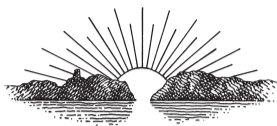


THE DAILY UNIVERSE

LET THERE



BE LIGHT

Back to school

Woman returns to BYU after two decades away

See Page 6

Apartment vents

City enforces rule for separate ventilation system

See Page 12

Ballet West

Company to perform Nutcracker for 50th anniversary

Page 9



Censor rumors quelled

BYU professor says gag order reports exaggerated

By RYAN McILVAIN

Reports that BYU administration put a gag order on Physics Professor Steven E. Jones are exaggerated, Jones said in a phone interview Friday.

Jones seemed surprised to hear there are rumors that he'd been censored. He too was unaware of an e-mail that was circulating claiming that "BYU Brass Discredit Physics Professor for Saying WTC Brought Down by Controlled Demolition." The e-mail quoted a "non-traditional" news Web site.

Jones said the only conversation he's been involved in, in regards to the articles, was one he'd had with the dean of the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, Earl Woolley. Jones said the dean gave him tips on how to cut back on the interviews, but was never told not to talk to the media.

"The dean explained to me how he handled requests for media interviews; how he managed to give so few," said Jones, a full-tenured professor whose controversial research into the WTC collapse has sparked national media attention. "I've made the personal decision to stick with peer-reviewed papers and scholarly seminars as a means of expressing my views, as much as possible. No one at the university has told me not to talk about this subject."

When asked about the college's stance on Jones, Woolley said, "I respect the review process for manuscripts, and since that has not been finalized as far as I know, than it would be inappropriate for me to make a comment."

University spokeswoman Carri Jen-



Steven E. Jones

Jones said all decisions regarding Jones' research were made exclusively at the college and department levels.

Jenkins also said Jones called her to ask advice on handling the media.

"My advice to him, as I would tell any professor, was to not discuss a paper until it was published," she said. "And that's just what I would tell any professor."

Nearly three weeks ago, Jones posted a scientific paper online calling for an investigation into his "explosive demolition hypothesis," which posits that pre-planted explosives, not planes, may have brought down the two Twin Towers and another, 47-story building known as WTC 7.

Since then, the mild-mannered physics

See PROFESSOR on Page 3

Cougs to play UC Berkeley

By MICHAEL BARZEE

California here they come. After almost two weeks of waiting, the Cougars found out on Sunday who their bowl opponent is going to be — UC Berkeley.

"I am happy it is against a quality PAC-10 team to serve as a measure of exactly where we need to go from here," BYU head football coach Bronco Mendenhall said.

Mendenhall wasn't the only Cougar excited about playing a quality opponent like Cal.

"It is who I wanted to play," BYU linebacker Cameron Jensen said. "I am glad we got them and things worked out the way they did."

After the Bowl Championship Series Selection Committee snubbed PAC-10 team Oregon of a BCS bowl, California was invited to the Las Vegas Bowl. Had Oregon received an invitation to a BCS bowl, BYU would be looking at playing Nevada.

California is heading into the Las Vegas Bowl on a five-game winning streak.

Part of their winning success has been a pounding rushing attack that features two running backs, Marshawn Lynch and Justin Forsett. Lynch has compiled 1,052 yards rushing and seven touchdowns, while Forsett has 962 yards and six touchdowns.

"I hope they run at us because that is what I love to stop," Jensen said. "Stop the run."

The Cougar defense has had better success stopping the run this season than the pass. BYU rush defense is ranked No. 46 in the country while the



Photo by Kyle Morgan

Bronco answers during a press conference Sunday after their opponent for the Las Vegas Bowl was announced.

pass defense is ranked a dismal No. 105. In the Cougars' last game, however, the BYU defense allowed Utah to rush for 251 yards.

Luckily, the Cougars have an inside scope on the Bears. In his last game as Texas Tech's offensive line coach, current BYU offensive coordinator Robert Anae coached the Red Raiders to a 45-31 victory over California in the 2004 Holiday Bowl.

