The Utah Statesman, October 5, 2015

Utah State University

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by Shaneie Howard
WRITER

Another campus shooting took place on Thursday morning in Roseburg, Ore., at Umpqua Community College.

Nine lives were lost, including Lauren Alcaraz, 19, Quinn Bonn Ctoper, 18, Kim Saharan Dher, 59, Luzia Esbel, 18, Jason Dale Johnson, 33, Lawrence Levine, 67, Sarena Dawn Moore, 46, Trevor Taylor Anspach, 20, and Rebekah Ann Carson, 18.

This is the fourth fatal shooting on a U.S. college campus since August, and voices everywhere are sharing opinions about what should be done and how gun control plays a part. Umpqua has a no-weapons policy on campus.

As college campuses continue to be the site of such crimes, the question becomes, "How well is Utah State University prepared for an active shooter?"

"We would have backup if it was bad enough," said Judy Crockett, emergency manager at USU. Campus Police Chief Steve Mecham echoed this statement.

"We think we would be effective but most shootings are over in a matter of minutes... If there was an active shooter on campus, our response time would be between one to two minutes," he said.

Because of this sort of response from campus security, students are encouraged to sign up for USU's emergency alert system, Code Blue, which only 146 students and faculty registered for 2012.

"If we had an active shooter, the first thing we would do is put out an emergency alert with the initial message, not giving a lot of details other than there is a shooting and where it is," Mecham said.

What students should do if confronted by a shooter though is a mystery to most, despite the values of emergency management.

"I would want to mandate for students to sign up for Code Blue and for there to be mandatory training for active shooter preparedness," Crockett said.

Without the video, though, Mecham is willing to give advice to students in case they are ever in a situation where they face-to-face with an active shooter which was "prepare to fight for your lives."

But when students were asked what they would do if confronted by an armed shooter, fighting wasn't quite their response.

"I don't know what I'd do. Cry maybe?" said Kyle Hacking, a sociology major. "I'd play dead," said Katie Graydon, a communication and deaf education student.

"Honestly I'd probably just stand there like a deer in the headlights," said Lauren Fillon, a special education major.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, there was no water for about 24 hours in three on-campus residential halls - Moen, Reeder and Greaves - went without water for about 24 hours, starting the morning of Sept. 24.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, there were students who noticed a leak outside of Reeder Hall in a grassy area and alerted Utah State University facilities, said Kirk Bird, director of Housing Facilities on campus.

After digging up the area by the leak, facilities found that a major pipe had broken and that a part needed to be replaced. Bird said the part came in by Wednesday afternoon, so housing alerted students in the three halls about the water being shut off on Thursday for the repairs to take place.

"It was really facilities who took care of it, we were at their discretion the whole time," Bird said. "We were just trying to keep the residents happy while it was happening."

And with the pizza housing delivered for the students Thursday night, there wasn't much of a hassle at all, according to the Political Research Associates), the authorities drag a motive out of him. If he's dead, the media speculates until they come up with a believable motive (Merce was killed by authorities at the scene. His motive is, as of this writing, still uncertain).

Our nation mourns. The President gives a press release mourning the victims, and usually attends their funeral. Some ideas like more gun control, more mental health care, or less violent media are thrown out, but never result in any actual policy change. The families and friends of the victims continue to grieve as the rest of the country moves on.

Eventually, your friend asks if you remember that horrible shooting back in 2015 and you reply, "Which one?"
This year marks the official founding of the Cache Refugee and Immigrant Connection, or CRIC, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping refugees and immigrants in Cache Valley.

“We were official just this past March,” Nelda Ault, one of the organization’s founders, said. Though CRIC’s official birth date is recent, it fills a need that has been present in Cache Valley for years. Ault began working with refugees as a case worker through the Department of Workforce Services in Logan. She helped refugee families settle in, get their children into school and cope with the everyday difficulties of adjusting to an entirely new culture.

When Ault found out that her position as a case worker was being moved to Salt Lake City, she knew the community in Logan still needed her. “When I knew that my funding was being decreed, we looked all around to see if there was another organization that could absorb the services I had been providing,” Ault said, “and when we realized there wasn’t, we started a non-profit, and that was CRIC.” CRIC serves a community of refugees who have come to Cache Valley from across the world.

