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## The Utah Statesman, March 1, 2021

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**Mr.**  
**President**

*p. 2*



Lucas Stevens reacts as USUSA election results declare him the student body president-elect.

Photo by Bailey Rigby

# Excited and relieved: USUSA's new president-elect

By **Alek Nelson**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**N**ew Utah State University Student Association President-elect Lucas Stevens wants students to know that he loves them.

"I'm here for you and I'm here to help you with all the challenges that you're going through as a student," Stevens said in an interview with the Statesman. "I'm so excited for the future of serving Utah State students for the next year."

Final election results for USUSA Logan campus positions were announced on Feb. 26 after a week of Instagram ads, text messages, A-frames and debates. Stevens won his election by a margin of 311 votes, 2,248 to 1,937, against fellow candidate Erik Fogth.

"My heart is just so full for the support and love that's been shown to me, for my peers and for my friends and family," Stevens said. "And that's the main feeling right now is just relief."

The current executive vice president, Stevens' platform included promoting an inclusive campus culture and streamlining USUSA organizations.

Stevens' first priority is revitalizing the college experience following a slew of canceled events and altered traditions during the COVID-19 pandemic. He hopes to use the relationships he's developed with administrators to advocate for students' needs while also clearly communicating to student organizations what precautions need to be taken.

"I think that would be my first priority: helping to bring back events and traditions that we all love," he said.

Campaigning looked a bit different this year, according to Stevens. He said there were fewer people on campus to talk to, and those who were either really wanted to talk or were very apprehensive to do so. Stevens attributes this to the social isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and its restrictions. He also noticed a lot more social media use by candidates in their campaigns.

More than 30 students ran for office in the Logan campus elections this year, with 18 students losing in the primary or final elections.

Despite these students not receiving their desired positions, Stevens said he hopes to include the ideas and platforms of these and other students through the president's

cabinet, which he will head. He would like to have 30 students in his cabinet.

"I would encourage students to apply for a director's spot with an initiative in mind, or several initiatives in mind," Stevens said.


If these students received a director position, they would then have access to USUSA advisors, a budget, and subcommittees to put their ideas into action, according to Stevens.

His message for those who didn't vote for him is that he supports them just as much as students who did.

"I would say to them that, 'Let's work together to improve our college experience,'" Stevens said. "And when we're united, we can accomplish a lot more."

Despite some weariness from a week full of high emotions, stress and lack of sleep, Stevens said he is optimistic for the coming year.

"I just feel so much excitement for the future in this role," Stevens said. "I feel like we can help a lot of people. So I'm just so excited."

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 [@nelsonalek](https://twitter.com/nelsonalek)

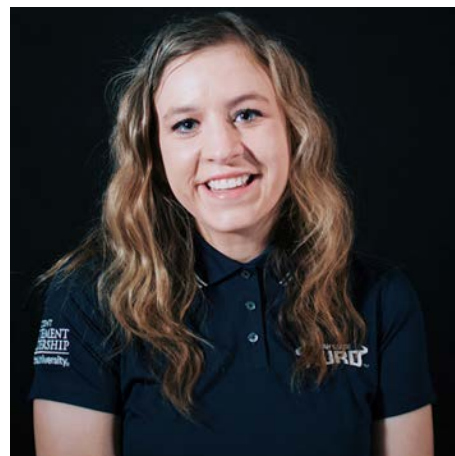
# Meet your 2021-22 Executive Council



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**Ethan Conlee**  
Student Advocate  
Vice-President



**Taylor Sampson**  
Athletics and Recreation  
Vice President



**Alexis Needleman**  
Student Events  
Vice President



**Emilee Harmon**  
Campus Diversity  
Vice President



**Niyonta  
Chowdhury-Magana**  
Graduate Senator

## Election results for Academic Senate

**By Taylor Cripe**  
NEWS CONTENT MANAGER

In addition to its executive team, Utah State university students from individual colleges selected their senators.

Caden Cox defeated Jacob Major with 54.51% of the vote to win College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences Senator.

Sophia Lesser Thorngren ran unopposed

for Caine College of the Arts Senator.

Drew Thorngren defeated Caleb Smith with 62.98% of the vote for Business Senator.

Celeste Rodriguez defeated Maddie Alder with 51.47% of the vote for College of Humanities and Social Sciences Senator.

Chloe Christopher ran unopposed for College of Education and Human Services Senator.

Britney Dikwa-Nkrumah ran unopposed for Engineering Senator.

Meridian Wappett ran unopposed for Natural Resources Senator.

Jonathan Mousley defeated Kendall Morrison with 51.12% of the vote for College of Science Senator.



