay provincial disaster management office.

Judel Mirandilla — a 14-year-old student from the village of Bonga, which lies in the path of possible pyroclastic

and lava flows — said he was roused from his sleep shortly after 1 a.m. by thunderous explosions and flashes of light from the mountain.

"We became so scared we decided to leave. Other people were waking up our neighbors to evacuate," he said.

Authorities canceled all flights to Legazpi, the airport closest to the volcano, located about 215 miles southeast of Manila in Albay province.

The volcano's repeated explosions indicated that magna is still rising to the dome and volcanic activity could continue for some time, said Juan Cordon, a research specialist at the volcanology institute.

For about a week, the 8,118-foot mountain famous for its cone-like shape has been emitting ash plumes and occasional flows of lava. The crater's lava dome has swelled, releasing molten rocks the size of a room down its slopes.

WorldGLANCE

➤ Researchers find brain injury vaccine in rats

WASHINGTON (AP) — An oral vaccine that protects brain neurons from injury caused by epilepsy seizure or by stroke has been tested successfully in rats, researchers report.

In a study to be published Friday in the journal Science, researchers at the medical school of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia report that a vaccine given to rats caused their immune system to develop antibodies that prevented the action of a protein that causes damage after brain injury.

Dr. Matthew Doring, professor of neurosurgery at Jefferson and lead author of the study, said the vaccine works against a brain protein, called the NMDA receptor, that has been shown to aggravate brain damage after a stroke and to play a role in epileptic seizures.

Other researchers have tried to block the action of the NMDA receptor using drugs, but these drugs often fail to effectively cross the blood-brain barrier, a natural barrier that protects the brain from most destructive substances in the blood.

By using a vaccine, the researchers prompt the body, in effect, to make its own NMDA blocker by creating antibodies that neutralize the protein after brain injury.

In the study, some rats were immunized with the anti-NMDA antibody while others were not. A month later, the rats were injected with a neurotoxin, kainate, which causes seizures similar to those in epilepsy.

Among the control rats, which were not immunized, there was a seizure rate of 70 percent. Among those with the anti-NMDA antibody, the seizure rate was 20 percent.

In another study, immunized and nonimmunized rats were tested after five months for protection from stroke damage. An artificial stroke was induced in the animals using a drug.

Among the immunized rats, said Doring, "We found dramatic protection in the rats' brains. ... It doesn't stop the stroke from occurring, but the amount of brain damage is diminished by 70 percent."

➤ Air rescues save those in Mozambique flood

XAI-XAI, Mozambique (AP) — With many roads and bridges washed out, an air relief operation accelerated Thursday for victims of flooding that has killed 70 in Mozambique and submerged much of the country in muddy water.

Rainstorms, meanwhile, persisted in neighboring areas of southern Africa, exacting a deadly toll.

In South Africa's Northern Province, 10 people have died since Wednesday night when their water-soaked houses collapsed, and two others drowned when they were swept away by fast-running rivers.

In Zimbabwe, torrential rain forced 250,000 people to evacuate their homes. Five people have died. Others marooned by floodwaters had to fend off venomous snakes that also fled to high ground.

Record levels of rainfall began drenching southern Africa at the beginning of February. Cyclone Eline, which surged ashore Tuesday with heavy rains and winds howling at more than 100 miles an hour, added to the misery.

On Thursday, a French C160 military cargo plane ferried loads of aid to outlying depots in Mozambique for further distribution to victims by helicopters. Two private helicopters from South Africa arrived Thursday in Mozambique's capital of Maputo to assist five South African Air Force helicopters with food drops.

The helicopters also have plucked more than 3,000 people from rising floodwaters, including from trees and rooftops.

➤ Swindler gets 5 years in \$38 million fraud

CHICAGO (AP) — A swindler who bilked thousands of investors in a pay-telephone business out of \$38 million and spent the money on fast cars and luxury vacations was sentenced to five years in federal prison.

Scott Holmberg was also told Wednesday to forget about honeymooning with the woman he plans to marry before he reports to prison in 45 days.

"I continue to feel terrible about what I've done and the many victims that I've hurt," Holmberg told the court.

U.S. District Judge Harry Leinenweber also ordered Holmberg, 35, to repay the money. He could have to keep paying for the rest of his life.

"He will if I have anything to say about it," Assistant U.S. Attorney Marsha McClellan told reporters after the sentencing hearing.

Prosecutors say 2,100 investors thought they were getting profits from pay phones across the country, but were really victims of a Ponzi scheme, in which swindlers use money pumped in by new investors to pay "profits" to other investors.