"I remember watching that game last year and I was really excited that we would be running that offense next year," BYU receiver Todd Watkins said. "To get the same match-up as Texas Tech had last year is good for us."

A Christmas of giving



LDS Photo Services Photo by Welden C. Andersen

The First Presidency sings with the congregation Sunday during the Christmas Fireside at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City.

First Presidency encourages charity, missionary work

By JESSICA GURNSEY

Share the Book of Mormon with others counseled President Gordon B. Hinckley on Sunday night, adding to his previous challenge to read the book.

"You may wish to share the Book of Mormon with those who don't have it," he said during the First Presidency's Christmas Devotional at the Conference Center in Salt Lake City. "You will bless their lives as well as your own."

All three members of the First Presi-

deny focused their talks on giving.

"Giving, not getting, brings to full bloom the Christmas spirit," said Thomas S. Monson, first counselor in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ.

In order to receive that spirit, he asked members of the church to focus on what they will give rather than what they will receive for Christmas.

"What will you and I give for Christmas this year," Monson asked. "Let us, in our lives, give to our Lord and Savior the gift of gratitude by living his teachings and following in his footsteps."

President James E. Faust, second coun-

selor in the First Presidency, expanded on the idea of giving by calling it an expression of charity.

"When we think of Christmas, we not only think of Santa, but also of giving gifts because Christmas is a great time to demonstrate the pure love of Christ," Faust said.

This pure love of Christ, or charity, should be extended to those beyond friends and family members, he said.

"We should smile more," Faust said. "We should be kind to those we meet and as we do so our lives, as well as theirs, shall be blessed."

Katrina hits home

Student returns to New Orleans for the holidays

By JESSIE ELDER

"Strange" is the word Megan Garcia uses to describe her experience visiting home during Thanksgiving break.

"It was nice to see my family," she said. "But the city itself is just depressing."

Born and raised in New Orleans, Garcia had left home on a Tuesday to start her senior year as a history major at BYU. Exactly a week later, Hurricane Katrina landed.

"It was strange because I didn't even know anything was happening," she said.

It was when her neighbor, also from New Orleans, asked her where her family was taking refuge that she said she realized this was something big.

For the first week of classes, Garcia said she didn't get anything done. All she could do was go to the computer lab and look up pictures of the hurricane.

"It was really frustrating because I couldn't get in touch with my family or anything," Garcia said.

Her family had evacuated to central Mississippi to live with her sister-in-laws' parents, and has only just moved back to their home in Metairie, a suburb of New Orleans.

A few weeks previous to her family moving back home, Garcia's mom went to see the damage. Luckily, there was only a few inches of water damage and only the floor and a few large appliances had to be replaced, but something was missing.

"Our garage door was just gone,"

See KATRINA on Page 3

New Orleans
RECOVERY · REBIRTH · RENEWAL
FIRST OF A FIVE-PART SERIES

BYU publishes cheaper textbooks

By NATALIE K. CLARK

Physical Science 100 students will not have to spend as much money on their textbook next semester. For the first time, the BYU Bookstore has published a physical science textbook put together by BYU professors and students.

The Bookstore has published course packets for years, and now, in an effort to lower prices, it is starting to publish textbooks.

"This is pretty exciting what's developed," said Roger Reynolds, director of the BYU Bookstore. "It is really going to be a great force in reducing the cost

for students. We are just as concerned as students are about the high price of textbooks, and if we can continue this effort, I think the students will be very pleased with what they see."

The Bookstore can publish custom textbooks for cheaper than national publishers. A custom textbook is a textbook that is published for one campus or professor for use in the professor's classroom.

"I think it is a good idea for the BYU Bookstore to publish BYU professor's textbooks," said Brianna Chantry, a psychology major from Orem. "We are here learning from these professors, so we might as well read what they've been saying. If we have a textbook from them,

then we can really understand what they are teaching us in class."

Custom textbook price increases are the inspiration behind the BYU Bookstore publishing textbooks.