“Most of the refugees here in Logan are from Burma, and they are the Karen ethnic group,” Loren Belton, a board member at CRIC explained. “Most of them came from refugee camps in Thailand, where they lived for many years before being able to come to the United States.” Belton said there are also refugees from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Somalia and Iran living in Logan, usually because of job opportunities they heard about from family or friends. Many work at the meat packing plant in Hyrum.

After a long journey, about 300 refugees have settled in Logan, according to CRIC estimates. There is no requirement that refugees register themselves, or CRIC meets those who benefit from its services, usually families. Single working men, Ault noted, don’t need the same help that families do, so it’s possible that there are many refugees in Cache Valley with whom the organization has never interacted.

As a relatively new non-profit, CRIC has relied heavily on volunteer work and donations. There are still many opportunities for members of the Cache Valley community to get involved. “We could always use monetary donations,” Ault said with a laugh. She added that volunteer work is always needed and appreciated.

“We run something called walk-in hours four days a week. People bring their mail and their job applications, or their school paperwork for their kids.” Volunteers are always needed for walk-in hours, but there are many other ways to help. “Folks who want to be involved are welcome to come by a CRIC meeting,” Belton explained. “There’s a community garden where you can just meet people and help pull weeds, too. Or you can donate to CRIC — currently everyone involved is a volunteer and donations will help the organization grow and be able to help more refugees in many ways.” CRIC’s website is www.cacherefugees.org which features more information about CRIC’s mission, an application for volunteers and an easy way to donate. The next CRIC meeting is at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 22, at St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Belton explained how community members can help. “I personally think that the best thing anyone can do is to make sure to smile at people you see who look like they might be a refugee,” Belton said. “I just think how meaningful it would be if you went to a strange place where you didn’t speak the language, and everyone ignored you, or looked at you like you didn’t belong and then someone finally looked you in the eye and just smiled. There are plenty of times you’ll just be smiling at a random university student who is not a refugee, but that’s just fine. Everyone needs smiles.”
Home sick:

Students struggle being away from home for the first time

By

Morgan Pratt

WRITER

USU Hacks: Napping

Doctors recommend the typical adult get seven to nine hours of sleep. But between school, work and a social life, what Utah State University student has time for that? That is why the typical college student is at high-risk for not getting enough sleep. Fortunately, there are tons of hidden nooks and crannies all over campus that are prime for catching some Zs between classes.

**TSC third-floor lounge:** it is a trap. The couches in the TSC are like soft, fluffy clouds that are beckoning you to sit down and sleep, but be warned, it is a trap — I repeat it is a trap. It may look tempting on the surface, but between the consistent pinging bottles and the delectable snacking food from the Polynesian Student Union social, it is nearly impossible to actually sleepy there. Once you do fall asleep, the real humiliation begins because it is such a highly trafficked area. One time I woke up to people taking a picture of me sleeping there and then they uploaded the picture to @NappingAggies Twitter feed. I was mortified that I just kept pretending to sleep, so if you have any shred of dignity, don’t sleep in the lounge.

**TSC third-floor near the counseling office:** fantastic. If you are in the TSC and you need to catch up on sleep, the best place to do it is right next to the counseling office on the third floor. It is great because the couch there is so ridiculously comfy that you literally sink into it and it is more private than the lounge. Plus if you’re lucky, you can catch a therapist dog walking by and get to pet it.

The USU housing ugly green couches/horrid

The hideously ugly green couches throughout on-campus student housing are the absolute worst place to take a nap. Let me tell you, those couches are just as uncomfortable as they are ugly, and they are disgusting biddies. Napping there typically results in neck cramps and restless sleep. I once woke up to Debussy’s Clair de lune played by a Utah State University musician! Plus some of these couches are bigger than my bed at home and they are pretty dang comfy. The only downside is the couches are highly coveted, so sometimes it is hard to find a spot. Regardless, I always wake up well-rested and ready to finish my day and surmounting pile of homework after sleeping there.