**UtahStateUniversity**  
STUDENT MEDIA

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**Cover art by Bailey Rigby**



Photo by Bailey Rigby

## USU to become first university in Utah to offer free female hygiene products

By Taylor Cripe and Karcin Harris  
NEWS STAFF WRITERS

**M**enstrual hygiene products will be free and easily accessible in all women's restrooms at Utah State University starting this summer.

USU will be the first higher education institution in Utah to provide this resource to women at their university.

Currently, dispensers for feminine hygiene products are available in most women's restrooms on campus, but each pad or tampon costs a quarter to purchase.

According to vice president for student affairs James Morales, the project is "definitely happening," it's just a matter of when facilities are able to go in and replace the machines in the bathrooms.

Morales said the initial costs of the project will be around \$36,000; this will cover the removal and changing out of all dispensers. After that, it will cost \$600 annually to stock new hygiene products. Morales said the cost is

worth it, and there will always be funds available for this initiative.

USUSA business senator Brock Hardcastle, who started the project, began working on the proposal last year when he was still campaigning for business senator.

"The student president of the Women in Business Association, or WIBA, pulled me aside and said we've been looking at this and wanting to address it," he said. "No one carries quarters around anymore, and that's the only way you can pay for them. So, she said it'd be nice if we could get this fee waived."

Hardcastle said he has a twin sister, so he thought about how she would feel in the situation.

"It'd be terrible to be caught on your period and not be able to access products you need," he said.

Hardcastle said the proposal brought up some difficult questions.

"Can we get rid of the cost just because of convenience?

And, also, the bigger question is is this an equitable process? Is it fair that women have to pay for tampons in public restrooms when we don't have to spend money on toilet paper?"

Hardcastle added the new machines will look very similar, but instead of inserting a quarter and twisting the knob, you can just twist the knob and the product will automatically pop out.

Huntsman professor Lianne Wappett is an advisor to WIBA and said she was in a board meeting last year when the project was initially brought up. She said Hardcastle embraced the initiative and promised that, if he were elected, he would work on it.

Wappett, along with Morales and others on the business council, have helped Hardcastle make the idea a reality.

"It's the 21st century. We should be a little beyond this in a country as wealthy as ours," Wappett said. "Really, it comes down to the ability for female students to have a peace of mind during an unexpected emergency to let them know that we've got their backs and they're taken care of, and they can focus more on academics."

While other institutions of higher learning in Utah currently don't have menstrual hygiene products available in their restrooms, many of them, such as University of Utah, have programs like In A Pinch, which provides items like menstrual products to students in need.

In 2019, the Salt Lake City Council also moved to start providing free feminine hygiene products in some city buildings.

"We shouldn't be charging women and people who menstruate for this very essential and necessary hygiene product," Council member Amy Fowler said. "And as per all discrimination, it disproportionately affects people from a lower socioeconomic status."

According to Free The Tampons, an organization that fights for freely accessible feminine products in every restroom outside of the home, an estimated 86% of women 18-54 will experience starting their period in public without the supplies they need. 79% of those women will have to improvise with toilet paper, and 34% are forced to rush home immediately.

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# Who is Gabby Jimenez?

## Getting to know USU softball's star catcher



PHOTO COURTESY of USU Athletics

**B**efore Gabriella Jimenez steps up to the plate for the Utah State softball team, she rubs some dirt on her hands and takes a deep breath to clear her mind. And then she's entirely in the moment — ready to bash.

This was fully apparent from her performance during USU's 15-7 win over Montana on February 20 in St. George, in which she stepped to the plate and hit three home runs, tying a single-game school record. Oh, and she did it in just three plate appearances.

It was just one of those days for the junior catcher from Sacramento, Ca, where everything seemed to go right. It wasn't that it was some out-of-body experience, in fact, Jimenez appeared to be nonchalant about the whole thing like it was just another day at the ballpark. The only

thing that surprised her was that the opposing pitchers kept throwing her pitches down the middle.

To be able to accomplish such a feat, and be so poised about it, can be credited to the way Jimenez approaches every game.

"Something that's going through my mind is to not take anything for granted since last season got cut short," she said.

2020 was cut short for her and the rest of her teammates due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, which started just a few weeks into their season.

"I take advantage of every at-bat and I just love hitting," she said.

Beyond the three-home run game, Jimenez's at-bat production nine games into the season has been outstanding.

Name an offensive statistical category, she probably leads the team in it. For players with a minimum of two plate appearances per game, No. 26 on the field is No. 1 in the following: OPS (1.286) Batting average (.345), Hits (10), Runs (9), RBI's (10), and Home Runs (5).

To put that in perspective, Freddie Freeman — first baseman for the Atlanta Braves and the 2020 National League MVP — had an OPS of 1.185 and a batting average of .341.

USU head coach, Steve Johnson, can't help but be amazed by Jimenez's abilities swinging the bat.

