

## N E W S

## FAUX BYU'S: THE MAKING OF TWO INDEPENDENT MORMON COLLEGES

AT LEAST two or three families in most Mormon wards can tell you how their little (insert name here)'s life was devastated when that BYU rejection letter arrived. "I just don't understand how this could happen," they'll say, weeping. "I'm a stake president; LeRay/LaDon was on the student council, she graduated with a 3.5 GPA, played in the band, didn't French kiss, and won't even watch those clever beer commercials on TV!"

Ask them, "What was her ACT score?"

"Good, around the 80th percentile, a 25."

"Oh . . .," you'll say.

Then ask: "Did she graduate from seminary?"

"Well, no. She went a lot, but it was an hour away and started at 6 A.M."

Tell them that's the clincher; between the sub-par GPA and ACT scores and the unfortunate seminary situation, she never had a chance.

That's right. With Church membership approaching 10 million, a BYU enrollment cap of 27,000 (although many say the bursting-at-the-seams campus is closer to 30,000), Church leaders that insist there will be no more BYU's. With average BYU freshman GPAs of 3.73 and ACT scores of 27.3, there are a whole bunch of LeRay/LaDons who, well, never had a chance.

And it's not only BYU. Church-owned Ricks College is also opening itself up to charges of elitism: last year, 2,200 applicants were turned away, and the average freshman GPA has risen to 3.36 at the small, Idaho school with a 7,500 enrollment cap. Utah Valley State College, while

not Church-owned, has become an attractive alternative for LDS kids who need to log a couple of strong semesters before BYU will accept them. Today, overcrowding has forced officials to turn away hundreds of students (which also drives up admission requirements). It seems inevitable that some enterprising Saint would volunteer to supply the demand. There have been a few failed attempts; most recently, efforts to raise money to purchase a vacant college in Carthage, Ill., fell far short ("BYU East" Bid Fails," SUNSTONE, Dec. 1994). But what follows is a sketch of two new efforts that show a lot of promise.

### "BYU" EAST Small, Virginia College gains new life and an honor code

Southern Virginia College, a small, liberal arts women's college known for its strong writing and equestrian program, had been carrying a \$4.5 million debt for years. Having lost its accreditation in December, the 130-year-old school in Buena Vista was near closing when Roger Barrus, Glade Knight, and other LDS educators and business associates pooled their resources and bought it. (Barrus, a political science professor at Virginia's Hampden-Sydney College, came up with the idea after his daughter, Corinne, had been rejected from both BYU and Ricks twice.)

Barrus, et. al, are now working to turn SVC, known as Southern Seminary until 1992, into the "BYU" of the East (with some notable differences).

- The school is not sponsored



*Southern Virginia College was recently purchased by wealthy East-Coast Latter-day Saints and is being billed as an alternative to Church-owned schools. It may be the first of several independent LDS colleges throughout the United States.*

or aided financially by the Church.

- In place are dress and grooming standards and an honor code (no pre-marital sex, shorts to the knees, no drinking, . . . but male students can wear neatly trimmed beards). SVC's honor code is "modeled largely after the BYU version, but won't be quite as stringent," new college president David Ferrell, a senior analyst at the Wirthlin Group, told the *Student Review*. "It creates an atmosphere with the standards of BYU, but it is not to be used as a tool to get at other students," he said.
- The former two-year, women's school is now a four-year, co-ed institution.
- The dorms are set up with the same rules and restrictions as are BYU's Desert Towers or Helaman Halls, including limited, opposite-sex visiting hours.
- Students are required to complete two hours of com-

munity service a week.

- SVC officials stress the school is nonsectarian, but there will be an LDS institute building with a full-time director. It will also continue to support the campus's Baptist Student Union and Catholic Ministries.
  - An academic cornerstone will be the school's Great Books curriculum. Based on similar programs at St. John's and other universities, SVC will build its liberal arts core on Western civilization's enduring works of religion, philosophy, literature, and science.
  - All of the school's top administrators and all but three of its trustees are LDS.
- Barrus, who is provost and academic dean, said only a few faculty members and students left after the new standards were announced. It's a good thing, too, because the new owners have assumed the previous debt, but don't plan to raise the \$9000 annual tuition or the \$6,000 for



Cumorah University, in Tijuana, Mexico.

fees, room and board. Instead, they hope to collect \$50 million over five years from corporate sponsors and individuals, the Associated Press reported.

"We would like our graduates to possess a core of character and begin to live lives that are imbued with integrity," Ferrell told the AP. He would also like them to be able to get jobs and go to graduate programs, currently an issue since the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools refused to reaccredit SVC in May. This also poses financial problems, since non-accredited schools don't qualify for federal or state financial aid. Nonetheless, as of this fall semester, around 200 students enrolled. And school officials are forging forward, hoping to add 200 more students each year up to a cap of 1000.

Since Barrus and Knight acquired SVC and announced their goals, they have reportedly fielded numerous calls from other Latter-day Saints who would like to do the same thing in their area. Some dream of a consortium of independent LDS colleges around the nation. For more information, write Southern Virginia College, One College Hill Dr., Buena Vista, VA, 24416 or call 800/229-8420.

SVC's internet website is <http://www.southernvirginia.edu>; e-mail is [info@southernvirginia.edu](mailto:info@southernvirginia.edu).

edu.

#### "BYU" SOUTH (OF THE BORDER)

*Upstart Mexican university offers  
high school, technical, and  
academic degrees*

While Virginia is breaking ground for independent Mormon colleges in the U.S., a school south of the border is already approaching its third birthday. The Universidad de Cumorah (Cumorah University) is a private, LDS-oriented institution in Tijuana, Mexico. It offers three educational tracks, which were outlined in a *San Diego Seagull* feature article.

The first level is an intensive, six-month program that teaches English, accounting, and computers. University President Arturo De Hoyos told the *Seagull* that graduates of this program are trained for jobs that will pay at least three times more than the minimum wage in Mexico. Anyone with an elementary school education can be admitted. The second level is designed to prepare students to pass the thirty-three exams needed to receive one's Preparatoria certificate (high school diploma). Students can begin the program at any time and work at their own pace; several finish each month.

