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The Utah Statesman

Utah State University's Campus Voice Since 1902

Utah State University Logan, Utah

www.statesman.usu.edu

Monday, Dec. 4, 2000

Today INSIDE

> SPORTS

Utah State volleyball team makes it to the Final 32 in the NCAA Tournament. The Aggies came back to beat Missouri and then lost to BYU.

> PAGE 8

> VARIETY

From Mexico to the United States and around the globe, traditions for Christmas differ from country to country.

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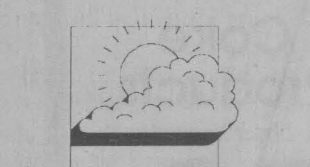
> ALMANAC

On Dec. 4, 1945, the Senate approved United States participation in the newly established United Nations.

On Dec. 4, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson departed Washington, D.C., on the first European trip by a U.S. president.

In 1969, Fred Hampton, Illinois chairman of the Black Panther Party, was shot and killed during an early morning police raid of the BPP's Illinois state headquarters in Chicago.

> WEATHER



Today will be partly cloudy with a high of 45 and a low of 21. Tuesday will be mostly cloudy with a high of 41 and a low of 15.

> AGGIE NEWS NUGGETS

The remote-controlled airplane designed and built by engineering students took first place — the second year in a row for them — in an international competition. Also, the English department faculty created an interactive software package that makes Internet-based courses and online education accessible and easy. The software is now supporting 150 courses at universities in the region.

Experts say some help wanted ads are bogus

MATTHEW FLITTON
Staff Writer

Heidi Tolman needed a way to make money while staying home with her newborn. She had taken a semester off from her studies at Utah State University in 1998. So she responded to an ad in a parenting magazine that said she could make money stuffing envelopes at home.

After sending \$39 to receive her starter kit, Tolman sent out medical brochures, lists of baby supplies and arts and crafts information at the rate of 49 cents per envelope or 39 cents per brochure.

"I received \$50 to \$75 for

about 10 to 12 hours [of work] a week," she said.

Tolman said the opportunity met her needs and she was paid weekly for work she could do after her daughter went to bed.

"If I needed it, I would do it again," she said.

According to the Better Business Bureau (BBB), Tolman's experience is an exception to the rule.

"Perhaps 98 to 99 percent [of work at home offers] are totally bogus," said Russ Behrmann, president of the Utah BBB.

"It's got to be fake," he

said. "Nobody would go to work if we could stay at home, work 20 hours a week and make \$100,000 a year."

Last Monday's *Herald Journal* had 12 such ads.

Beth Rose, a classified advertising representative for the paper, said that while they won't run ads offering government work, they

will put work-at-home ads in as long as they're prepaid.

"We put an ad in that says we don't endorse that [consumers] send money," she said.

Three of the ads had the same person giving the same

message offering a booklet to help the consumer decide if the opportunity was right for them.

Behrmann said this is not uncommon.

"I've received brochures where the same person, same name, same face is

giving testimonials for different work-at-home opportunities," he said.

One ad in the *Journal* offered work doing medical billing. The 20 hours of training cost \$397, which included a training manual and software and an offer of unlimited support.

Behrmann said because of

privacy issues, most doctors won't use a person who works at home for medical billing. He cited an Arizona survey by the American Medical Association.

"Of all the doctors surveyed, 98 percent wouldn't even consider using a work-at-home medical biller," he said.

Behrmann related the story of a single mother who

> SEE ADS

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Low seat belt use causes concern in Cache County

CRYSTAL HOOPS
Staff Writer

Students will be taking road trips to visit family and friends during the holidays — one of the most dangerous times of the year to be driving, said Mike Weibel, public information officer

for the Bear River Health Department.

With the help of several national and statewide campaigns, including Make It Second Nature, Buckle Up America and Operation ABC Mobilization: America Buckles up Children, the Bear River Health

Department is urging people to buckle up for the holidays.

This comes in response to recent local surveys showing a disturbing number of Cache County citizens aren't wearing seat belts.

The surveys were completed early last September in Cache, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Washington counties as part of the Make It Second Nature statewide campaign.

"Only 48 percent of the male drivers spotted during surveys in Cache County appeared to be wearing seat belts, compared to 60 percent in Weber, 61 percent in Davis, 64 percent in Salt Lake and 56.5 percent in Utah counties," Weibel said.

"Curbside surveys before and after Labor Day reveal that Cache County's male drivers fail to buckle up more than men in five other Utah counties," Weibel said.

Female drivers ranked higher than males in seat belt usage in Cache County, though women were still low compared to other counties.

Locally, 71.7 percent of women drivers were wearing

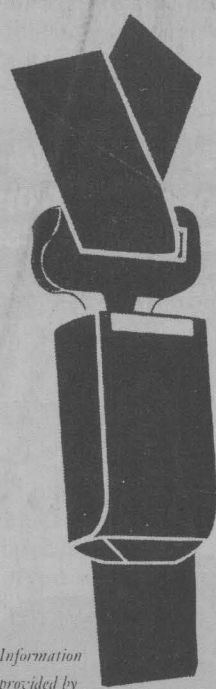
> SEE SEAT BELTS

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ALEXIS NIELSON, 8, strapped herself in before leaving the Macey's parking lot. It is state law in Utah that everyone wear a seat belt while riding in an automobile. / Paul Jackman photo

Seat Belt STATISTICS



Information provided by Bear River Health Department

- Seat belts increase the chance of surviving a crash by nearly 45 percent. Child safety seats, properly installed, reduce the risk of death by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers
- Public opinion surveys show that nine out of 10 Americans support strong enforcement of child passenger safety laws
- The Utah Safety Belt Observational Study shows that in Cache County, child restraint use for children age 0-1 was 97.7 percent, but only 66.7 percent for children age 2-10
- Compared to belted crash victims, unbelted crash victims are 18 times more likely to die in a crash
- Unbelted crash victims are 3.7 times more likely to require inpatient hospitalization than those who are belted
- If unbelted crash victims in Cache County had used a seat belt, 109 emergency department visits and 12 hospital stays could have been avoided last year

USU prepares for ASUSU elections

CRYSTAL HOOPS
Staff Writer

The Associated Students of Utah State University elections are just around the corner, and new bylaws have been passed for next semester's campaigning.

Beginning this election, no faculty, staff or USU employees will be allowed to wear campaign paraphernalia while working.

"We find that professors would be asked to wear T-shirts and other things during class promoting one candidate," said Marni Jenkins, ASUSU Public Relations vice president.

Jenkins said it could be disruptive to students' learning experience for professors to be involved in a student's campaigning while in class, especially if the candidate's opponent is in the same class.

Another new bylaw is making computer labs off-limits to future campaigners.

Candidates are only allowed to campaign in their own colleges, and computer labs have been hit hard by campaigning in the past, Jenkins said.

"The computer labs should be a place where students can

get their work done," Jenkins said.

The fee to file as a candidate has risen to \$15. Candidates must file by 1 p.m. Jan. 31.

"Anyone can run for ASUSU, as long as you're not on academic warning, you have at least 12 credits and you're on good standing with the university," Jenkins said.

Everyone who files has to attend a mandatory meeting, where general information on voting dates, publicity regulations and campaign rules are discussed.

Candidates are allowed to spend \$400 maximum of personal funds on their entire campaign. This includes donations, which are calculated at fair market value, Jenkins said.

"We feel this is a more fair way for people to run, to give every candidate a more equal chance," Jenkins said.

Two days during the primary election campaigning and two days during the final elections, candidates are allowed to "res-hall call," which means they can campaign in the USU residence halls. Even then, candidates are

> SEE ELECTIONS

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Job market promising for Dec. graduates

BRIAN CARTER
Staff Writer

The employment prospects for students graduating next week is promising, according to the Career Service Center.

"The job market is very good and lots of good opportunities are available," said Melissa Scheaffer, assistant director for Career Services. "The prospects look very good for our students."

In 1999, Scheaffer said 52 of the 3,730 students responding to a graduation survey reported not being employed at graduation nor seeking employment. The key to finding post-graduation employment is to start early, Scheaffer said.

Graduating in the Spring or Fall does not matter much for finding a job, Scheaffer said, but depends more on hard work.

"I tell students a year before they graduate is a good time to start," Scheaffer said. "That way they are better prepared and are able to take full advantage of our services."

Over the past several years the Career Service Center, located in the basement of University Inn, has helped thousands of students, Scheaffer said. Each college has an adviser who is familiar with opportunities and employers to help students hone interview skills, improve their resume and cover letter, find job listings and suggest options many students were unaware of, Scheaffer said.

"We provide services to students from cooperative internships to career development to graduation employment," Scheaffer said. "We provide cradle to grave services."

Another valuable skill Scheaffer said the center offers is negotiating skills for increasing salary and signing bonuses. One student was able to increase his starting salary and signing bonus significantly because of skills learned through the center, Scheaffer said.

"I have had a lot of help," said Jason Anderson, a student graduating in business information systems. "I high-

ly recommend to all graduates that a semester before you graduate you schedule a meeting [with the center]."

Anderson said the center helped him create a resume and use e-recruiting. E-recruiting is a newer service provided that allows employers online access to students.

According to Scheaffer, Utah State is the first school in Utah and one of 150 schools across the nation using the service that allows students to post resumes, cover letters and other information online for employers.

"Employers are able to perform customized searches for possible employees," Scheaffer said. "They appreciate the ease and convenience."

"I signed up for interviews with companies I was interested in online," Anderson said. "After interviewing on campus I have had three companies fly me out to locations like Boise, Seattle and Tucson."

Alumni also have the same access to services available to students, Scheaffer said.

Barak waits on settling peace deal

DINA KRAFT
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — As Prime Minister Ehud Barak plotted his re-election campaign Sunday, the embattled Israeli leader said President Clinton's departure from office next month was not a deadline for a Mideast peace deal.

After 18 months in office focused on the goal of bringing home a final peace agreement with the Palestinians, Barak now faces early elections next spring and may need the success of at least a partial peace deal to persuade voters to re-elect him.

In violence Sunday, two Israeli soldiers were stabbed, one of them in the neck, at a roadblock just north of Jerusalem. The stabbing prompted a shooting exchange between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian gunmen, and three Palestinians were wounded, according to army radio.

Twelve Palestinians were injured in another clash with soldiers and Jewish settlers in the West Bank village of Hussan, near Bethlehem, eyewitnesses and hospital officials said.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli army, although earlier the army said residents of Hussan threw stones and firebombs at Israeli cars on the Hussan bypass road, slightly injuring one woman.

Also, the Israeli army arrested a Palestinian suspected of involvement in the bombing of a school bus in the Gaza Strip two weeks ago, army radio reported. The bombing killed two Israeli adults.

Sunday was one of the few days without a fatality since the violence erupted more than two months ago. Almost 300 people have been killed overall, most of them Palestinian.

At Sunday's cabinet meeting, Barak lashed out against those in his own party who have pressured him to come to an agreement before Clinton leaves the White House on Jan. 20, at the end of his second and final term.

"Every attempt to dictate dates to the



RESIDENTS HIDE as the Jewish settlement of Gilo, near the village of Beit Galla, come under fire. Almost 300 people have been killed overall, most of them Palestinian. Talks and violence continue in the region. / Knight-Ridder photo

prime minister is bad for Israel and damages how the peace process should be conducted," Barak told his ministers.

Barak is being squeezed on all sides. He faces early elections he had hoped to avoid, growing public dismay over his failure to halt the violence and a potential revolt from within his own party.

Israeli media reports have said that a leading figure from Barak's Labor party, parliament speaker Avraham Burg, may challenge Barak for party leadership if no peace deal is in sight by the end of Clinton's term.

In the quest to revive the moribund peace talks, Barak has suggested quickly negotiating a phased peace plan that would recognize a Palestinian state but put off the most sensitive issues, such as control of Jerusalem.

However, the Palestinians have demanded a comprehensive agreement that creates a Palestinian state in all, or virtually all, of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip — areas Israel captured during

the 1967 Mideast War.

In another development, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat denied reports that Israel and the Palestinians were engaged in secret talks. Arafat, on a visit to the United Arab Emirates, also said the Palestinian uprising would continue until their people's national goals were met.

"The Palestinian nation is ready to face all possibilities," he said.

Among those possibilities is the return of Barak's hard-line predecessor to power — Benjamin Netanyahu. Opinion polls have Barak trailing far behind Netanyahu, the man Barak defeated in a landslide victory last year.

Netanyahu was scheduled to return to Israel from abroad Sunday, but it was still unclear if he would return to politics to challenge the prime minister. Barak won a four-year term in 1999, but his allies in parliament deserted him in July, peace negotiations with the Palestinians stalled, and the violence erupted at the end of September.

World GLANCE

Train collision in India leaves 46 dead, news agency says

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Railroad workers using blow-torches and cranes to remove the wreckage of two trains that collided in northwestern India found six more bodies under the debris Sunday, bringing the death toll to 46, a news agency said.

Rescue workers continued to cut through the mangled remains of the coaches a day after the Amritsar-bound Howrah Mail Express collided with a freight train in dense fog at Sarai Banjara, a small town in the state of Punjab.

Forty-six bodies had been found and taken to nearby hospitals, United News of India reported. Another 150 people were injured in the pre-dawn collision.

The Howrah Mail Express had hit four cars that had uncoupled from the freight train and toppled onto its path on a parallel track at Sarai Banjara, about 150 miles north of New Delhi.

India's railroad minister Mamata Banerjee, who visited the accident site early Sunday, ordered an investigation by a Supreme Court judge.

Judge refuses to block drilling

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A federal judge has refused to stop a Farmington fuel supplier from drilling for natural gas near Desolation Canyon.

The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance had asked for the temporary restraining order, arguing that Wasatch Oil and Gas is attempting to drill during a time of year prohibited by the Bureau of Land Management. Wasatch Oil and Gas has had a lease to drill in the area in northeastern Carbon County since 1951.

"When the BLM did an assessment this summer, one stipulation was that you cannot drill between November and May, because it's a winter range for wildlife habitat," SUWA spokesman Mike Reberg said.

Reberg says mule deer, elk and, most recently, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter in the area of the Book Cliffs east of Price.

"Sure the company has a right to drill, but why after 50 years do they need to do it now and can't wait until May?" Reberg said.

But the company's president, Todd Cusick, called SUWA's allegations "crazy."

Cusick said the well has been in operation every day since 1952. The company plans a new well about 20 feet from the current one, but it should not cause any surface disturbance, Cusick said.

Washington Mutual

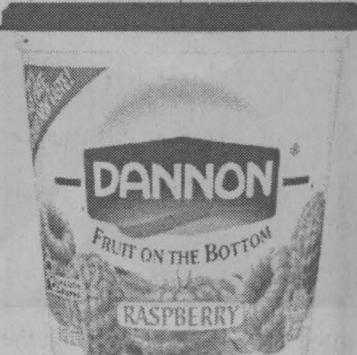
Lee's

We Offer the Following Services:
Postage Stamps Western Union Utilities Drop Box Money Orders AT&T Pay Station Game Licenses ATM Banking Utah Power Pay Station Film Service Gift Certificates

Two Convenient Locations:
Logan • 555 East 1400 North (435) 755-5100 (435) 750-0258 Pharmacy VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE AT: www.leeismarketplace.com
Smithfield • 850 South Main (435) 563-6251 (435) 563-6201 Pharmacy

Pharmacy Hours
9 AM - 7 PM Monday-Friday • 9 AM - 6 PM Saturday
Store Hours
6 AM - Midnight Monday-Saturday •

December 4-9 MARKETPLACE



Dannon
Yogurt
8 Oz. Assorted

3 for \$1

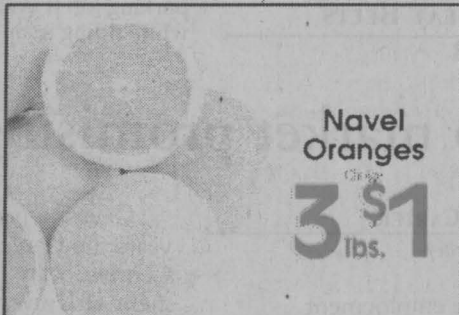
Western Family
2% Milk
Gallon-Limit 4

2 for \$3



Jeno's
Pizza

69¢



Navel
Oranges

3 lbs. \$1



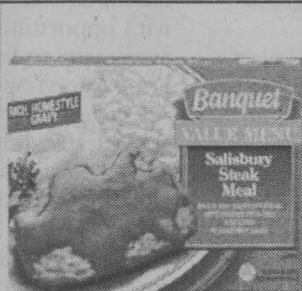
Ruffles
Potato Chips

2 for \$5



Post or
Kellogg's
Cereal

2 for \$4



Banquet
Dinners

99¢



Banquet
Pot Pies

2 for \$1



Meadow
Gold Ice
Cream

\$2.29



Cream o' Weber
Cottage Cheese

\$2.29



Western
Family
Tuna

39¢

Kraft
Macaroni &
Cheese

4 Pack 7.25 Oz.

\$1.99



Coke
Products

2 Liter Assorted

69¢

Ground
Beef

Extra Lean

\$1.29
lb.



Survey: Many would be comfortable with student-provided health care

DAVE BOYLE
Staff Writer

Students at Utah State University would feel comfortable with their health in the hands of other students, according to a health survey completed in November.

This survey, completed by University of Utah medical student Ann Burelbach, aimed at getting students of Utah State University interested in volunteering as on-campus health aides and identified barriers USU students face in obtaining cost- and time-effective community health care.

In addition, this survey identified what intervention is necessary to overcome these barriers. Burelbach called the survey a "primary care project" for Logan.

"Campus-based emergency medical services can provide an alternative [service] to traditional options for medical care," Burelbach said. "This may prevent unnecessary trips to the local hospital emergency room, decreased financial burden to students and better use of community resources."