"Gabby's been blessed with incredible hands. There are certain parts that are taught and there are certain parts

**"Softball" FROM PAGE 5**

you're just born with and she has just tremendous natural skill sets," he said. "Sometimes there's not a good answer for it, she's just blessed with some gifts that you can't explain sometimes."

But for those who haven't been closely following Jimenez, her emergence as arguably the best player on the Aggie roster may come as a surprise.

Jimenez started playing softball at seven years old, and for a while, balanced between that and soccer. Eventually, when her mom told her she had to choose between the two, she realized she loved softball more and went all in.

Playing for a Sacramento travel ball team, she was able to play with the same girls nearly her entire childhood, creating lasting friendships while developing as a player. By the time she was in high school, Jimenez was really good, batting .547 her senior year at McClatchy High School and earning "All-Metro" honors each of her four years.

Thanks to her phenomenal play and the help of her travel ball coaches, who knew a lot about the recruiting process, she was offered a scholarship to come to play at Utah State.

When Jimenez arrived in Logan for the 2018-2019 season, she went from being — as Coach Johnson explained it — a big fish in a little pond, to a little fish in a big pond. She played in just 21 of 40 games her Freshman year, starting in 14, and had a batting average of .240.

Jimenez credits 2019 graduate Bailey Lewis for helping her accumulate the mental and physical challenges of



PHOTO COURTESY of USU Athletics



PHOTO COURTESY of USU Athletics

playing division one softball. Lewis grew up in Rocklin, Ca, a suburb of Sacramento, and was the starting catcher for Utah State for three seasons. Being from the same town and playing the same position, Lewis quickly be-

got confidence in herself and her ability and that's certainly paid off in her play this year."

Having all the attention on her is something Jimenez has never experienced, but it's something that she's prepared herself for.

"Honestly I've never had this moment," she said. "I'm always humble and I just love the game, I don't let it get to me, like bigger than it is. But it's fun. It's exciting."

That takes us back to Saturday, February 20, 2021, which will be remembered in Utah State history

as the day Gabby Jimenez hit three home runs in just three at-bats.

"I don't know what was going through my mind," she said about hitting the third one.

She said it almost felt bad, as if she should have been thinking something spectacular as she rounded the bases. But here's the thing. She didn't need to think about anything. Because she was doing something spectacular, playing out something she loves entirely in the moment. And arguably, nothing is better than that.

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🐦 @jacobnielson12

**By Jacob Nielson**  
SPORTS STAFF WRITER

*Jacob Nielson is a junior journalism major at Utah State University who enjoys watching sports, running and his Aggies.*



**“She’s just blessed with some gifts that you can’t explain sometimes.”**

— Steve Johnson  
USU softball head coach

came somebody Jimenez could trust.

"I could always go to her if I needed something. I could always ask her questions and she helped me mentally to get to where I am today for sure," she said. "She got me tough and all that."

Jimenez worked hard in preparation for her Sophomore season and earned herself a spot in the starting rotation. She had a nice start to the season, batting .279, hitting three home runs, and a team-high seven doubles. But due to Covid-19, the season was shut down just 24 games in.

It was a difficult thing for Jimenez to accept because she finally earned a starting role on the team and was just hitting her stride. But she was determined not to lose any momentum and entered the 2021 season-ready start-up again where she left off.

Nine games in, she has been just as good as last season; and then some. She has had her entire childhood — and then two and a half years of working hard in college — to prepare for this moment. A full season to shine at the NCAA division one level, the greatest league the amateur softball world has to offer.

"I think the biggest thing for Gabby is she's always had the talent but just as she has grown and matured as a person in her time here at college," Johnson said. "She's

# RACIAL DIVERSITY & JUSTICE

AN IMAM, AN INSTITUTE TEACHER & A  
PASTOR DISCUSS

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IMAM, MASJID AL-NOOR MOSQUE & THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF GREATER SALT LAKE

## PASTOR COREY J. HODGES

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## BROTHER ERIC RICHARDS

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# Mountain West announces rescheduled dates for men's, women's basketball games due to Covid-19 precautions