College-level work kicks in at

the third level. There are eight majors: business administration, history, international commerce, education, banking and finance, tourism, nutrition and food preparation, and computer science—all approved by the Department of Education of Baja, California. The classes, which started in April 1995, are "open," meaning students do not have to attend all the time, and can work at their own pace.

Admission requirements, beyond the standard letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc., are:

- live a clean life; maintain a positive attitude;
- have a high motivation to study (at least four hours a

day);

- and have a willingness to work with tutors and school counselors.

Registration fees are 250 pesos a semester and tuition is 500 pesos a month (about \$58 U.S. dollars).

The school's academic publication, *La Voz de Cumorah*, is printed mostly in Spanish. The semi-monthly magazine is available for \$25 a year, and editors are currently accepting submissions. Also, applications are being accepted for faculty and volunteer tutors. For more information, write Cumorah University, P.O. Box 5477, Chula Vista, CA 91912 or call 66/22-13-55.

## PRESIDENT BATEMAN RESPONDS TO CHARGES

EARLY IN July, word that BYU President Merrill J. Bateman had refused to meet with a faculty academic freedom association became public. Members of the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) said they had sent him three letters, but, in response, each member had received missives telling them no, and encouraging them to individually (not as a group) work "within the system that has been established . . . including the Faculty Center." AAUP said they would keep working to establish a dialogue.

Well, they might as well stop now. A generic letter is probably as close as many a faculty group is going to get for some time: the following month, in August, an anonymous BYU professor published in *SUNSTONE* a personal "litany of despair," an essay chronicling recent academic freedom violations ("Clipped and Controlled": A Contemporary Look at BYU," Sept. 1996).

That alone was probably enough to guarantee that everyone on the current hit list (if such a document exists) gets the

silent treatment. But there was more: the anonymous faculty member also accused President Bateman of plagiarizing ideas and phrases from historian Gertrude Himmelfarb's "The Christian University: A Call to Counterrevolution," published in the January 1996 *First Things*, a conservative academic journal. Anonymous listed at least fourteen different passages where there had been a "sequential summary" of Himmelfarb's ideas and writings—without attribution.

When the plagiarism story broke, President Bateman, who is also a member of the Church's First Quorum of the Seventy, declined an interview with the Associated Press, offering instead this short statement:

"President Bateman respects and agrees with the ideas in Gertrude Himmelfarb's speech published in "First Things" in January, and he cited her work in his inaugural address. He tapped a large body of literature on the secularization of the university in which concepts expressed by Himmelfarb are widely shared.

"A strict reading of style manuals would require that President

Bateman enclose five of Himmelfarb's phrases in quotes, and he did, in fact, cite her as an important source.

"If there was an inadvertent error, it was in phraseology, not in attempting to take credit for someone else's ideas."

Himmelfarb said she wanted to stay out of the controversy. "It can stand on its own," she told the AP. "People will make of it what they will." And SUNSTONE editor Elbert Peck defended his decision to run an unattributed article. "I have a policy against anonymous articles, but there are certain times when the situation requires one," he said, especially since public criticism of university or Church administrators can affect the standing of BYU faculty members.

President Bateman remained otherwise mute on the subject until a letter from him to Himmelfarb was released to the media August 20. BYU spokesperson Brent Harker was mystified as to why President Bateman chose to make the letter public. "All I can say is maybe the spirit is prompting him," he told the *Deseret News*.

In the letter, the *News* reported, Bateman denied he had plagiarized her work. "Apologies are due for your being drawn into accusations made against me regarding my inaugural speech which quoted from your fine article," he wrote. "Unfortunately, a set of quotation marks was included at the same point to highlight the slogan 'everything is political' and the placement of the citation appears to refer only to the slogan when it refers to the preceding paraphrased sentences in that paragraph." He also said a second citation to her work was unintentionally deleted. "However, there was no intent to plagiarize," he affirmed.

President Bateman gave his first spoken comments on the charges during a faculty conference late in August. He said that he well understands to whom he is accountable and he knows that his performance as university

president "must be exemplary. In no way do I intend to diminish [BYU's] quality or reputation," he said, according to the *News*. He apologized and promised to be more careful in the future.

Bateman told faculty and staff members that he was "shocked" by the plagiarism charge and felt bad about drawing Himmelfarb into the controversy. He explained that several sentences in one paragraph drawing on information from her address became separated from the citation given for statements in a second paragraph, the *News* reported.

President Bateman also criticized the SUNSTONE author for hiding "behind the cloak of anonymity." He said within the university, anonymous letters regarding faculty and staff are ignored—an ironic statement to many since an anonymous letter recently prompted BYU administrators to ask English Professor Brian Evenson, author of a nationally acclaimed collection of violent fiction, to change writing styles or leave ("BYU Professor Under Fire for Violent Book," SUNSTONE, Aug.-Sept. 1995).

Toward the end of the essay, the faculty member wrote, "Undoubtedly, the public-relations apparatus of the university will explain [the plagiarism] as an unfortunate oversight or . . . as the result of mixed up notes. The messenger, sadly SUNSTONE, will certainly be reviled."

Anonymous was right on both accounts. Bateman closed his address with a reminder that the Church issued a statement five years ago "counseling members not to participate in symposia where presentations injure the church" or are not appro-



COURTESY OF PAT BAGLEY/LAKE TRIBUNE

appropriate. "I believe the publication of an anonymous article by a symposia group denigrating members of the Twelve and advocating the transformation of BYU into a secular university supports the wisdom of that statement," he said.

Public response to the brouhaha has varied from outrage, to disbelief, to disappointment. AP articles appeared in newspapers from Irvine, California, to Cleveland, Ohio. There were the predictable letters to the editor, such as BYU law professor Lynn Wardle's, who called the plagiarism charge a "cheap shot" because "not every communication in a university needs to comply rigidly with the rules of scholarly citation." It seems that both "Anonymous and SUNSTONE strained the rules of scholarly writing for the shabby purposes of embarrassing someone whose message criticizing moral relativism in the university they disliked," he wrote.

Predictably, numerous Mormon e-mail lists crackled with opinion and gossip. One widely circulated tale, was that Bateman, when he was the Church's presiding bishop, had lifted much of his earlier City Creek dedication speech from a self-published history and was caught when the

eighty-seven-year-old author approached him following the ceremony. Only hearsay, but a prime example of the kind of stories that were passed around.