"We have found in the last several years, that the price increases of the custom published item from these national publishers are going up even faster than regular textbook prices — almost twice as fast," said Jennifer Berry, Bookstore academic publishing manager. "Some of them are reasonable, but a lot of them are not."

As an example, one national publisher charges BYU \$35 for a black and white,

See TEXTBOOKS on Page 7



Photo by Kyle Morgan

Aubrey Knutson holds books the BYU Bookstore has started publishing on campus. Local publishing saves students money on textbooks, officials say.

[Weather]



TODAY
Partly Cloudy
High 28, low 15



TUESDAY
Cloudy
High 32, low 18

YESTERDAY
High 31, low 24, as of 5 p.m.
PRECIPITATION
Yesterday: 0.02"
Month to date: 0.31"
Year to date: 21.26"

Sources: CNN.com, BYU Geography Dept.

Vol. 60, Issue 68

THE DAILY UNIVERSE



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BRIEFING



The world is our campus



Reuters

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, center, speaks to reporters before his departure to Kuwait at a military base in Rawalpindi on Sunday. An al Qaeda commander, Abu Hamza Rabia, ranked as the third most senior leader in Osama bin Laden's network was killed in a tribal region of Pakistan.

Al-Qaida leader reportedly killed; U.S. shrapnel found

MIRAN SHAH, Pakistan (AP) — Shrapnel that appeared to be from an American-made missile was found Sunday at the house where Pakistan said a top al-Qaida operative was killed in an explosion, although President Bush's national security adviser declined to confirm the death.

U.S. and Pakistani officials declined to confirm an NBC report, citing anonymous officials, that the attack on the house where Hamza Rabia reportedly died was launched by a U.S. drone.

But local residents found at least two pieces of shrapnel at the blast scene inscribed with the designation of the Hellfire missile, which is carried by the U.S. Air Force's unmanned, remote-controlled Predator aircraft.

The metal pieces bore the designator "AGM-114," the words "guided missile" and the initials "US."

John Pike, director of the defense Web site GlobalSecurity.org, said the Hellfire is used almost exclusively by the U.S. military. Al-Qaida operatives would be unlikely to have Hellfire missiles, Pike said, although he said the possibility could not be completely discounted.

A man who lives near the house said he heard at least two detonations and saw a white streak of light before a missile hit the house, sparking a huge explosion.

"I ran to my home fearing it may hit me," said Mohammed Nasir, adding that residents were unaware that foreigners were living in their neighborhood.

U.S. at risk for attacks

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is at great risk for more terrorist attacks because Congress and the White House have failed to enact several strong security measures, members of the former Sept. 11 commission said Sunday.

"It's not a priority for the government right now," said the former chairman, Thomas Kean, ahead of the group's release of a report Monday assessing how well its recommendations have been followed.

"More than four years after 9/11 ... people are not paying attention," the former Republican governor of New Jersey said. "God help us if we have another attack."

Added Lee Hamilton, the former Democratic vice chairman of the commission: "We believe that another attack will occur. It's not a question of if. We are not as well-prepared as we should be."



Reuters

An Israeli army mobile artillery unit is seen positioned on the field outside the kibbutz of Nahal Oz, near Gaza Strip, late Sunday.

Myanmar has discontent

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's military junta is gearing up for a key national constitutional convention Monday, calling on its citizens to support the meetings it considers a step toward democracy in the politically isolated Southeast Asian nation.

But in the tea shops and markets of the rundown capital — and in much of the international community — the convention is being largely dismissed. "Most of the delegates are not representative of the people, and most of them are hand-picked," said Khin Maung, an 89-year-old retired government employee.

The junta is portraying the constitution-drafting convention, held intermittently since 1993, as a first step toward democracy and free elections. More than 1,000 delegates — including politicians, leaders of ethnic groups, workers, businessmen and government employees — are expected to meet at a convention center about 25 miles north of the capital to resume work.

However, some see the convention as a ploy by the junta to stay in power by guaranteeing the military a leadership role in any future government.

Militants return fire

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian militants fired two rockets from Gaza into an Israeli village Sunday evening, despite Israeli airstrikes earlier in the day launched in response to previous attacks.