Holmberg and partner Slobodan Lunic, 45, allegedly used money from victims to buy yachts, fancy cars, motorcycles and other luxuries.

Holmberg pleaded guilty last May and provided evidence against Lunic to prosecutors.

Lunic cut the electronic monitoring bracelet from his leg and vanished last June — two days before he was to stand trial. He had been released on \$500,000 bond over the government's objections. Prosecutors had warned that Lunic might flee to his native Serbia, which has no extradition treaty with the United States.

➤ Weight-loss experts debate popular plans

WASHINGTON (AP) — Want to lose weight? Try following the back and forth of the Great Nutrition Debate, a government-sponsored face-off Thursday of America's leading diet gurus. The exercise was guaranteed to leave you exhausted.

At one end was cardiologist Robert Atkins, promoter of the wildly popular, high-protein, low-carbohydrate diet that lets people eat omelets, bacon and bun-less burgers. "It's easy to follow. You're never hungry," he said.

On the other: Dean Ornish, an internist whose book promises readers they can "Eat More, Weigh Less" if they follow his ultra low-fat, virtually vegetarian diet.

In between were people like heart surgeon Morrison Bethea, co-author of "Sugar Busters! Cut Sugar to Trim Fat," who says the secret to losing weight is cutting out not just sugar but also foods like potatoes and carrots that act in similar ways.

Also, biochemist Barry Evans, who believes the answer to obesity is in chemistry — controlling the body's insulin level, and internist John McDougall, who thinks it should be obvious to anyone that an Asian rice-based diet is best. "This is a no-brainer," he said.

Three major U.S. Muslim groups move to reconcile

PLAINFIELD, Ind. (AP) — Leaders of two orthodox Muslim groups long at odds with Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam are expected to attend Farrakhan's annual gathering this weekend, raising the prospect that the religion's fractured U.S. followers may eventually unite.

Mainstream Islamic leaders from other nations also planned to attend the Nation of Islam Saviour's Day events in Chicago and

will look for signs that Farrakhan's group is embracing orthodox Islamic beliefs, a leader of the key immigrant Muslim group in this country said Thursday.

"They want to watch this transformation," said Sayyid Syeed, secretary general of the Islamic Society of North America. "They will be disappointed if that transformation does not take place.

There should at least be some commitment in that

direction."

Meanwhile, Farrakhan and W. Deen Mohammed, the son of Elijah Muhammad and head of the black and orthodox Muslim American Society, have scheduled a joint news conference Friday. The Islamic Society and other mainstream Muslims recognize Mohammed's group as orthodox.

Farrakhan and other Nation of Islam leaders did not return calls seeking com-

ment. Messages left with the Muslim American Society, based in suburban Chicago, also were not returned.

However, an article posted Feb. 16 on the Nation of Islam's Web site quoted Ishmael Muhammad, an assistant to Farrakhan, as saying a "mega-highlight" of the Saviour's Day weekend would be the unification of the Nation of Islam with followers of W. Deen Muhammad.

Black Secret Service agents allege job discrimination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Secret Service blocks many black agents, including those who guard the president, from promotion to senior management positions, three black agents alleged in a discrimination complaint filed Thursday with the agency.

The agents — all of whom have worked on details protecting President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore — cite a pattern of discrimination involving performance evaluations, assignments, training, promotions, transfers and "a racially hostile work environment."

They are seeking an official agency finding that their rights have been violated and an order barring the Secret Service from any form of discrimination.

The Secret Service, which has about 200 black agents among its 2,500-member force, did not return repeated phone calls Thursday, although the White House referred all questions about the matter to the agency. Lawyers said they hope most of the 200 black agents eventually will join the complaint.

The agency's equal opportunity office is handling the complaint and will make the initial assessment of it. Elements of it could eventually be considered by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a federal lawsuit could be filed if the complaints are not first resolved by negotiation or administrative action.

Although some top Secret Service officials are black, the complaint alleges many black agents who also are qualified are effectively blocked from advancement into the agency's top jobs.

John P. Relman, one of the agents' lawyers, said at a news conference there is no evidence either Clinton or Gore were involved in the alleged discrimination.

"We call for the direct intervention of the president or the vice president to assure that these practices are investigated and are stopped," he said.

One agent, Reginald G. Moore, said that after being assigned to a lead position in the president's protective detail, he was denied a promotion, directed to train the white agent promoted ahead of him, and then transferred to the Secret Service field office in Dallas.

