

STUDENT REVIEW

An independent forum
for student thought



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The *Student Review* is an independent publication serving BYU's campus community. By providing an open forum, all students are equally eligible to submit articles to the *Student Review*. Articles should examine life at BYU, sometimes humorously, sometimes critically, but always sensitively. Opinions expressed in the *Student Review* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of BYU, the *Student Review* or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of The Student Review. Enjoy.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the *Student Review*. The publication you hold in your hands represents hundreds of hours of unpaid work by your fellow BYU classmates. The process of starting a newspaper is a daunting one. It requires writers, editors, humorists, artists, photographers, organizers, web designers and business people. The fact that you are holding this issue is a testament to the amazing talents of your fellow students. The *Student Review* is a publication with a history. We thank and honor those *Student Review*-ers who originally founded the publication and set the precedent for what we are currently trying to do.

The *Student Review* is an independent, student-produced publication that seeks to be an open forum in facilitating student thought and discussion within the BYU campus community.

As articulated in Hunter Schwarz's article, the *Daily Universe*'s status as a "lab" paper means its staff is limited to those majoring in communications. We do not criticize the *Daily Universe* for this policy. We understand that they have the obligation to train their students with the skills they will need to enter the workforce. However, the unfortunate consequence of this "lab" paper status is that the published "voice" of our BYU campus is drastically limited.

At the *Student Review*, we believe that any student who attends Brigham Young University is qualified to write about their university experience due simply to the fact that they are BYU students. Their voices are important. Their opinions deserve to be heard. And their viewpoints, struggles and stories contain valuable insight and information that can aid us in our journey toward becoming better-educated members of our campus community and more understanding children of God.

We have no set staff on the *Student Review*. Instead, we have a group of "contributing writers" that will change and shift throughout the year. We do this because we see the entire university community as our "staff." We sincerely hope that the *Student Review* will become a place where any student can write about what motivates him or her from a position of authority, an authority that comes from being an active participant in the campus community.

Now, a warning: If you expect us to suspend our God-given senses of humor simply because we are writing about BYU, you will be sorely disappointed with this publication. We love BYU! And we love it mainly because it gives us so much to laugh and joke about. Just think of our common BYU culture! The words we use, the way we dress, the references only we know. To avoid poking fun at these things simply isn't healthy. We believe that laughing at our shared peculiarities helps us not to take ourselves too seriously, a flaw that can have horrible consequences.

We believe in BYU. We believe in our student body. We believe they can handle an open forum to showcase their thoughts. But we also worry that we are, in large numbers, asleep, passively going in and out of the doors of this amazing institution, unchanged people. We at the *Student Review* believe that a true education can only occur through the interaction of different ideas and viewpoints, an interaction we have hoped to facilitate in the pages you are currently holding. We hope it will spur you to new thoughts, increased conversation both at home and in the classroom and if nothing else, a lot of laughter. We make no claims to perfection but we do uniformly reaffirm our deep desire to try. If there are mistakes, they are the mistakes of men and we ask your help in improving them. Have an idea? Write about it. Have a concern? Write about it and send it to us. Think we are doing a horrible job? Let us know how we can get better! Have a joke? PLEASE write it to us (excluding Helen Keller and Chuck Norris jokes. We've really heard them all)!

We can't do this without you, and without you, this isn't even worth doing.

Happy reading!

Tamarra Kemsley
Craig Mangum
Hunter Schwarz

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Expand your Universe

by hunter schwarz

In 1986, a group of BYU students started the *Student Review*, an independent, student run newspaper that provided a fresh perspective and independent voice for the campus community.

During the paper's run, it published stories on topics including the Honor Code, academic freedom and gender issues as well as taking a lighthearted look at the more humorous elements of Provo culture. In 1990, the Review even contributed to taking down a congressional campaign when it published an article investigating a candidate's business practices. The paper, distributed off campus, reached a circulation of 10,000 and was a hit with the student body.

After an 11-year hiatus, the *Student Review* is being brought back. As the only newspaper targeted for the BYU community that is run entirely by students, we hope to provide an untethered perspective and cover topics our campus paper cannot while remembering to not take ourselves too seriously and adhering to the strictest code of journalistic integrity.

Today, many Americans lack confidence in the news media. A July Gallup poll found only 28 percent of Americans have "a great deal" of confidence in newspapers, a slightly greater percentage than television news. Considering issues facing the news media today, like polarization, it's under-

standable why some villainize journalists.

But journalism is vital. It is a crucial piece of our democratic society.

The cardinal virtue of journalism is to seek truth and report it while providing a "fair and comprehensive account of events and issues," according to the Society of Professional Journalists. It's a cause that is extremely congruent with a faith such as ours.

Mormonism is a religion grounded in the pursuit of truth. Our founding prophet sought out truth himself by going to the source of it rather than accepting the status quo. Our missionaries across the world spread our faith by asking earnest investigators to read the *Book of Mormon* and ask God if it's true.

Our campus paper is award winning, but due to its limitations as a "lab" paper used as a teaching tool for journalism students, there are issues it cannot cover. The *Student Review* hopes to complement it. Our goal is to report truth and be a forum for discussion that includes the diversity of experiences and opinions at BYU. ■

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

Contribute to the Student Review!

We accept submissions from students of all disciplines. Our goal is to showcase as many different student voices and opinions as possible. If you have an idea, story, letter to the editor, opinion piece or simply want an assignment, send us an e-mail at thestudentreview2@gmail.com.

Two different pictures of BYU

by alex christman

"I can see two totally different pictures of the BYU, each one a reality: From one direction I see high purpose, sobriety, good cheer, dedication, and a measure of stability which in this unquiet world is by no means to be despised. Then by shifting my position but slightly I see a carnival of human vanity and folly to which only Gilbert & Sullivan could do justice, with solemn antics before high heaven that make the angels weep. Why take sides or contend? Both of the pictures are genuine!" HUGH NIBLEY, "SOME REASONS FOR THE RESTORED GOSPEL," p. 7

I moved to Provo in August 2008. A convert to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I had been a member for almost three months by the time I started classes that fall. I self-identified as a liberal redneck from Cincinnati. Culture shock almost killed me.

Three years later, I'm finally starting to figure this place out.

Provo and BYU are tough no matter who you are. They're tough because there's so much good in them.

When I first came I wanted culture, humor, anger, indignation, excitement, and change. The hardest thing about this place is the realization that all of those things are at the heart of BYU, and yet so unaccessed.

Fall of 2010 I worked as an archivist for a project documenting and highlighting social activism at BYU. In conjunction with this job, I was also working as an archivist for a project that outlined the academic and administrative history of BYU. As I began to understand the form of BYU, I began to more fully understand its need for an outspoken, popular print publication.

The best evidence for this was the *White and Blue*, a student-run campus publication that ran from 1898-1921. The paper was as an honest and open forum for student expression which ran explanations and articles in defense of evolution within its pages. Especially harrowing was the fact that, in 1911 when the Church dismissed three ardent pro-evolution professors from the University, the *White and Blue* allowed one of the professors to run a four-page defense of evolution.

Of course, the student-run campus publication didn't continue in this fashion. Following the *White and Blue* was *YNews* and then the *Daily Universe*. While the insightful and variegated views of students were softly eliminated from the official

campus newspaper, they found ways to flourish elsewhere. Through my research I've located three off-campus, student-run newspapers.

During the Vietnam War, a short-run paper called *Zion's Opinion* was distributed across campus. In the early eighties, the clear predecessor was *7th East Press* which achieved acclaim and some extreme resentment from the administration.

Following the closure of *7th East Press* came the *Student Review*. As the longest running non-official student-operated press in BYU's history, the *Student Review* inspired, entertained, and infuriated students and faculty at BYU from the late 80's almost up until the millennium.

I've been researching the multiple and incredibly ingenious ways in which BYU students have had their voices heard for over a year. I could talk at length about VOICE, Parity, Amnesty International, or any number of student-based organizations that have popped up throughout BYU's history, only to be quickly washed over by the ebb and flow of student consciousness. But, honestly, there are other places to do that. Just knowing that there exists, intentionally carved into the character of Brigham Young University and its students, the imperative to seek out truth and to express oneself openly for the edification of all is comforting. And, in the end, knowing about all of these things is not the only important part of keeping this tradition alive.

I have personal experience with a failed BYU start-up. In the summer of 2010, in

the midst of my research and excitement, I decided I would try and be the salvation of the stranded and culture-stricken BYU student. I started my own online magazine called *Bare Bones Magazine*.

We threw two parties at my house, published pretty good material for almost six months, and then I lost interest in being the sole generator and solicitor of material for the site.

When I started, I felt giddy. I felt powerful. And, in fact, we did some good stuff. We put on a symposium flush with respectable members of the campus and church community to discuss the need to be environmentally sustainable. The aim was to continue the subsidization of the UTA bus pass. The following day, Jan Scharman, vice president of student life, put out a disclaimer in the *Daily Universe* stating very pointedly that the UTA subsidy was ending and there was no more discussion. Although unsuccessful, at least somebody heard us.

In the end, however, despite whatever small things we sort of tried to do, I felt drained. And upset. I felt like the student body just wasn't interested in getting involved. I felt like I was the only person who cared about social justice and equality at BYU. I felt futile and ignored. So I quit.

There will be times when those of you who attend BYU feel alone. It doesn't matter whether you care about the bus pass or social justice or fashion or music. We attend a school of thirty thousand students. As much as we love to joke about the unifying pressures or culture we experience here

at BYU, the fact is that we're an incredibly divided and multi-cultural campus.

Just because we're really white and Mormon doesn't mean we're all the same. And that ultimately makes us lonely. So we forget that we all are allowed to have a place for ourselves. A place to feel comfortable. For some of the campus population, that place is Fat Cats. Shame on them. But for some of us, the place we most need in order to feel comfortable is a place of free and open speech.

There are those who would say BYU is a monster, a haven of censorship and hatred. I think I've probably said that before. In fact, I once wrote, "When I write my tell-all memoir about BYU, it's going to be called 'Should You Feel Inclined to Censor.'" And you know, it's kind of true. But, on the other hand, BYU was founded on freedom of speech, a necessity to learn and grow in our spiritual and temporal education. And as many times as I've watched good organizations of motivated and faithful students get taken down, I've also seen students educated, illuminated, and enhanced by the experiences they have at BYU. Why take sides or contend? Both of the pictures are genuine! ■

Romney & Huntsman: Who's hotter?

by alexandra sandvik

To a majority of Americans, there doesn't seem to be that much difference between Republican presidential hopefuls Mitt Romney and Jon Huntsman.