There were no serious injuries, but the exchanges carried the danger of sudden escalation. The rockets hit an Israeli village four miles from the Gaza fence, demonstrating a longer range than usual for the homemade rockets.

The Israeli airstrikes Sunday were the first since Oct. 27, the military said.

After Israel withdrew from Gaza in September, destroying all 21 Jewish settlements there, Israeli leaders pledged to retaliate for any Palestinian attacks from the territory. The military moved artillery to the Gaza-Israel border and has been pounding areas used by militants to launch rockets.

Early Sunday, Israel stepped up its attacks, sending its air force to blast Gaza targets three times. Palestinians said a bystander was slightly wounded in one of the strikes.



Reuters

WALT DISNEY WORLD CHRISTMAS PARADE

Latin singer Paulina Rubio performs Friday in the Magic Kingdom in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., during the taping of the ABC-TV Walt Disney World Christmas Day Parade. The annual holiday special will air nationwide Dec. 25.

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KATRINA

Student return to Provo from New Orleans

Continued from Page 1

Garcia said. "She couldn't even find it."

Unfortunately, the home Garcia lived in until the age of 15 did not fare as well.

The first window on the left of the house is where Garcia's parent's bedroom was, and right next to it was her bedroom, but looking at it now, anyone could

see right through; the home has been gutted.

"It was just the strangest feeling. It was like 'whoa,'" she said.

What Garcia said that was even more strange was seeing where Garcia's close family friends live, the neighborhood where the levee broke.

"Houses were taken off their foundations and turned around and cars were up against trees

and it's just the strangest strangest thing," she said.

Garcia's grandparents had built a home on the beach of Mississippi, where the actual hurricane hit.

"It was the strangest things because you're driving a long the beach and there's nothing. There might be steps that led up to houses or maybe the concrete slab that was the driveway or you know maybe the post of the houses in general, but other than that there was nothing," she said.

The water park near her grandparent's house was Garcia's stomping ground when she was

younger.

"The only thing that was left was the pool itself, the building around it was gone. The water-slide, parts of it were just gone and hanging from trees and things like that," Garcia said.

Having a sense of humor is what has helped the city get through this crisis, Garcia said. Even the Christmas village display in the mall pokes fun at the city's new look.

"When you're flying into New Orleans it's kind of strange because on the roofs that have a lot of damage they put blue tarp over them ... you just see patches

of blue. And in the mall they do a little Christmas Village and this year, on the houses, they put the little blue tarp on it," she said.

It's hard for Garcia to tell people she is from New Orleans now because she said she hates the questions that follow. It's not that she isn't glad people care, but she recognizes the pride she feels as a New Orleans resident.

"We're used to being the ones that help people instead of being the ones that need the help," she said.

Despite not wanting to be recognized as a victim, Garcia said she is grateful for the extensive

amount of volunteers that have flooded the city and said she hopes people won't forget.

"Just remember something did happen and that it's going to be a while, but they still need to care about it five years from now," she said. "This is something that's going to have a lasting impact on millions of people's lives."

Garcia said she hopes people will give more attention to disasters like this than what goes on in the lives of the rich and famous.

"I just wish they would take more of an invested interest instead of, 'oh yeah, that's sad,' and then turn the page."

BYU professor dispells censor rumor

Continued from Page 1

professor has given numerous interviews to media ranging from independent Web journalists to MSNBC's Tucker Carlson.

Some media members have been sympathetic to Jones' research; others dismissive, even derisive.

An article posted on articbeacon.citymaker.com, reported that BYU administrators had stymied Jones from giving any more interviews. It further stated: "Critics suggest Bush administration had its dirty hand in forcing BYU to 'shut up' its professor."