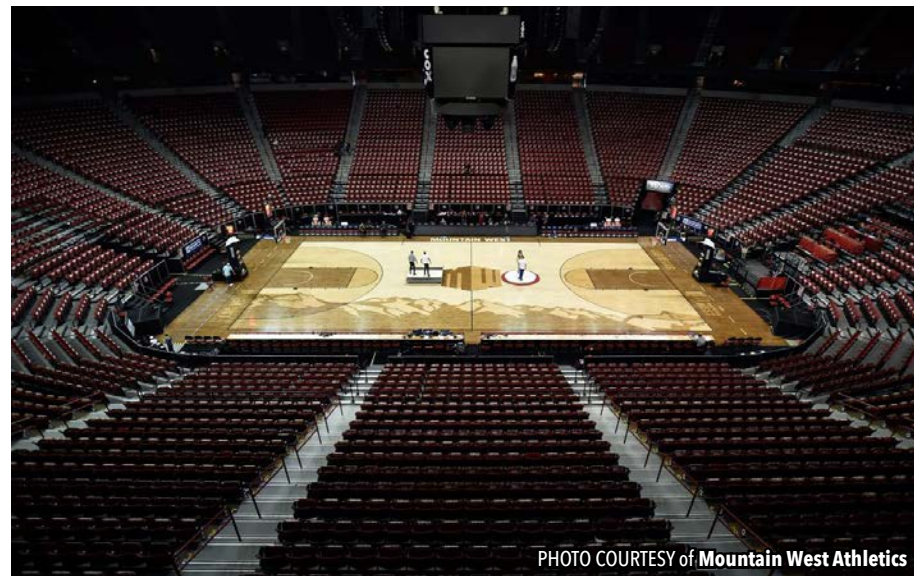


PHOTO COURTESY of Mountain West Athletics

Courtesy of: **USU Athletics**

PRESS RELEASE

Utah State men's basketball has had two more games added to its regular season as announced by the Mountain West Conference on Tuesday. The Aggies are slated to host Wyoming on Thursday, March 4, before closing out the regular season at Fresno State on Saturday, March 6. The games are part of those that were postponed because of COVID-19 protocols.

Fans will be able to watch both games live on Fox Sports 1 (Xfinity Ch. 265/HD691, DirecTV Ch. 219, DISH Ch. 150) with the contest against the Cowboys slated to tip at 7:30 p.m., and the game in Fresno against the Bulldogs starting at 9 p.m. (MT).

"After developing and vetting several models, a framework whereby each team plays every other team in the Con-

ference at least once during the regular season was identified as the best mechanism to balance all the variables from a Conference-wide point of view," the league said in a release. "Among those were potential NCAA tournament impacts, the overall competitive integrity of the league schedule, implications for the final regular-season standings and seeding for the Conference tournament, television contractual obligations, input from multiple league constituents and the cadence of the remaining schedule."

In addition, Utah State women's basketball also had an update to its schedule, with one game being rescheduled from with San Diego State. The Aggies missed their Jan. 16 matchup with the Aztecs due to Covid-19 precautions. The new date will be Thursday, March 4 with the time still to be determined. The game will be played in San Diego.



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# Relying on us: student journal

By Sydney Dahle  
LIFESTYLES CONTENT MANAGER

Last semester, I spent four months working on a capstone project so I could graduate with a degree in history. I focused on how student journalists covered two major events — the Vietnam War and the War on Terror — and how censorship got in their way. I compared two major schools, Utah State University and Washington University in St. Louis to see if private universities had more censorship.

What I found interesting was the type of university did not necessarily affect censorship, but whether or not the university's paper was independently run.

I looked at the trials of student journalists in the 21st century and concluded that censorship is nonexistent for students today.

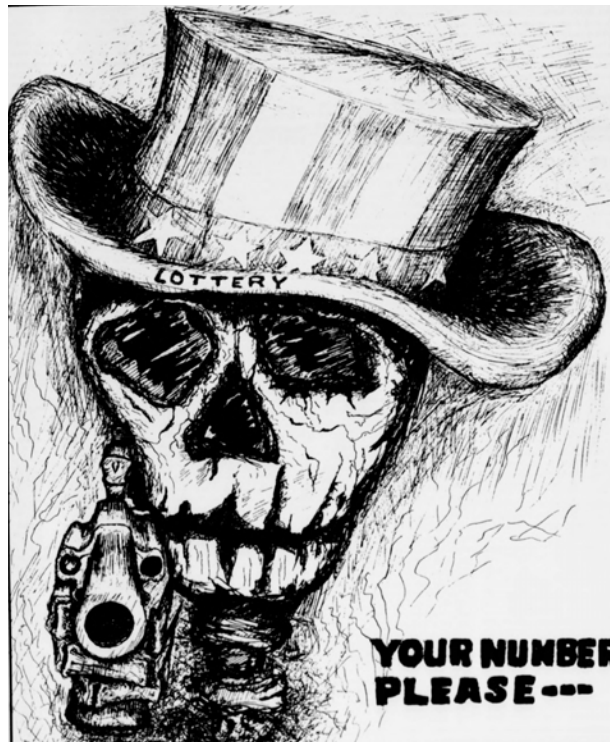
The Utah Statesman has been free from administrative clutches since its inception in 1902. The student-run paper kept Utah State informed during the tumultuous years of free speech movements, civil rights, protests, threats and much more. Originally called Student Life, throughout the 1960s and 1970s the paper was described as “anti-everything” and “slightly liberal” by journalist Jay Wamsley.