For the most part, they fit the mold for the Grand Old Party's candidacy quite well. They both come from ridiculously wealthy families and have both exponentially increased the family jewels, they've both been marinating in politics for decades, they both call themselves Mormons, both of them are whiter than Obama and most importantly, both are considered attractive by third-party, non-biased observers.

Although both Mitt and Jon are extremely qualified men with impressive résumés, the issue that seems to be talked about the most is how high they rate on the hot-meter. Some might say that when Stephen Colbert is obsessing over Romney's perfect coif or Huntsman's piercing gaze, both of

them are losing crucial media coverage because their issues are not addressed. But every presidential candidate knows that looking good is just as important, if not more, than his or her stance on abortion.

Like it or not, Americans want a hot president.

Consider the 1960 election between John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon. Here you have Kennedy, a Roman Catholic who comes from nouveau aristocracy—someone who could conceivably never relate to the general American public. Then you have Nixon, a self-made, hard-working man from the suburbs.

As soon as the competing candidates appeared on television, however, Kennedy's strong jaw and crisp hairline provided a stronger argument than his political platforms, not to mention the healthy tan that offset his pearly whites. It wasn't long before you stopped listening to Nixon's stance on foreign affairs and all you can see in Nixon is how unattractively sweaty and fidgety he is.

But if both Mitt and Jon are certifiable hotties, how do we decide which Mormon candidate gets the vote? Just in case you haven't made up your mind which aspirant gets you more hot and bothered, here is a compilation of their finest features:

Mitt was born in Detroit, Michigan, or the Motor City, and one can only assume that his impeccable bone structure is forged with American steel. His father was the CEO of American Motors, and if you like a man in uniform, you'll be happy to hear that his father hired Mitt to be the security guard at the Chrysler plant. But if that's too blue-collar for your taste, you might be more interested in the fact that Mitt also went to an all-boys preparatory school where he went through the refiner's fire as the only Latter-day Saint in his academic institution.

Surprisingly, Mitt wasn't exactly the star athlete his broad shoulders might suggest. His extracurricular activities were limited to the pep squad and playing the vital role of manager for his school's ice hockey team. In fact, Mitt was somewhat of a late bloomer in high school.

Even though he would later go on to get both an MBA and a law degree from Harvard University, he didn't excel in academics in high school. He later blossomed while attending our very own BYU where he wooed himself a wife to match his good looks.

That being said, if Mitt's goody-two-shoes-ness has got you bored, Jon

definitely brings more excitement to the table.

Not only is Jon a Californian boy from Palo Alto, but he's also a high school dropout. Because of his unquenchable passion for the keyboard, Jon thought his time would be better used fulfilling his dreams by playing full-time for his rock band "Wizard." So if his slightly graying, presidential hairdo doesn't do it for you, just imagine him with a Flock of Seagulls hairdo, standing behind an electric keyboard with an unbuttoned collared shirt blowing in the wind.

While Jon did eventually go a little square and pursued a bachelor's degree, he still maintains that he is a huge fan of motocross. Jon's also extremely hip and up to date on the modern trends. And since it's completely blasé to be long to just one religion these days, he claims not only Mormonism, but Catholicism and Hinduism as faiths he draws from. Bottom line is that Huntsman is a spiritual rocker with the high cheekbones of a Russian model who's all about breaking molds and making a gazillion dollars.

So when all of your friends are talking about immigration stances and raising the debt ceiling, feel free to turn their attention to what really matters: which Mormon is the more dreamy dish. After all, they might end up on the back of a coin someday. That is, before China takes over. ■



photo courtesy
jessica rinaldi



photo courtesy
www.jon2012.com

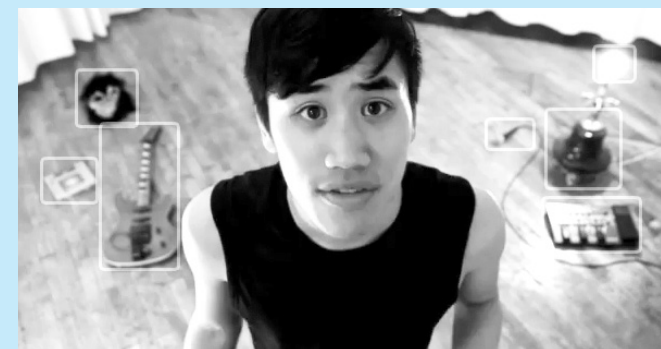
YouTube Highlight of the Month

Title: GHOST: START HERE
Artist: songstowearpantsto

The concept is incredibly creative: record yourself playing different parts of an original piece and allow your viewers to create their own mix. A Canadian YouTuber who goes by the username "songstowearpantsto" did just that. He recorded seven instruments (two voice, one guitar, one bass guitar, one mandolin, and one drum kit) and uploaded seven videos. Though each video consisted of something different, when played together, they created a harmonious mesh.

"The point is that you never quite hear the same thing twice," he replied to a YouTuber who was trying to figure out how to play the videos at the same time.

Give it a try. Create your own mix. I personally spent, like, hours on this. Not really, but be prepared for an exceptionally slow Internet day on campus. ■



screen capture from
<http://www.youtube.com/user/songstowearpantsto>

Mormons & Masons

An opportunity for understanding

by sarah smith

Aside from what you've gleaned from Dan Brown novels and that one episode of *The Simpsons*, what do we really know about Masons?

From secret handshakes to sacred temples, Freemasonry is an ancient fraternity shrouded in mystery. But, according to local Mason and Latter-day Saint Matt Nelson, Freemasons are simply a bunch of "grown-up Boy Scouts without the camping!"

Nelson first became involved with Freemasonry at age 23, after several years of researching its influence throughout history.

"I decided I wanted to be part of this ancient group that held so many of the good qualities I wanted in my life," Nelson said. "Ever since then, I have loved it, and it has proven to be one of the best things I am part of."

Nelson said nothing in Masonry conflicts with his faith, but, rather, strengthens it.

"I have found that it strengthens my spiritual convictions," he said. "There isn't anything with Freemasonry that would conflict with any of the duties you have in life to your church or family, for example, and nothing that conflicts with religious beliefs."

Many early Latter-day Saint were Masons, including Joseph Smith and other Church leaders. Currently, the Church has no official position on Freemasonry.

"If members of the Church choose to join the Freemasons or not, it is a personal choice," Nelson said. "Of course there are many underlying questions and concerns. I recommend Matthew Brown's book *Exploring the connection between Mormons and Masons* to anyone looking for more information."

The main goal of Freemasonry is to make "good men better." Freemasons regularly

participate in charity work and meet together monthly.

"The social part of it all allows us to learn from each other and spend time with other people who have similar interests," he said.

Freemasons also participate in ceremonies where they are taught using symbolism.

"Our ceremonial part is a 'system of morality veiled in allegory and taught by symbols,'" Nelson said. "It is a way for us to learn how to improve ourselves."

These ceremonies are often regarded with suspicion because of their secrecy, something Nelson said has fostered "everything from conspiracy theories to implications of foul acts," but it is more an issue of trust than keeping secrets.

"One of the lessons learned by Masons is to be honest and trustworthy," he said. "If I can't trust you to keep something as simple as a handshake secret, how can I trust you to keep the more important things secret? Then there is the whole, 'when there is a closed door, everyone wants to know what's going on behind it' phenomenon. Some things are just private, not even necessarily secret."

Masons are not allowed to solicit potential members, which means to become one, you have to ask one. There are several qualifications, one of which is a belief in deity.

An open hour-long meeting will be held by Nelson October 13 at 6:30 pm on the second floor of the Provo Library in the Young Events room. Nelson said he hopes to dispel myths and answer audience questions. ■

"I have found that it strengthens my spiritual convictions. There isn't anything with Freemasonry that would conflict with any of the duties you have in life to your church or family, for example, and nothing that conflicts with religious beliefs."

—MATT NELSON, MORMON AND MASON



Musemade bread



made with local ingredients
eaten with local music

Fresh off the boat with Eden Wen

Asians: Tips on Collecting Them All

Conversations in administration offices across the country go something like the following:

BYU: I'll trade you my top white student for your top Asian student.

Other Universities: No way! My top Asian student is worth, like, at least five of your top white students.

Asians are to BYU as Pokémon are to Ash Ketchum. BYU loves us for our stellar academics and the diversity we add to the student body. And they love that we, like Pokémon, become loyal companions to those of you who seek us out.

Fascinated? Understandably so. Our incredibly good looks, our unusual love for plush toys and our sixth sense for finding the best Asian food in town are a few of the innumerable Asian traits that have enraptured many in this frenzy of sorts.

Let's be honest, though, the whole thing is pretty overwhelming. Where does a white person start? Well, you're in luck, my non-Asian friends. I shall be your guru into the world of BYU Asians, for I am Eden Wai-Yan Wen, an Asian-American girl at BYU currently majoring in Anthropology. And I am here as your bridge to the BYU Asian community.

While you can't run off to the Dragon's Keep comic bookstore on University Ave and buy a "starter pack," I have some suggestions that will help you build your very own BYU Asian friend group.

The first thing you'll need is a conversation starter. Perhaps you were unfortunate enough to miss the recent Asian flash mob, but either way that's exactly where we will begin.

Last April, people packed the WSC's Terrace and cheered as the Asians of BYU united in song and dance to a remix of Mulan's "I'll Make a Man Out of You" in an effort to encourage students to help post-earthquake Japan. If you attended, a good

way to start a conversation would be complimenting the event. If you didn't, make clear your despair at missing such an event before following up with an inquiry as to the next flash mob. This act will both flatter and engage just about any BYU Asian.

Should you find an Asian who doesn't necessarily respond in the way you expect ("Solly, no no Engrish!"), don't be discouraged. Statistics suggest you'll see a new Asian in the next five to six minutes.

Should you wish to take it a step farther beyond a conversation—say you actually want to pick up an Asian date—your best bet is our very own Harold B. Lee Library. BYU practically presented us Asians with the entire fourth floor of the HBLL: the Asian Collection, as you call it. We Asians call it home.