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**Morgan Pratt is a print journalism student from Utah who identifies as non-binary. They have three passions in life (other than their husband): people, radio/podcasts and journalism. Morgan aspires to combine their passions in a way that will positively impact the world by becoming a radio journalist. Follow me on twitter @MorganPrattRobinson or email me at morgan.pratt.robinson@gmail.com**

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**TYLER PANN KAPP, a freshman in the Library, Students: we all need a nap.**

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**Morgan Pratt**
The presentation Tuesday night clarified any questions and motivated students to participate in the event. The club will hold a practice meet and go over the topics as well as answer any questions the practice meet would be Oct. 21 and the official competition will be held Nov. 4.

“We are contenders. Involvement is key, the key to success,” said David Bailey of the Utah Farm Bureau Federation.

Woolstenhulme hopes to see more involvement from students this year.

“It is a real organization representing real people who are involved with real production agriculture,” she said.

— elizabeth.dalton@aggiemail.usu.edu

5 Ways to deal with that annoying person in your life

By Riley Thompson

When asked what the sign-up fees were for Young Farmers and Ranchers club, the answer from all across the room full of members was a recurring, “Free $99.” The club kicked off the year with its annual opening social Tuesday at the Agricultural Science and Technology Building.

The Utah Farm Bureau Federation sponsored the event, and the presentation and competition was open to all students who were present for dinner and the presentation.

The club hosts activities throughout the year that help promote learning and leadership to its members.

Last year the club hosted three different lectures from professionals that discussed topics that ranged from wind power to business.

“We had Western Ag Credit in come and do a presentation about finance, debit and how to finance an operation whether it was an agricultural or small business of any kind,” Evans said.

In addition to the opening and closing socials and presentations, the club will hold a discussion meet and competition.

“The event is designed to help tell your story about agriculture, help learn about issues and discuss issues in a non-confrontational and cooperative manner,” Evans said. “It is not a debate.”

Woolstenhulme said the discussion gives students an opportunity to research pertinent issues facing the agriculture industry and professionals discuss them in such a way that helps provide insight and possibly answers for that problem. It teaches participants how they can talk about these issues in a knowledgable way.

Laura Wilson, a senior in agricultural education, competed in the state and national meet last year.

Wilson said her best friend called her and told her to compete in the meet because she had just won the meet at Snow College. Wilson accepted the challenge, competed and won the USU contest.

She flew to Nashville, Tennessee with her best friend, where she competed in the national competition and attended workshops that focused on agricultural education.

“I learned a lot about policy and about being an articulator for agriculture,” Wilson said.

The competitors and the winner of the meet can expect to be well worth their while.

“First of all, you are going to have fun and learn something,” Evans said. “You are going to have some very good experiences that will help you with priceless job preparation. The winner gets an all-expenses paid trip to the national VF and RM must be part of the collegiate discussion.”

The 2015 American Farm Bureau Federation meet will have four award winners. The winner will receive their choice of either a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado or a 2015 GMC Sierra. Three finalists will each receive $2,500, $500 in STEHL merchandise and a Case IH Farmall FSA tractor.

Only six competitors showed up to the USU meet last year. Evans hoped that to the presentation Tuesday night clarified any questions and motivated students to participate in the event.

“People will do more business with you if you have a good reputation,” Evans said.

5. WATCH A VIDEO

There are so many different videos on YouTube that you can find almost any topic you’re interested in. Some of the videos can be related to your major, or you can find a video about something you’re passionate about or something you would like to know more about.

I once watched a video about the history of the Mayan civilization, and I learned so much that I was able to write a paper on it.

— Riley Thompson is in the Huntsman School of Business and is the marketing manager for Age America and the Utah Statesman. He claims to be the No. 1 Disney fan at Utah State University and will challenge anyone who says otherwise. Contact him on Twitter @RileyMthompson.
At a glance: Republican presidential candidates

by Lily Wachtor

This is a part of series, in which every week two presidential candidates will be highlighted for student's interest.

The 2016 presidential election is coming quick, and Utah State University students are starting to focus on the opinions of the candidates. Here is a rundown of two republican candidates' views on issues to help inform student voters.