“There were fights over whether the paper should be funded at all from student funds,” said Wamsley, “but the paper survived and actually kind of showed me as a newbie that the press doesn't need to be agreed with, but does need to be a major player in the court of public opinion.”

The editorial staff covered a majority of events during this time, from opinion pieces on the United States' withdrawal from Vietnam to coverage of riots on campus. In April 1969, a teach-in at Utah State was held so professionals could talk about the Vietnam War. Student Life promoted the anti-war event where professors and ex-servicemen gave speeches and their opinions about time abroad. The paper even posted photographs of protests in Logan. Anti-war articles were plentiful throughout the USU publication.

Another university I looked at was Washington University in St. Louis. As a private university, WashU is susceptible to more censorship by the administration and covers more violent events. As a liberal university in a crime-riddled city, WashU had a lot on its plate.

In 1970, the Reserve Officer Training Core building on campus burned to the ground following pro-



**Student Life**  
An anti-war graphic by an unknown author published in 1971.

tests-turned-riots of the Cambodian invasion and Kent State killings in Ohio. Campus police stationed outside the building mobilized when students arrived after a strike rally on the quad. The march quickly became violent when a protester hit a photographer in the face with his camera and the crowd started trashing the building with rocks and anything else protesters could get their hands on. The ROTC building was then lit on fire and students burned the American flag inside as they chanted “burn, baby, burn.” The unknown author pointed out the fire department showed up late because firefighters feared for their own safety and “did not know in advance what would happen.”

Soon after this event, U.S. Democrat Senator Frank Moss gave a speech urging students to learn how to “peacefully assemble.” Part of the problem, Moss said, was college administration. WashU struggled with violent protests because the administration was not putting enough re-

strictions or punishments on students who were violent. He suggested cutting off individual funding and credited other colleges for their great job at curbing violence. Although threatened, the staff of Student Life never backed down. WashU was never demanded by their administration to take content down even when the administration expressed concern.

At Brigham Young University, or BYU, students dealt with severe censorship from their administration. As a university of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, students had to follow a strict honor code and obey the rules of administration. On May 4, 1970, when protests at Kent State University turned violent, BYU President Ernest L. Wilkinson was preparing for a trip to New York. Several days later, he decided to address the killings. Wilkinson urged students to remain calm and resist the “present pandemonium.” He sent the statement to BYU's official student newspaper, The Daily Universe, the following day.



The day after the terrorist attacks on 9/11 The Utah Statesman posted the attack on the

## AMERICA IN REVOLT

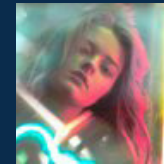
**Student Life**

### TWEETS of the WEEK



@GageCarling

Rexburg Idaho is hell on earth and you can't convince me otherwise



@sierrabenso

Dear Logan, how many credit unions does 1400 N need I'm genuinely curious

# Lists and censorship 1960-2010

When the university president discovered his statement had not run, he furiously called a conference with the editorial board and made it clear that any statement from that point on was to run “unedited and immediately.”

Earlier in Wilkinson’s tenure, he explained his vision of freedom for The Daily Universe by making it clear the administration was in “full agreement with a policy which provides for a maximum of freedom of expression” with an “accompanying sense of responsibility.” Wilkinson would read the paper every week and send back notes with his concerns, both “trivial and significant.”

Similar to the Vietnam War, student journalists had a lot on their plate when the terrorist attacks on 9/11 marked the start of a long string of wars spanning over a decade.

Utah State’s student-run paper, now under the title The Utah Statesman, covered 9/11 and got the paper together for the following day. “In the most devastating terrorist onslaught ever waged against the United States,” David

Crary and Jerry Schwartz wrote, “hijackers crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center on Tuesday, toppling its twin 110-story towers.”

John Zsiray, the Statesman’s current advisor who worked as a photographer during the attacks, said the event affected every student, professor and employee of the university alike.

“It was crazy to be a freshman in the midst of this and watch it all unfold,” Zsiray said. “The TV was on in the newsroom all the time. It was a very emotional time and impacted my entire four years on campus.”

Even by 2009, The Utah Statesman was still covering the War on Terror.

With no administrative interference, Tim Olsen, who worked as a reporter for the Statesman from 2006-2009, said his time on the staff was pleasant.

“We were treated like professionals, both by our advisor and the administration,” Olsen said. “I never felt like we didn’t have access to something because we wrote for the school paper and not the local paper.”

Olsen, who also attended Syracuse in New York as a graduate student, said larger, private universities had difficulty forming these relationships and thus had a harder time covering events. This does not seem to be the case with Washington University, whose coverage of the War on Terror seemed like that of Utah State.