If you have already found that special Asian someone, taking him or her to the fourth floor practically solidifies an increase of trust and respect from your Asian friend. Show him or her that you're spiritual as well. Visit, or even better, join the Asian ward (though you cannot officially join unless you are Asian ... or engaged to an Asian who attends. Ahem). To ensure that your flourishing relationship lasts, it is absolute-

ly necessary that you regularly introduce your BYU Asian to other Asians. This will give him or her a chance to assuage any cultural homesickness through rehearsing the latest happenings surrounding Hayao Miyazaki (see *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Kiki's Delivery Service* and *Spirited Away*) and Korean drama shows.

Inviting fellow Asians along every once in a while (at least once a day) will act both to increase the general well-being of your Asian friend and distract from your own lack of Asian-ness. In the words of a half-Japanese BYU student, "Asians like other Asians. As soon as I see someone remotely Asian, I either want to be best friends or marry them." Okay, so we Asians really like other Asians. But don't panic! You still have a chance.

The greatest weapon you have against your non-Asian self is simply time and exposure. The more time you spend with Asians, the more you'll be able to avoid awkward cultural faux pas and expound on subjects that really matter. And lucky for you, almost all-worthwhile Japanese anime is now subtitled in English! Is that a *Death Note* marathon I see in the near future?

You're probably in the Asian Collection section already—good job! Now it's time to get to work. Sit tight, relax, YouTube Wong Fu Productions and you're practically there. ■



Eden Wen, front left, poses with friends. photo by spencer ruiz

GQ magazine slams Provo for lack of fashion know-how

by rebecca ricks

Provo was recently ranked the 15th worst-dressed city in America according to a GQ magazine article.

Among other things, GQ berated Provo fashion for its missionary-friendly attire, including “billowing short-sleeved shirts” and “monster-width ties.”

Nothing seemed to escape GQ’s gosh darn thoughtful criticism, including sacred LDS underclothing. According to the piece, the “undies” that are “divinely ordained” are only one of many fashion faux pas Provo residents are donning. These “painfully visible undershirts” blasted Provo to the top of GQ’s list.

The magazine also ranked Salt Lake City on the list at No. 8 due to its tree-hugger style. Boston and Brooklyn ranked high on the list for an overabundance of hipsters. Only obscure farm towns, whose residents (I assume) have impeccable taste escaped GQ’s criticism.

While we may be reluctant to have someone poke fun at our Mormon affinity for billowing business attire, we must acknowledge that the criticisms of author Andrew Richdale are spot-on. Thank you, Mr. Richdale. You nailed it.

The “eager young men” with “impossibly smiley countenances” that you observed in Provo do, indeed, represent a sizable portion of our residents. After two years of acclimating to missionary dress standards, some of these young men seem to find it difficult to let the missionary aesthetic go back into the closet.

Many of these displaced missionaries find sanctuary working at the Missionary Training Center, a bustling “missionary-factory” where their fashions are the norm. For some unknown reason, these “student-becomes-the-teacher” missionary trainers often neglect to change their clothes upon returning to BYU campus after clocking out.

Mr. Richdale, you fail to realize that Provo style is not unique to Provo. Far from being an original cultural expression, Provo fashions tend to be influenced by the “religious uniform” of the dominant faith of the region. In fact, the majority of Mormon males dress like they are preparing for a 4-hour business meeting not because they necessarily want to, but because it is a form



photo by heather hackney

of religious devotion akin to the ceremonial clothing of any other religious tradition. We humbly note that you don’t place Vatican City on the “Worst Dressed” list for an over use of cassocks and neckbands.

You have probably been following Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign and noticed his proclivity for over-sized ties and white button-ups. Lest we forget, America’s most attractive presidential candidate likely acquired this style during his years in Provo.

But sincerely, we thank you for reminding us of our failure to dress ourselves well: When we’re not donning “the worst gosh-darn uniforms on the planet,” the slothful among us resort to zip-up hoodies and basketball shorts emblazoned with the Y logo. ■

A manly question: Why doesn’t BYU have Men’s Services?

by jeffrey stott

If BYU has a department devoted entirely to Women’s Services, then naturally, it should also have a department devoted entirely to Men’s Services. Sounds logical, you would think. Unsure if BYU had such a department, I did what every BYU student does when he or she has a question: I called the BYU operator. The following is an actual conversation between me and a BYU operator on August 4, 2011:

Girl: BYU operator.

Me: Hi, can you transfer me to Men’s Services?

Girl: I’m sorry, what was that?

Me: Men’s Services. Can you transfer me there?

Girl: Do you know which department that would be in?

Me: No. Maybe the same department as Women’s Services?

Girl: Let me check. One moment please.

PLACED ON HOLD FOR 24 SECONDS

Girl: I’m sorry, but I can’t find a Men’s Services.

Me: But there is a Women’s Services, correct?

Girl: Yes.

Me: Well, where do I go if I have manly issues?

Secondhand blabber

by andrew livingston

Stop me if you’ve heard this one before.

Guy walks into the library, goes upstairs and sits down at a sad brown cubicle. In the silence, nearby studiers hear an ominous vibration from the guy’s pocket, not unlike that of an angry insect. What follows goes something like this:

“Dude. Yeah, dude. I loved that episode.”

And so it goes, on and on until finally, weekend plans are set and all those in ear-shot know far too much about a stranger’s life and far too little about what lies in the open book before them.

Curious about what motivates people to talk on their cell phones in public, the *Student Review* conducted a revealing poll among BYU students. 100 percent of those surveyed cited the perceived urgency of the phone call as factors in their decision to speak on the phone in public.

On a national scale, a Pew Research Center study in 2006 found that “82 percent of

all Americans and 86 percent of cell users report being irritated at least occasionally by loud and annoying cell users who conduct their calls in public places.”

Furthermore, the same poll said, “Indeed, nearly one in ten cell phone owners admit they themselves have drawn criticism or irritated stares from others when they are using their cell phones in public.”

Clearly, this is a problem on a national scale.

As with secondhand smoke, individual tolerance for the secondhand blabber of public cell phone use varies, but as the Pew research shows, it is overwhelmingly negative.

How to proceed with the issue, however remains undermined by either law or society.

The answer may lie in the response of one surveyed student.

“Some, but not all of my calls could be replaced by texting,” the student said. He then added, almost sheepishly, “Or I could get up and talk somewhere else.” ■



photo by spencer ruiz

Girl: Um ... I'm not exactly sure. I could direct you to the health center. Would that work?

Me: Do they have someone there trained on manly issues?

Girl: Uh ... I don't know. What exactly is your problem?

SHE THEN SEEMS TO SECOND GUESS IF SHE SHOULD HAVE ASKED.

Girl: I mean, if it's a personal issue, I'd recommend personal counseling.

Me: Do you know why they have a Women's Services and not a Men's Services?

Girl: Um ... well ... Women's Services is more tailored for, like, women-specific problems. Like, eating disorders are a big problem at BYU. And it ... um ... it focuses on empowerment ... and just things that women tend to need.

Me: So men don't need specific help?

Girl: Uh ... I don't really know why we don't have a Men's Services ... I guess it's not really fair, but I can transfer you to the number for personal counseling if you'd like.

Me: Ok, thanks.

Girl: You're welcome.*

I HUNG UP, UNSATISFIED.

Unsure regarding the reason BYU has no Men's Services, I began to ask around.

Recent BYU graduate Sarah Dawn Smith simply remarked that such institutions for males "are usually just called a gentleman's club."

Amy Gordon, who studied engineering, commented that "BYU does have a Men's Services. It's called 'the rest of BYU.'"

On the other hand, Stephen Wilkinson, a BYU alum currently attending medical school, believes that some sort of outreach toward males would be helpful, even if only on a website.

"Anorexia has a 10:1 female to male incidence ratio; bulimia has a 9:1 female to male incidence ratio," Wilkinson points out. "While these are extremely gender-polarized diseases, ignoring the 1/11 or 1/10 males who have these does present a challenge for such men to get the help they need. They need a safe place to talk about it."

Though Wilkinson understands that the need might not be substantial enough to warrant the costs of a completely new institution equipped with specialists, he pointed to other methods such as a virtual Men's Services or specific after-hours when the Women's Services could be used by men.

Valerie Hudson, a faculty member involved in the creation of Women's Services, seems to agree that a Men's Services would be a good idea, but only if someone can show a real need.

"To the extent that there are pressing issues of physical security

and life opportunity prevalent among men, there should indeed be a safe setting in which they can be discussed," Hudson said.

She then suggested that if one wanted to put such a program in place, they could research the need and submit any results to the school.

However, making a case for providing a Men's Services may be difficult in light of all the resources BYU already provides. Between financial services, the Counseling and Career Center, personal counseling and the health center, male students do have resources to deal with their needs.

But all of said resources are equally available for women, which flips the question around. Instead of asking why there isn't a Men's Services, one might ask why there is a Women's Services.

BYU student Kaylie Clark offered one explanation.

"I think in the past, women's unique needs have been greatly overlooked in many ways since the majority of decisions made in society have been by the male leadership," Clark suggested. "BYU is still run mostly by men, who do good things and have good intentions, but won't, by nature of their separate experience as men, be as aware of women's unique needs as female leaders would. I think the purpose of Women's Services is to help remedy that oversight and pay special attention to make sure men and women both have their unique needs paid attention to equally."

Another explanation as to why BYU provides Women's Services can be found when exploring its original purpose. Lanae Valentine, Director of Women's Services, says that currently, the mandate given by BYU administrators to Women's Services is to "focus on and serve women, assisting them in overcoming obstacles generally placed in front of female students."

Such a mandate seems to have evolved from one specific purpose which, according to Valentine, was "to provide counseling for sexual assault victims, especially for women who feel uncomfortable discussing such experiences with men."

The truth is that while many men would avoid any department dedicated to women's issues, according to Valentine, some men have come in to talk about their own issues.

Ultimately, whether the university will ever install such a service is unclear, but in the meantime, one can always call the operators, even just for the entertainment value.

*There is a rumor that BYU operators are strictly required to say "you're welcome" after every "thank you." On a separate call, I asked the operator if this rumor was true. She confirmed that it was. Apparently, they don't get fired for failing to say "you're welcome," but they are told to improve. ■

"To the extent that there are pressing issues of physical security and life opportunity prevalent among men, there should indeed be a safe setting in which they can be discussed."