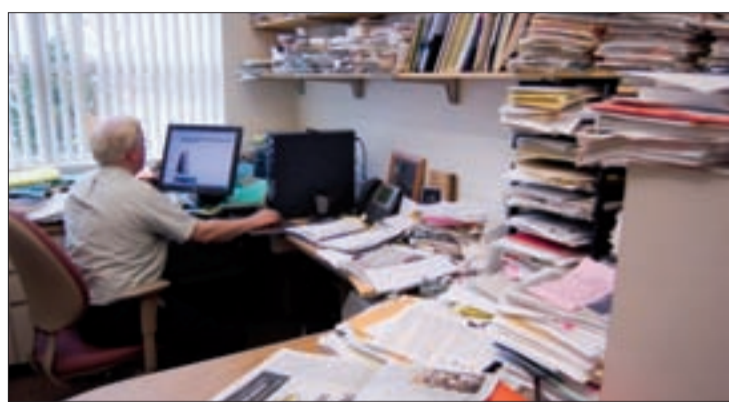
A columnist for the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review said while Jones isn't the first to make a case for a controlled demolition hypothesis, "it's hard to imagine anyone making it clearer."

On the other hand, conservative talk show host Tucker Carlson attacked the political implications of Jones' research on national television.

"I'm sure your writings were greeted with just glee in Islamabad and Peshawar and places like that," Carlson told Jones. "But for Americans..."

Not long after this spate of interviews, BYU's College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences posted a statement on its Web site stressing Jones' right to publish what he wished while distancing itself from Jones' current research.

That statement has since been removed, but a similar one is still online at the College of Engineering and Technology's Web site.



Daily Universe file photo by Dana Tanner

Steve E. Jones, physics professor works in his office Nov. 11, 2005.

"The University is aware that Professor Steven Jones's hypotheses and interpretations of evidence regarding the collapse of World Trade Center buildings are being questioned by a number of scholars and practitioners, including many of BYU's own faculty members," it reads in part.

"Professor Jones's department and college administrators are not convinced that his analyses and hypotheses have been submitted to relevant scientific venues that would ensure rigorous technical peer review. The structural engineering faculty in the Fulton College of Engineering and Technology do not support the hypotheses of Professor Jones."

Reached for comment, structural engineering professors Steven Benzley and Rick Balling both said they supported the statement as written.

Balling said he and Benzley have made contact with Jones on more than one occasion, engag-

ing him in a dialogue about the more technical aspects of his research.

Once again, Jenkins said top university officials did not influence the structural engineering faculty or the College of Engineering and Technology to challenge Jones' work.

She said the college administration wrote the statement in response to media reports that Jones' colleagues "had given in essence a vote of confidence to his hypotheses."

"In fact," Jenkins said, "the faculty hadn't supported that further research be done in this area, and so they were concerned about misrepresentation in the media."

On Sept. 22, prior to going public with his provocative suggestions, Jones gave a seminar to a group of his colleagues from the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

After the seminar, all but one of Jones' colleagues said they

agreed an investigation was in order, Jones said. And the lone dissenter came around the next day.

In a Nov. 11 interview, Physics Professor Harold Stokes, one of several faculty members who attended the seminar, said the explosive demolition hypothesis "certainly raises some interesting questions" and that Jones' claims "certainly appear to be valid."

Like many of his other colleagues, though, Stokes was up front in saying that he didn't have the technical expertise to properly scrutinize Jones' claims.

In an effort to accommodate administration and others, Jones said he has modified his paper, and submitted it to another journal and another round of peer reviewing.

He said he feels "a bit awkward" that some colleagues now question the peer review process his paper initially passed through.

"My paper was peer-reviewed and accepted for publication before being made available on the Web with the editor's approval," Jones said. "The reviewers included a physicist and an engineer, I now understand. The review has not been shown to have been inappropriate and I believe it was appropriate."

Still, Jones said he willingly submitted his paper to another publication, where he is confident it will pass peer review a second time.

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Slam dance

New England Patriots linebacker Roosevelt Colvin, top, sacks New York Jets quarterback Brooks Bollinger in second quarter NFL action in Foxboro, Massachusetts on Sunday.



Reuters

Women's basketball record remains unblemished

By MELISSA LEEPER

The women's basketball team maintained its perfect record of five wins and no losses after Saturday's game; although their record may be perfect, the team still has room for improvement.