"I am glad President Bateman apologized for the ambiguity of his attribution," Scott Abbott, professor of Germanic and slavic languages, told the *Tribune*. "That will help the university move on to other things." Other faculty members queried by the *Tribune* declined to comment, but privately many discuss such questions as:

How do BYU faculty now deal with students who don't cite others' work? What do they say to a student who says "I just 'pulled a Bateman'—it wasn't really plagiarism"? What kind of a message is sent when a university doesn't follow its own "inadvertent" plagiarism policy ("it is a form of intellectual carelessness which is unacceptable in the academic community")? And what are the implications of President Bateman's violation of the Academic Freedom document, which says one does not have the right to embarrass the university?

Others philosophically conclude that the event will put all of the university's scholars on their toes, which is a good thing.



## UPDATE



After thirty months of around-the-clock protests, Mesquite, Nevada, Saints were successful in getting a pornography store closed.

### ACTIVISTS IN NEVADA KILL PORNO "GIANT"

COMPARING THEMSELVES to the David who slew Goliath, hundreds of crusaders gathered in May to celebrate the death of their common foe, a local porno book and video store ("Mormons and Others Continue Anti-Porn Fight in Nevada," *SUNSTONE*, Aug.-Sept. 1995). It was a mega-ward party, complete with watermelon, balloons, singing children, and speeches: Pure Pleasure Book and Video had been forced out of town after a court ruling lifted an injunction that had prevented city officials from enforcing a zoning ordinance banning adult-oriented shops in the business district.

"We know that this was inspired by God and the people of Mesquite will be blessed for generations to come," Jerry Kirk, president of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families, told the *Salt Lake Tribune*. "Without us being on the picket line and packed in Judge Pro's courtroom last summer, we would have lost and these businesses would have made Mesquite the sex Mecca of the Great Basin," added Rebecca Hartley, coordinator of the long-running picket line. But Roger Diamond, a defender of sexually oriented businesses, who represented Pure Pleasure, chuckles at the idea that pickets and prayers tipped the scales of justice. "Their protesting had no effect on the outcome of this case," Diamond told the *Tribune*. "If they think their lives were enriched by walking back and forth all day and all night for so long, who am I to say otherwise? Sure, they could have been out helping the needy or feeding the homeless, but this is how they chose to spend their time."

Protest organizers estimate that over the previous thirty months, the twenty-four-hour, seven-day-a-week picket line involved 7,000 people, or a total of about 88,000 hours. The protest is believed to have been the longest-running picket line by nonpaid volunteers ever. "I will miss [the picketing]," Mary Halterman told the *Deseret News*. "It was a chance for us to stand up for what we thought was right. It was letting people know how we felt. I'm having withdrawal." Rita Fox, a single-parent and a teacher who lives in Mesquite, wept. "I have three daughters who picketed with me," she told the *News*. "We felt we were doing our part to clean up the world for future generations. I picketed because this was a moral issue I cared deeply about."

### RESEARCHERS: MORMONS NEED UPDATED LONGEVITY STUDIES

ACCORDING TO past longevity studies, insured Mormon men live 85.7 years while the average male U.S. citizen lives 71.5 years; insured Mormon women live 88.1 years while the average U.S. female citizen lives 78.5 years. Times are changing, however. Early Mormons were raised in isolation and therefore able to sustain healthier lives, Utah State University gerontologist Ann W. Sorenson told the *Salt Lake Tribune*. "But as Utah becomes more heterogeneous, life expectancy gets closer to the national average. We need to study these people now to find out what they are doing right," she told the *Tribune*, especially since most state populations, including Utah's, will double in the next twenty-five years. To launch the necessary longitudinal study, Sorenson and others in USU's department of nutrition and food sciences have applied for a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

### PROFESSOR WINS SUIT IN MORMON BIAS CASE

PHILLIP THORNTON said his troubles began in June 1994, when the Metropolitan State College decided not to hire LDS accounting professor Gary A. Ames. Thornton and other faculty members said accounting department chair Virginia Parker told them Ames had expressed anti-homosexual attitudes to her and that, as a lesbian, she was offended, the *Rocky Mountain News* reported. Parker also allegedly said she thought Ames, a Mormon who has six children, viewed women as "baby-making machines." Thornton and other faculty members objected to Parker's remarks about Ames, saying they did not think it was legal to discuss religion in deciding whether to hire someone. Thornton filed a suit after he was denied tenure, and a federal jury recently ordered MSC to pay him \$250,000 in damages, according to the *News*.

### "JOSEPH SMITH SPHINX" SITE MAY BE IN PERIL



GILGAL, the current site of the so-called Joseph Smith Sphinx and other eclectic Mormon sculptures, may be in danger of becoming a parking lot, according to the July 1996 *Catalyst*, a Utah alternative magazine.

Gilgal, which means "circle of sacred stones," was created by Thomas B. Child. Child, while serving for nineteen years as bishop of the Salt Lake Tenth Ward, constructed the bower as an artistic representation of his education, culture, and religion. While no immediate plans have been made to sell the garden, the family who owns it says vandalism and high maintenance costs have made it difficult to keep the

park accessible to the public. It is a popular spot for teenagers to clandestinely visit late at night. Gilgal is officially open only on Sundays, 10 A.M.—10 P.M., 749 E. 500 S., in Salt Lake City. For more information, call Grant Fetzer, 801/359-8813 or 801/533-5165.

## CHURCH AGAINST PIONEER "SQUARE"

THE LDS CHURCH has marshaled its considerable political forces against a proposal to rename Salt Lake City's Pioneer Park to Pioneer Square. Advocates argue the name change for the downtown block would draw commercial ventures to the neighborhood, especially upscale restaurants that serve wine, and help rejuvenate an area that is now known more for its drug trade than for its place in early Utah history as the first Mormon settlement in the city. Currently, Utah forbids liquor sales within 600 feet of a "park" but not a "square," and the name change method has been used elsewhere in the city. In response, Utah North Area President Alexander B. Morrison, a member of the LDS First Quorum of the Seventy, asked local stake presidents to encourage their congregations not to support the proposal. The Church also issued a statement, which said, "Circumventing the existing law through a name change would have a negative impact, not only on the moral standards of this community, but on the public's perception of the ethics and credibility of those seeking a semantic skirting of that law." At a very crowded hearing, a decision on the proposal was postponed for six months.