—VALERIE HUDSON, FACULTY MEMBER
INVOLVED IN THE CREATION OF
WOMEN'S SERVICES

The "S" word: Confessions of an LDS sex therapist

by whitney call

Rich Tripp, a Provo-based licensed professional counselor who specializes in sex therapy, has directed seminars in local stakes and works with engaged couples, newlyweds and mature couples. He works at Preferred Family Clinic and has specialized in sexual addictions, sex therapy and couples counseling for three years. He sat down with the *Student Review* to talk about having a healthy intimate relationship with your spouse.

Q. What is the biggest problem you encounter among LDS newlyweds?

A. Lack of education, or what I like to call "sexual mis-education." We live in a world where so much sexuality is portrayed in the media. Most of it is unrealistic. Couple that with a hesitance from parents, church leaders, etc. to talk about sexual intimacy, and it sets up couples for a lot of problems. Expectations may be unrealistic or too high and if/when the expectations aren't met, it can cause significant difficulties.

Q. How do you recommend singles prepare for intimacy in marriage?

A. If you are single, now's not the time to focus too heavily on sexual relations, but you can start working on your attitudes around sex. For a lot of LDS singles, there is heavy focus on the "don'ts and can'ts." This can lead to some negative attitudes or fears associated with sex. When you think of sex, think of it in a positive way, something that you hope for when the time is right.

If you are single and getting married soon, then my advice would be to start educating yourself more specifically about sex. Be careful, there are a lot of "self-help" books about sex out there and not all of them are good or accurate. *Between Husband & Wife: Gospel Perspectives on Marital Intimacy* by Stephen Lamb & Douglas Brinley is good as well as Laura Brotherson's *And They Were Not Ashamed: Strengthening*

Marriage through Sexual Fulfillment. These are just a couple of books that can give you some helpful information.

Q. What's one piece of advice regarding intimacy or relationships in general that you would give to women? To men?

A. Open communication and understanding are always important in relationships. They are crucial for healthy sexual functioning. Men and women are bringing to the relationship their own different thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs about sex, as well as different levels of sexual functioning. It is important for women to relax and have time to prepare mentally, emotionally and eventually physically for pleasurable sexual functioning. This takes time. Men need to slow down and be there emotionally for the woman.

Q. Why is intimacy so important in marriage?

A. Intimacy is extremely important in marriage. It really becomes the ultimate expression of commitment. There are so many aspects that go into sexual relations (physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual). There are powerful chemicals created in the brain during sexual relations that will help couples bond with each other. Oxytocin is one of those chemicals.

Q. Should engaged couples talk together about intimacy? If so, what is the best way to go about it?

A. During the engagement is probably the best time to begin talking about sex. This is the time to make a lot of important plans for their future together. I would recommend that a couple talk about sex in a public place where they can still have privacy and won't be overheard. It's impor-

tant to get some basic information about sexual functioning, but also keep in mind that sexual functioning and pleasure is also very individualistic. Reading a book together can be helpful, especially if it's a little difficult to begin talking about intimacy. The above books will give you some good information.

Talk about attitudes toward sexuality. You don't want to find out on your wedding night that you and your spouse have completely opposite views of how intimacy is going to be in your marriage.

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) at Preferred Family Clinic in Provo
rich_tripp@hotmail.com

If you have questions for Rich Tripp that you'd like to see answered in a future edition of the *Student Review*, please send them to thestudentreview2@gmail.com ■



photo by heather hackney

"Intimacy is extremely important in marriage. It really becomes the ultimate expression of commitment."

—RICH TRIPP, LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR AT PREFERRED FAMILY CLINIC IN PROVO



photo by tamarra kemsley

Mormon.org campaign attracts traffic, changes perceptions

by tamarra kemsley

For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints living in New York City, it's not uncommon to overhear something to the effect of, "I've heard the Book of Mormon is really good."

The comments are of course directed to the new Broadway smash hit. In reaction to this new height of publicity, the Church's reaction is, You thought the play was good? Try the real thing.

This is iterated in the ads dotting the tops of taxi cabs, a billboard in Times Square and posters in New York's busiest subway cars. Even beyond New York, cities and towns throughout the country are beginning to advertise the mormon.org website.

The effect? Thousands throughout the world are contacting LDS missionaries by

signing onto mormon.org where, with the ease of clicking a single pink icon, individuals instantly find themselves in conversation with a real, live Mormon.

Not surprisingly, the Church decided to give the increased interest to a group of missionaries already well-experienced in handling situations in which people come to them to learn (or taunt)—visitor center missionaries across the world are beginning to see a fundamental change in the way they do missionary work.

The system isn't perfect. At one point, the amount of insincere solicitors, also known as "trollers," reached between 70 and 90 percent, according to a number of missionaries who served at Temple Square in Salt Lake City.

Today, troller sites such as artoftrolling.

com feature chats taken from conversations with missionaries, many of which are featured because the troller was so impressed by the responses from the missionaries. In fact, much to the trollers' amusement and admiration, the Mormon Church itself began advertising on troller-related sites.

For the missionaries, the work is about the people that come to talk and learn with an open mind. Some missionaries report experiences in which trollers came to tease but ended up engaging in sincere and faith-promoting conversations.

Former missionary Julie Hulet from Pennsylvania said a man once called in after seeing an ad and said he had wanted to learn more about Mormons ever since his LDS girlfriend began re-attending Church services.

Two months later, he was baptized.

When the *Student Review* asked a pair of missionaries serving in Manhattan how the campaign affected their work, they said people were much more willing to talk to them and even more likely to open a conversation themselves with the Elders.

One LDS consultant on the project noted that, "the campaign, and getting mormon.org out there, has really allowed people to interact with the church on their terms as opposed to having a couple of surprise visi-

tors at their door. We're a very knowledge-driven society and we research things intently online and as people get into the site, they'll discover some really great people and want to know more about what makes them who they are."

As far as the effect on the LDS Church itself, he said, "I think the biggest impact is not only on the world at large but also within the members of the Church. It's become cool to be a member of the Church and has allowed many members to open up and say 'Hey, I'm a Mormon, too. I can be who I am.'" ■

photo by tamarra kemsley



Calendar

Event: Ping Pong Tournament

Date: 21 September, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: WSC Terrace

Description: Test your skills at a free ping-pong tournament in the Wilkinson Student Center terrace at 7 pm

Event: General Conference

Date: 1 October, 2011

Time: 10:00 am–12:00 pm, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm,

Priesthood Session: 6:00 pm–8:00 pm

Location: Worldwide, Broadcast from Conference Center 60 West North, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

Contact Information: Temple Square Events Ticket Office (1-801-570-0080)

Description: The First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles invite all members of the Church to participate in the 181st Semiannual General Conference on Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2, 2011. (Source: LDS.org)

Event: Rooftop Concert Series: Lower Lights with Dustin Christensen

Date: 7 October, 2011

Time: 8:00 pm

Location: Provo Town Square Parking Terrace Rooftop, Corner of 100 North and 100 West, Provo UT 84601

Description: Final Rooftop Concert of the year. For more information: The Lower Lights: <http://thelowerlights.com/> Dustin Christensen: <http://www.dustinonline.com/>

One of the most common complaints we hear around Provo is that there is simply not enough to do. We humbly beg to differ. We believe that there is plenty to do in Provo if you know where to find it. In attempt to dispell this vicious rumor, behold: the first Student Review monthly calendar. If you are interested in finding out more about a published event, visit our website (thestudentreview.org) to find out more.

Event: Divine Comedy Show

Date: 7–8 October, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm

Location: 151 Tanner Building, BYU Campus

Description: Tired of getting all your laughs from watching desperate guys hitting on freshman in the HBLL? Laugh out loud at one of Divine Comedy's four shows over the weekend.

Event: Race for your Relationship 5K

Date: 8 October, 2011

Time: 10:00am–2:00pm

Location: Jordan River Parkway Walden Pavillion, 5452 S. Murray Parkway Avenue, South Jordan UT, 84123

Contact Information: vipp@utah.gov, 1-801-238-6141

Description: The Utah Dating Violence Task Force and several community partners will host the 3rd Annual 5K Walk/Run to Prevent Dating Violence to raise awareness, reduce the stigmas, and offer support to those affected by dating violence. All proceeds from the race will be used by the Utah Dating Violence Task Force towards the 2011 Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Week activities.

Event: Freemason Lecture

Date: 13 October, 2011

Time: 6:30 pm–8:00 pm

Location: Provo Library, Young Events Room, 550 North University Ave., Provo, UT 84601

Contact Information: Matt Nelson (matttryannelson@yahoo.com)

Description: Utah Valley will have a rare and unique opportunity to enjoy a free hour-long lecture on the ins and outs of Freemasonry. It will be on the second floor of the Brigham Young Academy (Provo Library) in the Young Events Room. National speaker Matt Nelson will be presenting "Who are the Freemasons – Who they are, what they do and why." There will be a Q&A after to answer any questions not addressed during the lecture.