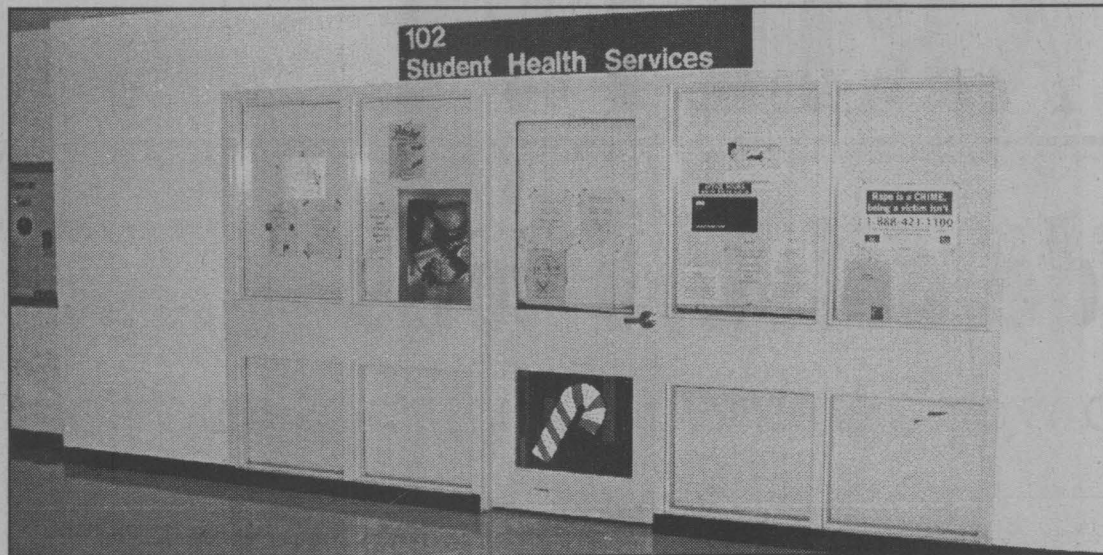
Burelbach based this conclusion on the results of her survey. Student volunteers randomly surveyed 214 enrolled USU students, of whom 45 percent were male and 55 percent were female.

"The majority of students felt that they would use basic first aid services provided by trained student volunteers (64 percent)," Burelbach said. "Similarly, 66 percent of respondents felt they would use volunteer EMS (Emergency Medical Services) provided by student volunteers (18 percent absolutely and 48 percent probably)," she said.

Many of the students who would utilize volunteer student first aid cited that they would because of low cost and convenience, Burelbach said.

This is the major barrier, according to Burelbach, that inspires students to want to use volunteer services as opposed to other, more expensive services like SHS (Student Health Services) or EMS.

Other primary barriers, Burelbach said, include urgent or special situations



MANY USU STUDENTS get health care through Student Health Services. A recent survey conducted by Ann Burelbach, a University of Utah student, found that many students would be comfortable receiving health care from fellow students. /Joe Rowley photo

and scheduling difficulties. Privacy issues, lack of confidence in providers and lack of information about SHS and EMS are also factors.

"Volunteers would be available 24 hours a day, in or nearby resident housing and for no or minor cost to the student and their families," she said.

"Volunteer services can not only relieve the burden on community services that

require financial support," Burelbach said, "but they can get students involved in their community, allowing them to gain experience in areas of interest."

Allowing volunteers to administer basic first aid or CPR to the health victim(s) would allow campus communities to act as primary care gatekeepers to local medical agencies, she said.

The students would arrive

before professional services in more serious, extreme situations.

"Campus-based EMS and first aid services offer student health services and their campus communities an exceptionally efficient means of reaching out to students and other members of the campus community after [agency] hours and in the places where they live and learn," Burelbach said.

Three A&L lectures this Spring

JESSICA WARREN
Senior Writer

The Arts and Lectures series has three more lectures scheduled for next semester.

Trine Thomas, vice president of Arts and Lectures for Associated Students of Utah State University, said the process of booking speakers is long and sometimes complicated.

Thomas said she started out with a list of ideas. Tracking them down through their agents, she then got a feel for their prices. She said she also called other universities that have hosted the same people to see how they liked them.

She said she looked for people who would be a draw for a lot of students as well as reflective of current issues.

Bringing in one speaker costs between \$4,000 and \$12,000, including airfare, accommodations and their fee. She said she negotiates and a lot of people will drop their price for a college.

She said Dr. Joyce Brothers gets around 400 requests to speak a month, and she chose USU because she had been to Utah before and liked it, and it

was for a university.

Scheduling is the next step. "If their date and your date match then you have a winner. If not, you go back to the drawing board," Thomas said.

Thomas said prices go up every year, while the budget has typically stayed the same. This year, Thomas' budget was cut.

At one time there was a speaker every week, other years, three per quarter.

This year there has been one a month, and that will continue Spring Semester.

Jan. 11 at 1:30 p.m., Rubin Carter will speak. Carter's life story was the basis for the movie "The Hurricane."

In conjunction, STAB will show a version of the movie edited for content Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Kent Concert Hall.

There will be no lecture in February because of the Glenn Miller show, but in March, Paul Lowe, an investigative reporter, will speak.

Thomas said the Arts and Lectures series is a good educational opportunity for students.

"Students can come and listen to someone who doesn't come through Logan every day," Thomas said.

Looking for work? Exercise caution when it comes to work-at-home job opportunities

MATTHEW FLITTON
Staff Writer

Students and others looking for work should exercise caution when it comes to work-at-home opportunities, according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

A BBB pamphlet advises people to beware of:

- Overstated claims of product effectiveness;
- Exaggerated claims of potential earnings, profits or part-time earnings;
- Claims of "inside" information;
- Requirements of money for instructions or products before telling you how the plan works;
- Claims of "no experience necessary."

The brochure outlines typical ads and the catch to each of them.

- "Assembly work at home!"

Easy money assembling craft items. No experience necessary."

Often these require a person to "invest" money in instructions and materials. The projects are often so difficult that most people fail to meet the stringent requirements and are stuck with the merchandise.

- "Make \$350 a week! Work two hours daily at home stuffing envelopes."

These usually end up being instructions on how to go into business placing the same kind of ad the advertiser ran before. The U.S. Postal Service said envelope stuffing has become so highly mechanized that it's not a profitable business for individuals working out of the home.

- "Access to a computer? Put it to work! \$25-\$75 per hour! Work part time or

full time!"

This is an old scheme advertised in a new way. The software may not work, or the information on the disk received may only list free government Web sites or business opportunities that require more money.

- "You can earn from \$800 to \$1,000 weekly processing insurance claims on your home computer for health care professionals."

Most likely, the expensive training that's required is superficial and the market for services is very small or not there. The consumer may be left with no way to earn any money on their own.

If you do decide to try an at-home job, keep careful records of phone calls, letters and receipts and record all costs, including time you spend trying to recover money.

➤ ADS

From Page 1

mortgaged her home to pay for the fee and found there was no market for her services.

"These people aren't necessarily greedy," he said. "They're often desperate."

The BBB warns that even if a person promotes or sells fraudulent products or services unintentionally, they can be held liable.

"[The U.S. Postal Service] may very well file mail fraud charges on you," Behrmann said.

"Of the 112 companies investigated, 21 were out of business before the study concluded," according to an October press release by the BBB.

"Twelve others did not respond after money was sent, and 10 did not respond to preliminary inquiries. Of the remaining 69 companies, two stated that 'positions were filled.'"

The Utah BBB is one of about a dozen bureaus in the nation participating in an undercover sting operation.

With the help of the U.S. Postal Service, fictitious names have been created and submitted to various work at home opportunities.

Once they've contacted one organization, officials wait to see if other organi-

zations send offers to the name.

"We have two goals in doing this," Behrmann said. "We can go after people for racketeering charges, and we can see how this works. Very little is known about how closely these organizations are connected."

Paula Miller, coordinator for the student employment office on campus, said her office won't post jobs that don't promise a salary.

"The number one simple thing is, if it sounds too good to be true, it almost always is," Behrmann said.

➤ ELECTIONS

From Page 1

restricted to certain times of the day and particular forms of campaigning, Jenkins said.

Primaries will run Feb. 20 through Feb. 23, and primary voting will be Feb. 22 and Feb. 23.

If two or fewer candidates have filed for a particular position, they don't have to campaign for the primary elections. Jenkins said candidates can benefit from campaigning during the primaries, even if they don't have to, because it gets their names publicized for the final elections.

Final election campaigning

will run Feb. 26 to March 1, with elections on Feb. 28 and March 1.

Next semester, elections will all be over the Internet, Jenkins said.

"We'll try our best to get voting available on Webmail because it certainly seems like a high traffic area for students," Jenkins said.

Last year, few students filed for candidacy and a low percentage of students voted.

"We will definitely be making efforts to ensure a higher voter turnout this year," Jenkins said.

➤ SEAT BELTS

From Page 1

seat belts when surveyed. In Weber County, 78 percent of the women were seat belted, 78 percent in Davis and 77 percent in Salt Lake counties.

Only Utah County recorded fewer women wearing seat belts, 70.6 percent, Weibel said.

The Make It Second Nature campaign is a new program that started last Memorial Day. In conjunction with this campaign, the Health Department plans to conduct surveys four times a year, near Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the month of January.

With the surveys, the Health Department will campaign to encourage people to wear their seat belts.

"We need to do whatever we can to get the word out to the public that it's not safe to not wear seat

belts," Weibel said.

Local law enforcement is also encouraging motorists to buckle up for the holidays.

"Local police, sheriff's deputies and Highway Patrol troopers will be busy during the next few weeks issuing citations to people who aren't wearing their seat belts or those who don't have their children in proper safety restraints — such as car seats or booster seats," Weibel said.

New seat belt law amendments that were made effective May 1 include a \$45 penalty for not wearing a seat belt.

Offenders can opt instead to take a class for \$10 in addition to a \$15 fine.

Children ages 0-4 must be in a child safety seat, and youth ages 5-18 must use a child restraint or seat belt, according to a new seat belt law

amendment.

"Law enforcement officers can stop a driver who appears to be 18 or younger and not wearing a seat belt. Another traffic infraction is not necessary anymore," Weibel said.

Also, occupants over 16 may now be cited individually. The driver can be cited for unbuckled occupants under 16.

"Some of that increased enforcement will be around high schools now that a new law is in place giving law enforcement officers the ability to stop teen-age drivers who don't appear to be wearing a seat belt or whose passengers aren't buckled up," Weibel said.

The Utah Safety Council has published Child Safety Seat Report cards to be used by people who see children who aren't properly protected with a car seat or seat belt in a

car.

After noting the license plate, date and location, a Buckle Up For Love card can be mailed to the Safety Council, which will be forwarded to the vehicle owner as a reminder to buckle up their children.

These cards can be found at the Bear River Health Department, Weibel said.

As a focus on child safety, The Bear River Health Department is teaming up with a local branch of the national Safe Kid Coalition to offer free child seat checks.

The inspection includes checking to see if the car seat has been recalled, checking if the seat is properly installed in the vehicle and checking if the seat is properly fitted for the child.

This inspection usually takes 15 to 30 minutes per car.

News Briefs

Ceramics Guild holds holiday sale

The USU Ceramics Guild will hold its annual holiday sale Tuesday and Wednesday.

The sale will take place in the TSC International Lounge from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. each day.

"This sale provides funding for the artists, while a portion of the earnings benefit the community through the guild's sponsorship of visiting artists and events that everyone is encouraged to attend," said guild member Janimarie Lester.

The ceramic pieces to be sold are oven and dishwasher safe, unless otherwise specified. Work ranges from casserole dishes, dinnerware, serving platters and teapots, to more sculptural art pieces.

Christmas cards available at USU

Special Collections and Archives, a division of Information and Learning Resources at USU, has developed a series of greeting cards for the holiday season, said Daniel Davis, photo librarian.

The images featured on the limited edition greeting cards include an array of historical subjects selected from the research collections of the University Libraries' Special Collections and Archives.

Each box contains 12 cards featuring a single image, plus matching envelopes. All proceeds from greeting card sales help fund programs of Special Collections and Archives.

To see all 12 images, visit the Web site at www.usu.edu/~specol/ and click on "Exhibits and Events." A display of all 12 cards is also in the foyer of the Merrill Library and cards can be purchased at Special Collections and Archives on the main floor of the Merrill Library. For information, call (435) 797-2663.

Seats available for summer trip

The USU Department of Languages and Philosophy is sponsoring a trip to Russia this summer.

The trip, "Russia on the Volga," will run from June 14 through July 1, 2001.

The cost, \$2995, will include round-trip airfare from Salt Lake City, meals, first-class lodging and some museum fees.

The trip will include visits to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Uglich, Yaroslavl, Kostroma, Kizhi Island, Petrozavodsk and Helsinki.

There are limited seats available.

For information, contact Lynn Eliason at 797-1219 or Kent Robson at 797-1214.

Deadline soon for int'l exchange

The priority deadline for the International Student Exchange Program is Dec. 15.

Students can study abroad in the Netherlands, Sweden, Costa Rica, Argentina, Kenya and other places.

A new scholarship is available for ISEP Study Abroad students.

For information, contact the Study Abroad office, TSC Room 304, 797-0601, 797-1253 or www.usu.edu/stdyabrd

Compiled by
USU MEDIA, STATESMAN

Worldwide celebrations

From Santa to wooden shoes, Christmas traditions differ around the globe

DOUG SMEATH

Assistant Features Editor

Men who enjoy helping decorate the Christmas tree may want to avoid moving to Germany.

In fact, anyone who likes Christmas as it is in the United States would probably do well to stay here.

Around the world, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ in some form or another — with some festivities similar from country to country and others differing significantly.

Philipp Braun, a German exchange student at Sky View High School, said the American commercialization of Christmas is not common in Germany, and he said as he understands it, the rest of Europe is more like Germany.

"Christmas in Germany is more special than it is [in the United States]," Braun said.

He said rather than focusing on gift-giving, Germans focus on religious aspects of Christmas and spending time with family.

In fact, Braun said the things Americans would traditionally consider to be Christmas-related all take place on Dec. 24, in a scaled-down version, and Christmas Day mostly sees families going to restaurants together or otherwise spending time with loved ones.

He said restaurants often make as much money on Dec. 25 as they do in a typical month.

Other countries also place more emphasis on family and religion and less on buying and selling.

Eduardo Nunez, a Utah State University student originally from Morelia, Mexico, said a major tradition of the season in Mexican villages is for a group of people to reenact the journey of the Biblical couple, Mary and Joseph, going door-to-door looking for a place to stay and ending up in a stable.

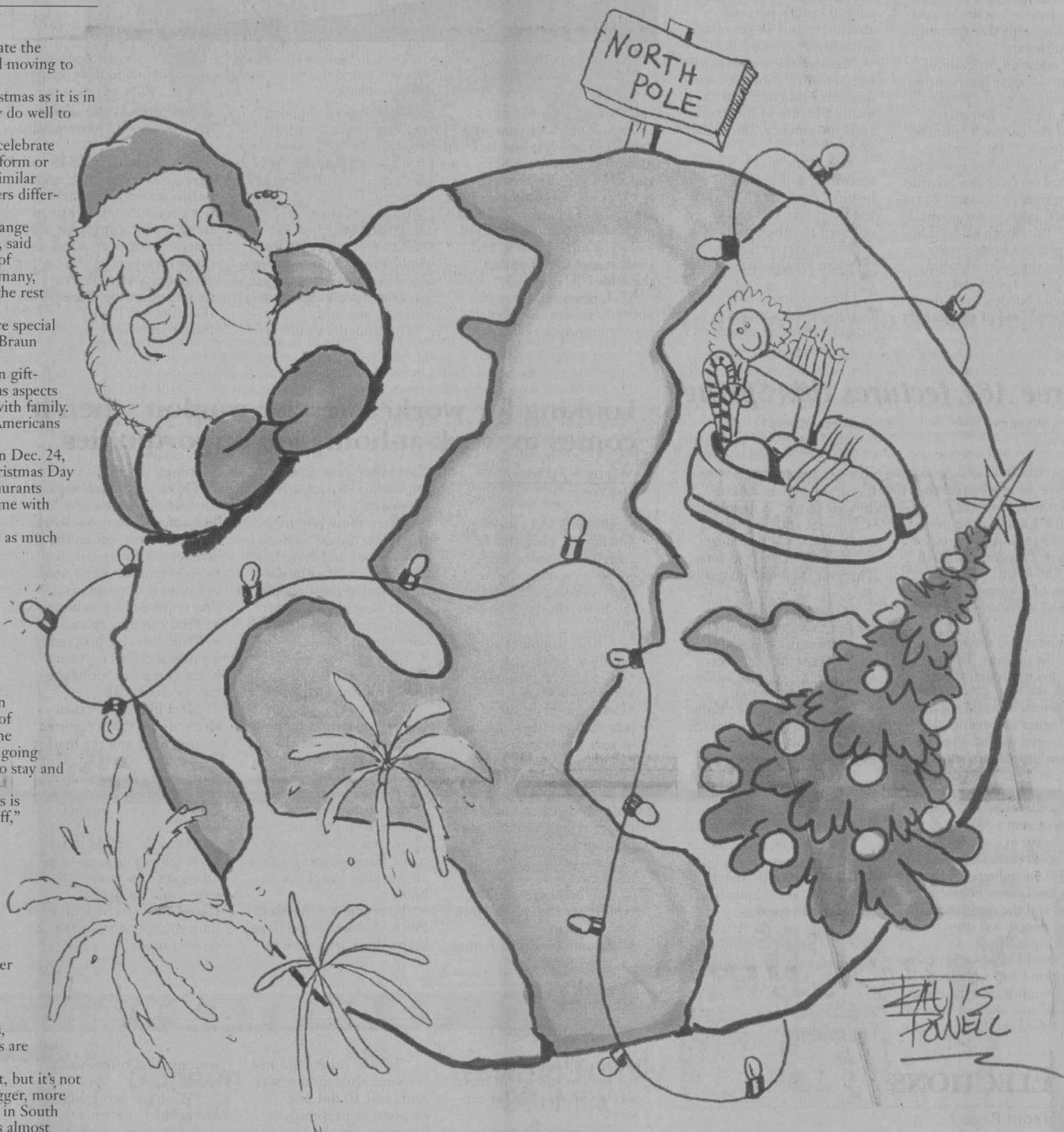
"Christmas in the United States is more about buying and selling stuff," Nunez said.

In South Africa, too, Christmas is about family and religion. Busi Dziba, who recently moved to Logan from South Africa, said most Christian South Africans — and especially black South Africans — see Christmas as a time to gather together.

She said they have a big lunch together, but following her first Thanksgiving in the United States, she said South African celebrations are nothing like that.

"There are families who do that, but it's not common," Dziba said. She said bigger, more expensive celebrations are atypical in South Africa, but when they do occur, it's almost always in the white families. The recently-ended system of apartheid has left a wide economic gap between blacks and whites in South Africa.

Christmas gifts around the world are usually few in comparison to the amount given in America. In South Africa, children see Christmas as the day they finally get to wear new clothes that were bought for them sometime in October or November.



And though in Mexico the Christmas season is actually longer than it is in the United States, in most countries the decorations and the talk of Christmas don't start nearly as early as they do for Americans.