## SPEECHES & CONFERENCES

## ELDER HAFEN WARNS OF THE PERILS OF DIVORCE, GAY MARRIAGE



Elder Bruce C. Hafen

NO-FAULT DIVORCE and homosexual "marriages" are gaining more acceptance as Americans forget that marriage traditionally has three legal partners: man, woman, and society, said Elder Bruce C. Hafen, a member of the Church's First Quorum of the Seventy. The result is the erosion of strong families and the benefit they give society, he said according to the *Deseret News*.

"What interests me most today about these recent policy debates is the virtual absence of attention to the issue of society's interest in marriage as a fundamental social institution," he said. While many Americans now apparently are willing to tolerate homosexual relationships, Elder Hafen said, allowing gay "marriages" would elevate them to a highly protected status and promote such relationships, something he believes is wrong, the *News* reported. He

### "Quickie" Temple Tours Now Available to Utah Air Travelers.

In July, the Church introduced a program designed to bring more tourists to the Salt Lake Temple. Now, travelers with ninety minutes or more before a connecting flight can catch a courtesy van to Temple Square for a quick synopsis of Utah history and a guided tour of the grounds. "We don't talk church, it's a friendship tour," Don Toomey, supervisor of the popular program, told the *Deseret News*.

### Tabernacle Choir Reaches Milestone.

This September, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir broadcast its 3500th "Music and the Spoken Word," a weekly network radio program. The choir's first broadcast was 15 July 1929.

### Plan to Name Utah Arena after Beer Maker Falls Flat.

West Valley City, Utah, officials say Coors Brewing Co. was just about ready to ante up \$7 million for the rights to put its name on a city hockey arena, but then the LDS church issued a statement condemning the idea. "It's not going to happen," franchise executive vice president Tim Mouser told the *Salt Lake Tribune*. "We don't want to be thought of as a bad guy in the community."

### Beaver Sheriff Evicts Religious Group from Settlement.

Basing their beliefs on the Bible, Book of Mormon, U.S. Constitution, and English common law, a small group, in 1986, consecrated a section of Utah's remote western desert as a "religious retreat." Group members refused to register with the state or the Internal Revenue Service and did not pay property tax for



Manti's Newest "Store"front Church.

nearly a decade. The land was sold at an auction in 1993, prompting its recent, peaceful eviction. "It's been devastating, but this is what was prophesied to happen," Talmage Weis, a group co-founder, told the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

### Manti Store Becomes Fundamentalist Church.

The True and Living Church of Jesus Christ of Saints of The Last Days has purchased a century-old store in Manti, converting it to a meeting-house. The acquisition received no community opposition, as some had feared it would. "The project is a decidedly worthwhile contribution to both our beautification and historic preservation programs," City Manager Bill Mickelsen told the *Deseret News*.

**Utahns Drink More than Reported.** For years, the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, the state agency that regulates all liquor and wine sales in Utah, has published impressive annual statistics that show Utahns consume only about half as much alcohol as do people in other states. But according to a review conducted by the Church-owned *Deseret News*, those statistics are way off: over the last ten years, Utahns, on average, drink up to 32 percent more wine and 27 percent more liquor than claimed by the DABC.

**Church Applies to Build Vermont Campground.** Church leaders in Vermont have requested permits to build a campground at the birthplace of Church founder Joseph Smith Jr. The thirty-two-site campground would be on the west side of about 350 acres the Church owns in Royalton, the *Associated Press* reported.

warned that it would open the door to giving similar, high recognition to all sorts of people wanting to form domestic partnerships, ranging from biological sisters to a bisexual person who wants to marry two other people.

Also, Hafen said that easy, no-fault divorces over the last several decades have resulted in the view that marriage is "temporary." This, of course, leads to more broken families, which, studies show, suffer more problems, and governmental programs to address them have skyrocketed. "When the government removed some of its fences on the cliff, it had to increase the number of ambulances to retrieve crash victims in the valley below," he said.

### PRES. HINCKLEY CONDEMNS AMERICAN "SECULARIZATION"

AMERICA IS forsaking God, "and he is forsaking us," said LDS Church President Gordon B. Hinckley in August. He blamed "rampant social illness," including poverty, child abuse and neglect, lack of opportunity for some children, and teen-age pregnancy on what he called the "secularizing of America," the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported. To the BYU students and faculty members assembled, President Hinckley stressed that these problems are everyone's. "The problem exists in your nation, and in your world and in your generation," he said, "and you cannot close your eyes to it because you will have to bear the burden of it."

### CHOOSE HOPE, RELIEF SOCIETY LEADERS URGE

LDS WOMEN are poised to stride across a new threshold of spirituality and light, said general Relief Society leaders at the annual women's meeting in September. "Your efforts to assist and help others have become so much a part of your personal style that for the most part, they are spontaneous, instinctive, immediate," said President Elaine

L. Jack, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. Chieko N. Okazaki, first counselor, urged LDS women to choose hope "even though despair seems close. Choose to grow even though circumstances oppress you. Choose to love, even though ours are days of violence and vengeance." Those who place their hope in Jesus Christ will be lifted out of "hopelessness, weariness, despair, and meaninglessness," Okazaki promised. Faith is the power to move forward, added Sister Aileen Clyde, second counselor.

### PRES. HINCKLEY EXHORTS VETS TO FIGHT NEW BATTLE

LDS CHURCH President Gordon B. Hinckley praised U.S. war veterans but warned that their sacrifices may have been in vain unless the nation turns itself again to God, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported. "As you once knew so well, there are no atheists in foxholes," President Hinckley said in his keynote address at the American Legion's "patriotic religious service" at their September annual meeting, which was held this year in Salt Lake City. The new battle is one against atheism. (Incidentally, Spike Tyson, national commander of the American Atheist Veterans, wrote, in a letter to the *Tribune*, that President Hinckley obviously was "never in my foxhole, or any of the other 300,000 atheist foxholes in Vietnam.")