For more events and event information visit thestudentreview.org

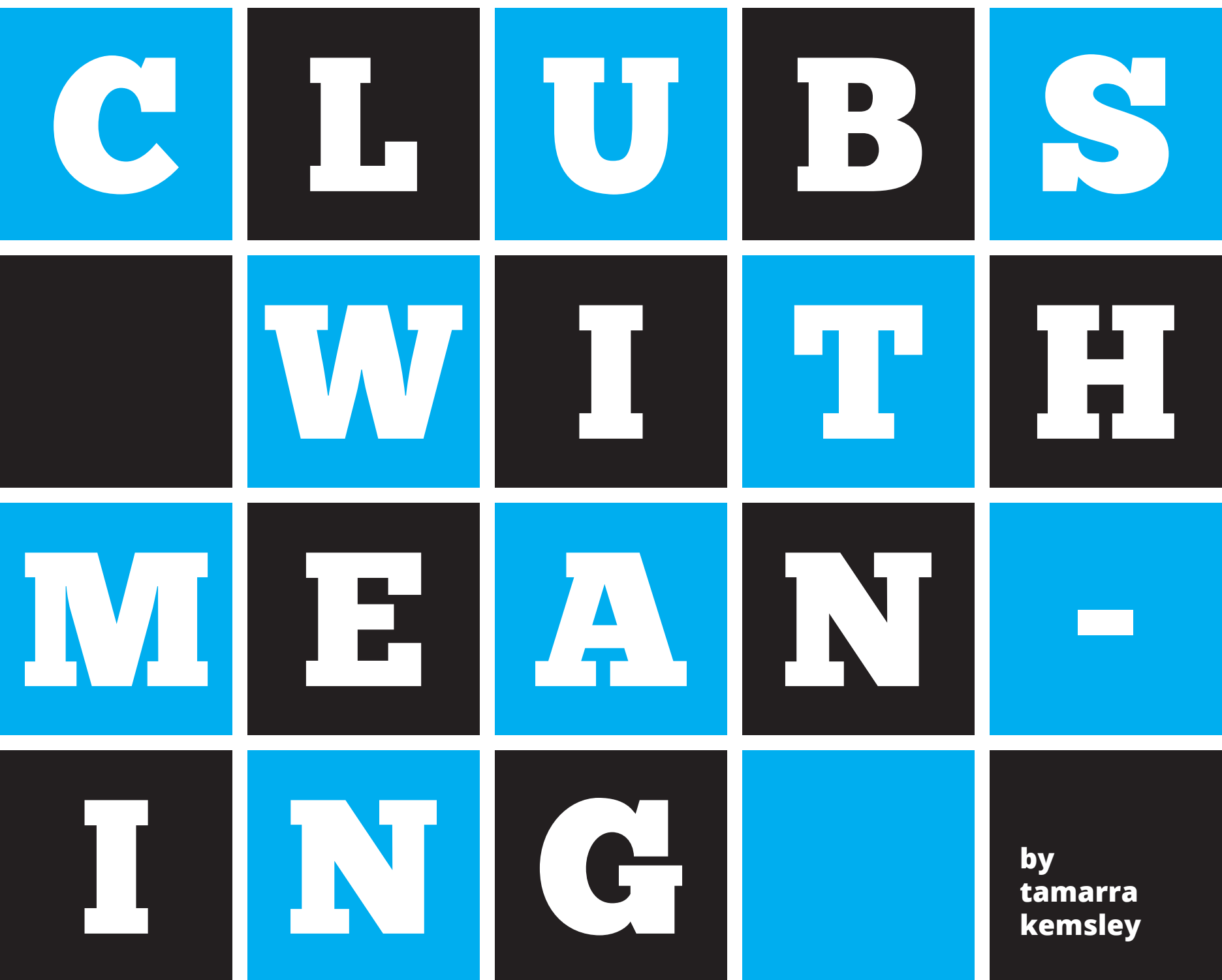
If you have an event you'd like to see in the event calendar, e-mail us at thestudentreview2@gmail.com

September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18	19 6:30pm Battle of the Bands (Food and Care Coalition) 8:00pm Open Mic Night @ Muse Music Cafe 10:00pm The Drowsy Chaperone. Hale Theater.	20 11:05am University Forum: Gregg Easterbrook 7:00pm Women's Soccer vs. University of Idaho (South Field) 7:30pm Constitution Day Lecture	21 7:00pm Ping Pong Tournament 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Man/Miracle, Mat Weidauer, On The Radio, The Random Acronym \$6	22 3:00pm BYU LaVell Edwards Stadium Farmer's Market 7:00pm Women's Soccer vs. University of Idaho (South Field) 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Revolutions Sessions (The Crate Dwellers) \$6	23 3:30pm-7:00pm Harvest \$ Art Festival @ Thanksgiving Point. Free Entry 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Chance Lewis, Apt, Shawty & The Beast, Hurris & Gig	24 10:00am Provo Farmer's Market 6:00pm General Relief Society Meeting 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: God's Revolver w/ Worst Friends (members of Loom) & Badass Magic (LA) \$6
25	26 5:30pm MOA: Guest Artists: Soprano Carole Blankenship and Pianist Irene Hermann 6:00pm and 7:00pm FHE at the Museum of Peoples and Cultures 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Desert Noises (Tour Kick Off Show) with Lake Island & The Mlghty Sequoyah	27 11:05am University Forum: Mona Hopkins	28 7:00pm BYU Spelling Bee (Varsity Theater) 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Cat Fashion Show with Jokes \$6	29 8:30am Grant Taggart Symposium (BYU Conference Center) 4:00pm Career Reflections: Intelligence (238 HRCB) 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: You, Me & Apollo (CO) Moriah Glazier, Quaker State \$6	30 All Day: Cornbelly's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Festival 6:00pm BYU Football vs. Utah State 7:00pm Outdoor Storytelling Even sponsored by The Porch and EcoResponse. 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Dream Eater \$6	

October

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1 SATURDAY 10:00am, 2:00pm: October General Conference 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Swindlers, Back Chat \$6 6:00pm Priesthood Session
2 10:00am October General Conference 2:00pm October General Conference	3 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Open Mic Night	4 11:00am Homecoming Opening Ceremony	5 7:30pm Utah Premiere Bass Fanfares & Flourishes Concert. Scera Theater \$8-\$10	6 3:00pm BYU LaVell Edwards Stadium Farmer's Market 7:00pm BYU Homecoming Spectacular 7:00pm Women's Soccer vs. University of Portland (South Field) 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Songwriter Showdown	7 7:00pm Divine Comedy Show 7:00pm BYU Homecoming Spectacular 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Songwriter Showdown 9:00pm Divine Comedy Show	8 10:00am Provo Farmer's Market 10:00am Race for your relationship 5k 7:00pm Divine Comedy Show 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Songwriter Showdown Finals 9:00pm Divine Comedy Show
7	10 6:00pm and 7:00pm FHE at the Museum of Peoples and Cultures 8:00pm Open Mic Night @ Muse Music Cafe	11 11:00am Dance Assembly 9:00pm Sundance Scenic Lift Full Moon Ride	12 9:00pm Sundance Scenic Lift Full Moon Ride	13 3:00pm BYU LaVell Edwards Stadium Farmer's Market 6:30pm Freemason Lecture 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Jerry Fels and The Jerry Fels \$6	14 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Roots & Weeds, Tightly Willis, Isaac Paxman \$6	15 10:00am BYU Football at Oregon State 10:00am Provo Farmer's Market 8:00pm Muse Music Cafe: Feel Good Music Coalition (Hip-hop/ R&B) w/ Young Slim & more \$6



There's an incredible amount of genius and drive on this campus. The trick is organizing and channeling that zeal through positive and productive channels. Clubs are a key part of this process and here we highlight those clubs we see as possessing potential for positive ramifications throughout the world in this upcoming semester.

Political Review

The motto goes like this: Argue. Nicely. "We want people to talk about important things!" Editor-in-chief Bryce Johnson said, perhaps with some desperation in his voice. "We want the conversations we have in class regarding the world and its future to spill out of the classroom and create an elevated awareness on this campus with so much potential."

Three years ago, the Political Review began evolving into the force it is today.

Brigham Wilson began writing for the Political Review in 2008 and said that when he took over as president in 2009, the focus shifted from "arguing about politics to the publication itself."

Few thought it would survive, Wilson said, including the faculty advisers. "But we got it to live," Wilson said. "We were able to establish a staff composed of people who believed in the cause and gave it their all."

This last year saw a sudden climb in content and professionalism due to an increase in staffing and overall commitment to the cause, Johnson told the *Student Review*. New additions and website upgrades are also among contributing factors.

"We're doing some pretty dang cool things," Johnson said.

According to Johnson, those cool things include the following:

1. A brand new website (byupolitical-review.com) provides for more features on the homepage, putting news even faster and easier into the hands of visitors with all the chic of an Apple product.
2. The addition of a "Critics Corner" to highlight noteworthy cultural and artistic developments.
3. A new page on the Political Review's website dedicated entirely to digital debates that features a variety of professors' insights.
4. High-profile interviews with people from around the country.

Add them to your Google homepage, follow them on Twitter, or keep your eyes out for the good ol' fashioned print copy distributed on campus for politics from your peers.

Students for International Development

While many clubs strive to put human suffering into the minds and hands of BYU's students, Students for International Development actually does so with its annual Hunger Banquet.



According to co-president Maddy Gleave, the hunger banquet generates anywhere from \$7000 to \$15000 dollars. Those funds, she said, traditionally are distributed by a selection team which reviews proposals from a diversity of NGOs and selects those that align best with the club's goal of international development.

This last year, however, the club took attendees' involvement one step further when they let the crowd vote on which charities would receive the nights' donations. Among the recipients was Sowers for Life, an organization that provides microfinancing in the Dominican Republic.

Outside of the Hunger Banquet, projects include service for a local Hare Krishna temple and campus forums featuring guest speakers and films. After the Haitian earthquake, SID brought local professors and professionals together to discuss how the earthquake would affect Haiti's development as a country. From this forum a new group, Sustain Haiti, was born focusing entirely on the impoverished country.



*left photo by heather hackney
above photo by sarah kay
brimhall*

For those who want in on that human interest bandwagon, meetings are held every Thursday at 7:30 P.M. in 238 HRCB.

Free the Slaves

BYU's chapter of the international club Free the Slaves first came to BYU in 2009. Its goals are the following:

1. Raising awareness across campus about the issue of slavery
2. Raising possible funds to aid groups that are able to actively fight slavery
3. Raising awareness among the local community outside BYU

Simple, right? Club president Victoria Fox reports otherwise.

"We had a whole semester's worth of awareness-promoting videos we were going to show on campus" Fox said. "I tried to get it approved at BYU through the Student Association but couldn't because of fear of explicit content. We just finally had to move it to UVU and at this point we have to go back to the drawing board about this

semester's goals and projects."

In the past, Free the Slaves featured nationally-acclaimed fighters on the war against human trafficking. Not least among them included Kevin Bale, whose book *Disposable People: New Slavery in the Global Economy* was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and went on to become an Emmy-winning movie.

Part of the club's success lies in networking with major organizations also involved in the fight against slavery.

"We have connections everywhere," Fox said.

One of those valued relationships is with Child Rescue Association of North America which, Fox said, is offering internships for those interested in helping to eliminate human trafficking.

Want to get involved? E-mail the club at byufreetheslaves@gmail.com and mark your calendar because Oct. 13 is when *Sex and Money*, the film unveiling human trafficking in the U.S., will be showing at UVU.



photo by heather hackney

Understanding Same-Gender Attraction

Understanding Same-Gender Attraction acts as a forum for anyone trying to understand homosexuality better and, according to the club's Facebook page, "meets outside of any sponsorship, endorsement, or support by BYU."