In 2001, only days after the 9/11 terrorist attack, WashU held a community gathering with speakers to emphasize the “concept of a WU family and students dependence on one another in this time of need.” The gathering concluded with a candlelight vigil and counselors who were ready to help at a moment’s need. Another article emphasized the importance of making the Muslim community feel welcome and to report several WashU students who had already received the “go home, you don’t belong here” treatment.

Kate Talerico’s article for The Atlantic argues student journalists today are finding it harder to secure interviews. Part of this is because of the failure to report on student activism. Like the coverage of the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, movements for Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ rights and much more are still covered by publications.

In 2016, students boycotted the Brown Daily Herald at Brown University for publishing racist opinion pieces. The controversy caused students at the school to refuse to comment. Events like this have happened all over the country.

At the University of Missouri, a professor attempted to stop a student journalist from covering a campus protest. Activists at Smith College in Massachusetts told student journalists they would be “barred from a black-solidarity rally unless they vowed to ‘participate and articulate their solidarity with black students and students of color.’”



The Utah Statesman

At Wesleyan University in Connecticut, controversy over an opinion piece resulted in the paper getting its funding cut nearly in half. If the student paper is the hub of all student information, what should occur if students refuse to speak?

That is the problem student journalists face today. Distrust in the media has only grown since the early 2000s and will likely continue to get worse. Without interviews or quotes from protesters, readers will not trust student publications, which means less funding for these independently run newspapers. The problem for student papers has moved from censorship by university administrations to student nonresponse.

Student journalists need to continue using the skills they have developed over the years to be a voice for the unheard and be respectful to those who will struggle to share. Returning trust to students on campus is important not only for a diverse environment but a well-spoken and well-heard publication. No one knows what lies in the future for student journalists, but one thing is certain: they matter.

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 @dillydahle

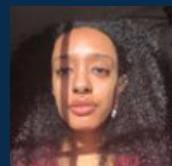


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front cover. Students all over campus were impacted by the events that took place.

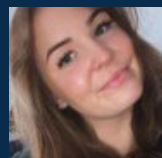
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an essay is complete when i cannot bear to look at it any longer



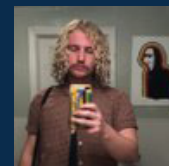
@shelby4pres

FORGET qualifications. The first candidate that brings me a bag of cadbury eggs gets my vote.



@lewnitedstates

finding a boyfriend in the yahoo! Finance comment sections <3



# Interfaith panel comes to Logan



PHOTO COURTESY OF Christine Jetton

By Darcy Ritchie  
LIFESTYLES REPORTER

Representatives from three religions in Utah will be joining together for an interfaith panel discussing racial diversity and justice on March 4.

The panel will feature Pastor Corey Hodges from multicultural church The Point Church in Salt Lake City, Imaam Yasir Butt from Masjid Al-Noor in Salt Lake City, and Evan Richards from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saint institute in Logan.

Panelists will be discussing both prepared questions and questions from the audience on the topic of racial diversity and justice.

The panel is being put on by Neighborly Faith, a student-run organization that looks to bridge the disconnect between Christians and Muslims, and the Veritas Forum, an interfaith dialogue group that began at Harvard University. The panel is also cosponsored by interfaith groups at multiple universities including Utah State University, University of Utah and Utah Valley University.

Christine Jetton is an interfaith student fellow with Neighborly Faith from USU. She has helped to coordinate the event and will be the student emcee at the panel.

“We were really interested in the dynamic here in northern Utah and what that kind of interfaith dynamic would look like between evangelical Christians and Latter-day Saints and Muslims,” Jetton said. “Then the recent new civil rights movement that’s been happening after the murder of George Floyd. We were really interested to talk about a topic that really needs to be talked about in faith circles, which is, you know, what our traditions speak to the beauty of human diversity and

God’s will for oppressed groups of people and for any kind of reconciliation or justice on that front.”

It’s Jetton’s personal philosophy that we can learn more about our own traditions by learning about the traditions of others.

“All human cultures are an expression of God’s attributes, and that doesn’t mean that human cultures are perfect, but the diversity of human culture shows us some of the diversity of God’s beauty,” Jetton said. “I really feel like we can learn a lot about how different groups of people approach God and how people conceptualize God, and we can start to see really how big God is.”

Evan Richards has been teaching at the Logan Institute since 1996 and will be one of the panelists discussing racial diversity and justice.

“What a great opportunity to have a discussion about religion, diversity, inclusiveness,” Richards said. “I think it will help to not only build bridges but strengthen bridges between those of different faiths.”

Richards said that because most everyone has had some experience with prejudice and bias, having discussions like this opens up dialogues to help people of faith see each other in a clearer light.