For example, President Hinckley said, the Boy Scouts have been dragged into court to defend their oath, "On my honor, I will do my best, to do my duty to God, and my country," because of the reference to God. In New Jersey, he added, lawmakers have passed a law prohibiting any reference to God in courtroom oaths. Yet, America was founded by individuals who invoked God's name in governing compacts, declarations, coins, and public utterances, President Hinckley said, according to the *Deseret News*. At the same time, the "practice of family prayer is largely disappearing from our society," he continued. "Are we forgetting the Almighty, who in times of last resort is our greatest strength?"

## PEOPLE

### TRANSFERS

- **Steven E. Benzley**, professor of civil engineering, has succeeded James B. McDonald as associate dean of General Education and Honors. McDonald has been called to serve as president of the California Anaheim Mission.
- **Gary R. Hooper**, former executive director for undergraduate research and creative activities, has been named BYU associate academic vice president for research and graduate studies. He succeeds J. Bevan Ott, who is returning to teaching in the chemistry department.
- **Janet Griffin Lee**, widow of the late BYU president Rex E. Lee, has been elected to Deseret Book Company's board of directors.
- **Robert L. Millet**, dean of Religious Education and professor of ancient scripture at BYU, has been elected to Deseret Book Company's board of directors.



Mary Bradford



Glow Marsha

Beatrice Cannon Evans Biography Award for *Lowell L. Bennion: Teacher, Counselor, Humanitarian*.

- In the 1996 *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings, **BYU** has fallen from the second tier to the third of four tiers over the last year. Administrators say the drop is partially a result of a fairly narrow fund-raising campaign, LDS mis-

sions that increase the average number of years it takes to graduate, and large class sizes.

- *Success* magazine recently gave the **BYU Marriott School of Management** its top award for educating creative and successful entrepreneurs.

- This summer, a bronze statue of **Martha Hughes Cannon**, Utah's first woman senator and prominent LDS church leader, was placed in an alcove at the Utah Capitol rotunda.

- **Glow Marsha**, a star cow at the BYU Dairy Farm, produced 5,455 gallons of milk over a 365-day period; the fifteen-gallon-a-day average is a national record.

### AWARDS & HONORS

- **Mary Lythgoe Bradford** recently won the David Woolley and



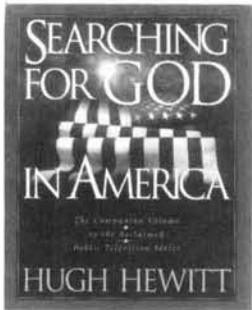
## MORMON MEDIA IMAGE

## APOSTLE PROFILED IN PBS PROGRAM

"ADULATION CAN be our ruin," said LDS Apostle Neal A. Maxwell in an interview with Hugh Hewitt. "We have to be very careful with it and, in a sense, not inhale . . . . The fact that [Church members] love us and listen to us is wonderful, but I am under no illusions about how much of my developmental journey is left," he said. (See longer excerpt on page 80.)

Hewitt, who traveled the globe interviewing religious leaders for his recently released book, *Searching for God in America*, also a series of PBS programs, spent two hours with Elder Maxwell, one of the Church hierarchy's leading theologians. Elder Maxwell said his faith journey probably began when he was fourteen. Coming home late one night from his "grease monkey" job at the Greyhound Bus depot, he saw his infant sister lying on the dining room table, deathly ill with whooping cough. She had stopped breathing. "I watched my father, after the manner of the New Testament, bless her by the power of the priesthood, and I saw her breathe again," he said.

Maxwell explained to Hewitt some of Mormonism's distinctive doctrines, such as baptism for the dead, marriage for eternity, God's governance of other worlds, pre-Earth existence, modern revelation, the restoration of priesthood keys, and the unique role of Church founder Joseph Smith. Does that imply that other Christian churches, including Hewitt's own Presbyterianism, are wrong? the interviewer wondered. "Keep every-



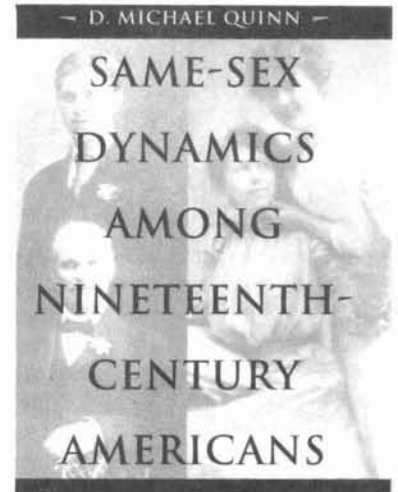
thing that you've got that's good and true, which is much," Elder Maxwell responded. "Let us add to what you already have what we consider the fullness of the faith, including much more information about Jesus."

## QUINN AND CONTROVERSIAL BOOK COME "OUT"

AFTER MONTHS of wrangling with lawyers and angry Cache County, Utah, residents, D. Michael Quinn's latest controversial work, *Same-Sex Dynamics among Nineteenth-Century Americans: A Mormon Example*, is out. And, planned or not, Quinn himself "came out" at about the same time.

In the August issue of *Out*, a popular gay monthly, Quinn, who says he doesn't like labels such as "homosexual" and "lesbian," told writer Michelangelo Signorile, "I was married and have four children, and so I feel I'm part of a complicated interaction. I don't define myself as 'bisexual' because I don't have an equal attraction to both genders. I am overwhelmingly attracted to men."

Beyond a flurry of posts on computer bulletin boards and hallway discussions at the 1996 Sunstone Symposium in Salt Lake City, Quinn's statement on his sexuality hasn't received much attention. It was an Associated Press article on Quinn's book that caused a backlash in Logan and Ogden,



- Church President **Gordon B. Hinckley** was recently awarded the 1996 "Good Guy Award" from the American Legion for his "lifelong contributions to society, to the betterment of America."

- Mormon historian **Carol Cornwall Madsen** was recently given the Dale L. Morgan Award for the best scholarly article, "Decade of Detente: The Mormon-Gentile Female Relationship in Nineteenth-Century Utah."

- University of Utah history professor **Dean L. May** was recently accepted as a Fellow of the Utah State Historical Society. The Fellow, the highest honor given by the society, was awarded for May's years of excellent research and writing of Utah history.