USGA openly supports LDS doctrine and beliefs. The site states, "In order to foster an environment of respect and understanding, we ask all participants to be respectful of BYU, the Church and the beliefs and experiences of others."

According to participants, while not all involved are active LDS members, USGA supports those who are interested in maintaining faith and openness about their sexuality.

Bridey Jensen started going almost immediately after it was established one year ago. Before attending, she said she experienced a long period of dark and intense loneliness as she "came to terms with [her] sexuality."

Jensen observes a cultural shift from past generations in that "our generation recognizes that the choice is not between accepting the reality of our feelings and staying in the Church. These are two separate choices. They can heavily influence one another, but the choice of one does not dictate the outcome of the other."

Recent graduate Brittnei Bunce said USGA played an important role in her education at BYU.

"Part of our education at BYU is to prepare us for our future work in our communities, jobs, families and church," Bunce said. "I want to gain as much understanding and compassion as I can now, because now is the time to prepare for the future."

As a wife and a mother of two girls, Bunce realizes that in ten years, her now-toddler may come to her with crushes on girls rather than boys, Bunce said; or, "I may be called as a Relief Society president and find myself serving sisters who face this issue."

Bunce said many stigmas come from misunderstanding those that are different than the average citizen, which is where USGA comes in handy.

"We have been told to love, but I feel some people do not know enough about the topic and therefore feel uncomfortable," Bunce said. "USGA is here to break that stigma and that cycle."

Those that attend say the crowd represents a diversity of sources—students, members of the community, alumni and professors are among those in the mix.

Meetings are every Thursday at 7 pm in 111 TMCB. The club is best accessed through searching "USGA" on Facebook. ■



Browse the Complete Provo Music Calendar

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Provo's #1 source of Local Music

Why you should join my club: EcoResponse

by mackenzie mayo

In 1969, an English professor at the University of Kentucky published *A Long-Legged House*, a collection of essays that detailed the changes the author had decided to make in life that led him to move back home to Kentucky. It was the beginning of Wendell Berry's heroic career as one of the nation's leading essayists and thinkers.

His essays in that book and in many of his subsequent books examine how growing food, building a relationship with the land you live on and fostering sustainable, small economies are the keys to living in better harmony with the earth and the other species it harbors. For forty years, Berry has brought his message of simplicity and calm responsibility to audiences and readers all over the country.

This is what EcoResponse, too, seeks to do. Since its inception at BYU thirty years ago, EcoResponse has sought to provide BYU students with the knowledge and opportunities necessary to bring their lives in accord with the beat of the earth.

This year, a renewed and re-vitalized EcoResponse seconds the values of Berry and others like him as we try to find the best way to live in harmony with the earth. We, the club leadership, are not interested in preaching. We are not interested in pointing out all the things you are doing wrong and giving you a mile-long list of things you must change. We are not interested in moving into the mountains with the bears and the eagles and renouncing civilization forever.

We are interested in the recognition of the fact that we can each use less fossil fuel, preserve more wildlife, reduce our waste and decrease pollution. We are interested in learning from each other how to eat local food, use green transportation, plant our own gardens and find beauty in nature. We are interested in banding together as a group of environmentally-minded citizens of our planet to fulfill our responsibility of protecting and caring for the earth.

EcoResponse meetings will rotate between three different categories: Issue Education, Service, and Sustainable Living. EcoResponse meetings will be held every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in 3211 of the Wilkinson



photo by heather hackney

Center. In September, we are going to clean out the Provo River, learn to recycle t-shirts into grocery bags and have a recycling night where we'll learn about why it's important to recycle, how BYU's recycling program works and how you can recycle in Provo (even from an apartment). We are also going to co-host a storytelling night with Provo's *The Porch* in the Rock Canyon pavilion where storytellers will share their some of their experiences with the earth.

The full calendar can be found at byuecoresponse.com, and you can email byuecoresponse@gmail.com to join our mailing list.

Want to highlight your club in the Student Review? Let the student body know why they should join your club in 500 words or less and send it to thestudentreview2@gmail.com by October 3. ■

Love thy neighbor goes live

by tamarra kemsley

In an interview with United Way's Utah County, President and CEO, Bill Hulterstrom told the *Student Review* that "you can't serve effectively on an international scale until you learn to serve locally."

UnitedwayUC.org offers 222 service opportunities that can be searched by key words for those looking for a specific service gig. Some of these opportunities include:

- Provo Rehab & Nursing: Assisting seniors with events such as bingo night
- Orem Dept. of Public Works: Adopting a public area to beautify through ornamental gardening
- Orem Public Library: Adopting a shelf to keep organized
- Alpha Omega Hospice LLC: Offering companionship for terminally ill patients
- Juvenile Justice Services: Collecting bookmarks that will be donated to troubled youth
- Family Support and Research Service: Playing with adopted children 11-years-old and younger
- Pregnancy Research Center: Collecting donations of infant supplies for mothers in need
- Friday's Kids Respite: Play with children with disabilities while parents attend to other children, etc.
- Family Support and Treatment Center: Play with at-risk children and/or assist in organizational projects to improve the center's environment
- Vantage Youth Service Center: Spend a few hours every week offering activities and companionship for troubled youth

Whatever you choose, Hulterstrom says the key is consistency. "Rather than just going once and never again," he said, "by going on a consistent business you give those you help something to look forward so really the service affects their whole week." ■



photo by heather hackney

An interview with Shereen

A Muslim BYU professor

by rebecca ricks

Q: I'm interested in how your time at BYU impacted your personal beliefs. Where are you from? Were your parents particularly religious growing up?

A: I grew up in Cairo, Egypt. My parents were very religious. Islam was really part of our daily life. As kids, we had to pray five times a day and fast as our faith dictated.

When I think about my relationship with religion, I actually have a lot of memories of my father. My dad used to read the Qur'an out loud in the house every morning. At 5 am he would wake up and perform the Fajr prayer, followed by an hour or two of reciting the Qur'an. I remember waking up every morning to the sound of him reading the Qur'an. He had a deep, beautiful voice.

Q: Was your mother as religious as your father?

A: My dad was more religious than my mom because she was busier taking care of us. As a mom myself, I've realized how easy it is to get distracted or caught in a routine. Routine and religion can go hand in hand, though.

Q: I know you decided to come to BYU to be with your husband and study to become a teacher. What kind of environment did you expect to encounter?

A: I knew a little bit from my husband, Ahmed, who was attending BYU when we met. He told me Mormons didn't drink tea and coffee, which is an important part of Arab culture. He also mentioned that he would walk on the street and everyone would smile at him. He honestly thought there was something wrong with him the first few days he was here. Mormons are just friendly people.

When I arrived in Utah, I was surprised to see how big the Mormon community is here. Before, when Ahmed described Mormons, I pictured a small group of religious people living in an obscure state in America. My move to Utah was the first time I had ever left Egypt, so I was just totally taken aback by Mormon culture.

Q: What were your first perceptions of Mormon culture?

A: You know, Mormons are so similar to Muslims. When I got here, I learned that girls and boys cannot sleep together or live in the same apartment. No one smokes at this university. Drinking is forbidden.

I was also really impressed by how important family values are to Mormons at BYU. People here are living the Gospel, as you call it, the same way we live our religion. The way we live our Islam is the same way you live your Mormonism.

Q: I imagine that you stand out at BYU because of the way you dress. What kinds of preconceptions did Mormon students have about you?

A: When people see a veiled woman from the Middle East who has never traveled abroad, they think that she is close-minded, she's oppressed by her husband, she doesn't have a voice, she doesn't have opinions.

I was a little close-minded when I first arrived in Utah, but I've grown a lot.

Q: From reading the news, I think a lot of us are predisposed to think that all Muslims are extremely religious. Do you feel as if people expected you to adhere to some ideal version of Islam?

A: There is such a spectrum of religious practice, even among Muslims who attend BYU, and I think that surprises people. I've met some who are not religious and are not living the standards of Islam, and others who came to BYU and maintained their standards. Some came from a really stringent religious background and their experience here made them more religious. Others who were initially religious just lost it.

Q: How has your commitment to religion changed during your time here?

A: I think Mormon culture impacts you negatively or positively, depending on how you react. As a Muslim minority in a non-Muslim majority culture, there's this idea that if I remain very religious, I risk isolating myself from the larger BYU community. Islam encourages us to get an education, to be with people, to have friends of every religion. Religion is a very private thing



photo courtesy of shereen salah

between a person and God. I'm veiled, yes, but in terms of being less or more religious, it doesn't matter. I'm still Muslim. I can't quantify it.

Q: What kinds of logistical challenges do you encounter as a Muslim faculty member at BYU? Is it difficult to find the time and space for prayer?

A: The administration works hard to accommodate non-Mormons. For instance, BYU reserves a room at the Wilk five days a week for prayers all day, just for Muslims. My kids often come on campus for prayer on Friday. It's difficult, because they don't hear the call to prayer five times a day like I did when I was growing up in Cairo. My husband graduated several years ago, but he still feels committed to come to BYU every Friday for prayer. There is a really strong sense of freedom of worship at this university.

Q: Did other students ever try explicitly or casually to introduce you to the Church?

A: Yes, I've had so many friends when I was studying here who would give me the *Book of Mormon* in Arabic. It was never something I found offensive. I even had one friend, several years ago, who called me on her graduation day and told me she had a gift for me. When she handed me the *Book of Mormon* with a personal note inside, I told her thank you. I didn't mention that I already had three copies at home.

Q: What is the Muslim community at BYU like?

A: Although I'm friendly with many of them, I honestly feel as if I am more connected to my non-Muslim friends at BYU.

There are so many people at this university who are open-minded and thoughtful about religion. Over the years, I have felt more and more connected to the larger BYU community rather than a Muslim minority on campus. I have so many Mormon friends and we have had a number of long discussions about religion.

That's part of any religion: that you keep asking and learning about your religion until you die.

Q: Let's shift gears. I understand that your husband has been stuck in Egypt for the last few months while his visa is being processed.

A: Yes, he has been gone for a long time, nearly four months. When it comes to renewing immigration visas, often the system moves in slow motion. Ahmed avoided traveling for six years, since it is usually more difficult for Arab men to obtain visas and he didn't want to risk it. In fact, he has a friend who once was stuck in Egypt for 13 months before he was able to return to the States.

Q: How has his absence affected your family?