Added Yvette Summerour, now a member of the president's protective detail who has also helped guard first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton: "I wonder why I can't break through. I always get near the top, and then I can't get anywhere else."

Three executives get prison terms in Japanese tainted-blood scandal

TOKYO (AP) — Three former drug company executives were sent to prison Thursday in the first convictions in a tainted-blood scandal that left hundreds in Japan infected with the AIDS virus.

Renzo Matsushita, 79, Tadakazu Suyama, 72, and Takehiko Kawano, 69 — all former top executives at Green Cross Corp. — were accused of permitting the sale of unheated blood-clotting agents in the mid-1980s, years after they were deemed unsafe by U.S. and other medical authorities.

All three pleaded guilty in 1997. Matsushita was given a two year prison term, Suyama received 18 months and Kawano was given 16 months, said Osaka District Court spokesman Mikinori Kobayashi.

The prison terms were too brief to be called justice, said Ryuhei Kawada, one of 1,800 Japanese hemophiliacs who became infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Several hundred hemophiliacs are believed to have died from the tainted blood products.

"It's unforgivable," Kawada told reporters. "The penalty must be heavier for profits gained by killing people."

The scandal shook Japan's powerful bureaucracy and pharmaceutical

industry and raised questions about whether the government valued corporate profits over people's lives.

The government has admitted it knew the risks of unheated blood products in 1983 but waited until 1985 to approve heated blood products.

The cause of the delay remains murky. Victims have suggested that Japanese drug companies wanted to postpone emergency imports so they could develop heat treatments themselves.

By 1983, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials had warned Japanese officials of the dangers of hemophiliacs contracting HIV through blood products.

And by 1985, Tokyo had already approved safe, heat-treated coagulants. But Green Cross continued to sell its supplies.

The three defendants approved the sale of the tainted blood products in March 1985 and did not recall the products even after the company began selling heated agents in January 1986.

At that time, Matsushita was president of the company, Suyama was vice president and Kawano was chief of the company's drug production.

"The penalty must be heavier for profits gained by killing people."

• RYUHEI KAWADA •
HEMOPHILIAC WITH AIDS

Gulf states look to increase production

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Persian Gulf oil ministers have agreed to increase production of crude to stabilize prices around the world, but have not decided how much — leaving it unclear whether consumers will find relief at the gas pumps.

A senior United Arab Emirates oil official said Thursday that Gulf Arab oil ministers who met the day before in Saudi Arabia agreed to a production increase. Such a move could bring down oil prices, which have been hovering near a nine-year high.

"Figures were discussed and more discussions will be held before a specific figure is agreed upon," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said a production increase will be gradual and will be in the range of 1.5 million barrels a day, or 6 percent above current levels.

"After that, it's the market's call," he said, refusing to speculate to what extent that would bring prices down from the \$30 a barrel where they have been hovering.

Other Gulf officials cited different

figures, but all those who met Wednesday in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, agreed a production increase is needed.

Some officials said the ministers now favor an increase of 2 million to 2.5 million barrels per day — about 8 to 10 percent — to reach a price of \$20 to \$25 a barrel.

Not all oil-producing nations agree, however. Kuwait has championed the cause of maintaining current production cuts beyond their scheduled expiration on March 31. And Iran, the second-largest producer in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has come out against a rise in output.

Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheik Saud Al Sabah declined to say Thursday if Kuwait had agreed to increase its production, saying the question would be decided at OPEC's meeting in late March.

Oil analyst James A. Placke, director of Middle East research at Cambridge Energy Research Associates, said the market would welcome a production increase.

COMICS CORNER

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Dan Gibson **GIBBLEGUTS**



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Charlie **RODRIQUES**



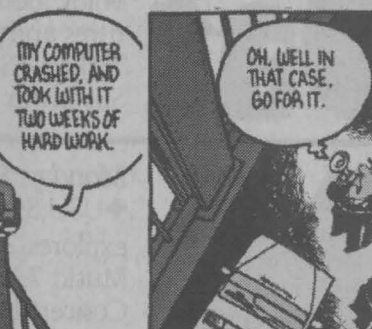
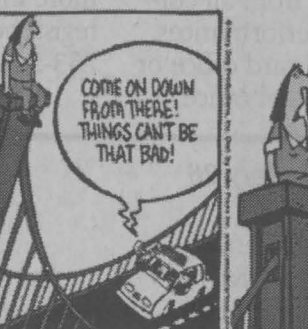
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Mother helper needed, May 1 through Sept. 1, Salt Lake City area, 5 children, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm Mon-day through Saturday. Need your own transportation. Salary negotiable. References necessary. Contact Karen 801-916-1836 for more information.