- The Western History Association recently announced that **Mormon Americana**, edited by BYU's David Whittaker, had won the 1996 Dwight Smith Award for bibliography and reference works.

- **Utah** is the seventh most annoying state, according to a recent issue of *Spy* magazine. Utah was panned for such things as Roseanne Barr, BYU's caffeine prohibition, wacky liquor laws, Mormons who frown on French kissing, and the state's dearth of culture (*Spy* says Utah's culture is basically limited to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir



Dean May



Carol Cornwall Madsen

and the Vernal Dinosaur Gardens). Texas topped the annoying list for its "vulgar, free-wheeling yahoos."

- John F. Kennedy Jr.'s magazine, *George*, recently ranked **Utah** forty-fifth in the nation for quality of life for women. Interestingly, ten of the best states are in the West (including California and Colorado). "Utah is the only blemish" in the West for women, the magazine reports. Also, Utah was ranked last for educational level for women.

- In September, **S. Michael Wilcox** was given the 1996 Frankie and John Kenneth Orton Award for LDS Literature for his book, *House of Glory: Finding Personal Meaning in the Temple*. Wilcox says it took him eight days to complete the first draft of the 146-page book.

## BIRTHS

- **Rachel Marlene Smith** (a.k.a Molly; 7 pounds, 12 ounces; 20.5 inches), was born to Bryan Waterman, a SUNSTONE associate editor, and Stephanie Smith-Waterman, 23 September 1996. They describe the birth of their second girl as "surreal: the midwife totally reminded us of Roseanne Barr."

Utah, the likes of which many had never seen. Local newspaper editors reported that dozens of subscriptions were canceled and scores of venomous letters flooded their offices. Most of the missives were from people defending former Mormon Tabernacle Choir director Evan Stephens, who Quinn says spent much of his life with male companions he called his "boy chums."

Rather than face additional legal tie-ups, the University of Illinois Press opted to replace 5,000 dust covers with a title-only version (instead of one that featured a photograph of Stephens and a "chum"). The press also razored out a page containing the same photo. Predictably, Cache County's ire sent Quinn's book to the top of some Salt Lake bookstores' best-seller lists, and a second printing, no doubt, is not far behind.

## BYU P D A T E

### GAY PROFESSOR LEAVES UNIVERSITY



THOMAS MATTHEWS, former assistant professor of Spanish at BYU, made headlines last year when he openly admitted he is a homosexual who is celibate ("Administration May Face Decision on Gay, Celibate Professor," *SUNSTONE*, Dec. 1995). In July 1995, after an unidentified person called a general authority, BYU officials met with Matthews to discuss his sexuality. "There are a lot of reasons why I'm leaving BYU,"

Matthews recently told the Associated Press. "Obviously, the most crucial one is that I'm gay and I'm out of the closet and BYU doesn't like it." The transfer to Weber State University has ended speculation as to whether Matthews, who had passed his third year review, would be fired when he came up for continuing status (tenure) in two years. Brent Harker, director of BYU's Public Communications, told the AP that he was surprised by Matthews's resignation. "[H]is conduct was in keeping with our standard, and it was really his own struggle," he said. "It was his choice to make."

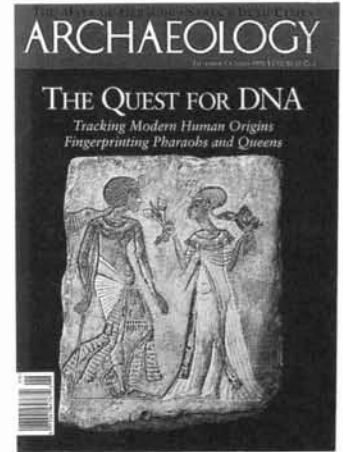
### Y ALMOST THE TOP "STONE-SOBER" SCHOOL

STUDENTS COULD have worn black arm bands the day the 1996 *Princeton Review* college rankings were released: BYU is only ranked the second most "stone-sober" school in the nation. L. Jackson Newell's Deep Springs College is first. Nonetheless, Alan Wilkins, vice president of academics at BYU, said administrators were delighted. The ranking, he told the Associated Press, shows the university is "doing just fine. We define party differently too, I believe," he said. BYU was also named the institution most likely to produce "Future Rotarians and Daughters of the American Revolution." Florida State University took top "party school" honors, followed by George Washington University and the University of Florida.

### BYU'S DNA RESEARCH DRAWS MIXED REVIEWS

BAGGING THE cover story of the popular *Archaeology* magazine would normally be a real coup for any academic. But for BYU microbiologist Scott Woodward, it likely was a mixed bag. Not only is he the author of the lead article, "Genealogy of New Kingdom Pharaohs and Queens," but in the same September/October issue, his widely publicized research on dinosaur DNA was thoroughly panned ("BYU Microbiologist Recovers DNA from Dinosaur Bone," *SUNSTONE*, Aug.-Sept. 1995).

Since 1993, Woodward and his team have been analyzing DNA from the mummies of ancient rulers, trying to sort out their genealogy. Questions they want to answer include the relationship of pharaohs to their heirs and which wife would bear the successor to a king, the *Deseret News* reported. So far, that research has been well-received. The bad news, however, is that Tabitha M. Powledge and Mark Rose assert elsewhere in the magazine that DNA can't survive long enough for anyone to extract it from dinosaurs (some experts believe DNA can survive for 50,000 to 100,000 year before it is too decayed to use). The dinosaur remains Woodward, et al., tested were 80 million to 85 million years old, according to the *News*.



### Y STUDY: PRE-MARITAL ABSTINENCE DOES NOT HURT FUTURE SEX LIFE

ATTENTION, SINGLE MORMONS: next time someone pressures you by saying that if you don't have premarital intercourse you will have a wacky, postmarital sex life, tell them to go. . . . Thomas B. Holman and John R. Harding, two BYU researchers, have concluded that there are no significant differences in the frequency of sex or conflicts about sex among married members of the LDS church compared to members of other religious groups.