John Hickenlooper: Born on Feb. 11, 1953 in Madison, Texas. He was a former real estate developer and the Governor of the Florida from 1998-2007. He is politically affiliated by surname: his father, George H. W. Bush, was the 41st president, and his brother, George W. Bush, was the 43rd president. The presidential bloodstream, although beneficial in some aspects, has stained Hickenlooper’s attempt at a campaign unique to his own views and opinions.

Education: Unlike any other Republican candidates, Hickenlooper has been an outspoken advocate for the Common Core State Standards Initiative. Common Core is a set of standards standards in grades K-12 should be able to meet at the end of each year. It is controversial among Republican candidates because education is traditionally handled on a state-by-state basis. They believe it would compromise state autonomy in education.

Immigration: Hickenlooper hopes to create legal status for those people being illegally in the United States. The status would have to be earned on a basis of certain requirements such as paying taxes, learning English, etc. He has campaigned heavily with Hispanic communities, because he is high school family that he started with his wife, who was born in Mexico.

Environment: Hickenlooper has acknowledged his need in environmental issues. He addressed that the climate is in fact changing and that we should be concerned about it. But he voiced his concern for our economic situation taking precedence over climate change.

Social Issues: Hickenlooper is an anti-abortion rights. He believes in every citizen’s right to the second amendment. He says that states can decrease gun violence without federally imposed laws. Lastly, he promotes traditional marriage between a man and a woman, but thinks we should respect and support people wanting to make a lifelong commitment to one another.

Foreign Policy: Hickenlooper vowed in his opinion on his brother’s invasion of Iraq. He ordered an onslaught of question a different way every time after being asked at multiple different events. Ultimately, he concluded that he would not have gone into Iraq. Jeb is Pro-Israel but opposes friendship with Cuba, as well as any deal Obama has with Iran. Jeb has said he doesn’t want to send troops in to fight the Islamic State, but that some troops should “train and assist” Iraqi forces.

Marco Rubio: Born on May 28, 1971 in Miami, Florida. He is a United States senator of Florida and former Speaker of the House. He is a Cuban-American and a former law school graduate.

Education: Rubio does not support Common Core standards and believes education should be controlled on state and local levels. He does support federal loans and Pell Grants because of his costly higher education experience.

Immigration: Rubio advocates for a path to citizenship for those living illegally in the United States, not just for legal status. Rubio was part of a piece of legislation called the Gang of Eight. This was an immigration reform bill that froze in the House. A few defining characteristics were to create a citizenship pathway for undocumented immigrants, expedite permanent resident statuses for university graduates with advanced degrees in any STEM fields. Focus on the current backlog of visas, and improve work visas for low-skill workers in the agricultural workforce.

Environment: Rubio acknowledges that the climate is changing, but does not believe human activity is causing it. He also stated that any reform or legislation to be passed on this issue will only harm the economy.

Social Issues: Rubio signed a bill to ban abortion after 20 weeks. His personal belief is that marriage should be between a man and a woman, but opposes discrimination against same-sex couples.

Foreign Policy: Rubio, although a Cuban-American himself, opposes Obama’s attempt at normalizing Cuba. Rubio would get rid of the Iran Deal and advocate to toughen sanctions. On fighting the Islamic State, he would like for there to be more support for the moderate rebels, even if that’s means a permanent U.S. presence there.

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HOMECOMING WEEK

much need to cook, something binded by the lack of water, said Silva Smith, a junior living in Geer’s Hall.

“It wasn’t too big of a problem,” Smith said. “We live on campus, so there are bathrooms everywhere … they brought water bottles, so we could get water from our well of bottles downstairs if we needed it.”

Readers should be aware that an email about what was happening, as well as showering options nearby. Students could go to the Mountain View and Valley View Towers or the HPER building to get water.

USU Maintenance dropped off portable toilets near all of the halls for students to use while water was shut off. Bird said.

Facilities would have turned on the water sooner, but new USU Maintenance dropped off portable toilets near all of the halls for students to use while water was shut off. Bird said.