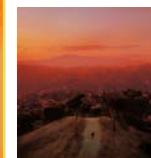
“One discussion won’t cure all of the complexities of our society, but it sure will be a good stepping stone towards inclusion, healing and kindness,” Richards said.

—darcy.ritchie@usu.edu  
@darcyrose

## The Wavelength



Fire and the Flood  
— Vance Joy



I Don't Miss You At All  
— FINNEAS



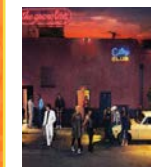
Roll it Out —LUTHI



Clean me Up  
— Thomas Headon



Shiggy — Sports



Dope on a Rope — Growlers



Check out the entire playlist here!





Utah State Capitol Building, Henry Wang, CCO, via Wikimedia Commons

# New Utah bill puts transgender youth at risk

Last week, the Utah House of Representatives reviewed HB0092, a bill sponsored by Representative Rex Shipp that would ban Utah doctors from providing gender-affirming healthcare to transgender youth.

This bill is currently co-sponsored by Cache Valley Representative Mike Petersen and, if enacted, would cause an incredible amount of harm to Utah's trans youth, and to its larger transgender community.

In a report released in 2019, the CDC revealed that about 1.8 percent of high school students identify as transgender (the numbers in the general population could be larger, but there is a margin of error, since trans youth don't always self-identify or self-disclose for a number of reasons).

That means that on average, each high school in Utah could have about sixteen trans students. This data doesn't include anyone younger than high school age, but there are also young children who are trans. Among the trans high school students, 35 percent had attempted suicide in the past year.

This bill would prevent doctors from giving children "medically unnecessary" puberty blockers, hormone replacement therapy (or HRT), and gender-affirming surgeries. (It does contain a provision that such procedures can be done on intersex children, which is somewhat ironic given that advocates have long pushed against non-consensual surgeries to treat healthy intersex children).

Earlier this year, The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Dex Rumsey, a 15-year-old boy from Utah, said of his transition: "I was never comfortable under my own

skin. I always felt wrong, disgusting and I hated myself. These hormones have allowed me to feel comfortable with who I am. It's allowed me to be happier. I don't hate myself, I'm not depressed, I don't feel suicidal anymore."

In fact, a 2020 study in the journal *Pediatrics* showed that access to puberty blockers decreased the likelihood of suicidal ideation for trans youth who wanted them.

Being able to transition is medically necessary, just like an antidepressant is necessary for a young person with clinical depression. The availability of safe medical care and treatment is hugely important to transgender people who are simply trying to live as the people they are.

A video interviewing then-ten-year-old Rebekah Bruesehoff, a transgender girl, and her family highlights this. Her mother recalled the beginning of Rebekah's transition: "At the time, it was the happiest I'd ever seen her, frolicking through the girl's section of the clothing store, picking out clothes, and seeing what she liked. She was just a different kid. It was like a cloud lifted."

Another study from *Pediatrics*, this one from 2018, advocated for both the safety and the necessity of gender-affirming care for trans kids.

They show that puberty blockers are non-permanent and normal puberty resumes after a person stops taking them. The authors also pointed out that puberty blockers can prevent the need for future surgeries to reverse sex characteristics that develop at puberty.

This isn't an issue of a two-year-old boy liking Disney princesses and immediately receiving a vaginoplasty.

The 2018 study said that the transition process involves consulting the family and the child, and "may include the pediatric provider, a mental health provider (preferably with expertise in caring for youth who identify as [transgender]), social and legal supports, and a pediatric endocrinologist or adolescent-medicine gender specialist, if available."

Medical transition is a process that is well-thought through and well-considered, and access to it has a huge impact on trans kids' lives. This bill to block access to this potentially life-saving healthcare is grounded at best in ignorance and, at worst, in blatant transphobia. It isn't needed, the majority of experts and people who would be affected don't want it, and it should not be enacted into Utah law.

*Editor's Note: Representative Mike Petersen did not respond to request for comment.*

*Katelyn Allred is an opinion writer in her junior year of college. She's studying English with an emphasis in creative writing and enjoys reading, listening to podcasts, and baking.*

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# What we lose when streaming platforms try to win

In January, Netflix executives announced their plan to release a blockbuster-level movie every week for the next year. Because of 2020, streaming has become more popular and fruitful as families are spending more time at home. Besides Netflix, Hulu, Disney+, AppleTV and HBO Max have been growing their libraries in order to invite more and more subscribers.

However, this streaming may be toxic for other forms of entertainment.

Since its inception, Netflix has been in direct competition with Hollywood and movie theaters. In the last ten years, the streaming service has been producing more and more original content, as well as forming a deal with Nickelodeon in order to compete with similar sites.

According to CNBC, Netflix has recently increased

their prices for the standard subscription by \$1 a month, and by \$2 a month for premium. Alex Sherman, the author of the article, warns, “Don’t be surprised if you’re reading the same story next year, and the year after that, and the year after that.”