Braun said Germans don't set up their Christmas tree until Christmas Eve, though St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 6 allows children to place wooden shoes in front of the door, which are

then filled with candies.

On Christmas Eve, he said, the family's women lock themselves in the living room, and the men must not enter.

Though they may hear glass breaking and things happening in the living room all day, it's not until after Christmas Eve dinner that the men get to enter the room and see the tree and decorations. A German tree usually has a promi-

nently displayed scene depicting the birth of Jesus under it, with presents taking secondary importance, Braun said.

He said lights and other outdoor decorations are also uncommon in Germany, though one tree outside may be decorated.

In Mexico, however, the tree goes up the day after Thanksgiving, and presents aren't opened until Jan. 6, Nunez said.

Post office offers suggestions for holiday package and letter mailing

HOLLY HANSON

Staff Writer

'Tis the season the season for mailing packages and greeting cards. These tips from the post office might make this holiday mailing season a little easier.

Kim Taylor, the Logan Postmaster, said earlier in the day is the best time to come into the post office. Taylor said some of the busiest times are lunch time, right after opening and right before closing.

"Mail out now for the holidays," Taylor said. "Every year we get more [mail] than the year before."

Taylor said it is best to come into the post office for international mailing information. The cost and time restrictions vary from country to country, he said.

"If you're a real procrastinator, you can send your stuff as late as December 23 by Express Mail," Taylor said.

A post office bulletin offered customers some advice to avoid "glitches" in their holiday mailings.

- Always use a complete return

address

- Always provide complete address information, such as Ave., Blvd., St. Always use the apartment number as well as directions such as N. for north, W. for west or SW for southwest.

- Don't let an incorrect zip code keep your cards and letters from arriving on time. Local post offices and the Postal Service Web site, <http://www.usps.com>, offer zip code information

Packing tips

- Select a box strong enough to protect the contents. Leave space for cushioning inside the carton.

- Cushion package contents with shredded or rolled newspaper, bubble wrap, or Styrofoam peanuts.

- Always use tape designed for shipping, like pressure-sensitive tape, nylon-reinforced craft paper tape or glass-reinforced pressure-sensitive tape.

- The only addresses on packages for mailing should be the delivery and return addresses. It's also a good idea to place a return address label inside the package.

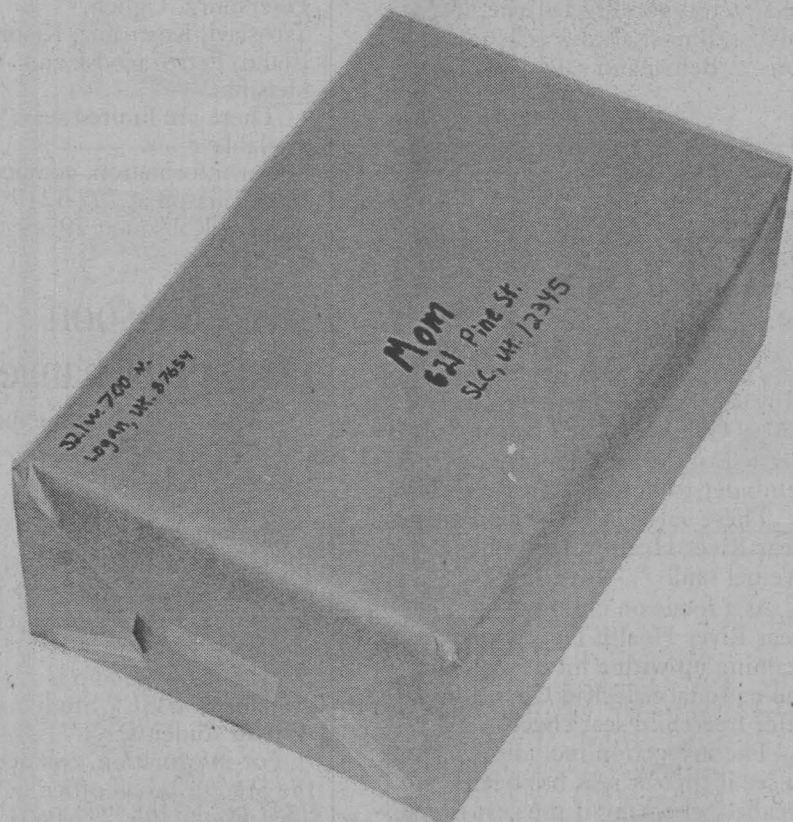
- Carefully pack glass and fragile hollow items, like vases, with newspaper or packing material to avoid damage from shock. When mailing framed photographs, take the glass out of the frame and wrap it separately.

- Packages that weigh at least one pound must be taken to the post office for mailing.

Undeliverable or lost packages go to the "dead letter" branch in San Francisco, Calif., where employees do their best to find a name or address on a package without opening it. If they can't, they will open the package for clues, Taylor said.

Hard-to-find addresses like Santa's address are dealt with at each post office. Letters addressed to Santa are "answered by the good people at the [Logan] post office and will be returned if there's a return address," Taylor said.

The Logan post office will have extended hours for the holiday season. The hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Lighting the world through serving others

NATALIE LARSON
Senior Writer

The sweet smell of melting wax hung thick in the crisp night air around the tabernacle. Lining the paths surrounding a central nativity scene, 2,000 lights gleamed in the stillness.

Each light held a meaning — a memory of a kind deed done during the year.

One represented a hand that made all the beds in the apartment. Another spoke of loyalty of a friend who woke up every morning at 4 a.m. to take a roommate to work. Another was for time donated to help with the Special Olympics. More shone with acts big and small, but all were significant to people who received their warmth.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Institute Women's Association (IWA) held its "2,000 Lights of Service" celebration on Nov. 30 at the LDS tabernacle.

The goal of this project was for each member of the IWA to complete four acts of service through the year to total 2,000 acts. Maggie Hickman, the communications officer, headed the activity.

Erin Killpack, president of one of the IWA chapters, said, "It makes people feel it's OK to do service. It's a good support group for people to go serve with. Service is one of the best things we can do."

That night they met to cele-

brate their efforts and light candles for each act.

Maelynn Kartchner, a junior at Utah State University and member of the IWA, spoke at the event.

"Serving others helps the person serving so much more than it ever helps the person being served," she said. "It helps you realize your blessings, especially if you're dealing with those who are less fortunate than yourself."

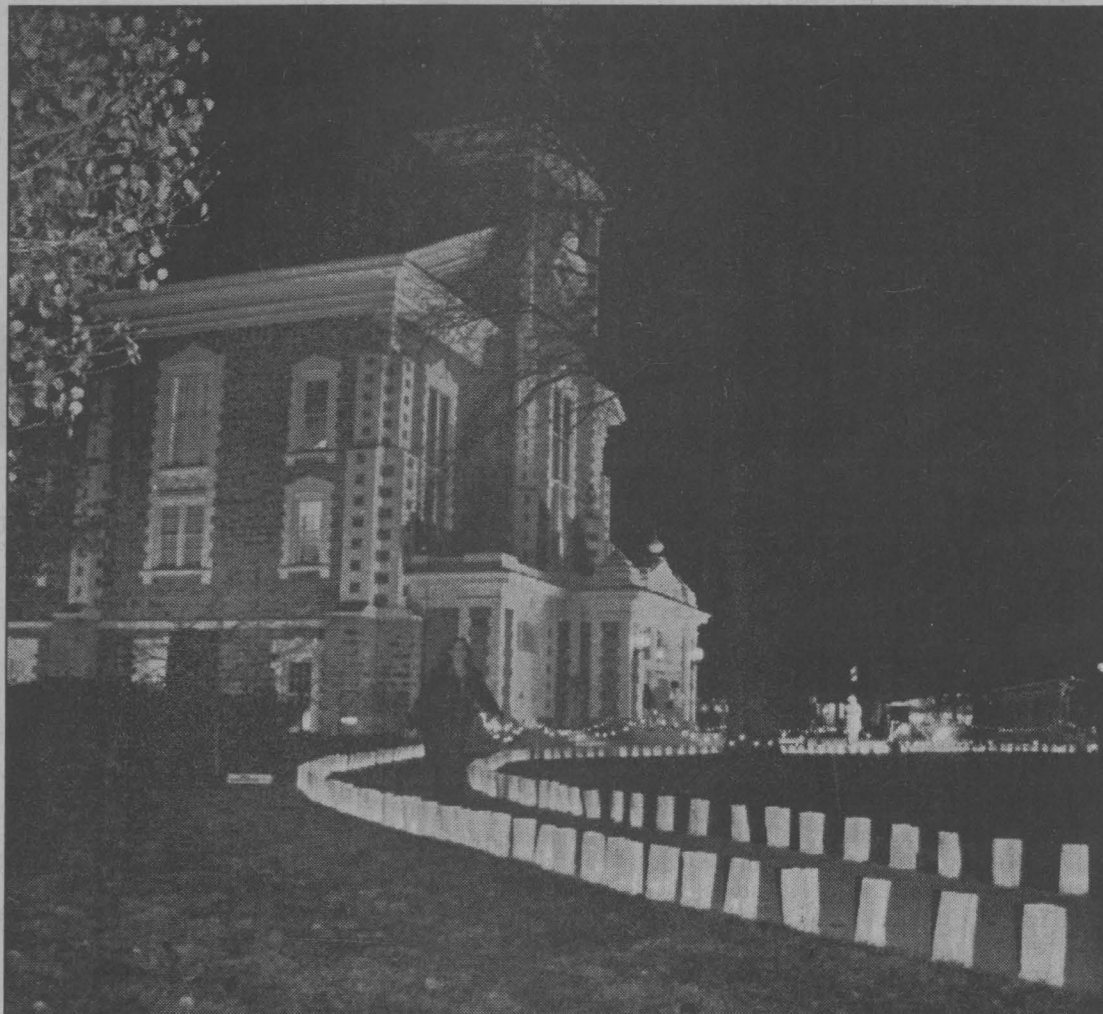
This was the big closing event of sorts for the year, a way to finish the year 2000 with 2,000 lights, Kartchner said.

"You don't have to do something massive in order to serve," she said. "My suggestion would be to simply try to spread joy and love wherever you go. Make a corner of the world a little brighter. Often sharing yourself, your time, your personality, your happiness or your support can be enough."

Kartchner was the first of four speakers to address the group. Each speaker spoke about subjects involving service, from the effects of service to missionary work.

The evening ended with all the participants singing carols or the steps of the Tabernacle.

"You don't want to boast about it when you give service," Beverly Cantwell, an adviser for one chapter, said. "But it's fun to celebrate it, and it gets you into the Christmas spirit."



ABOVE: 2,000 CANDLE-LIGHTED BAGS lined the Tabernacle on Main Street representing both the year 2000 and the 2,000 acts of service members of the Institute Women's Association performed this year.

BELOW: MEMBERS OF THE Institute Women's Association light candles to represent the acts of service they performed 'across the world, across the state and across the street.' / Mikelle Bench photo



APPROXIMATELY 500 MEMBERS of the Institute Women's Association performed more than 2,000 acts of service this year. A candle was lighted around the tabernacle for each act. / Mikelle Bench photo

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This information also found on page 7 of USU's Schedule of Classes.

Holidays online with e-cards

RITA CIOLLI
Newsday

Yes, Virginia, at one time Christmas cards were considered a time-saver.

More than 150 years ago, a very busy Englishman, Sir Henry Cole, asked a friend to design a card so he wouldn't have to labor penning holiday letters to his friends at the end of the year. It took about 20 years, along with the establishment of the British postal system, for the new way of sending glad tidings to take off. Those paper cards are now the entrenched tradition. But time, like sunlight, is still in short supply come December.

That's why the Internet is poised to make a shift in holiday customs as dramatic as that caused by the postal service and Sir Henry. Starting with whimsical electronic greetings and ending with soup-to-nuts services that will let you totally customize a card and then mail it as well, there is not one aspect of card-sending that can't be more fun, more creative or just simpler online.

Already, those who must always do something new are sending streaming video greetings by e-mail, keeping their candy canes crossed that the recipient has the software to read it. For those who spare no cost, one inventive firm is offering interactive mini CDs that you can customize with 50 words of text. But at \$9.95 apiece, they are destined only for those at the very top of the list.

And don't be surprised to find an animated card in your electronic mail box by the end of the year. E-cards are escalating in popularity and moving well beyond spontaneous celebrations of National Pickle Day. A recent survey by SharedGreetings.com found that 50 percent of all Net users will send online cards from any of a dozen free

services to someone this holiday season.

"This is a lot easier. I can do it from home and it is animated," said Carol Asch of Bethpage, N.Y., who had stopped before Thanksgiving at a SharedGreetings.com demonstration at a mall. With the help of her children, she sent her first e-card.

"This is the first time we ever did something like this," she said. "First time ... you did," said Joseph, 9.

"You did this before?" asked his surprised mom.

"I use AmericanGreetings.com," he said.

But age is only one indicator of who will take to e-cards.

"I will send online Christmas cards to friends," said Marcos Yun of Woodbury, N.Y. "It is cheaper and you can send multiple greetings at once."

But the 22-year-old student, echoing a sentiment frequently heard by SharedGreeting workers, said the e-card had limits, and was not yet ready to replace the paper one for more formal or traditional occasions. "For people closer to me, I would rather buy a card and mail it. It is more personal that way," he said.

For those who are time-starved but still prefer to send the traditional paper card in the mail, the Internet may be the best solution. A recent survey by Shutterfly, an online photo card company, found that 72 percent of respondents planned to send holiday greeting cards this year. But more than half admitted that in the past they bought the cards but never mailed them.

"Most people said time is the main constraint. Their biggest frustration is finding the time to get the task done," said Julie Herendeen, vice president of marketing for the company.

So how about using the Net to buy, write and send out 50 stylish cards, all in about 15 minutes? Or taking 30 minutes sitting in your home or office to create one of those ever-popular photo cards, showing off the kids, the pets or even the new house?

A variety of card services debuting for the holidays promise to make it all easier. While Christmas and Chanukah are the biggest card-sending times, these online services are also planning to offer party invitations, thank-you cards and baby announcements all year. And, as it does with all shopping, the Net puts within reach the small shops offering unusual or offbeat card designs as well as ready access to industry giants such as Hallmark.com and well-financed newcomers such as Shutterfly.com.

"The services are new and so it will have more appeal for those who are a little more adventurous," said Kathi Mishek, a spokeswoman for Hallmark.com.

The company is offering cards, boxed or single, which allow the purchaser to choose the inside saying, as well as the ink color and typeface. These cards can then be shipped to the customer. Or, address books can be uploaded to Hallmark, which will take care of addressing and mailing the cards.

Customers also get to choose the postal stamp - reindeer, Madonna, flag or rose. The workers who produce the cards work for a Hallmark subsidiary; individual cards can be written in by hand while large numbers get a machine label. Costs depend on the cards selected and the quantity but start at about \$1.50 per card for the soup-to-nuts service. The company said it will take orders until

SEE E-CARDS

Page 7

Meaning of New Year's changed throughout history

NATALIE LARSON
Senior Writer

The clock ticks slowly as the anxious crowd stands in anticipation. Five . . . four . . . three . . . two . . . one . . . A great burst of noise pierces the night echoing in the winter air. Happy New Year!

The excitement of this annual holiday is overlapped with traditions that can be dated back to the Babylonians according to www.wilstar.com/holidays/newyear.htm.

One of these is the practice of making New Year's resolutions, promises to yourself and others to do or not do certain things over the year. Today some of the most popular resolutions include losing weight and quitting smoking; for the Babylonians, it was to return borrowed farm equipment, according to the Web site.

Steve Siporin, an associate professor with the History and English departments who teaches folklore, said, "It's logical that if the world is starting anew, you're starting anew also."

The image of the old man as the old year and a new baby for the new year comes from an idea that the world is literally being



born again, Siporin said. It originated in tribal cultures. Siporin said the holiday has become more secular today and lost much of the superstition, but we still celebrate those traditions.

Other traditions vary between cultures. Even the date is not the same for all. Siporin said the origins of having New Year's on January 1 is ironic because it places it eight days after Christmas, Christ's birth, and in Jewish tradition that was the day he would have been circumcised.

"It's an odd time of the year to have it. Why in the middle of winter?" Siporin

sid.

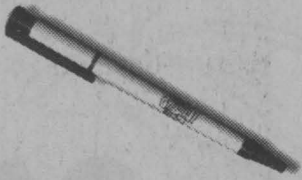
Generally the spring seems like a more practical time to start the year when the season are restarting, he said.

A one time, New Year's was celebrated on April 1, Siporin said. In the Celtic culture, Oct. 1 was celebrated as New Year's.

According to Siporin, the tradition of making noise at midnight comes from an ancient idea that at the moment of something very good everyone is vulnerable to evil spirits. Siporin said the noise was "to scare away demons at that critical moment."

Textbook Reservation Form

To Make a Textbook Reservation, please complete the following form and return it via mail or fax, or drop it off at the Bookstore Information Counter:



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- 1. Complete the Personal Information section.
- 2. Mark the appropriate spaces for Textbook Preference.
- 3. Complete the Class Information section. Refer to your official semester schedule bulletin for detailed information.
- 4. Complete the Payment Information section. Please include your account #, expiration date, and authorized signature.

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- ☐ Used, if available (new, if used are not available)
- ☐ Used *only* (may not receive all books)
- ☐ New *only* (may not receive all books)

2b. What textbooks do you want to purchase? (Choose Only One)

- ☐ Required textbooks only
- ☐ Required *and* Optional textbooks

3. Class Information:

				Office Use Only		
Department	Course #	Sec. #	Instructor	Dept. not ordered	Go To Class	No Book Required
Math	1050	003	Callahan	(Sample)		

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Q. Should I reserve new or used textbooks?
A. The decision to purchase new or used textbooks is a matter of preference. The primary benefit of purchasing used textbooks is that they are 25% off the price of new textbooks. While used textbooks are less expensive, they may contain writing, highlighting, or other marks that some students find distracting. The primary benefit of purchasing a new textbook is that it is free of markings. New books are often preferred if they will be kept for future reference.

Q. How much should I expect to pay for textbooks?
A. The amount of money paid for textbooks varies depending on how many credit hours are taken, which courses are taken, and whether used or new textbooks are purchased. A student taking 12 credit hours of general education classes can expect to pay approximately \$375 for new books and \$280 for used textbooks. (Average on past Textbook Reservations.)

Q. When will my credit card be billed?
A. We will not charge your account until we actually pull the books for your reservation.