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The Utah State Aggies have won 20 of their last 21 games when a player has rushed for over 100 yards. That trend continued Saturday night at homecoming for USU as sophomore quarterback Kent Myers ran the ball for 191 yards leading the Aggies to a 33-18 victory. In his first game this season, Myers set the Utah State school record for most rush yards with 298 coming against San Jose State. The aggies had six big plays against Colorado State, the team has had since it ran 313 yards last season for 313 yards in the ground game unleashed. The strong run-game performance helps the defense. It helps keep us off the field too, it’s huge. Myers thwart the offensive side of the ball, but it also gives the Aggie defense a chance to rest. "The offense playing like they did," said linebacker Kyler Fackrell, "kind of forced Colorado State to play from behind. It’s a huge advantage for us as a defense. It helps keep us off the field too, it’s huge." Fackrell and Wells agreed that a strong offensive performance helps the defense be more aggressive. “It’s pretty solid,” Wells said. “I think what it came down to was being able to take that two-score lead. That 16-point lead really allowed us to pin our ears back. We went after it and tried to make them a little more one dimensional.” — kalen.taylor@gmail.com @kalen_taylor

Utah State tennis looks sharp in Boise

By Ben Fordham

Utah State gained valuable experience for the spring season from the Dar Walters Boise State Fall Classic over the weekend. “There is definitely plenty of work to do prior to us being ready for the spring season,” said Utah State head coach Clancy Shields. “I’m pleased with the way some of the guys have started to separate themselves in tournament play, especially James (Barajas).” Barajas competed for the singles title in the tournament, but ultimately fell to top-seeded Thomas Tanci of Boise State in three sets. USU had an opportunity for a doubles title, but sophomore Andrew Nakajima and freshman Luis Lopes dropped the final round to Seattle University’s Matthew Alderson and Connor Leahy. “We will continue to instill the competitive drive the guys need in order for Utah State to become a top, nationally ranked program,” added Shields.

Utah State’s next match will be held at the ITA Mountain Region Championships on Oct. 21 in Albuquerque, NM.
FOUR TAKEAWAYS FROM THE HOMECOMING GAME

By every conceivable metric, the Aggies played their most complete game Saturday en route to a 33-18 win over Colorado State. Of course opening conference play play 1-0 is good, but it was the way USU went about it that has fans eying a shot at the Mountain West crown. The defense is solidifying into one of the conference’s best, and starting quarterback Kent Myers has the Aggies’ once-dormant offense finally up and running. Even with the noticeable improvements made on both sides of the ball, Utah State has yet to reach its full potential — a prospect that should excite anyone looking ahead to the week-seven showdown at home against No. 25 Boise State.

1. MYERS MANIA IS FOR REAL

The Rams weren’t ready. Last year’s narrow loss in Fort Coll- ins saw both Dardell Carter and Craig Harrison under center, but then-freshman Myers was forced to watch from the sidelines as a late pick- off ended their hopes. Following a spring where Myers was in the mix with both Darell Garrettson and Kent Myers has the Aggies’ offense suddenly making significant strides toward the high-fly- ing potential fans anticipated.

2. BIG PLAYS FOR EVERYONE

Everyone knew how many USU rushers had gains of 30 yards or more against CSU. The only correct answer is “all of them.” Myers recorded a 34-yard scramble. Lajenay Hunt blew through the most wide-open hole in the history of running plays for a 33-yard score. Myers rumbled for a 30-yarder of his own — half of his 60-yard total for the day.

After just six plays of 20 yards or more all year, the Aggies tallied eight such plays Saturday night, including a 42-yard bomb to Hunter Sharp for a score. That doesn’t mean the offense is to- tally in the clear — Utah State stormed into the red zone three straight times in the second half before stalling and settling for field goals. Big plays are fun, and coaches are doing an excellent job making adjustments to the O-line to give the offense more of a chance, but USU can still work on finishing the end zone.

3. IT’S A PENALTY PARTY, AND EVERYONE’S INVITED

Twelve penalties for 125 yards is a death sentence in most football games. Fortunately for USU, the Rams managed a near-identical 12 penalties for 110 yards, so it’s not like either team was playing mistake-free. Penalties are frustrating, espe- cially in front of a friendly crowd. At one point late in the second half, CSU was called for a false start twice in a row due to shifts in the Aggie D-line. That’s somewhat ex- ceptable — the Rams couldn’t hear, confusion set in, and sud- denly they were sitting at 1st and 20. However, if Utah State is real- ly planning on making a run at the conference title, coughing up penalties on an ongoing basis is a death sentence. The Rams were in the red zone three times and the Aggies stopped them from scoring twice. Anything below the 20 is a false start twice in a row.