A: I won't lie, it's hard. I feel like a single mom, working all day and riding the bus everywhere. Coordinating pick-ups for my daughters from school is tricky. Right now I'm just waiting and praying for Ahmed's return.

Shereen Emara Salah is an adjunct faculty member at Brigham Young University. She teaches Arabic and lives in Lehi, Utah with her two daughters and husband, Ahmed. ■

A special thank you to our donors for making this issue possible.

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This I believe

by ben miller

A few months ago, I was reading 3 Nephi 12 when I came to verse 47, which contains only a single, brief sentence: “Old things are done away, and all things are become new.”

This verse has always appealed to my more progressive tendencies—I love how the Church’s foundation of continuing revelation allows for continual innovation of beliefs and practices. But just this last time, I began to see the idea of “old things [being] done away” as harnessing possibly more difficult implications for me.

For example, while the advent of the “higher law” referenced here brought centuries of unprecedented prosperity to the people of the *Book of Mormon*, the transition proved tumultuous in Palestine. Clearly it was not simple for Middle Eastern Jewish Christians to suddenly forsake the millennia-old traditions that formed their very identity as God’s chosen people.

How, I wondered, would I respond if I experienced a similar change, for example, one as drastic as the Church revoking the historicity of the *Book of Mormon*?

The thought transformed the way I look at changes dealt to Church members throughout Mormon history.

Shortly after reading the verse in Nephi, I read concerning the ending of plural marriage, and thought how easy it is to think something along the lines of “thank goodness that’s over—I’m glad the Church progressed past that practice.” But for the early members, plural marriage was a practice fundamental to their identity as God’s chosen people, and when that practice was “done away” people were forced to reassess their lives and core beliefs.

A less momentous though more recent example was in April’s General Conference. In his address “LDS Women Are Incredible!”

Elder Quentin L. Cook said, “we should all be careful not to be judgmental or assume that sisters are less valiant if the decision is made to work outside the home.”

My initial reaction was to celebrate the statement, given the Church’s long history of discouraging women to work outside the home. Things became more difficult later, however, when I read about a woman who felt betrayed by this shift. She, like many women in previous generations, forewent education and careers to stay home and bear children in accordance with the counsel of the prophets in their day, and now that counsel was seemingly modified.

While this example may not be quite as drastic as the ending of the Law of Moses or plural marriage, the point is that change happens in the LDS Church.

I was forced to reassess my own beliefs.

First of all, I sometimes felt tempted in my life to criticize Church leadership for being too conservative. Now, for the first time, I began to realize progressivism could be just as much a stumbling block to the members of the Church as conservatism. I wondered how I would respond to such religious changes?

While I have yet to be put to a similar test as historical Church members, I can say I believe that to embrace Mormonism is to embrace change, and not simply change that fits my moderate-liberal social views, but those that would fundamentally challenge some of my other core beliefs. And should the occasion arise, I can only trust the words: “If that which was done away was glorious, how much more glorious is that which remaineth” (2 Cor 3:11).

Share what you believe in 500 words or less to thestudentreview2@gmail.com by October 3. ■

Mormon senator deported from office?

Latter-day Saint state senator and sponsor of immigration bill faces recall election

by hunter schwarz

The intense debate at the intersection of Mormonism and immigration threatens to reignite this fall as the Latter-day Saint state senator from Mesa, Ariz., who sponsored a controversial immigration bill faces a fellow Mormon in an unprecedented recall election.

Republican Sen. Russell Pearce has served in the Arizona State Legislature for 11 years in legislative district 18, an area encompassing a large swath of central and west Mesa known for its high concentration of both Hispanics and Latter-day Saints. Pearce made a name for himself championing conservative causes including illegal immigration, which he took a hardline stance on, supporting enforcement and opposing amnesty.

In 2010, Pearce sponsored SB1070, which requires local law enforcement to determine the immigration status of individuals who are unable to produce valid identification during a lawful encounter, when there is probable cause of a criminal act. The bill was signed by Gov. Jan Brewer in April and set off a firestorm of opposition. Pres. Obama and Colombian singer Shakira were among those who voiced their opposition, joining other critics who said the legislation would lead to racial profiling.

SB1070 rocketed Pearce into the spotlight, but it seems to have made him a bigger target for his critics. He became the first state legislator in America recalled from office in May. More than 18,000 signatures were collected from throughout the district to recall Pearce from office, and a special election will be held in November to decide his political fate.

"This is someone who members of his own party thought he was extreme," said Randy Parraz, co-founder and campaign director of Citizens for a Better Arizona, the group that spearheaded the effort to recall Pearce. "It's never happened before. Not just in Arizona, but in the United States."

Parraz said although everyone is concerned about immigration, it is not the issue that has "driven the process."

Still, there are enough nuances in the platform of Pearce's recall opponent, Jerry Lewis, to make it clear that voters are paying attention to the issue.

Lewis, a fellow Mesa man and former stake president, was approached by friends to run for Pearce's seat. He said any immigration legislation must both support the rule of law and recognize that "we're all brothers and sisters."

"I think everybody is interested in finding a real solution," Lewis said. "We can't take just one piece of the immigration debate at a time. We have to look at the whole issue."

Lewis rejects proposals that solely consider law enforcement or amnesty, a stance that reflects recent statements by the Church. One of the advantages Lewis might have over Pearce when courting Latter-day Saint voters is that he formed his policies after the Church had released comments on the issue.

Rarely does the Church wade into social issues, but its sizable Hispanic membership could have been a factor for its public comments on the topic. Although the Church officially discourages members from entering the country illegally, it called for compassion when considering how legislation will affect millions of people already in the country.



photo by sarah kay brimhall

"What to do with the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants now residing in various states within the United States is the biggest challenge in the immigration debate," said a Church news release in June. "The bedrock moral issue for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is how we treat each other as children of God."

But running on a platform that agrees with the Church statement might not even benefit Lewis, according to some.

"There are still a lot of people in the LDS community who are reluctant to change their position," said Tony Yapias, director of Utah Latinos.

Many Latter-day Saints refuse to acknowledge the Church's statements unless they hear it directly from the First Presidency, Yapias said, despite the reasoning that no official statements are published without their consent.

Among those interviewed, some said that Latter-day Saint opinions are often torn on the issue by competing principles. A belief in "obeying, honoring and sustaining the law" as taught in the 12th Article of Faith would suggest a law enforcement approach to the issue, while the commandment to "love thy neighbor" would seem to favor amnesty and keeping families together.

Yapias hopes Latter-day Saints side with the call to love their neighbor, because as he pointed out, laws can be changed.

"Laws are always changing to adapt to the times," he said, adding that Latter-day Saints were once illegal immigrants, fleeing persecution by moving to what was then Mexico.

The Pearce campaign did not respond to requests for an interview. He has been endorsed by the Arizona Republican Party, Gov. Brewer and Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. While Lewis hasn't been endorsed by the Republican establishment, his list of supporters reads like a roll call of Mesa streets and pioneer families, suggesting grassroots support.

"I think if Jerry Lewis wins, it's going to send a strong message to other LDS members throughout the country in terms of their policies," Yapias said. ■

More to explore in the Provo music scene

by alex wiberg

When I hear someone on campus complaining about how boring Provo is (which happens at least once a week), I can hardly believe we're living in the same city.

This city has a free Rooftop Concert Series on the first Friday from May through October (so there's still one more this year), bringing high-profile touring acts through venues like Velour and Muse.

This city has a show going on almost every day of the week, with everything from folk to hip-hop. Musicians interested in playing a show can head to open mic night at Muse on Monday nights or Velour on Tuesdays.

I'm constantly fascinated by the sheer number of bands in Provo. The fact that two venues like Velour and Muse can

exist on the same block without ever appearing to be competing with each other proves how much is going on here. There's even a recording studio, Black Pyramid Recording, on the same block. It's natural because Provo is a college town, but many of the bands here seem more serious about music than school, and I think there's a reason they stick around in Provo.

Many musicians and bands have broken out of Utah County including Neon Trees, Parlor Hawk, Isaac Russell, The Used, Joshua James and Fictionist. Joshua James recently had a song featured on a TV show, *Sons of Anarchy*, and Fictionist was recently signed to Atlantic Records.

Although Imagine Dragons and Eyes Lips Eyes have relocated to Las Vegas and Los

Angeles, respectively, they still come back to Provo to play shows once in a while and seem to be on the verge of gaining more national attention. Eyes Lips Eyes was just featured on *Filter Magazine's* website, and Imagine Dragons were interviewed on the website of *Spinner* in 2010.

There is a big change occurring in the Provo music scene. Maybe Velour and Muse will host more rock shows; maybe something else will spring up to fill the hole left by recently shut down venues like The Compound, or maybe something else will surprise us. Regardless, it's an interesting time for Provo music. ■



Dan Reynolds, lead singer of the Imagine Dragons. photo by alex wilberg

Tragedy in Somalia

by robert christensen & eden wen

To many, Somalia is synonymous with chaos.

With no effective government since 1991 and an Al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist group called Al-Shabaab controlling part of the country, Somalia has long solidified its reputation as a failing state.

The situation threatens to worsen as another tragedy has hit. Famine blanketing much of East Africa as well as a cholera outbreak have affected tens of thousands of people. Many Somalis, between 1,000 to 1,500 a day according to LDS Church News, have fled to refugee camps in Mogadishu and Kenya, but even the world's largest refugee complexes in Dabaab, Kenya have been overflowing with about 383,000 people there.

CNN reported that the United Nations says it needs more money—about \$1 billion dollars—to help Somalia. On the other hand, some charities across the globe are saying that world citizens have been misinformed.

Dr. Unni Karunakara, the executive of Medecins Sans Frontieres, criticized the media and other charities for trying to persuade people that famine could be solved with money.

"There is a con, there is an unrealistic expectation being peddled that you give your £50 and suddenly those people are going to have food to eat," Karunakara said to *The Guardian*. "Well, no. We need that £50, yes; we will spend it with integrity. But people need to understand the reality of the challenges in delivering that aid. We don't have the right to hide it from people; we have a responsibility to engage the public with the truth."

Many say the famine is a man-made problem, blaming Al-Shabaab. Even as their own people attempt to venture out of their drought-stricken country, Al-Shabaab has placed gunmen along the route to refuge, preying on their own people.