Reservation Due Dates:
Spring 2001 December 22, 2000
Summer 2001 April 23, 2001

Students can serve while home for the holidays

JOANNA HOOSTE
Staff Writer

The Christmas season stresses the importance of service. It is one of the loneliest times of the year for people who have no families or friends nearby. Students can donate money to many charities, but they can also give of their time. Volunteering is not just about performing labor for people, but interacting with them.

Valorie Brown and Bryan Nielsen work at the Volunteer Service Center inside Smith's grocery store. Brown stressed that service is needed all year, not just in December. She referred to a new book entitled "Catch the Spirit" by Susan K. Perry, Ph.D. The book is a compilation of youth who took the initiative to provide service in their communities.

She said she was touched by the dedication of these young people. The first chapter in the book was about David Levitt. As a student in grade school, he developed a food drive from leftover cafeteria food. He said, "The need for food is year-round, not just on holidays when

people start donating ... They have to eat three times a day."

Students who want to volunteer during the holidays can get ideas from the Web site www.volunteermatch.org. After typing in a zip code, the Web site's database provides a list of links and descriptions of the work for specific organizations.

Some widely-known national organizations include Meals on Wheels, Sub for Santa and the Humane Society.

Meals on Wheels needs people to deliver prepared food to the elderly or others who are restrained to their house due to a disability.

Sub for Santa provides sponsors with families in need of temporary assistance. This organization also needs people to collect items at various department stores.

The Humane Society, geared to preventing cruelty to animals, needs people to walk dogs, groom cats and adopt animals.

Nielsen said anyone can perform service, even beyond the confines of working for an organization.

He said, "[When you] see a need, you just go do it."

Students who plan on traveling to a large city can find the nearest homeless shelter and ask the workers there if they need help serving or cooking food or cleaning up.

"Anonymous service is important as well," Brown said.

Brown and Nielsen listed several activities people can do in their own neighborhoods, like cleaning up litter along the streets, taking out the garbage for an elderly person or shoveling someone else's driveway.

After the holidays it is important to sustain service.

Brown said, "Everyone has one free hour a week. A lot of things can be done in an hour a week."

Logan also has a great need for volunteers. Community Abuse Prevention Services Agency will conduct a training session for new volunteers at the end of January 2001. Call Heather, Erin or Jenny at 435-753-2500 for further details.

Students who want information for other organizations can call the Volunteer Service Center at 752-3103 or contact the Val R. Christensen Service Center on the third floor of the Taggart Student Center.

Alsop teaches students face to face

CRYSTAL MOORE
Staff Writer

"I firmly believe that just as there [is] a variety of people and learning methods, there [is] a variety of effective teaching methods," said Dr. Ted Alsop, acting department head for the Geography and Earth Resources department. "I'm trying to articulate effective teaching behaviors."

Alsop has been busy researching teaching methods.

"My most favorite present research has to do with teaching behaviors," he said. "The lecture format is just not as effective as it used to be. Especially with the wide variety of delivery techniques. All of this electronic media offers us extreme variety."

Alsop teaches Aerial Photography, a 5000 level class, and Physical Geology, a general.

Alsop said he takes a different approach to his teaching method.

"I try to energize [students]. I try to drive them emotionally ... to make them share in my enthusiasm of the subject," he said. "I am a professor who has the same chal-

lenges in [his] personal role statement as anyone else."

The difference, he said, is that he looks for solutions.

"Each person has different knowledge banks ... [and] their learning methods are different," Alsop said.

Alsop said he sees teaching as "a friendly discussion between me and 300 students."

"I call it FTE, face to face with 300 students," Alsop said.

He said he also implements humor and personal experience into his lessons.

"Did the guy laugh when he slipped and fell on the ice? Well no, but the ice cracked up!" Alsop said, laughing.

Aside from being the acting department head, teaching a wide variety of classes and performing research for USU's College of Natural Resources, Alsop also works with the USU Extension.

"We visit county offices, cities and agencies, usually by invitation, and we'll help them solve their environmental issues," Alsop said.

He said his goal is to teach his students to be more environmentally conscious so they can be part of that solution.

"I want my students to have a knowledge of the natural resources and to apply them to life," he said. "I want to cause the subject matter to have relevance and applicability to them; and, if I can get them excited, they will learn."

Alsop has a contagious enthusiasm for the subject matter he teaches. Some of his future goals include improvement on those teaching methods that have made his classes so appealing.

"I want to get better. I want to become a more effective instructor, researcher and extension professional," Alsop said.

Outside of school activities, Alsop coaches eighth-grade basketball.

"I coach my son's basketball team along with my other son," Alsop said.

He is also a soccer referee for the Cache Valley Soccer League and a Webelos leader for his church; both his sons received their Eagle Scout Awards at an early age.

Alsop and his family have lived in Cache Valley for 15 years. He said he and his wife came to the valley because of the teaching opportunities at USU.

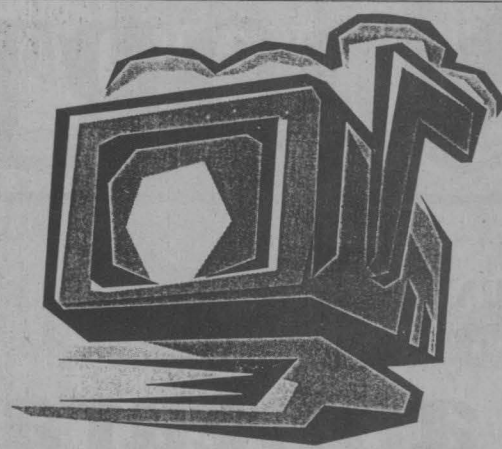
online, she usually doesn't see the photo that will be put into the holder. But sometimes she can imagine. One recent order was for a border that read: "Silent Night, Holy Night, ALL IS CALM?"

"They must have a very funny picture of crying babies," she said. "Some people are very creative."

"The photos are getting more varied. It's not just children anymore. We are getting couple shots, newlyweds, pets and photos of the house," said Kerri Brimmer, the owner of naptime.com, a boutique site that started doing baby announcements but has since moved into specialty photo cards.

There are many smaller sites, accepting digital or mailed photos who will create a custom photo card or holder to slip a photo into. At some of them you can have e-mail conversations about what works best with your image.

In Alabama, Ann Lee of Pizazz cards.com offers customized borders that a photo card can be slipped into. "The trend has been a flat card, not a fold-over, so there is no room to write a note, no room to Lee offers the tip that this year gold is a big accent color, as well as sepia and black-and-white photos. Since her business is done



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Student Services say....

DID YOU KNOW.....that these Residence Life staff & student leaders have achieved the following awards & recognition this semester?

♣ Chris & Marie Shiraki were regional finalists for national "RA of the Year."

♣ Dallin Young was named Associate Director of the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH). Brian Hickman was named co-programming chair for the NRHH Executive Board.

Feel the spirit of Christmas! To warm hands, feet and hearts give to the Mitten Tree sponsored by the USU Women's Center Advisory Board. Donations of NEW mittens, hats, and socks, for Cache Valley infants and children are welcomed. Items may be delivered to the TSC Carousel Square or TSC, Room 310 through December 13, 2000.

Did you Know?
SI Leaders are a good resource for tips on studying for final exams. Check with your instructor for times and places. Drop-In Tutoring services end on December 8th.

Did you know that on Wednesday, November 29, three students from Multicultural Student Services, Stephen Phung, Caroline McCann and Nick Renfro received a scholarship from the UCAMHE Association. They were honored at a luncheon held at Utah Valley State College.

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

ATTENTION Junior & Senior PREHEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS

PACKET MEETING Thursday, December 7 11:30-12:30 and repeated 3:30-4:30 in BNR 202A

During this meeting, the USU Prehealth Professional Evaluation Committee application packets will be handed out and discussed. A completed packet requested by the committee is necessary to participate in this program.

The USU Prehealth Professional Evaluation Committee provides instruction and guidance for all health professional applications. In addition, an institutional letter of evaluation will be written for those students meeting the minimal requirements of application to professional schools.

THIS MEETING IS INTENDED FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO WILL BE MAKING THEIR INITIAL APPLICATION TO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS DURING THE 2001 CALENDAR YEAR FOR FALL OF 2002 ENROLLMENT!

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NCAA **TOURNAMENT**

First appearance bittersweet for Ags

BYU sweeps Utah State in 2nd round

AARON MORTON
Sports Editor

PROVO — USU's first NCAA Tournament run ended Saturday in the second round as No. 12 Brigham Young University got their revenge.

The No. 21 Aggies were in every game, but it was the Cougars who pulled away late every time, winning 15-9, 15-10, 15-10.

"We gave them a run for their money," said USU head coach Tom Peterson. "[But] they outlasted us."

BYU, which swept Hofstra University in the first round, now advances to the Sweet 16, along with three other Big West Conference teams, Long Beach State University, University of California at Santa Barbara and the University of the Pacific. California Polytechnic State University was eliminated in the second round by No. 2 University of Southern California.

The Cougars — a team that has made it to the third round for five straight years — showed their experience by turning close games (9-9, 10-9, 9-9) into victories.

"My hat's off to Utah State," said BYU head coach Elaine Michaelis, who is in her 39th year. "It took everything we had to beat them."

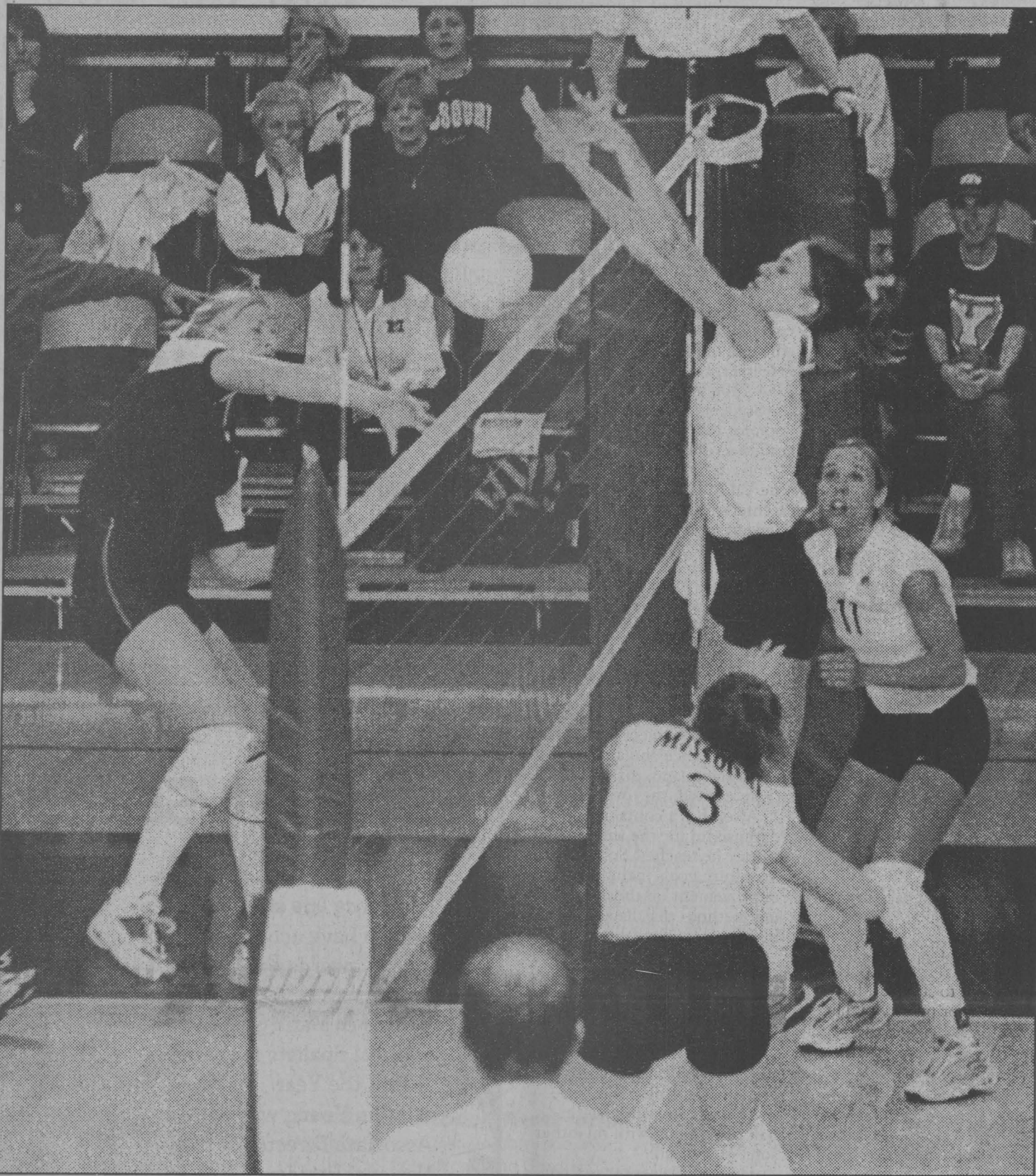
Even with a trip to Nebraska at stake, BYU had extra motivation to win Saturday in the Smith Fieldhouse. The Aggies swept the Cougars 15-13, 15-8, 15-6 on Sept. 12 in the Spectrum. It was the first win against the in-state rivals since 1981.

"We had to take care of that," Michaelis said.

And they started early as BYU

► **SEE 2ND ROUND**

Page 10



HAILEY MACKAY SPIKES the ball past Missouri defenders Friday night in the Smith Fieldhouse in Provo. MacKay had eight kills in USU's win over the Tigers where they came back from down 14-11, and 2-1 in games. / Bobbi Watson photo

Comeback propels USU past Missouri

SHEREEN SAUREY
Senior Sports Writer

PROVO — Friday night's match between USU and the University of Missouri was what NCAA Tournament action is all about.

"I'm not sure I've ever been involved in a more emotionally up-and-down match," said USU head coach Tom Peterson.

In game four, the Aggies were one point away from elimination. But USU refused to die. The Aggies defeated the Tigers in five games (5-15, 15-6, 3-15, 16-14, 15-9).

"It was a wild match," said senior Amy Crosbie.

Both teams came out strong defensively early in the first game, as the Tiger lead hovered at 3-1 for 20 straight side-outs. The Tigers then scored eight unanswered points. USU managed to score only four more points. Missouri retained control of the ball and finished off game one 15-5. The Tigers posted a .489 hitting percentage to the Aggies' .196 and out-blocked USU 6-1-5.

"[Missouri was] almost unstoppable at times in that first game," Crosbie said.

"But we weren't concerned [about losing the match]," said senior Denae Mohlman.

Crosbie said that momentum changes are part of volleyball. This match was certainly no exception.

A seemingly different USU team stepped onto the court in the second game.

The Aggies and Tigers played tightly throughout the beginning of the game. USU pulled ahead 9-3, thanks to

► **SEE 1ST ROUND**

Page 10

Senior leadership supported by USU's youth — MacKay, Olmstead and Matheson

SHEREEN SAUREY
Senior Sports Writer

PROVO — Seniors Amy Crosbie, Denae Mohlman and Melissa Schoepf, who have come to be known as "The Big Three," led Utah State's women's volleyball team both physically and emotionally throughout the 2000 season. However, in the Aggies' match against Brigham Young University Saturday night it was the younger athletes' turn to shine.

Sophomore Hailey MacKay recorded a team-high 15 kills in the match and contributed four block assists. MacKay also posted a .290 hitting percentage, the highest on the team.

The Bountiful native had been playing at middle blocker until one week ago. MacKay said she feels the move from middle blocker to outside hitter made a positive difference in her performance Saturday night.

Junior Heather Olmstead helped on defense, recording nine digs. Crosbie

said she doesn't think Olmstead receives enough recognition for her contributions to the team.

"Heather is a solid leader," Crosbie said. "Our team will look to her [next season]."

Michelle Matheson, also a junior, performed well in the BYU match. Matheson's .227 hitting percentage was second only to MacKay's. Matheson, a middle blocker, added eight kills and committed only three errors.

Red-shirt sophomore Shauni Fluckiger showed great effort Saturday as she notched seven digs. Each dig came at crucial times during long rallies.

MacKay, Olmstead and Matheson each posted individual season bests this year. MacKay hit .667 against the University of Wyoming. Olmstead boasted 22 digs when USU played California Polytechnic State University, and Matheson tallied seven block assists vs. the University

of Utah.

As the seniors depart, Crosbie said she believes the remaining players will become leaders for the 2001 season.

"When the responsibility falls on their shoulders, they'll get more confidence," she said.

MacKay said she is excited for next season. She said it will be sad to see the seniors go, but hopes she can follow in The Big Three's example of leadership.

How did I become a Twins fan? I've got five reasons

Stating THE STATS

Reuben Wadsworth



Why do you like the sports teams you do? Deep down, are you guilty of being a bandwagon fan? Do you only like teams if they are winning?

If you are a Rams, Yankees or Lakers fan, I hope you can justify your liking to pre-existing conditions and not to each team's recent success. I pride myself on being a Minnesota Twins fan, even through the years of bargain-basement payrolls and futility since the team's

World Series victory in 1991. How can a Utah native be a Twins fan, you ask? The reasons are five-fold:

1. **Location:** I grew up in Bountiful, so you would probably guess that I am a Jazz fan. True. I've followed the Jazz religiously since about 1989. My best friend and I always had Jazz parties in junior high and high school.

Living so close to its campus, I will admit, I was also a University of Utah sports fan growing up. The Salt Lake Buzz and Utah Grizzlies? No brainers. Of course I'm a fan.

Location is the biggest reason why I am a Utah State University athletics fan now.

As you may have already guessed, I'm not a Twins fan because I live in Minnesota. The biggest reason I'm a Twins fan comes next.

2. **Players:** Kirby Puckett was my favorite baseball player growing up, and I was also a big fan of Chuck Knoblauch and Shane Mack — three key players in the Twins' 1991 glory.

The reason I liked the San Francisco 49ers for so many years was because of their nucleus of players — Steve Young, Jerry Rice, John Taylor, Ronnie Lott and Roger Craig. Now all but Rice are departed. Jeff Garcia? He's no Steve Young.

My NFL interests have shifted to the Tennessee Titans the last three years because of the team's Utah connections — former Utah receiver Kevin Dyson and USU's own Demario Brown. It's too bad both are on injured reserve right now.

Players can even be a reason for semi-liking teams I have despised my whole life. I actually follow the Broncos a little bit now that they have former Utah running back Mike Anderson, and he is performing well while Terrell Davis is sidelined. However, there are teams I still hate even though I like some of their players. I can never, ever be a Yankees fan even though Knoblauch is now wearing pinstripes.