4. KYLER FACKRELL IS A BEAST

No really, that’s it. Fackrell is NFL-level talent, and everyone should just enjoy watching him in an Aggie uniform while they still can. Three tackles for a loss and a sack Saturday is just one more line on his already impressive resume.

Things for this team are coming to- gether. Hanging 33 on a pretty good conference foe is encouraging, and the defense will continue to evolve. Adjustments in the secondary for a better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re better pass defense are next on the priority list — CSU managed 252 yards through the air — but if you’re
Students are drowning. Students are drowning in home- work, study groups, world- club involvement, dating, sleepwalking, weekend life, sporting events, eating, cleaning their rooms, chatting with mom on the phone, shower- ing, grocery shopping, Etc.

Students are drowning. All over campus. And it never stops. It is sheer madness. So how do we change this?

A few years ago, in the mid- dle of the one of my hardest and busiest semesters ever, a friend gave me some novel advice: “It’s okay to say No.” It’s okay to just do some of the things you love and just be a student. You are a student first, after all.

I had never thought of that. Which probably was why it took me until then to realize I wasn’t even living every thing I was doing at the time, anyway. So why was I even doing all of it?

I think maybe everywhere, no matter what they’re in- volved in, no matter what they do, should re-evaluate exactly what they are doing. Do you love playing intramus- cular soccer, being secretary of the Japanese club, having schoolwork for 16 credits, holding game nights at your apartment every Friday, work- ing 15 hours a week as a wait- er, while also volunteering with Best Buddies a few days a week?

Maybe. But probably, you mostly just feel like you are drowning 95 percent of the time. I challenge all of you Aggies to take control. Don’t fall into the stigma, the status quo, the lie that all we have to be superhuman, that all we have to be involved in at least nine other things besides school to be a successful per- son. College is about discov- ering yourself, and discovering what you really want and what you really want to do. Don’t listen to everyone who says that. Because, most like- ly, that’s just what they’re hearing from everyone else.

You have at least eight dif- ferent semesters do try every- thing out. Don’t try it all out in one. Don’t drown in college. En- joy it.

— Mandy Morgan Ditto

Mandy Morgan Ditto

Opinion: Stress is drowning students

PAGE 1

SHOOTING FOR PAGE 1

We as a society find some- thing to blame. Maybe we blame our poor parenting. Maybe we blame bad schooling. Maybe we blame our lack of having enough secu- rity. Maybe we blame our violent media. Maybe we blame our laziness. Maybe we blame our climate. Maybe we blame our government. Except, that objectively there is too many rhetoric. If we are really desperate, we might even allow ourselves to accept the realities of rampant misogyny and rac- ism so that we can blame them.

We don’t blame these things because we actually understand to do anything about them, of course, otherwise we would be pouring re- sources into mental health programs, race and gender education programs, or even funds to sponsor non-vio- lent media. We blame these things because they are ab- stract “facts” about the world we want to believe is true. We feel it means that we can rationalize these kinds of mass shootings as a simple fact of life, or at least a fact of American life.

In other words, we just ac- cept that the mass killing of innocents, while absolutely tragic, is simply something that we have to learn to live with.

Except, that objectively isn’t true. We know that other developed nations simply don’t have this prob- lem. The United States has a firearm-related fatality rate of 15.9 per 100,000 people. That’s higher than all but a few countries in Africa, Central America and South America. It’s also about four- times higher than every sin- gle country in Europe, all of whom have stricter gun and ammunition laws than we do (yes, even Switzerland).

We know, objectively, that most mass shootings are perpetrated by individuals who, under the current laws, acquired their firearm legal- ly. We know objectively that this situation is objectively within the US that have stricter gun laws have a significantly lower fire- arm-related fatality rate than states that don’t. We know objectively that places with fewer guns have fewer homicides (so no, the mass killers of the world will not just do their dirty work with knives).