However, Al-Shabaab is not the sole

cause of the famine. Somalia has experienced serious drought on many occasions, but this time the effect is starkly different. The population in the horn of Africa has exploded in recent years, making the effects of a food shortage even more drastic. The most significant problem lies in the breakdown of the state. Since a coup took down the Somali government in 1991, there has been no successful national governing body, and the lack of organization and structure that resulted have never been clearer.

The current Somali Transitional Federal Government effectively controls only a section of the capital city, Mogadishu, and has made only poor, uncoordinated efforts at dealing with Al-Shabaab and the famine. The lack of central authority has led the northeast section of the country, which is less affected by the current famine, to secede. The northwest has also created an autonomous government,

calling itself Puntland, and has been much more effective at distributing relief and combating Al-Shabaab.

The U.N. has also been blamed for exacerbating the hunger crisis. Critics have claimed that the drought did not become famine until the U.N. declared it to be one, prompting Al-Shabaab to cut off western aid which previously provided a significant amount of food to people in affected areas.

Somalia's crisis has no simple solution. There is no singular cause that explains how it came about and not even a massive influx of aid money will put the suffering to an end. Somalia is in trouble, and it is going to take diligent work from diligent people to make things right. Relief organizations are doing what they can, but until they have the necessary resources and political climate, it seems that no lasting solution will be reached. ■

True Blue

by andrew livingston

BYUSA gave me a precious gift, but they never knew it.

It started off as a confrontation, naturally. It was on a Tuesday, and a BYUSA representative was running a booth promising free chapstick for anyone wearing blue. I stepped up to the booth expecting minimal human contact and tried to work up a smile in order to ease the transaction, being under the impression that this organization responded to that sort of thing.

And then it was my turn. "So," I said, "Blue pants. See?"

A disappointed, perhaps even disgusted, stare: "Jeans don't count. Everyone has blue jeans. It has to be something else, like a blue shirt."

I wasn't going to take this lightly. It was no longer about the chapstick. "I don't think I even own a blue shirt," I said.

"You go to BYU and you don't own a blue shirt?"

"I don't need a blue shirt," I explained, patience stretching thin, "because I have blue jeans."

It was to no avail.

"Sorry, I can't give you a chapstick. But here's this fridge magnet to remind you to wear blue next Tuesday!" Her voice was sugar sweet, her tone pleasantly indifferent. I'm sure her hands were tied. I took

that magnet and read it as I walked away: TRUE BLUE TUESDAYS - An Every Tuesday BYU Tradition. When I got home, I took a bitter pair of scissors to the top portion, carefully liberating each letter from the next, keeping "An Every Tuesday BYU Tradition" intact. They went on the fridge together, but now they read: YEA U BLEED, TRUST US. Of course this was a noble BYU tradition. When roommates arrived home, we witnessed a proliferation of anagrams that kept us laughing all winter. That magnet kept my mind off the routine stresses of my daily existence, and ended up being the best gift I could have ever received from the BYUSA.

More notable "Every Tuesday BYU Traditions" (with creative misspellings and letter-rotating substitutions preserved):

Unstudly beef star!

Settled runny beast.

Duel us, yu beet rats!

Deem us bully rats.

Scrub Ned's teetaly. ■

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Student's bladder explodes while waiting for parking spot

by colleen mcdermott

BYU student Eric Black died last Friday from an exploded bladder after waiting an estimated 49 hours for a parking spot near campus to open up.

EMT's arrived to the scene within 20 minutes. They were met by parking police who had arrived within approximately 15 seconds of the call to ticket the corpse for dying in a red zone. Sources say his family plans to contest the ticket.

When asked about the recent tragedy, students agreed that it was only a matter of time since BYU's limited parking standards have grown increasingly stricter.

When asked, a member of the school's administration said, "Last time I heard, walking was good for a person."

When interviewed, many students expressed frustration with the parking situation.

"When I wait in a line that long, I want it to be for something good, like a

Disneyland ride or a Jamba Juice," said Samantha Clifton, a junior from California. "Those I'll wait for. They're fun. There is nothing fun about parking, unless you're parking at Disneyland."

Some students have even reported basing relationship decisions based on their significant other's parking proximity to campus.

"I only dated guys that had a car and really whether or not they had an in to get us a good parking spot," said sophomore Jamie Meyers. "I once dated this guy that would get us in the lot right next to the MOA, like right there. I mean, I think things could have really worked out but he wasn't an RM. The guy in my FHE group was."

Meyers (formerly Sturges) is expecting twins mid-October.

"I'm deathly afraid of stairs—you know, a lot of traumatic childhood experiences and stuff," Iva Fallin, a senior from Kentucky,

said. "I walk up them anyways so I don't have to park. I live south of campus. Do you have any idea how many stairs that is? A lot. That's how many."

While most students appear deeply concerned about the situation at hand, some are less than sympathetic towards Black's parking plight.

"I just hope his engine wasn't running that whole time," said Allison Rogers, a junior from Washington studying environmental science. "Gore believes that limiting parking is a great way to decrease students' carbon footprint." Her stance: "I actually believe BYU has too much parking. Come on people! For the love of polar bears, get a bike!"

While it's unclear whether or not BYU administration will feel a need to act upon the parking situation, a fund has been set up in order to construct a parking spot in honor of Black that will forever remain empty in honor of his sacrifice.

**All events and students presented in this article are fictitious. Any similarities in regard to actual individuals' names are completely coincidental. ■*

Santa Fe chicken

by linea kemsley
Difficulty: Easy
Expense Rating: Bourgeois

2 (or more depending on how many people you are feeding) chicken breasts cubed
1 jar salsa
1 can corn
1/2 bag of tortilla chips crushed
1 cup grated cheddar cheese
2 tsp vegetable oil

Heat vegetable oil in large frying pan, add chicken and cook. Add salsa and corn. Heat until warm. Add tortilla chips (broken up) and 1/2 cup cheese. Stir. Sprinkle remaining cheese on top and serve with lettuce, sour cream and other 1/2 bag of tortilla chips. Serves 4.

Helpful Hints: Make sure your chicken is thoroughly cooked before you move onto the next step.

Wait for browning, and if you are a new chef try cutting into a couple to check for pink in the middle. Keep your temperature low after adding salsa to avoid burning.

One of my staple meals. You can also add rice, black beans, tomatoes, green onion etc. as desired to spice things up and make the chicken last.



photo by spencer ruiz

Entering a brave new world

Prospects for post-MWC Cougar athletics

by christopher michaels

With BYU football independent and the new conferences announced, BYU athletics is only beginning to realize the pros and cons of a new post-Mountain West Conference reality.

FOOTBALL PROS

Expect a lot more Cougar discussions on SportsCenter and Sports Nation, with almost every game on primetime ESPN. The biggest benefit of independence is the money. Before, when the Cougars won a bowl game, we had to split it with the conference. Now when we win, that pot goes straight to us, which means better scholarships and more improvements in the athletic department. The primetime coverage will also provide us with better recruitment opportunities, because every family wants to be able to watch their kids on the big screen.

CONS

The downside to independence will be scheduling. Although our away games will be great, the home schedule will be mostly lackluster the next year or two. Already, we have teams like Idaho State, New Mexico State and San Jose coming into town. Expect to see similar teams on the ballot next season along with easy wins but boring third and fourth quarters. Also, a loss or two will cost us any chance at the BCS or even a decent bowl game.

WOMEN'S SOCCER PROS

The sport that benefited best in the conference shake-ups was Women's Soccer. The perennial top 25 program has dominated the Mountain West Conference the last decade and was in need of a conference deserving of their talent. The West Coast Conference brings in powerhouses Santa Clara and Portland, both of which have won national championships, a thing for which the Cougars are still on the hunt. BYU has faced Santa Clara multiple times in the late '90s and early '2000s but has yet to record a win against them.

CONS

There aren't a lot of negatives here. The team has landed in the best situation for which they could have hoped. The only real downside is the loss of backup goalkeeper Erica Owens who suffered a broken leg just before the start of the season.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL PROS

The team enters a conference full of California schools that have bred their players on the beaches of the Pacific. This means the Cougars will be challenged week in and week out against some of the top tier teams in the nation. Pepperdine and Saint Mary's will be the biggest test for coach Shawn Olmstead this season.

CONS

Sadly, the team faces many negatives this year with the addition of a new coach so close to the season. Although the team returns a number of starters from last year, only one, Christie Carpenter, made the All-Conference pre-season team.

MEN'S BASKETBALL PROS

Men's basketball is entering their first post-Jimmer season, and there is a lot of commotion about what to expect. Although the Cougars lost both Jimmer Fredette and Jackson Emery, coach Dave Rose has succeeded in developing a strong team every year. Also, it's likely the team will play more as a group with less emphasis on one individual. The change in tactics will aid the Cougars against Saint Mary's and Gonzaga. The WCC provides better competition to the Cougars who have always suffered from mid-level teams in the MWC who were unable to prepare the Cougars for March Madness. The Cougars will return with Charles Abouo, Noah Hartsock, Chris Collinsworth and Brandon Davies. In addition, coach Rose has pulled in a recruit from UCLA and a freshman out of South Carolina.

CONS

The expectations of the team will be the biggest challenge this year. Last year was a charismatic, electrifying experience, and we won't be seeing it again anytime soon. This doesn't mean we won't do well, it means the energy of the team will not be the same. So to those fans who experienced the power of last year, prepare yourselves for a much less enthusiastic crowd.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PROS

The WCC provides similar competition as the MWC and should result in similar results as years past. The biggest plus this season is the home game against Duke. This game should produce the largest crowd the entire season though few expect the Cougars to come out on top of this one.

CONS

The team lost too many players to be a huge threat this year. With Mindy Bonham, Jazmine Foreman and Coriann Fraughton gone, the team will likely lack the chemistry of last year's season. Haley Steed will lead the team, but without the help of Foreman and Bonham, she will struggle at the beginning of the season. By conference time, they should fall in the middle of the pack and could get a birth to the WNIT, but the NCAA won't be on their horizon. In the end, this is likely going to be a rebuilding year for the team until the young players mature enough to make a bigger impact.

OTHER SPORTS

Baseball, softball, track and field, golf, tennis, swimming and diving, men's volleyball, cross country and gymnastics will experience little change in performance from the shake up and should remain on the same course they have been, only coupled with more media exposure through BYUtv.

By Christopher Michaels questions/comments_email_wmichaels16@gmail.com.

A monochromatic blue photograph of a woman performing. She is singing into a microphone and playing a cello. The image is the background for the text.

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