3. **Influence** of family or friends:

My former brother-in-law is reason number three I like the Twins. He's an avid fan and a lot of that rubbed off on me. He even gave me one of the Twins caps I have. I'm sure most of you can trace the liking of at least one team to a friend or family member.

4. **Affiliation:** I like the Twins. I liked them even before their Triple A affiliate, the Buzz, came to town in 1994, but it gave me even more justification for liking them for my wondering Utah friends. Now that the Buzz are an affiliate of the Angels I have no more justification, but by now, none is needed.

I liked the Calgary Flames as a kid because they were the parent team of the old Salt Lake Golden Eagles, and now that the Dallas Stars are the parent club of the Grizzlies, I can't help but be a little more interested in them.

5. **Merchandise:** I didn't follow the San Diego Chargers until my brother and his wife gave me a

Chargers T-shirt for Christmas one year when they were living near San Diego. Merchandise is another reason I like the Titans — they have a kick-butt logo and colors in my opinion.

There are other reasons for liking teams, such as the venue they play in (one reason for liking the Boston Red Sox — Fenway Park is amazing) and their coach (you couldn't have helped liking BYU football just because Lavell Edwards has been a class act). But for my brother, a losing record is what attracts him to a team. A few years ago the New England Patriots were his favorite NFL team. Last year, naturally, it was the New Orleans Saints. This year, unfortunately, it looks like the Chargers are his favorite team, based on their current one-win season.

Reuben Wadsworth is the assistant sports editor of the Statesman. He welcomes comments at ruebwads@cc.usu.edu.

DOWN THE LINE

Friday **NCAA Volleyball Tournament**
USU def. Missouri 3-2
BYU def. Hofstra 3-0

Hockey
Colorado State 3, USU 0

Saturday **Hockey**
USU 8, University of Utah 2

NCAA Volleyball Tournament
BYU def. USU 3-0

Others: Utah and Cal Poly were def. in the second round. UC Santa Barbara, Long Beach St. and Pacific advance.

USU smokes Utah, shut out by Colorado State

REUBEN WADSWORTH &
JASON TURNER

Staff Writers

MURRAY — The USU hockey club split two over the weekend, showing glimpses of last year's team.

USU 8, Utah 2

The Aggies have been letting opposing teams get into their heads this season — but Saturday night at the Murray Ice Center it was the Aggies that got into the heads of University of Utah players on their way to an 8-2 victory.

"We won with class," said USU assistant coach J. C. Dodson. "We let Utah unravel themselves."

Three Utah players — Jason Lowder, Andy Van Wagoner and David De Boer — were ejected from the game. Two other Utes were whistled for five-minute major penalties. The Aggies total ejection and five-minute, major count? Zero.

Aggie captain Ryan Keys said he told his players before the game that if any of them received a punch to laugh at it and forget it.

Keys' words must have worked.

Punches were thrown three times at USU assistant captain Aaron Burrell and all three times he simply skated away.

"Burrell was really disciplined," said USU defenseman Aaron Sutliff. "We kept really good composure."

Sutliff was the player that got the offense going when he slipped the puck into the net off Utah goaltender Jesse Anderson's stick just two-and-a-half minutes into the first period. Three goals would follow in the period — one by Keys, Aaron Matern and assistant captain Deryk Anderson.

The second period was the same. The Aggies found the net four more times and USU goaltender Quincy Martin only let one puck past him in the period to make the score 8-1 going into the third.

The Aggie offense didn't score in the third, but it didn't need to as Utah could only muster one goal in the period.

"Our offense put the puck away," Keys said. "Our defense played strong."

The Utes were 14-0 and ranked first in the American Collegiate Hockey Association's West region going into this weekend, but the loss to the Aggies Saturday coupled with an 8-5 debacle to Weber State University Friday may drop them from the top spot. After splitting the games this weekend, USU's record now stands at 5-9-4.

"We knew we had to win this game," Sutliff said.

After a tough loss to Colorado State University the night before, Dodson said his Aggies' intensity level was high going into the contest.

"You could feel it in the warm-ups," he said.

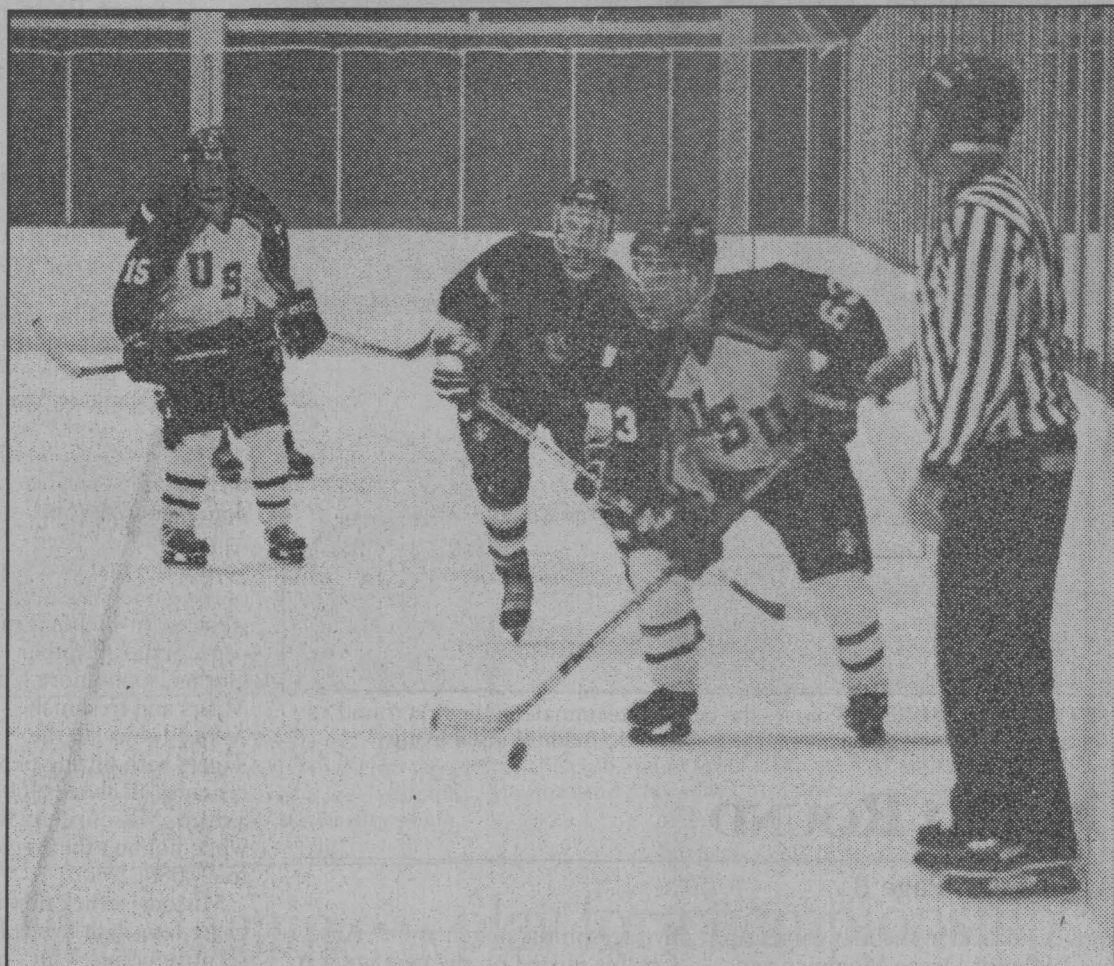
Dodson just hopes his team plays the same way it did on Saturday during the rest of the season.

"I'd like to bottle up the energy from this game and use it [in the games] Thursday and Saturday," he said.

"We're picking it up," Keys said. "Tonight we had a complete set."

CSU 3, USU 0

Any time the USU men's hockey team plays Colorado State University there are bound to be penalties — but



AGGIE IAN TRACY looks for an open teammate to pass to during the game vs. ASU on Oct. 28. USU defeated No. 1 in the West Region, Utah, 8-2 on Saturday. /Liz Maudsley photo

officials couldn't have been prepared for Friday night's game at the Weber County Ice Sheet.

Up 1-0 midway through a hotly-contested second period, CSU capitalized on a couple of Aggie penalties, turning a 1-0 dogfight into a three-goal advantage on its way to a 3-0 victory over the Aggies.

Much to the dismay of USU head coach Jerry Crossley, untimely penalties, most of which he called "retaliatory penalties," led to the Aggies' demise.

"Instead of focusing on the stuff that works for us, we start doing stuff that works against us," Crossley said. "I like to think of it as 'Do you want to win or get even?'"

According to Crossley, it was the second Ram goal — scored just when the Aggies were about to survive a five-minute major penalty by Ian Tracy for cross-checking — that ultimately swung the momentum in the Rams' favor.

"That was the swing point; that was the triggering mechanism in this game," he said.

The first period was a defensive battle as both the Aggies and Rams used strong defensive play to prevent their opponent from getting good looks at the net. When the teams were able to get shots off, USU goalie Quincy Martin (12 saves in the period, 27 for the game) and CSU goalie Jared Gryzskienicz (10 saves in the period, 25 for the game) were able to make routine saves.

However, Ryan Glas' goal, scored off a pass from Ben Peal with 3:10 remaining, broke up what looked like was going to be a 0-0 deadlock entering the first intermission.

USU came out strong for the second period, controlling the tempo of the period for the first four minutes.

From then on, it was ugly. After CSU forward Jason Bowers scored to increase the Rams' lead to 2-0, the teams proceeded to trade penalties. Shortly after Aggie forward Kelly Froerer missed on a screamer just wide of the goal, CSU found the back of the net on a Travis Burge slap shot.

Despite finding itself in a 3-0 hole, USU continued to battle. Unfortunately for the

Aggies, Gryzskienicz was up to the challenge, denying Deryk Anderson on a breakaway opportunity and stopping a laser by Ryan Keys.

The third period was much like the first — plus several penalties.

Aggie forward Greg Sneed said the team played fairly well aside from a few minor break-

downs and an inability to capitalize on power play opportunities.

"I think the team overall since the beginning of the season is playing 10 times better," he said.

Crossley said, "We're as good as any team out there when we're playing a smart, controlled game."

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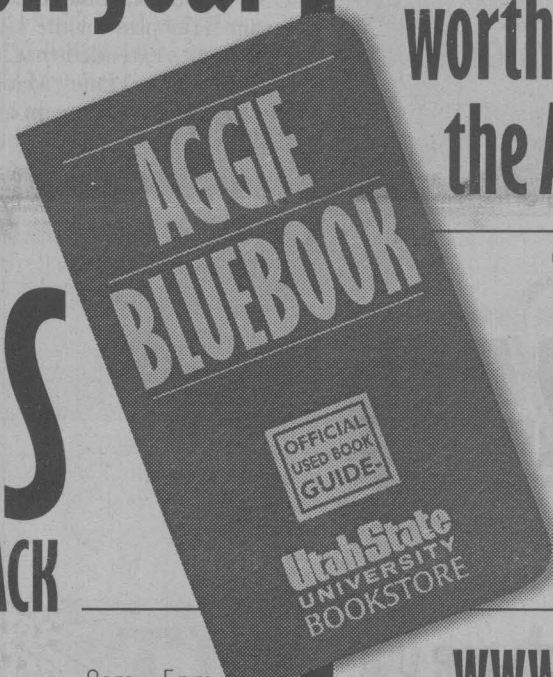
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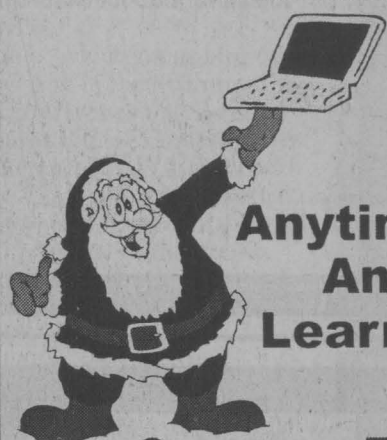


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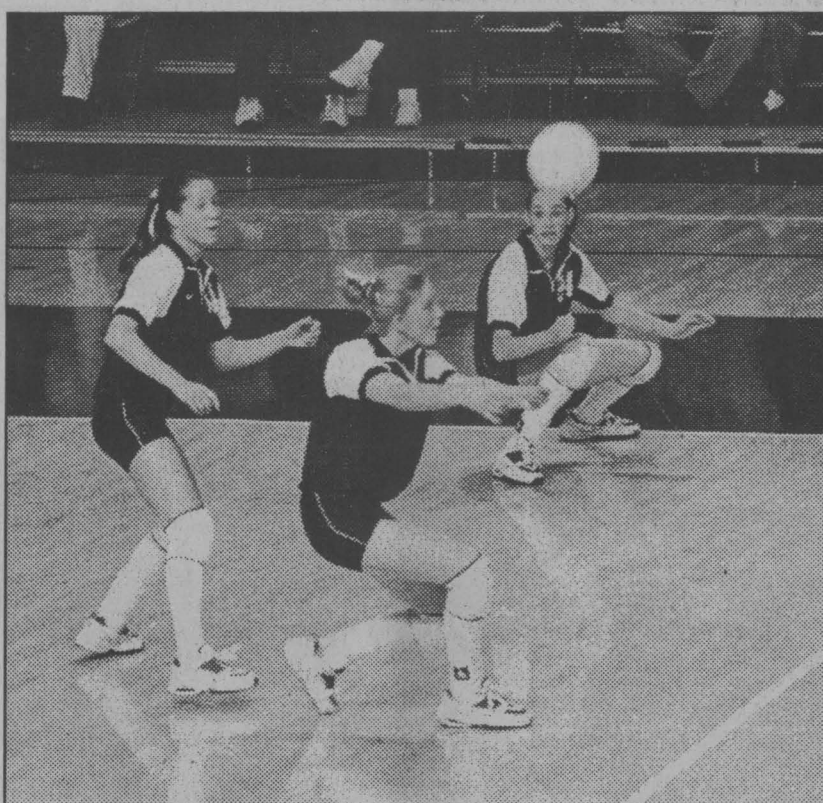
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BETTER CHELSI NEVES passes the ball to a teammate in the first round vs. Missouri. USU won 5-15, 15-6, 3-15, 16-14, 15-9. / Bobbi Watson photo

➤ 2ND ROUND

From Page 8

took a 3-1 lead in the first game. An ace by senior Denae Mohlman and two Cougar errors gave USU the lead.

Despite worse stats than Friday's game, Mohlman said the USU defense and passing were better vs. BYU.

The hosts battled through a USU timeout and 11 sideouts to gain an 8-4 advantage, only to have the game seesaw back and forth. USU tied the game 9-9 as substitute Emily Kennedy's serves helped the Aggies run off four straight points.

But with the crowd getting behind the Cougars, BYU ran off six straight for the 15-9 game win. USU forced made BYU work for the 15th point, fighting off two game-points before Mohlman sent a spike just beyond the baseline.

Junior Michelle Matheson gave USU a good start by dunking an errant BYU pass for the 1-0 lead. The Aggies extended that lead to 7-3 on sophomore Hailey MacKay's kill. But the tide turned again and BYU tied the game on one of the team's

five aces in the match at 7-7. Amy Crosbie missed on the next point to give the Cougars the lead. Peterson called timeout, but USU never got the lead back.

Utah State again jumped out to a lead in game three, 4-0. But again BYU was calm and collected and took the lead back 5-6. USU did manage to tie the game 9-9, but couldn't get the breaks it needed, Peterson said.

BYU even had a had a spike ricochet up into the rafters. The ball, which would have been in the stands, came back to the BYU court and the Cougars won the point.

"We needed just one little break," Peterson said.

He said the coaches were proud of USU's hustle and cohesiveness. That helped counter BYU's superior height and athleticism, Peterson said.

Despite the playoff watch, Peterson and USU players put the season in perspective.

"Overall, our season was a big success," Mohlman said.

➤ 1ST ROUND

From Page 8

senior Melissa Schoepf's five consecutive point-earning plays. Schoepf recorded three kills, three digs and four block assists in game two alone. Mohlman and junior Hailey MacKay continued to pace the team, as MacKay added three kills and Mohlman posted a .500 hitting percentage. USU put game two away 15-6.

In what was yet another turn-around, the Tigers dominated the third game, winning 15-3. After USU scored the first two points of the game, Missouri went on an 11-point rampage. Senior Heather Gerber, sophomore Christi Myers and freshman Ashlee Johns led the Tigers with hitting percentages all above .460. As a team, Missouri hit .500, while holding the Aggies to a -.080.

Missouri struck first in game four with five consecutive points. USU rallied back, tying the game at 5-5 and pulled ahead to an 11-7 lead. The Tigers tied the game at 11 and gained a 14-11 lead. USU's hopes of advancing in the tournament hanging, the Aggies earned a much-needed sideout. Crosbie's kill on that play was followed by a service ace that paved the way for USU to win the game at 16-14.

Peterson said he was proud of the team for coming back from an 11-14 deficit — without any timeouts.

"I had a lot less hair after the match," he said.

Crosbie said the team knows how to get out of holes it creates for itself.

"We've been in a lot of positions like that against good teams," she said.

"We have a great way of

climbing out as a team."

The fifth and final game was a rally score to 15. Both teams posted 1-1 records in rally games during the regular season. The Aggies and Tigers played neck and neck. Neither team was ever more than two points ahead of the other until Schoepf and junior Michelle Matheson teamed up on a block to give USU a 12-9 lead. The Aggies never looked back and defeated Missouri 15-9.

Both Peterson and Missouri's head coach, Susan Kreklow, agreed the match was one of shifts in momentum.

"The team controlling the [match] at the time could run their offense," Kreklow said.

Peterson noted that passing keyed the games because good passing allowed the Aggies to work their zig-zag and swing hitting offense.

"The momentum went up and down with passing," he said.

While passing did play a factor logistically, once a team had control of the ball, Crosbie said blocking was the emotional catalyst in the momentum changes.

"[Blocking] is the most gratifying thing you can do against an opponent," she said.

For the match as a whole, Mohlman led the Aggies with a team-high .296 hitting percentage. Despite losing the match, Missouri out-blocked USU 18-15.5, posted 13 fewer errors and hit .239 as a team to USU's .166 hitting percentage. The Aggies did out-dig the Tigers 59-53 and out-killed the Tigers 67-64.

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Run for student government - ASUSU Election packets for election 2001 are available in TSC 326 TODAY! Filing deadline is January 31 by 1:00 p.m. to TSC 326.