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Applications being accepted for summer/school year 2000. Close to campus, private bdrm. mgr. at Brooklake, 645 East 900 North #1, 752-4824.

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GREAT BARGAIN! \$395 summer, \$1995 next school year. Private bedroom - mgr. at Forest Gate West, 460 North 400 East #40, 752-1642.

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PERSONALS

Career Fair 2000 is coming Wednesday, March 1st. Visit with representatives from over 180 organizations on the 2nd floor of the Taggart Student Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, come to Career Services, University Inn, ground level. 797-7777. SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!

Career Services has a variety of resources available for students. Start working NOW for your first career position. See us in the University Inn, ground level.

Don't be a "poke-a-mon" come to the Career Fair on the 2nd floor of the Taggart Student Center from 9-3 on Wednesday, March 1st.

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F

Friday, February 25
✦Blood Drive 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. TSC International Lounge
✦"Laugh out Loud!" Dinner, Dance and Quick Wits, 6:30 p.m., \$6 per person. Institute Super

Activity.
✦The Tropicana Spring Jam Dance, Free CD's, Cash Prizes, and great music.

Sat

Saturday, February 26
✦International Banquet Feb. 26, 6 p.m., TSC Ballroom. Come and enjoy foods from all cultures and performances. Tickets TSC card office or Spectrum ticket office.

✦The Family Life Center is offering a free workshop on how to buy a home 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. To get more information or to register call 753-5696 or 753-5426.

M

Monday, February 28
✦USU Symphony explores 20th Century Music, 7:30 p.m. Kent Concert Hall, General Admission, \$3, Students free.

F.Y.I.

- USU **Chess Club** has been reborn! Summon your chess playing powers and join us. T/R 5:00 p.m., TSC 3rd floor tables by ASUSU. All skill levels welcome.
- Slim down for summer. **Join USU's "Healthy Weigh."** A complete nutrition and exercise program. Early enrollment special, \$5 off. Contact Brooke 797-3223 before March 1st.
- Upcoming Dates:** March 1, Applications avail. for Summer Fin. Aid; March 13-17, No classes Spring Break; March 20, Graduation Applications Deadline (no late fee); March 27, Open Registration for Summer; April 10, Early registrations for Fall Semester; April 24-28, No test week; May 1-5, Final Examinations; May 5-6, Graduation; May 8, First day of Summer Semester classes; August 3, Last day of Summer Semester classes; August 28, First day of Fall Semester classes
- Mandatory Luau practice** Feb. 26. Meet in Sunburst by 9 a.m. We will be fitting costumes, if you don't come you don't dance. Monday Feb. 28 Luau Dance Practice 6 p.m. in the Sunburst Lounge.
- Orientation for **Russia/Volga adventure** (May 18 through June 5) is Friday Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m. Main Room 207. The film documentary "St. Petersburg" will be shown. Call 797-1219
- A Life Writing Workshop** taught by Judy Elsley will be an interactive, hands-on workshop that aims to help participants write their own stories. Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to Noon, ECC Rooms 205/207. Free and open to the public. Refreshments.

Call to reserve a seat 797-3351.

- Graduate student social** for all graduate students. March 1, 4 to 6 p.m., East Colony TSC. Food, prizes, information and Fun!
- Jazz Ensembles Winter Concert** March 1, 7:30 p.m. Kent Concert Hall. Adult Tickets \$3, Students Free.
- The Cache Valley **Soccer Referee Association clinic** for new and returning Assistant Referees and Linesman. February 26th, 8 a.m. to noon, USU Education Bldg. Room 282. For more information contact Hal Potter at 753-7664. There is no charge for the clinic.
- March 1 is the application deadline for the **National Student Exchange**. applications can be picked up in Academic Services, TSC Room 302. Exchange for a semester or a year at over 150 colleges and universities.
- Founders Day **essay contest**. Write one page on "Why I Love USU" to win a \$300 tuition waiver. Due March 1, David B. Haight Alumni Center. Winner announced March 7.
- "Paris Promenade" **Spring Formal Dance** sponsored by Lambda Delta Sigma. March 3, 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. \$5/Delt. couple, \$7 non-delt couple; formal LDS standard dress. Girl's Choice. Photos.
- The Cache Humane Society will hold its **annual benefit dinner** at the Grapevine Restaurant February 29, 7 p.m. Tickets \$75 with proceeds used for CHS animal shelter project. Reservations required and limited seating. Call 752-2070.

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