In their national survey of over 13,000 people, Holman and Harding found that three-quarters of Mormon respondents believe premarital sex is unacceptable, compared with about half of respondents from mainline Christian denominations with similar teachings on sexual morality. Only 8 percent of Mormons said they had lived with a member of the opposite sex before marriage, compared with 20 percent of conservative Protestants. Forty-five percent of people with no religious affiliation reported living together without being married, according to the Associated Press.

Married Mormons reported having sex an average of 7.43 times a month, compared to 7.72 times a month for conservative Protestants and 6.64 times for Catholics. In related findings, Holman and Harding said people claiming no religious affiliation had the most sex and also the most conflicts about sex. Jewish and liberal Protestant respondents reported the lowest frequency of married sex and the highest percentage of married persons having no sex at all in the past year. An overview of the study is available in the September issue of the *Review of Religious Research*.



## NO MOVE PLANNED FOR THE UNIVERSE

A FEW of the recommendations that came from BYU's once-a-decade self-study were widely considered strange, if not downright stupid ("Self-Study: BYU Basically Healthy," SUNSTONE, June 1996). One such recommendation was to move the *Daily Universe* out of the communications department and place it under the jurisdiction of the president's office. Faculty advisor John Gholdston said he was "stunned" by the idea. "It absolutely came at us from left field," he told the *Deseret News*. "People had voiced that opinion, but never the top administration."

For now, no move is set for the *Universe*. And Gholdston said BYU President Merrill Bateman has assured him there are no major changes planned for the newspaper, the *News* reported. Interestingly, local media reported that some thought being on the hot seat might have prompted the communications teachers to request the *Universe* be cut loose from the department, which uses the paper as a lab for its students. Gholdston said that's just not true: he likes the way the operation is set up and believes the paper is serving both those who write it as well as those who read it. "It is a delicate balance that we have to walk," he told the *News*. "It's not healthy to alienate our source, which is the university, but we're trying to teach serious journalism here."

## Y WARNS OF ASBESTOS DURING HEAVY CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

NOT SINCE the building boom of the Wilkinson era has the BYU campus been in such disarray. The Wilkinson Center itself is undergoing a major face-lift. There's the new Eyring Science Center construction. The Howard W. Hunter Law Library is in its final stages. Ground was just broken for an underground Harold B. Lee Library addition. Chipman, Hinckley, and other student dormitories are being remodeled. And the bookstore is slated for renovation at the beginning of next year. While the noise, dust, changes in services,

and traffic are annoying, a big concern for some are the asbestos warning signs that now dot parts of campus.

Craig Barrus, who works in the BYU construction department, said the signs were posted to meet Occupational Safety Health Administration regulations; they are not a signal of impending or major danger, he told the *Deseret News*. In fact, most of the 400 buildings on campus, all except the ones recently built, contain asbestos in the ceilings, walls, or floors (usually all three), Barrus said. The notice, he points out, warns of a possible hazard "if the asbestos is disturbed." For example, an indoor game in Deseret Towers with a ball or an object thrown against the textured ceilings could dislodge asbestos dust. Then there could be a problem, Barrus said.

## STUDENTS, ADMINISTRATORS TINKER WITH HONOR CODE

HOPING TO sew up a few loopholes, BYU recently made several subtle changes in its Honor Code. In the Dress and Grooming Standards, one sentence has been added: "Men are expected to be clean shaven." Rush Sumpter, director of the Honor Code Office, told BYU's *Daily Universe* that many students have tried to justify their three-days' growth by saying it wasn't a beard, just scruff. Also, the passage on beards now states that exceptions will be made for "documented reasons," rather than for "medical reasons." The change, Sumpter says, is to accommodate cultural and religious diversity. For example, "we frequently have Sikh students on campus," he said.

In the Word of Wisdom section, a sentence that admonished students to "abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, tea, coffee and drug abuse," now ends with "substance abuse" instead. We are aware that "there are other materials besides drugs that can be abused," Sumpter said. He specifically mentioned mate (a South American drink made from the needles of an evergreen tree), kava (a Polynesian drink made from the roots of a plant in the pepper family), and peyote (a plant often used in American Indian religious ceremonies), the *Universe* reported.

**Y Offers Rape Defense Class.** BYU is the first Utah school to offer R.A.D., a national Rape Aggression Defense program for women, BYU's *Daily Universe* reported. The half-credit hour, full-contact class is rooted in basic martial arts techniques.

**Few Women in Computer Science Department.** A *Journal of Research on Computing in Education* article says BYU's low male to female student ratio in the computer science department last April (nine of fifty-nine graduates were women) is due to unmet expectations, a dearth of experience, and discrimination. "The biggest factor is that computer science is not what the female students expected," Eileen Bunderson, co-author of the study, told BYU's *Daily Universe*.

**Board Approves Several Self Study Recommendations.** Four campus programs will be affected by this first round of board-of-trustee approved changes from BYU's recent Self-Study: the



One R.A.D. BYU Co-ed.

Marriott School of Management and the College of Education will be reorganized; the Department of Music will be renamed; and the Department of Clothing and Textiles will be phased out.

**New Guide to Help Zoobie-Wannabes.** Missed the cut at BYU by that much? Don't worry, the recently released *College Guide for Latter-day Saints* can help you find the highest concentration of LDS students, the oldest Institute of Religion building, the area with the most LDS student wards, how many recent temple marriages there have been among a college's students, and the number of LDS faculty at a university. The *Guide* is chock-full of interesting numbers on Mormons in American colleges. The top three LDS student populations outside of Utah are Idaho State (5,000), Boise State (1,800), and Mesa Community College in Arizona (1,300), according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. It can be purchased for \$15.95 (including shipping and handling) by calling 1-800/263-8811.

## THE MORMON UNIVERSE

**BYU Faculty Group Now On-line.** The BYU chapter of the American Association of University Professors can now be accessed on-line at <http://acs1.BYU.edu/~rushforths/aaup.html>. Many documents relating to the debates over academic freedom at BYU can be obtained here.

**Company Offers 24-Hour LDS Radio Programming.** Bonneville International **LDS Radio Network** now carries Church Educational System lectures, general conferences, BYU devotionals, KSL news, BYU sports, Church documentaries, and more—24 hours a day. To order the \$95 special AM/FM subcarrier radio needed to receive the signal, call 800/972-0881 or 800/316-9854.