Are you interested in being on the Election Committee, contact Elections Coordinator Joilynne at slh57@cc.usu.edu or call Public Relations Vice President Marni Jenkins at 797-1719

Good luck on finals!



Ultimate anytime

DAVE COLE (LEFT) and Jason Kite (middle) try to follow the frisbee flying past them during a game with the Ultimate Frisbee club yesterday. The club, made up of students and alumni, plays pick-up games three times a week (Sunday, Monday and Thursday). Anyone can join the club by showing up at a game. / Joe Rowley photo

Florida State will — again — play for championship

RICHARD ROSENBLATT
Associated Press

Florida State always seems to be in the mix no matter what system college football uses to decide a national champion.

For the fourth time in the last five seasons, the No. 3 Seminoles (11-1) will play for a national title — this time against No. 1 Oklahoma (12-0) in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3.

The Bowl Championship Series' system of rating teams using polls, computers, schedule strength and losses, placed the Seminoles second behind the Sooners in its final standings released Sunday.

The matchup creates the possibility of split national champions. The AP media poll and the coaches' poll have Oklahoma and Miami ranked 1-2. If Florida State beats

Oklahoma and Miami beats Florida in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2, there's a chance for co-champions.

The AP poll's sports writers and broadcasters vote independently of the BCS, but the coaches' poll crowns the Orange Bowl winner as its champion.

"If that happens, then that will be what it is," BCS coordinator John Swofford said. "The BCS doesn't eliminate that possibility. We've known that all along. It does minimize the chances for it happening."

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden understands his team could share a national title with the Hurricanes, who beat the Seminoles 27-24 on Oct. 7. Still, he says the BCS formula proves his team deserves to play in Miami.

"Everything was run through the computer," Bowden said. "We had nothing

to do with it. The facts were fed in during the season and it came out ranking us second. We will accept that.

"It's No. 1 vs. No. 2 in the BCS and if we were to beat Oklahoma, then I think we should be No. 1 in the nation in the BCS. But that probably won't happen in the AP unless Florida beats Miami."

Miami coach Butch Davis said his team did its best to reach the BCS title game, being played in its own backyard.

"Regardless of how it turned out, it can't take anything away from our great season," Davis said. "We had some great games, against Florida State and then Virginia Tech. We've won nine in a row and did everything we think we could have."

Sooners coach Bob Stoops doesn't have to explain how his team landed where it did.

"I'm just glad there isn't any debate on us," he said. "For a month, I'm glad I certainly don't have to defend our position."

Oklahoma, the nation's only major unbeaten team after its 27-24 win over Kansas State in the Big 12 title game Saturday night, is gunning for its sixth national title and first since 1985.

Florida State (11-1) is trying to become just the seventh school to win back-to-back national titles and the first since Nebraska in 1994-95.

The teams last met in the Orange Bowl in 1981, with the Sooners winning 18-17.

In the final BCS standings, Oklahoma had 3.30 points, Florida State 5.37 and Miami 5.69. The clinching category for the Seminoles was computer rankings, where the Seminoles had a 1.28-point edge over the Hurricanes.

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What is a liberal, exactly?

The way I SEE IT

Rich
Timothy



It would appear that ever since the wall went down more than a decade ago, the term liberal has replaced a once-infamous word that could only be whispered in small, safe houses — communist. Sure, the ideals are different, but let's face it, Americans love to have a group that they are afraid of, which they can point their finger at and say, "This is the element that is going to corrupt our youth!"

Well, let's take a look at the term liberal as found in the online Merriam-Webster dictionary: A person who is liberal is (a) one who is open-minded or not strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional or established forms or ways (b capitalized) a member or supporter of a liberal political party (c) an advocate or adherent of liberalism especially in individual rights.

Pretty direct, don't you think?

Liberals have, as of late, acquired the perception from society as the free-loving hippies who believe in drugs, sex and rock and roll. But even from the moment Elvis started shaking his hips in public, the radical influence of not adhering to orthodox, traditional or established forms or ways has been something that the orthodox and traditional have fought against. The interesting thing is that by examining the definition of liberal one can't help but realize that our founding fathers were the public hip-shaking liberals of their day and age.

The frightening thing is that

► **SEE LIBERAL**
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Simplicity, giving two principles our society can definitely adopt

Dead Man's POLEMIC

Mike
Howsden



Saint Francis of Assisi 1181-1182 AD

The life of Saint Francis of Assisi can be described with the concept of self-denial. Unlike Saint Augustine, Francis' early life did not include involvement in all types of worldly pleasures. Instead, Francis started to devote his life to God and performed a variety of services for the church.

After a period of experiences with God, Francis "renounced material goods and family ties to embrace a life of poverty."

Possibly because of his attractive personality, people were drawn to Francis and he ended up with a following that eventually led to the formation of three orders of Franciscans.

Francis created an order

for men, women and lay people. The basic tenant of the Franciscan orders is a simple rule of life. For Francis, that meant giving up pretty much everything in order to devote himself completely to God's work.

As a culture I think we can see at least two main benefits of following the example of Saint Francis. The first is the personal benefit we can enjoy if we live a simple life and the second is the societal benefits of reducing waste and passing the wealth around.

To explore the idea of the personal benefits of a "simple" life, I think the phrase "you don't own your possessions so much as your possessions own you" is useful. To some extent, our possessions help us live our lives. Without food, shelter and clothing, we wouldn't be able to help anyone but would constantly be preoccupied with worrying about ourselves.

However, once we get beyond the basic necessities of life, each new possession comes at a cost. If we have a big house, we have to clean it. If we have three cars, we have to take all three to get repairs. Each new possession

needs to be taken care of, leaving us with less time to do what is truly important.

The second societal benefit we could receive is that we could spread the wealth around.

When we have more than we absolutely need to get by, we should give to those less fortunate. With the extra time we have that we aren't spending taking care of our possessions, we can do things like teach in the community, do investigations into how the government is (mis)using our tax dollars, or find one of a thousand other ways to make the world a better place.

I imagine it's just a dream thinking that everyone or even a large number of people would choose to live this way, but I think I'm going to do my best to start living this type of lifestyle.

How about you?

Source: <http://www.britannica.com>

Dead Man's Polemic runs every other Monday in The Utah Statesman. Mike Howsden is in his last semester as a philosophy major at USU. Send comments to mike.howsden@usu.edu

VIEW

A Statesman Staff Editorial

Be aware: Not everyone celebrates Christmas

Although Utah and Utah State University are mostly made up of people who hang mistletoe over their doorways and decorate Christmas trees with tinsel and candy canes, there are other people who celebrate different holidays at this time of year. Not everyone hangs stockings from their fireplaces and puts cookies out for Old Saint Nick, and that's something that needs to be acknowledged.

Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are the two most common non-Christmas December holidays that some of us choose to celebrate. When all the decorations at USU have to do with Christmas as a commercial and religious holiday, Jewish students who celebrate Hanukkah and some African-Americans who celebrate Kwanzaa, a spiritual holiday, are left out.

It's nice to sing Christmas carols and wish people Merry Christmas at this time of year, but it's even better when everyone feels included in the holiday season. And the holidays don't just start in December. By American commercial standards, when stores start playing "Silent Night" and selling holly berry-scented candles, the holidays begin during the Thanksgiving weekend.

This shouldn't be the time of year when everyone sticks to what they know and what they are comfortable with. In this situation, what most USU students are comfortable with is the idea a baby being born in a stable and a chubby man plopping down their chimneys. It's important, however, to remember that Christmas time is a time when all students can come together to celebrate whatever they believe.

Happy Holidays!

Israel/Palestine situation more complex than it seems

Guest **INSIGHT**
Guy Serbin, graduate student in plants, soils and biometeorology

About two weeks have passed since Lara Gale wrote about how the Israeli-Arab conflict affects USU students from that area. Her report has a few historical inaccuracies and to a certain degree misrepresents my positions on this specific issue.

1. The article states that the peace process was abandoned in March, which is untrue. In July of this year Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and the Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yassir Arafat met with President Clinton at Camp David with the aim of finalizing a peace agreement that would end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Barak did what no other Israeli PM before him would have considered doing — he offered the Palestinians 90 percent of Judea and Samaria, parts of eastern Jerusalem and partial control over the Temple Mount, Judaism's holiest site. As a result, Barak's government fell and new elections will occur in the upcoming months.

2. I never stated "both sides were fighting for their existence ..." and disagree with it. I feel that the current Palestinian uprising is occurring due to their leadership's corruption and religious fanaticism. I do want a peaceful solution, but I do not think that this can occur. Considering that the PA is in a state of virtual anarchy and Arafat failing/ refusing to control his own people, there is no point in negotiating with them unless they get their act together (As opposed to Israel, which arrests and punishes radical elements for attacks on Arabs). Peace agreements are

useless if one side cannot nor will not control their population and see to their implementation. The PA also has an extremely bad track record with flagrant violations of all previous agreements with Israel.

3. Active hostilities between Jews and various Arab militias (who were supported by British forces) began in November 1947 following the passing of UN Partition plan in the UN general assembly. On May 14, 1948, the last British forces left the land of Israel. The State of Israel declared independence and called out to the Arabs in peace. Instead of replying to this peace overture favorably, the armies of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt invaded the new country, stating that they would drive the Jews into the sea with the intention of conquering it and divvying it up amongst themselves. More than a year later the Israeli forces had succeeded in liberating large tracts of the land of Israel from Arab occupation and preventing their own extermination. However, by the time the 1949 Armistice agreement was signed between Israel and its Arab foes, east Jerusalem, including the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, the Temple Mount and the Mount of Olives cemetery, as well as most of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip were under the occupation of the Egyptian and Jordanian armies. During the 19 year occupation of Jerusalem, the Jordanians destroyed the Jewish Quarter and its synagogues, passed laws banning Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western wall and vandalized the Mount of Olives cemetery.

4. The number of Palestinian refugees is most probably on the order of 450,000, not 700,000. The article also fails to state that

► **SEE ISRAEL/PALESTINE**

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Public FORUM

Letters to the Editor

Have you seen my wedding ring?

Dear Editor,

I attended the Charlie Brown production on Dec. 1 at the Fine Arts Center. Sometime that evening, I believe I lost my wedding ring. This is a very special ring to me. It was my mother's, who received it in the 1890s from my dad, who mailed it to her.

My own wedding rings were later combined with my mother's. I lost my husband two years ago, and I can't tell

you how devastating it has been to lose not only my husband, but the token of his love for me. I have placed an advertisement in your newspaper. I am hoping that if any of your patrons find this ring, that they will return it. I am offering a reward, but the sentimental value of this ring far outweighs its monetary value. Any help would be appreciated.

Helen Dabling
801-393-6710 (call collect)

Fantasy lovers more than Metallica 'dudes'

Dear Editor,

I write to take issue with Andy Morgan's preview of the forthcoming movie "Dungeons and Dragons," especially in regard to his demeaning and inaccurate stereotype of fantasy fans.

Fantasy today is more widely popular than ever before. The new edition of the Dungeons and Dragons role-playing game held No. 3 bestseller status on Amazon.com the day I purchased my copy. The computer game Diablo II hit gold status before it was even officially released. Fantasy nov-

els by such authors as Terry Brooks, Robert Jordan, George R.R. Martin and Terry Goodkind consistently top the New York Times best-seller list. (One of the myriad of fantasy series to top the New York Times, the Dragonlance Chronicles, was actually derived from adventures written for the Dungeons and Dragons game.)

Fantasy is also becoming more respected as a genre. Historically, much of the ancient world's great literature has aspects of fantasy. This includes such diverse works as classical mythology,

Norse sagas and medieval romances. More recently, master fantasist J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" was named the greatest novel of the 20th century.

Fantasy fans are not long-haired Metallica "dudes." We are intelligent and creative members of society. Many readers of the *Statesman* enjoy fantasy. Most of the other readers would like it if they ever tried it. The rest undoubtedly consider Budweiser commercials to be sophisticated works of creativity.

New Line Cinema is to be commended for working to bring the world of fantasy to the big screen through movies such as "Dungeons and Dragons" and the

upcoming trilogy "The Lord of the Rings." Those of you who would rather watch hordes of furious dragons (alas, without long hair or Metallica shirts) and other breathtaking scenes of imagination than "hordes of dudes" who watch football, drink beer and scream "Wazzup" into telephones are invited to come see this movie during finals week with the USU Fantasy Literature and Gaming Guild. E-mail either myself at sln6n@cc.usu.edu or Robert Strickland at ris@cc.usu.edu for more information.

Nathan Baker
Vice President of the USU Fantasy Literature and Gaming Guild

Students' tuition less than 16 percent of expenses

As a faculty member, I'm often torn between supporting our administration's request for increased tuition levels and supporting student efforts to hold tuition down. Your Dec. 1 Editorial "Attendance Should Not be Graded" has lessened my ambivalence. I take strong exception to the phrase "USU students have paid their tuition and have the right to choose how committed they will be to each of their classes." This statement perpetu-

ates an outrageous myth.

According to the Utah State University 1999 Fact Book, tuition paid by students accounts for less than 16 percent of the cost of running this institution. Your education is, therefore, heavily subsidized. Aside from the direct contribution of parents, this subsidy comes from donations in the form of scholar-

► **SEE LETTERS**

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- **Fr. Clarence J. Sandoval**, Pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, Logan
- **Ruth Eller**, Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Logan
- **Jerry Hirano**, Reverend, Buddhist Temple, Salt Lake City
- **Frank Johnke**, Reverend, First Presbyterian Church, Logan
- **Richley H. Crapo**, PhD, Professor of Anthropology, USU

This program is free and open to the public. The President's Diversity Forums are part of USU's continuing commitment to understanding and valuing diversity through interactive discussion. For further information or to request accommodations for people with disabilities, please call the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Office at (435) 797-1266 no later than Friday, 1 December.

**Utah State
UNIVERSITY**

▶ LETTERS

From Page 13

ships, from state income taxes and from individuals throughout the country whose income taxes support Pell Grants, Work Study and Federal Grants that cover the maintenance of labs and teaching facilities.

So you can have guns or butter. If you want the right to waste the university's investment in you by blowing off classes, stop protesting tuition increases. As a taxpayer and donor, I expect students who benefit

from my largess to give nothing less than 100 percent commitment to every one of their classes.

David F. Lancy
Professor of Anthropology
Director of Honors

Attendance is important, demonstrates character, prepares for the real world

Dear Editor,

It is too bad if someone on the Editorial Board (Dec. 1) did not hustle to class regularly and now is miffed at being graded for that. It is like buying bread. You paid your price so maybe you can throw slices away. However, taxpayers, faculty efforts and the university's donors paid about two-thirds of your "in-state" costs. Don't you be surprised if they are annoyed when you hunger too early.

You may graduate some day. What to do then? Employers will ask for recommendations, especially from professors. Most students want to regard their college education as the one that required real talent and dedication. We faculty should be honest. If you want

us to write, "... will be an excellent employee whenever he chooses to come to work," then let us know that by treating our classes the same way. Or, we could write, "... considering that conflicts, personal relationships and overloaded commitments will come first, this student should work out fine in your graduate school." Just demonstrate what you want us to write; actions speak louder than words.

We strive to be a first-rate university. We want you to see nuances and the interlocking significance of arts and sciences and to have freshened perspectives on life and life's history. We want you to have unique skills and analytical powers. We hope you will take up the life of the curious and the trail of

the interested. Texts can make just every little thing seem simple and ideal; we want to spare you from some surprises later on.

You'll more easily find the way of education when you come to class, well prepared for the day. The advantage of being on campus is that you can hang out with first-rate academics easier, more often and to greater advantage. The wise distance student will create similar opportunities for herself, even if electronically. The opportunity to learn from experts is what "you" (really "we") paid for. Profit will come later, if you think about it now, and doing it right is very genuine fun.

William A. Brindley
Professor, Biology

Telemark skiing, splitboarding different than what article portrays

Dear Editor,

Come on *Statesman*, you can do better. Your Wednesday's article entitled "Downhill Fun" was not only poorly written, it contained many untrue and misleading facts about telemark skiing and splitboarding. It was quite obvious that Ms. Sulunga, in fact, had no idea about the topic on which she was writing, and spent little (if any) time on her research for the article.

To begin with, telemark skiing has NOT been around since before Christ. Although it is true that free-heel skis have been used in Scandinavian countries for more than 4,000 years, most

historians agree that the father of modern skiing was a Norwegian named Sondre Norheim who demonstrated the parallel and telemark turn in the late 1860's.

The most noticeable difference between telemark skis and their alpine counterparts is not their "metal tips" as the article stated, but rather their free-heel binding which the telemark turn requires to execute. Splitboarders cannot "telemark ski up a hill" as the article states. Although not theoretically impossible, I have yet to see a splitboarder execute a telemark turn downhill, let alone uphill.

The statement "[telemark skiers get] in fact no air" would most certainly be untrue of an accomplished skier under ideal conditions. The amount of "air" one can take is a function of the skier's ability, not the technique.

Also contrary to the article, neither telemark skiers nor splitboarders use "hairs" on their skis, but rather "skins". The name "skins" comes from the fact that they were originally made from animal hides.

Just about the only fact that the article accurately portrayed is that telemark skiing has experienced resurgence in popularity in the past few years. What once held a cult status is now slowly moving to the mainstream public. Misleading and inaccurate information, however, is not going to help advance the sport. *The Utah Statesman* should do its readers a service and only publish articles that are informing, truthful and well researched—articles that bring credit to both the *Statesman* and the activities that they claim to report.

Barry Croker

▶ ISRAEL/PALESTINE

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immediately following the cessation of active hostilities, Israel was deluged with 1.2 million Jewish refugees, the majority of which came from Arab nations. The Arab nations failed to resettle Palestinian refugees, even though they were required to do so by international law. 5. Israel has shown remarkable restraint when dealing with the Palestinians, considering that in more than two months of fighting only about 240 Palestinians have been killed, even in comparison to Western nations. Every other Arab nation would have massacred several thousand people if faced with a similar situation. 6. While Arabs living under Israeli military rule don't have any political representation

except for voting rights in the PA and limited civilian control in Area B of the West Bank, it should also be pointed out that Palestinians are second-class citizens in any Arab country, excepting possibly Jordan. From a basic human rights standpoint Arabs living in Areas B and C of the West Bank (which are under partial or full control of the Israeli army, respectively) have more basic human rights and freedoms than those living in area A (which is under full PA control) or other Arab nations. 7. Israel and the Jewish people are being held up to an unfair and discriminatory double-standard. To expect the Israelis to walk like lambs to the slaughter and not defend themselves is unacceptable and blatantly racist.