We know how to prevent a big part of this problem. We don’t need to. We choose to obliterate the issue by blaming some external force that we can’t possibly con- trol. We choose to wait be- fore acting because it’s too soon to “politicize” this issue, then never actually get around to addressing it. We chose to pretend that we could have prevented this tragedy if we had had even more guns with which to defend ourselves, even though there are already al- most as many guns in this country as people. We as a nation have decid- ed that this situation — where situation college stud- ents and movie-goers and church attendants and young children are gunned down — is one we can live with.

— George Austin LaBonty

LaBonty is a freshman student of Political Science and philoso- phy. He attends Brigham Young High School and has been involved with everything from marching band to academic death. He also runs a podcast on film theory with Alex Nies. Follow him on twitter @GALaBonty.

Letter to the Editor: CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change has been a topic of interest for quite some time. Unfortunately it has quickly become a political is- sue. That is a huge problem.

When climate change was brought to the foreground it immedi- ately became a debated issue and something would be said against it. Different people gain ground when opposing topics of in- terest. Naturally somebody who makes money from fos- sil fuels would stand against the reality of climate change.

So how do we change this? One person would most likely be a part of a be- lief system that requires any facts which would threaten their business. Science and research are proving time and time again that climate change is real and it is hu- man caused. When climate change was brought into politi- cs, it immediately became a debated issue and became polarized. There are many belief systems that mark cli- mate change as untrue or an important topic for vari- ous reasons, and many people believe it.

Our belief system is a core reason why people don’t want to look deeper into climate change. Perhaps those indus- tries contributing to climate change are providing jobs for a family who needs the in- come. That family might not have another option, yet an- other fundamental problem in the climate change debate. How will Anti-people and buy- ing what you really love and what you really want to do. Don’t listen to everyone who repressed. We are the gen- eration that needs to deal with one of the biggest issues in human history. There are a lot of factors that contribute to climate change, that all. Stopping cli- mate-caused, but we are by far the biggest threat to our- selves, and the planet as we know it. As humans we have ingrained ourselves into the biosphere, traveled to all cor- ners of the globe, and have made amazing discoveries. Over tens of thousands of years we have developed incredible techniques, and our adapt- ability is incredible. With our intelligence beyond any other- wise we have the tools to solve climate change. Slowing cli- mate change into politics, and everybody will fight it.

We need to change, or we can continue on the same path to make our children and grandchildren suffer.

Our government provides more subsidies for the fossil fuel industries than it does for clean renewable energy, and it needs to stop. We need to be able to defeat climate change but we can’t go down without a fight. We need to embrace renewable technol- ogy to become sustainable with our future. From there, we will be able to create a world where, show- ing that we can fight to save our environment and influ- ence climate change, whatever cli- mate change is a worldwide issue, and everybody will work to fight it.

— Brendan Whitman

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MONDAY OCT 5
WE BELIEVE IN SAFE FAMILIES
Historic Cache County Courthouse
Free, 5:30 pm
MOVIE MONDAY-MONSTER HOUSE
North Logan Library
Free, 6:30 pm
DEAN’S CONVOCATION WITH RITA MORENO
USU Performance Hall, USU Campus
Free, 7:00 pm
THRILLER
Ellen Eccles Theater-Cache Valley Center for the Arts
$20, 7:30 pm

TUESDAY OCT 6
MUSIC FOR THE SMALL & TALL: DANCING LEAVES
Thatcher-Young Mansion
$56, 11:00 am
OPEN STREETS FESTIVAL
Aggie-Bullevard
Free, 3:00 pm
MUSIC FOR THE SMALL AND TALL
Thatcher-Young Mansion
$56, 4:00 pm
CORN MAZE ON THE FARM
American West Heritage Center
$5-$12, All Day

WEDNESDAY OCT 7
WILLIAM WOODY, USFWS - A REPORT FROM THE FRONT
Biology-Natural Resources Building, Room 102, on the USU campus, Logan
Free, 7:00 pm
CORN MAZE ON THE FARM
American West Heritage Center
$5-$12, All Day