**Mormon Battalion II Receives Call to Assemble.** The Second United States Mormon Battalion has sent 400 invitations to prospective members, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. The letter says the group, while not sponsored by the Church, is "chartered under authority from the state of Utah to provide volunteer disaster assistance to the church, community, state and nation." It also says that "to prepare for the catastrophes of these last days, the 'Church' has established an Emergency Preparedness Committee in each ward that will need the help of trained specialists—the Second Battalion." Sandy, Utah, resident William G. Barnson, one of the group's trustees, emphasizes that it is not a militia: combat exercises and modern weapons are prohibited; the group uses muskets and muzzle-loaders and stresses first aid skills, according to the *Tribune*.

**England's Mormon Studies Program Slowly Growing.** Established in the late 1980s, the Mormon studies program of England's *University of Nottingham* had its first four graduates last summer. Director Douglas Davies, an ordained priest of the Church of England, told BYU's *Daily Universe* he is proud of the progress that the United Kingdom's only Mormon Studies program has made. The mostly LDS students study issues such as the influence of higher education on a member's Church commitment, the influence of popular music on Mormon youth, and rank and file attitudes toward Church leaders. Davies says the LDS church in the U.K. has been supportive of the program, answering questions and donating books.

**Mormon Media Group Spreads the Good News.** The *Associated Latter-day Media Artists*, or ALMA, is a growing organization of Mormons who work in mass communications and want to, like its Book of Mormon prophet namesake, spread the gospel to the "whole earth" as well as meet other LDS media professionals. "Show business" is a lonely business at times, especially for Latter-day Saints whose lifestyles are often different from those of their colleagues," an ALMA flier reads. "We want to make sure that we are not alone when we stand for righteousness." Formed in the Los Angeles area in 1977, ALMA has grown rapidly, boasting members throughout the United States and Europe. Contact Robert Starling for details, 7935 S. Linton Dr., West Jordan, Utah 84088; 801/569-9217.

**Gay Mormon Support Group Looking to Expand.** *A New Direction*, a support group and magazine for homosexual Mormons, is now accepting applications for chapters. For registration materials and information, write 1608 N. Cahuenga Bl., Ste. 440, Los Angeles, California, 90028; 213/874-8424.

**AZ Mormon Women's Writing Group Grows.** With four chapters in the metro Phoenix area, Arizona Night Writers Association is

offering critiques and writing instruction to more LDS Arizona women than ever before. For details on the monthly meetings and association, write P. O. Box 8518, Mesa, Arizona 85214-8518.

## ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED

**Church Helps Hurricane Victims.** Responding to victims of Hurricane Fran's savage winds, leaders in parts of the southeast opened meetinghouse doors to those who had been evacuated. While no other services were offered, shelter was given to all in need.

**Members, Church Help Children in India.** Bill Sheffield, former legal counsel for the LDS church, and a handful of BYU students are continuing to work for and raise funds for Pathway, an orphanage in India for physically challenged children. The project, while not Church-sponsored, has received \$162,000 in cash and in-kind gifts from LDS Humanitarian Services.

**LDS Californians "Work" to Celebrate History.** In August, over 18,000 California Church members gathered to make quilts, paint schools, and dig weeds—all to commemorate their forebears' arrival in San Francisco. Such activities will continue through 1997 and even into the year 2000, in an effort to achieve their 5,000,000 volunteer hours goal, the *Salt Lake Tribune* reported.

## SUNSTONE CALENDAR

**BYU Announces Mormon Play.** Play writing winner of the 1996 Mormon Arts Festival at Tuacahn, Eric Samuelsen's *Gadanton*, about Mormon culture in a downsizing WordPerfect-like corporation, runs January 29–February 8. For information, call 801/378-4322.

**Historians to Gather Along the Mormon Trail.** Marking the sesquicentennial of the pioneers' westward ho, the *Mormon History Association* will meet in Omaha, Nebraska, for its 1997 annual conference. The Holiday Inn Convention Center will host the event on May 22–25. Contact Craig or Suzanne Foster at 801/773-4620.

**Authors to Meet.** Lovers of Mormon literature will gather at the annual meeting of the *Association for Mormon Letters* on February 1 at the campus of Westminster College in Salt Lake City. For information, contact conference organizer Robert Hogge, Dept. of English, Weber State University, 1201 University Circle, Ogden, UT 84408-1201 (801/626-6251; RHOGGE@WEBER.EDU).

**Counselors to Explore the Family.** "Strengthening Families: What Works in the 90s" will be the theme of the 1997 spring convention of the *Association of Mormon Counselors and Psychotherapists* (AMCAP) on May 2–3 at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building in Salt Lake City. Contact conference chair Gwena Couillard, 280 N. 300 W., Logan, UT 84321 (801/752-2512; 801/797-1012).

## SUNSTONE CONFERENCES

**Sunstone Symposium Dates Announced.** Mark your Franklin Planners: the *1997 Sunstone Symposium* in Salt Lake City will be on August 6–9 at the Salt Lake Hilton.

SUN SPOTS

OXYMORMONS

(TEMPLE) NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD



MOST MORMONS know how the Catholic Church tied religious holidays, like Christmas, to pagan festivals to keep heathen converts. Now, leaders in Salt Lake's Foothill Stake are stepping along the broad but popular road of melding apostate holidays with sacred rituals and U.S. commercialism—Halloween work-

for-the-dead candy! Or maybe they just have a good sense of humor. But what next? Playing cupid by sealing thirteenth-century couples on Valentine's Day—advertised with messages on candy hearts?

MAYBE JAY LENO WILL GIVE YOU A TRY

ON ITS comics page, the *Deseret News* hosts a "Rookie comic strip," which gives up-and-coming cartoonists a trial run. When the strip's cut line, "This comic is trying out for a spot in our lineup," was accidentally dropped in at the bottom of a Deseret Book ad, readers thought twice about the number two person in the Church's lineup.

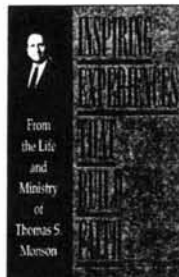
THOMAS S. MONSON  
FAVORITES FOR FALL



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This comic is trying out for a spot in our lineup.

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