▶ LIBERAL

From Page 13

in the last election (1996) only 18 percent of those who voted acknowledged themselves as liberals. Granted, that's better than the percentage of Americans who voted for Nader in this year's election—wait, that's the same group, isn't it? The point is that liberals are disappearing just like all languages other than English in this state.

Liberalism is still alive in some aspects in this country. Vermont allows same-sex marriages; up to eight states allow marijuana for medicinal purposes; breakthroughs such as the abortion pill have been legalized (and it only took 10 years); and prayers are no longer allowed in the public school setting. Sure, they are not adhering to the traditional

ways of this country, but when Thomas Jefferson wrote the Constitution for this melting pot we call home, he wrote it with the point of view that it could change. It's set up to allow for change.

The second we refuse to challenge the established ways of our society or the orthodox views of tolerance and acceptance, we truly have lost our way and even our history as a nation. So, for the sake of the American spirit and what this country stands for, liberalism had better be alive and not only breathing, but talking as well.

*Rich Timothy's column appears Mondays.
E-mail comments to
rtimothy1@hotmail.com*

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Hillary reports for freshman orientation

SHANNON McCAFFREY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The senator-elect from New York reports for freshman orientation this week. With her own Secret Service detail. And the president as her date for a formal dinner Tuesday.

Hillary Rodham Clinton stands out even in a Senate class that includes Jon Corzine, who spent a record \$65 million to win a seat in New Jersey, and Missouri's Jean Carnahan, whose husband, Democratic Gov. Mel Carnahan, died in a plane crash weeks before the election but still defeated Republican incumbent John Ashcroft.

"She'll be there for orientation just like any other freshman senator," Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson said. "I guess there will be a few cameras around, too," he added with a chuckle. After 16 months on a candidate on the campaign trail in New York, Clinton has resumed the high-profile public duties of a first lady since her Nov. 7 victory over GOP Rep. Rick Lazio.

She traveled to Vietnam with the president, welcomed the Christmas tree to the White House and released a

new book on White House history. Interviews Clinton has given in recent weeks have detailed the exact shade of deep-sapphire blue chosen for the White House Blue Room.

Nonetheless, aides say Clinton also has been busily preparing for her new job.

Last week she paid a courtesy call on Sen. Robert Byrd, something of a ritual for new Democratic members. The West Virginia Democrat, elected in 1958, is considered the chamber's foremost constitutional scholar and its in-house historian.

Clinton's attendance at "Senate School" on Tuesday and Wednesday will mark her public arrival on Capitol Hill as successor to retiring Democratic Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

After eight years in the White House, where she was considered the most politically active first lady since Eleanor Roosevelt, Clinton is familiar with the workings of Washington. After all, it was the Republican-controlled Congress that scuttled the health care plan she championed early in her husband's first term.

She joins 10 other senators-elect in a whirlwind of nuts-

and-bolts seminars, ranging from how to set up an office to the rules of the Senate. They will join for class photos and a tour of the tangle of Senate passageways and hideaway offices. Byrd will conduct a tutorial on the Senate's history.

On Tuesday night Clinton will attend the formal dinner at the Supreme Court Building with the president as her date.

One issue that remains unclear is how the first lady's Secret Service protection will work once she is in the Senate.

Clinton, like other former first ladies, is entitled to Secret Service protection for life. The Secret Service regularly guards members of Congress running for president and vice president, and has on occasion protected individual members — Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., for example — for limited periods, Secret Service spokesman Marc Connolly said.

But Clinton will be the first member of Congress who could have Secret Service protection for her entire tenure in the Senate, he said.

"It is unique," Connolly said.

The Secret Service has discussed the situation with the Senate Sergeant at Arms and

the Capitol Police, but Connolly declined to elaborate.

Like all new senators, Clinton is eager to find out her committee assignments. She has expressed interest in the Finance, Appropriations, Education and Foreign Relations committees. Those assignments are not expected to be made until January.

The Senate's Democratic leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota, will determine where Clinton ends up, but a potential 50-50 split in the Senate could muddle the process. Republicans do not seem in a rush to do her any favors.

"She'll be one of 100 co-equals. She'll have to get used to that," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said after Clinton's election.

For now, Clinton's most immediate concerns appear to be the rather mundane details of getting her office ready and hiring staff with her \$2.8 million annual budget. Aides say her transition office and New York City campaign office have received hundreds of resumes. When it comes to office space, she is trading in the West Wing of the White House for temporary digs until early spring when she is assigned a permanent office.

Iraq says it will resume oil exports

WAEEL FALEH
Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraq said Sunday it would resume its oil exports to fulfill its existing contracts, backing away from a halt it called two days earlier in a dispute with the United Nations over pricing. Iraq, the third largest producer in OPEC, stopped production Friday, blaming the United Nations' refusal to authorize a new payment arrangement for exports under the oil-for-food program. The halt, however, did not disrupt oil markets as many had feared. The United States has said it would tap its reserves to counter any Iraqi cut-off and Saudi Arabia — by far OPEC's largest producer — hinted it could do the same, citing the need to keep the market stable. The announcement of Baghdad's turnaround was made Sunday by Oil Minister Amer Mohammed Rashid.

"The Iraqi oil policy has been always aimed at stability of the world oil market. Iraq has absolutely no intention to terminate or hinder the exports of its crude in the world market," Rashid said at a news conference. He said Iraq is working with U.N. oil overseers to export the full quantity of oil agreed to under the current six-month phase of the oil-for-food deal. This phase is due to end Tuesday, but because of the disruption, pumping will now be extended until sometime in January. Rashid said Iraq has no conditions for resuming exports.

Peter Gignoux, head of the petroleum desk at Salomon Smith Barney in London, said Iraq's decision "doesn't surprise me at all."

Gignoux noted that with oil prices still hovering above \$30 a barrel even after falling more than a dollar Friday, Iraq would be missing out on a handsome revenue stream if

it continued to halt its crude exports.

"At the end of the day, they can't bear not to take advantage of these higher prices," said Gignoux. Friday's suspension was "an excuse to push themselves further out of the (embargo) box," he added.

Iraq has been under U.N. sanctions since it invaded Kuwait in August 1990 and was forced out seven months later by a U.S.-led international coalition. The current dispute came when Iraq made its monthly proposal last week for prices on its oil exports. The U.N. sanctions committee must approve the prices.

Then under the oil-for-food deal, profits from Iraqi exports go into an escrow bank account used to buy food, medicine, humanitarian goods and to pay reparations for the invasion.

U.N. experts, however, said last week's proposed prices were too low and the committee rejected them.

Mexico's president wants to boost treatment of Mexican-Americans

TRACI CARL
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — President Vicente Fox pledged Sunday to travel to the U.S. border soon to personally greet Mexicans returning home, providing an example of how he believes immigrants should be treated.

During a meeting with Mexican-American leaders, Fox repeated his vision of an economically strong, stable Mexico with jobs for its people and wages that eventually could compete with those in the United States.

"The dream is that each kid, each young person, each of our children could stay with his family on this side of the border, could stay here in Mexico," he said.

His comments were greeted with tears and cheers of "It can be done!"

Fox urged those attending

the event to invest in Mexico, promising that their dollars will be used to create job opportunities for relatives left behind. And he said his government would study ways to make sure money from Mexican immigrants in the United States arrives cheaply and safely.

Although he briefly mentioned his plan to work toward opening the borders between the United States and Mexico, Fox focused more on what he planned to do for Mexican-Americans in his first days in office. Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda pledged to set up U.S. consulates that will work more closely with Mexicans in the United States and "listen more to immigrants to try to bring them more services."

Fox promised to travel soon to the country's border with the United States and

shake the hands of immigrants coming home — providing an example of how he feels returning immigrants should be treated. Those returning to Mexico sometimes encounter mixed feelings on the part of Mexican officials who may resent the fact they left the country.

Before becoming president, Fox served as governor of Guanajuato state, which has one of the highest rates of migration north. Later Sunday, he was scheduled to continue a three-day inauguration celebration with stops in Metepec and Guadalajara.

He entered the crowd of Mexican-Americans earlier Sunday like a movie star, with many straining to take his photo or get his autograph. He spent several minutes shaking the hands of sometimes tearful fans, and stopped to give a bear hug to actor Edward James Olmos.

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1987 Chevrolet Nova 93k, rebuilt engine, runs great Contact Betsy 792-6093 slf3y@cc.usu.edu

1985 Saab Great Condition \$1000 obo Call 258-5572.

★★★★★

1994 Chevy S-10 Blazer, White, loaded, excellent condition \$8995 OBO, 757-8434, must sell.

A Mazda 323, white two door car with -hatch-back. Runs great. \$1000 Contact Lisa 797-5995

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: Nokia Phone by Alumni Center, 21 Nov. Call 787-2447.

FOR RENT

\$700 Female Contract for Sale!! Great roommates, 10 min. walk from campus, HUGE closets, lots of cupboard space, fun atmosphere large common areas. Getting married **must** sell! Call Melissa 713-4495.

2 bedroom partial basement 800 sq. ft. w/d hook-up, part util. paid. Lease required. \$450/mo Available now 755-9234

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Apartment for rent, \$160 shared/rm female cntrol. Call Cynthia 752-7720 or 753-5099 for details.

Female contract at Glenwood Apartments. \$1070 for spring semester. Deposit is yours! Close to Campus. Great roommates, washer/dryer in apartment! Private bathroom and internet line. Call Annie 713-6430.

Female roommate wanted great location. 693 North 800 East, Alpha Chi Omega house. Membership not necessary. Meal included made by in house cook. Call Breanne 752-6332.

Private female contract for sale. Close to campus. \$700 obo. Contact Betsy 792-6093, slf3y@cc.usu.edu

For rent! Blackhawk Condo, 2 bedroom, 1 and 1/2 bath, garage, contact 801-554-6478 or 435-723-8588. \$650/month.

HOUSE ON DARWIN AVENUE! Female contract for Spring Semester. \$800 plus refundable deposit. New, cute, clean house. Super close to campus. Call Soon! 764-3726

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ON CAMPUS HOUSING contract for sale! Anyone-Anywhere on campus! 5% off original price! Jenn @ 750-5724.

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Why rent when you can own Yorkshire Village Town homes, 2 & 3 bedroom homes, 1 & 2 car garage, first time buyers program available. Model home at 1800 North 300 West, Logan, or call 755-6699. www.yorkshirevillage.com Marketed through Homebased Realty.

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INSTRUCTION

Blue Water Scuba of Logan, Logan's official air station. We can take care of all your scuba needs. Sales, rentals, and instructions. Classes are year round, you can be certified in just two weekends! Group rates available. For more info, call 752-1793.

The Bear River Tai Chi Ch'uan Society will be offering a free introductory class on Tuesday Dec. 5. The class will be held at the Whittier Community Center from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Tia chi Ch'uan is a classical Chinese training and martial art. A gentle exercise, performed in a calm and peaceful manner, Tai chi is beneficial for both young and old. Improved balance, flexibility, self-healing, illness prevention, stress reduction, meditation, internal energy development, and self-defense are but a few of the art's contemporary uses. For more information, call Kayo Robertson at 563-8272.

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WHAT'S MY LINE?

Win Again NEXT SEMESTER! Think funny thoughts over the holiday!

Good entries, some plays on words, some references to casual Friday, but the nod goes to the gag dropped in by ANONYMOUS! (again!) His or her caption is shown below. Keep trying and you, too, can win!

Five minutes into the meeting, Jones whipped open his laptop and knew he was in trouble.



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USUALLY, I HAND-COUNT EVERYBODY'S CHRISTMAS LIST, BUT THIS YEAR I GOT A DEAL ON SOME TABULATION MACHINES FROM FLORIDA...



CYBER SNOOP

Keeping The Germs Away

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/op/>

Topics here include hand-washing, cleaning, food, immunization, antibiotics, pets, and wild animals. This US government site, a part of the National Center for Infectious Diseases, is quite comprehensive and fast to load. If you are worried about germs this flu season, check it out.



Dave's Holiday Gift Guide — Don't leave home without it

Once again, the holidays are upon us, and here at the Holiday Gift Guide Command Center, we are definitely feeling the "spirit of the season."

When our "elves" answer the telephone, they say: "Ho! Ho! Ho!" If they leave out even a single "ho," we give them a jolt with our holiday cattle prod. That is how seriously we take the holidays. It is that kind of discipline that enables us to produce our famous annual Holiday Gift Guide (a collection of very special gift ideas that you will not find anywhere else in the world that has even the tiniest shred of good taste. These are not the kind of "ho-hum" gifts that get stuck away in a drawer somewhere. No sir, these are the kind of high-impact gifts that go straight into the dumpster. Many people ask us: Where do you FIND these things? The answer is that we scour the globe. Every year, at tremendous tax-deductible expense, we travel to Paris, London, Rome, Hong Kong, Las Vegas and many other exotic foreign places in search of items that are suitable for the Gift Guide. But we never find any, so at the last minute we come home and use stuff we ordered by mail.

Bear in mind, as you read this Gift Guide, that every single item you see in it is real. That's correct: We are not making these items up. You can actually buy them! We know this because we personally bought all of them using money graciously provided by The Miami Herald. And if you don't think it's fun to be able to submit an expense report requesting reimbursement for a golf club made from the sexual organ of a bull, then you frankly don't know what fun is.

In addition to actually having our employer purchase these items, we here at the Gift Guide Command Center thoroughly test every item by opening the box and looking at the contents for several seconds. Sometimes we even touch the contents, unless they are meant to be inserted nasally.

It is because of this rigorous Quality Control procedure that we are able to offer our exclusive: HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE "NO EXCUSES" WARRANTY: If you purchase one of these Gift Guide items, and you for any reason whatsoever are not totally 100 percent satisfied, then simply send the item to us in its original packaging, along with the original paperwork, the original deed to your house and an original oil by the French postimpressionist painter Paul Gauguin (1848-1903). You will receive a full refund within six weeks or 125 years, whichever is later. We make no excuses for this warranty.

But enough of these legal technicalities! It's time to unveil this year's Gift Guide items, starting with the truly amazing:

CLEOPATRA NOSE LIFTER
\$79.95 plus shipping and handling from Lifestyle Fascination, 110 Lehigh Ave., P.O. Box 3023, Lakewood, N.J. 08701-8123, (800) 669-0987, Internet: www.lifestylefascination.com

This is the perfect holiday gift for the person on your list about whom you constantly remark: "He or she would be SO much more attractive if his or her nostrils were narrower!" The Cleopatra Nose Lifter is a spring-loaded device that you insert into each nostril. According to the catalog we ordered it from, the device "lifts and sculpts your nose for that thinner, slightly upturned look." What is more, the catalog states, this device "does what many 'nose jobs' do not: It narrows your nostrils to give your nose the chiseled look found in so many models."

We feel that the Cleopatra Nose Lifter (named for the legendary queen of ancient Egypt who was famed for putting things up her nose (is worth buying just for the accompanying brochure, which has this inspirational quotation on the cover:

"NOW I will make my nose one millimeter higher to change my future of the 21st century." Under the heading "When To Use," the brochure states:

"CLEOPATRA can be used in various occasions such as a job interview, an important business meeting, a special date, a graduation ceremony or whenever taking pictures and etc." The brochure explains how to insert the device, using special little tweezers supplied. "If you used incorrectly," the brochure

warns, "the product might cause uneasiness of slight pain." It also suggests that "during the use, avoid any excessive stimulation and impact on the nose."

Also we assume that you should avoid sneezing, because you would not make the best impression if this device came shooting out of your nose and landed in the entree of your special date.

But despite the risks, we think you would be clinically insane not to buy this product for all the people you know who would like to change their future of the 21st century. But beware of imitators! As the Cleopatra brochure warns:

"Notice: Since CLEOPATRA is the first only kind of various beauty-supply product a variety of imitation products of 'knock-offs' are expected. Thus, customer discretion is highly recommended."

We could not have said it better ourselves.

NORI, THE ORIGINAL NASAL PASSAGE CLEANER
\$49.50 plus shipping and handling (from the U.S. distributor) from Richard Steiner, Forchstrasse 279, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland Tel. 41-1-422-6868; Internet: www2.active.ch/gerstei/main.n.html

This would make a fine companion gift for the Cleopatra Nose Lifter: Together, they send the joyful holiday message: "Your nose needs a LOT of work."

The Nori Nasal Passage Cleaner is a hygiene device that cleans out those pesky nasal passages in a unique manner that is hard for the layperson to believe, or even look directly at.

"Blowing your nose is not enough!" states the Nori promotional material, adding that a nose "needs regular cleaning to remove buildup and residue."

This is where the Nori, which looks like a small mutant teapot, comes into play.

According to the instructions, you fill it with salt water. Then: "While leaning over a sink, tilt your head sideways and slightly insert the spout into one nostril. Important! Your mouth must stay open! The salt water will flow through the nasal passage and come out the other nostril."

You read that correctly: The water goes into one nostril and comes out the other. So this is not just a hygiene device; It also would make a great "ice-breaker" at formal dinner parties ("Hey everybody! Watch THIS!") We understand that Martha Stewart has at least one of these devices in every room of her house.

NIPGUARD NIPPLE PROTECTORS
\$8.95 plus shipping and handling from NipGuards, 2232 S. Main St., 361, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103, (734) 528-3555, fax (734) 528-2892, or toll-free: 877-369-1600. Internet: www.nipguards.com

Most Americans frankly do not give enough thought to nipple protection. Or, if they do, they never say anything about it to us.

Why is nipple protection important? For a graphic answer to that question, take a gander at the official NipGuards website, www.NipGuards.com. There you will see dramatic color photographs of a long-distance runner before and after he started using NipGuards. In the before picture, you can clearly see that (get ready (italics) his nipples are bleeding. (end italics) We don't believe that any thinking person can look at these photographs and not realize that "Bleeding Nipples" would be an excellent name for a rock band.

The NipGuards website also features endorsements and testimonials from runners, including the following, which we swear we are not making up:

"Thanks to NipGuards I no longer have to worry about cracked, achy, bloody nipples. Gone are the days when I dreaded taking my shirt off in front of others. I took a trip down to Florida recently and was pleasantly surprised that the salt water did not burn them. This is the first time in years that they have not burned! Thanks NipGuards for giving me back my nipples!"

We believe it was Abraham Lincoln who said, "There is no greater gift than to give a man back his nipples." And so we believe that NipGuards would be a wonderful gift for that "special guy" on your list (even if he's not a runner! He might be simply the kind of man who prefers to keep his nipples cov-

ered at the beach or swimming pool, thus surrounding himself with an aura of mystery and suave debonairehood that has attractive women excitedly whispering: "I wonder what his nipples look like!"