But Netflix is not the only platform expanding their audience.

Disney has recently faced drama that had their streaming scores drop before their Q1 2021 earnings date meeting, and even cancelled their free-trial period to get viewers to commit to paying for watching their shows — specifically original series like “The Mandalorian.” After Gina Carano, who plays Cara Dune, on the show was cancelled on Twitter for offensive tweets, Disney fired her from the company.

Many fans were outraged because of the destabilizing power of “cancel culture,” which is getting out of

hand, and fought back at Disney by canceling their Disney+ accounts. However, Stephan Silver, a writer for National Interest, explained that the trending hashtag and drama will not have much of an effect on Disney’s earnings: “Three months from now, there’s a good chance Disney will announce another subscriber count increase in the millions, with nothing related to Carano even remarked upon.”

The Twitter hashtags #FireGinaCarano and #CancelDisneyPlus are liberal and conservative polarized attempts at generating social media arguments. I agree that Carano needed to be disciplined and dealt with, but the fact that male colleagues like Pedro Pascal have said equally problematic things and have faced no reprimand, says a lot more about double-standards and sexism in Hollywood and companies like Disney.





Gina Carano in The Mandalorian, Chapter 12: The Siege (2020) (IMDB)

In all, Carano got a hard-learned lesson, but didn't deserve to be dumped by Disney or her own talent agency.

In the past, she not only mocked pronouns, but made fun of pandemic safety measures. However, her cancelling is an example of problematic behavior on the part of streaming platforms — executives didn't even bother to tell Carano until they made the news public.

While Carano was reportedly fired for unprofessional social media posting that was insensitive to minorities, people believe that her lack of ability to conform to specific viewpoints, just to appease people, is why Disney canceled her.

The competition of Disney+, Netflix and other streaming sites, will only become worse. The endorsement of certain political views has alienated some fans.

Both companies' selfish natures have corrupted series and movies, making soulless films for the YA audience with no taste instead of creating quali-

ty content. Content is being dictated too much by public opinion, including cancel culture and political correctness, and these corporations have proven that they will do whatever they have to in order to keep subscriptions.

While I agree with the intention that liberal media is trying to attach to its brand — equal representation, diversity and minority empowerment — it's obvious they don't care enough to actually know what a "strong female character" or "proper representation" really is. Service providers will only try to appease people online, with their business choices including firing certain employees, and creating "woke" content.

The effects streaming services have on entertainment are not limited to the poor quality of new films and political agendas. Streaming services may take attention away from movie theatres, threatening businesses and jobs. Whether or not you plan on cancelling your streaming service subscriptions, it is important to know about the agendas and ide-

ologies of the companies you support, and be aware of the true intentions of corporations that will do anything to please their (potential) fans.

*Megan Cowdell is a freshman opinion columnist studying for a bachelor's in Communications. She loves music, reading and wants to write books for a living.*

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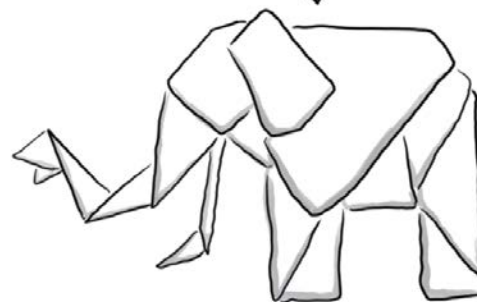
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\* multiple steps  
\* scissors required



2/21

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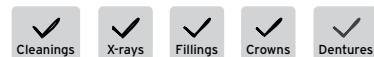
8	2			6				
		6			9			4
	1		2		4			
			9				8	
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Last week's solution:

7	2	3	5	6	8	1	4	9
5	4	9	1	2	7	3	6	8
1	6	8	9	4	3	2	5	7
8	3	5	2	9	4	7	1	6
6	1	2	7	3	5	8	9	4
4	9	7	8	1	6	5	2	3
2	8	1	6	7	9	4	3	5
3	7	6	4	5	1	9	8	2
9	5	4	3	8	2	6	7	1

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Newsflash: Elections week is over.

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**MARCH 3rd**

Noon, TSC Ballroom

Join President Noelle Cockett and Student Body President Sami Ahmed for a discussion about potential tuition and student fee changes

Utah State University is proposing several changes to tuition and student fee rates. The overall net effect will be a 0% change in student fees and a 0% to 2.9% increase (\$0 to \$98 increase) in tuition, depending on the campus, for a full-time resident undergraduate student. All concerned students and citizens are invited to a public hearing on the proposed increase to be held in the TSC Ballroom on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at 12 p.m. This will be broadcast to all campuses through [aggiecast.usu.edu](http://aggiecast.usu.edu).