It is an open secret in Hollywood that Brad Pitt purchases this item by the gross.

FAKE HEAD-BOBBING WOODPECKER
\$4.95 plus shipping and handling from Deer Creek Products, 3038 NW 25th Ave., Pompano Beach, Fla. 33069, (954) 978-0597. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

We all love birds. Unfortunately, they are unreliable and stupid. Instead of hanging around our gardens in a decorative manner, as nature intended, they're always off migrating, pooping on cars, sitting on utility lines for no apparent reason, etc.

Fortunately, we no longer have to depend on birds to beautify our properties, thanks to this inexpensive, yet amazingly cheap, fake woodpecker. In the actual words of the catalog from which we ordered it, this woodpecker "adds nature and charm to any garden." It is made from natural plastic, and it boasts a unique "bobbing head" feature, which means that the head is mounted on a spring, so that when a breeze blows, the head wobbles around exactly the way a real woodpecker's head would following a serious turbine accident.

If you have a nature-lover on your gift list, we cannot imagine a better gift than this woodpecker to send the heartwarming message: "I value our relationship at under \$5." This is the very same item that none other than Mr. Donald Trump gives as a romantic token to whatever lucky gal is currently the "special lady" in his life.

STINK BUGS OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE IN AMERICA NORTH OF MEXICO
\$69.95 plus shipping and handling from CRC Press, 2000 N.W. Corporate Blvd., Boca Raton, Fla. 33431, (800) 272-7737, fax: (800) 374-3401, I

Each year, we try to include a literary selection in the Holiday Gift Guide, for the "intellectual" type of human on your list. This year we are very pleased to present one of the "catchiest" titles we can remember: "Stink Bugs of Economic Importance in America North of Mexico."

We frankly cannot understand why this book is not already an international best-seller. It has all the elements you look for in a classic "page-turner," including:

How to identify stink bugs (we are not experts but we assume that you smell them).

How you can lose 85 pounds in just two weeks without dieting.

Pictures of all your favorite movie stars naked.

OK, perhaps not all of these elements actually appear in "Stink Bugs of Economic Importance in America North of Mexico." We frankly have not had time to read it ourselves. But we are convinced, based on taking a good strong gander at it from the outside, that this book will be a huge hit with whoever gets it (especially if you give it to some lucky youngster.

Forget about the Sony PlayStation2 or those so-called "Harry Potter" books. Imagine the look on the face of a child when he or she opens this book and sees, for the first time in his or her young life, a chart labeled "Crop Production and Value Summary of Important

Agricultural Commodities Reportedly Damaged by Stink Bugs," with detailed acreage breakdowns on such crops as alfalfa, corn, macadamias and even dry beans! Do not be surprised to see the child's eyes brim with tears of happiness.

According to Hollywood insiders, "Stink Bugs of Economic Importance in America North of Mexico" will soon be made into a major motion picture starring Keanu Reeves as a genetically enhanced soybean plant who leads his crop in a valiant defense against a ferocious army of invading stink bugs led by the evil queen, Odora (Courtney Love).

LEAF GATHERERS
\$6.95 per set of two, plus shipping and handling from Deer Creek Products, 3038 NW 25th Ave., Pompano Beach, Fla. 33069, (954) 978-0597. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

If you're still using an old-fashioned rake to collect your leaves, we have exciting news for you: You're a moron.

We say this because now there's a brand-new way to pick up yard debris, which is to put

on a pair of these huge plastic claws, which are the size of garbage-can lids. Now, instead of raking the lawn, you merely lean over and pick up the leaves! This means that, instead of spending hours on your lawn, within just a few minutes you'll be on your way to the hospital for emergency back surgery!

This item also has countless other uses for you or the discerning person on your holiday list. If you enjoy scratching yourself (and who doesn't? (you'll be able to cover WAY more surface area with this item, which is why it has been selected as the Official Hand Enhancer of Major League Baseball.

And you know how, when you're at a party, and there's a bowl of potato chips, you're able to grab only a handful at a time? How frustrating is THAT? But not any more! Now, in one grab, you can pick up the equivalent of a giant economy size bag of chips! You'll be the envy of the other guests! The results with fancy hors d'oeuvres are equally impressive. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright never

attends a diplomatic reception without a pair of these babies firmly strapped on.

FAT-REDUCING RING
\$4.95 plus shipping and handling from Deer Creek Products, 3038 N.W. 25th Ave., Pompano Beach, Fla. 33069, (954) 978-0597. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

For far too long, so-called "medical experts" have been spreading the myth that the way to lose weight is to eat less and exercise more. When are they going to get out of the "Dark Ages" and realize that the REAL secret to weight loss is: wearing a ring.

At this point, you're probably saying, "Wait a minute! That sounds too easy! There must be a catch, right?"

Yes, there is. It is absurd to think you can lose weight merely by wearing a ring. That makes no sense! The scientific fact is: (italics) You must wear the ring on the correct finger. (end italics) We know this is true because it says so right in the catalog from which we

► SEE GIFT GUIDE

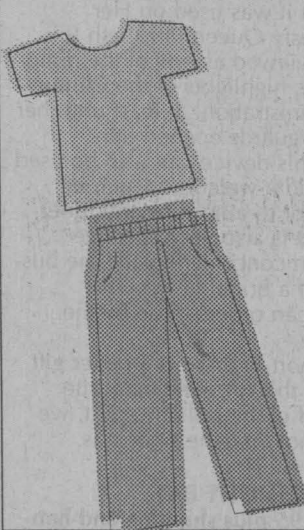
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SCRUB SALE

Wed. Dec. 6th & Fri. Dec. 8th

8-2:30 TSC 1st floor •

While supplies last



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MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

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Price with coupon at check-in. Based on availability. Not valid with other discounts, during Holidays or Special Events.

Catch the Holiday Spirit!

Campus Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 4th 8p.m. • Caroling, Hot Chocolate, Wassail

ASUSU

► GIFT GUIDE

From Page 17

ordered this incredible fat-reducing ring. Here is a direct quotation, written by somebody who clearly is not about to be intimidated by the so-called "rules of grammar":

"Japanese believe that by applying pressure on a particular finger, you can loose weight in a specific area. Each pressure point works to control a different area in your body. Thumb is for face, index finger is for hips, middle finger is for buttocks, ring finger is for stomach and pinky is for thighs."

Whoa! Talk about a simple and logical solution that has been staring us in the face all along! We're sure you'll want to buy a fat-reducing ring for yourself and everybody on your gift list who needs a cheerful holiday reminder that he or she is a bucket of lard. Remember: The cast members of "Friends" wear these rings on virtually every digit they possess.

"PET CHIME" DOG-OPERATED ELECTRONIC DOOR CHIME \$29.95 plus shipping and handling from Pettails.com, 415

Pisgah Church Rd., Suite 344, Greensboro, N.C. 27455, (877) PET-TAIL (877-738-8245), fax: (336) 288-8922, How can you tell if your dog wants to go outside?

This question has plagued the human race for millions of years. Traditionally, dogs have alerted their masters by going to the door and then either whimpering, barking, scratching the door, or making weewee on the floor. Some dogs do all four of these things, just to make sure the master gets the message.

But the days of "low-tech" communication between dog and owner are finally over, thanks to the amazing PetChime dog-operated wireless electronic door chime. When the dog wishes to go out, it simply presses its paw on a special pedal; this activates a chime that, according to the PetChime literature, can be programmed to go either "woof-woof" or "bing-bong."

In short, this is the ultimate gift for the dog-owner on your gift list. Just imagine how thrilled that person will be

when his or her dog learns how to operate the PetChime foot pedal (allow six to 19 years). Our guess is that the dog will be extremely excited about discovering yet another way to make noise. We would not be surprised if the dog filled the house with the happy electronic sound of "woof woot" (or "bing-bong") at all hours of the day and night! Perhaps some day you will be able to buy a companion device called the MasterReprimand, so that the master could simply push a button to activate a recorded message that would shout at the dog: "STOP PRESSING THE PET CHIME PEDAL, DAMMIT!" The dog, hearing this stern reprimand, would immediately make weewee on the floor.

REMOTE CONTROLLED FLATULENCE MACHINE \$17.99 plus shipping and handling from Northern Tool and Equipment, P.O. Box 1499, Burnsville, Minn. 55337, (800) 221-0516, Internet: www.northerntool.com

We shall not mince words: This is the finest remote-controlled flatulence machine that we personally are aware of. Using the remote control, the user can generate a realistically electronic flatulence noise from 50 feet away ... even through walls!

This is not a child's toy, like the so-called "whoopie cushion." This is a serious piece of high-tech flatulence equipment, identical to the one carried by U.S. Navy Seals on top-secret covert operations intended to destabilize foreign leaders. This is also the machine employed by the White House social staff to "loosen up the crowd" at formal functions. The legendary night it was used on Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is still viewed as one of the diplomatic highlights of the Clinton administration, at least until her bodyguards opened fire.

This device can also be used to add a welcome touch of humor to autopsies and funerals. It is also very effective when concealed inside the bustle of a bridal gown. The Vatican orders these by the gross. In short, if there is a better gift than this for emitting a true whiff of the holiday spirit, we cannot imagine what it is.

FLASHLIGHT BAT \$59.95 plus shipping and handling from Good Catalog Company, 700 N.E. 55th St., Portland, Ore. 97213, phone (800) 225-3870, fax (503) 249-0708, Internet: www.goodcatalog.com

Suggested by Jim Martin of Soquel, Calif. For far too long, the human race, when it hears a noise in the house at night, has been forced to carry a baseball bat in one hand and a flashlight in another. After spending decades trying to improve this system, the top engineers in the world came up with an amazing breakthrough concept: Put a flashlight inside a baseball bat! Now you carry a single device that enables you to both shine a light on an intruder AND strike him with a bat. Unfortunately, because the light is in the end of the bat, you cannot do both of these things at the same time. Your best bet is to instruct the intruder to stand absolutely still while you take your backswing, so you'll be sure to make contact with him.

But this item is not just a highly effective weapon against criminals with tiny brains. It can also provide a definite "edge" in a baseball game, where the batter can use the light to flash Morse Code signals to his teammates, or to temporarily blind members of the opposing team. How do you think the so-called "New York Yankees" keep win-

ning the World Series?

So this is the perfect gift for the sports enthusiast on your list, as well as anybody who needs personal protection. Your top New York fashion models all have flashlight bats tucked away in their handbags. It also fits perfectly on a keychain.

PUPPY UMBRELLA \$20 plus shipping and handling from J.C. Penney Catalog, Catalog Fulfillment Center, Atlanta, Ga. 30390, (800) 222-6161, Internet: www.jcpenney.com

We deeply regret to report that, after we ordered and photographed the puppy umbrella, the product was discontinued. We decided to leave it in the gift guide anyway, because we sincerely wanted you, our readers, to know that we have one and you don't, neener neener.

Suggested by Tauba Ingenthron of St. Louis, Mo.

Here is a gift for the person on your list who has one of those small, irritating dogs that look like pieces of lint that have somehow learned to bark. As you probably know, small yappy dogs do NOT like to go out in the rain, so their owners often have to try to protect them with umbrellas. But umbrellas are stupidly designed to protect humans, which means that often the dog becomes, God forbid, wet.

But now, thanks to this amazing new umbrella concept, the dog-owner on your list can keep little Fifi as dry as a "bone" (ha ha!).

Unfortunately, it does NOT protect the owner, who will probably catch pneumonia and die. But that is a small price to pay for a small, irritating dog's personal comfort. This umbrella would also work beautifully with other "critters" such as hamsters, chickens, snakes and children under one year. This item is also carried at all times by the personal chauffeur for Mr. Dustin Hoffman.

"KID'S CAMO" CLOTHING Bib, \$4.95 Diaper Shirt, \$12.95; Playsuit, \$14.95; Booties, \$4.95; plus shipping and handling from Cabela's, One Cabela Dr., Sidney, Neb. 69160, (800) 237-4444, fax (800) 496-6329.

Here at the Gift Guide we are huge fans of the outdoor sports-person community, which is always thinking of exciting new products for sports-persons to purchase in their ongoing effort to win the "battle of wits" against, for example, fish.

This year we have a very special gift item: camouflage clothing for children. It's about time! All too often, a hunt is ruined when a deer or pheasant spots an uncamoouflaged baby and flees before Dad or Mom has a chance to blow its head off. But now, thanks to the "Kid's Camo" clothing line, the baby will be undetectable! In fact, Dad or Mom better not set the baby down, lest it blend into the environment and disappear, forcing Mom or Dad to attempt to locate it by crawling around the ground, sniffing dog-like for the telltale scent of a loaded diaper.

But even the non-outdoors-person parent can benefit from this clothing line. Suppose you want to go to a swanky restaurant, but you can't get a babysitter. No problem! Simply put some "Kid's Camo" on your baby and waltz right past the snooty maitre d'! Or let's say you have to take your baby on an airplane trip. With "Kid's Camo," your baby can scream his or her little head off, but the other passengers will have no idea where the sound is coming from! You can act just as annoyed as everyone else!

The benefits for day-care center operators are even more impressive. Thanks to "Kid's

Camo," Mrs. Bernice Poodlewicket of Rochester, N.Y., was able to take 17 three-year-olds undetected to a matinee showing of the hit movie Meet the Parents. Four of these children are believed to be still in the theater somewhere, happily thriving on dropped popcorn.

BULL ORGAN PUTTER \$99.95 plus shipping and handling from Pure Bull Products, P.O. Box 109, Lehi, Utah 84043, (877) 828-3700, Internet: www.purebull.com

Here is a truly tasteful and extremely masculine item for the golfer on your holiday gift list. This is a putter made, in the words of the manufacturer, from "the reproductive organ of a bull." When you see the size of this thing, you are definitely going to experience deep gratitude that you are not a cow of the female gender.

The bull putter is accompanied by a list of hilarious "one-liners," such as "improve your stroke" and "be the stiffest competition on the course." It would not surprise us to learn that Tiger Woods has one of these babies in his bag, and whips it out to "break the ice" during tense moments in the Master's tournament. Mr. Sylvester Stallone has ordered more than 30 dozen of this item, and still is not sure he has enough.

It goes without saying that the president of the United States is never more than arm's length from this item.

"SUPERHEAR" ELECTRONIC HEARING DEVICE \$7.95 plus shipping and handling from Deer Creek Products, 3038 N.W. 25th Ave., Pompano Beach, Fla. 33069, (954) 978-0597. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Here is the perfect gift for the person on your list who is engaged in espionage or law-enforcement surveillance. This device is designed to enable the user to secretly "listen in" on conversations. "Similar unit used by law and order agents," states the sales literature.

Just take a gander at some of the "high-tech" features of this device, as listed in the operating instructions:

A "headset."

A "scientific sound pick-up design."

A "high audio gain integrated circuit amplifier."

A "power ON indicator light."

A "large volume control with numbered increment settings."

At this point you are saying: "Wow! A headset, a scientific design, an integrated circuit, a power light AND a volume control with actual numbers on it! This device must cost an arm and a leg!"

And that is exactly where you are wrong, my friend. This unit sells for just \$7.95 (about what it costs to see an Adam Sandler movie!)

How can it possibly sell for such an amazingly low price? The answer is brilliantly simple: It doesn't work. At least ours doesn't. When you try to listen in on a conversation, you hear voices, but they don't seem to be any louder; they're just distorted. In fact, you hear the conversation more clearly when you turn the Superhear's high-tech volume-control feature to the increment setting of "off."

So this device is probably best suited for the law-enforcement agent who is forced to conduct surveillance on really boring criminals, and thus would rather not know what they are saying. We also have a theory that if you used this device to listen to "hip-hop" music, you would actually be able to understand the lyrics. But we are nowhere near stupid enough to test that theory ourselves.

EXOTIC COLOGNE SCENTS \$15 plus shipping and handling from Demeter Scents, 83 Second Ave., New York NY 10003, phone: (800) 482-0422; Internet: www.fp1.com/shopping/demeter/demeterhome.ht ml

If you are sick and tired of giving the same old cologne scents year after year, then this is the gift concept for you. Instead of boring fragrances that smell like flowers, fruits, spices, etc., you could give one that smells like... earthworms! Yes, "Earthworm" is an actual fragrance sold by this company. Another one is "Dirt." And here's a festive scent for the holidays: "Funeral Home."

We scientifically tested the "Earthworm," "Dirt" and "Funeral Home" colognes by having some people in our office sniff them. The testers agreed that each of the colognes definitely smelled like something, although to be honest nobody around here has ever taken a really good whiff of an earthworm.

In any event, we are certain that these colognes will be a big hit for the special somebody on your holiday gift list who likes to "make an impression" upon entering a confined space. ("What's that odor?" "I don't know but it smells like a corpse!")

REPTILE SAMPLER \$84.99 plus shipping and handling from Cabela's, One Cabela Dr., Sidney, Neb. 69160, phone (800) 237-4444, fax (800) 496-6329, Internet: www.cabelas.com

Here's the ultimate gift for the gourmet individual on your list who, when he or she gets hungry, exclaims: "I sure could go for a piece of snake!"

Aside from eight ounces of rattlesnake filets, this Reptile Sampler includes one pound of frog legs, one pound of alligator filets, and eight ounces of turtle filets. It also comes with a Special Recipe Reptile Batter and a detailed recipe, which, we are pleased to report, involves beer.

We scientifically tested this item by inviting some knowledgeable individuals to the Gift Guide Command Center on the pretext of giving them a regular dinner. We then confronted them with the reptile meats, which were prepared by an associate of ours named Gene Singletary. Gene is a top catering professional, and although he does not get a lot of requests for rattlesnake-based hors d'oeuvres, he did an extremely professional job of battering these meats and then frying the heck (or, as French chefs say, "fryant la heque") out of them.

The verdict of our taste-testing panel was that the best part of the Reptile Sampler was the fried batter. The least-appealing part was the actual reptile meats per se, which tended to feel, when you tried to chew them, as though they were still resisting capture. Fortunately, our taste-testers had been fortified by adult beverages, so they "gamely" sampled all the reptiles, and even had a spirited intellectual gourmet debate, which included the following actual exchange:


PERSON ONE: The snake is chewier than the turtle.

PERSON TWO: No, the turtle is chewier than the snake.

PERSON ONE: Yes, but a snake can EAT a turtle.

In conclusion, we think this is as an excellent gift to send to somebody who lives extremely far away and thus cannot possibly invite you to dinner.

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



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