The Cougars struggled throughout the game and many players found themselves in foul trouble, but the team still beat Seton Hall 54-50 while they played in New Jersey.

"We really struggled tonight to score baskets," head coach Jeff Judkins said.

Scoring was a huge problem for the Cougars. The Pirates managed to hold the team to only 54 points instead of the usual 70-plus points for the Cougars.

"We've got to give [Seton Hall] a lot of credit for holding us to scoring only 54 points," Judkins said.

The Cougars struggled in the first half to gain any advantage over the Pirates. Within eight minutes of play three players found themselves with two fouls each. This allowed Seton Hall to play the majority of the first half in the bonus.

The Cougars lost their composure early in the game and only shot 39 percent from the field and

38 percent from the free throw line. This was the first time this season the Cougars were out rebounded, 25-19, in the first half of the game.

Although the team struggled, they still ended the first half with a five-point lead, 28-23. However, the Pirates were not willing to give up. The two teams battled it out, as they switched the lead back and forth.

Toward the end of the game, Seton Hall had an 8-0 run to take the lead by one point. However, BYU stepped up and made their free throws to secure the four-point victory.

"We played with a lot of heart," senior forward Ambrosia Anderson said. "Our team really wanted to win this."

Although this game was not the best game for the women's basketball team, they did set a number of records.

This was the fourth time this season that two Cougars scored in double figures. Anderson had 14 points and Dani Kubik put up 13 points. BYU's 5-0 start ties for the best beginning of BYU history.

"We're excited to start off 5-0, especially considering we've played four of those games on the road," Judkins said. "It wasn't a pretty win. We made the big plays when we had to, though."

Although the first half was a disappointment for the team, they turned it around in the second half to not only secure the win, but also raise their statistics to their normal level. The Cougars managed to out-rebound the Pirates even though they greatly trailed them at the half. The team has out-rebounded every opponent this season.

Anderson said this was not one of her better games of the season. However, the senior still managed to lead the team in scoring in this game, as she has in every other game of the season.

The Cougars get a quick break to regroup and prepare for their next game. Anderson said she hoped to get herself mentally prepared for the next game.

The team heads to California to play UC Riverside on Wednesday. The game will tip off at 8 p.m.

MWC November wrap up

Athletic Communications

MWC Quick Hits

The MWC is 31-13 in non-conference games this year, including three wins Wednesday. This season, the MWC has notched victories over five of the top nine conferences in the Sagarin Ratings (as of Dec. 1), including the ACC, SEC, Big 12, Pac-10 and the WAC. The MWC is currently seventh in the Sagarin Ratings.

All nine teams are in action Saturday, Dec. 3 with six road games, including TCU at Syracuse. MWC teams will play 11 of their first 15 games in December on the road.

The MWC will make its second appearance on CSTV this week as Utah plays at Rice Saturday, Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. CT. The Dec. 7 contest featuring TCU at Tulane will also be televised by CSTV.

Home Court Notables

MWC teams wrapped up the month of November with a 21-4 record in non-conference home games, marking the fifth time in the last seven years the MWC won over 80 percent of its home games in November. Overall, the MWC has won more than 80 percent of its non-league home games every year since the league was formed.

Utah has won 20 straight at home, ranking sixth in the NCAA among active home win streaks. The Utes have won 36 straight non-league games at home. New Mexico has won 13 straight home games and is 27-2 in its last 29 home games. Colorado State has won 12 straight non-conference home games. Air Force is 29-2 in its last 31 home games with the only two losses coming to nationally ranked Utah teams.

Scoring Streaks

Eight players representing eight different teams in the MWC have scored in double figures every game this season. San Diego State's Brandon Heath has the league's longest current double-figure scoring streak at 14 games, including five games this season.

Coaching Milestones

Utah head coach Ray Giacoletti notched his 150th career victory with Wednesday's 67-66 win over Utah State. Giacoletti is 150-89 all-time, including a 33-9 mark with the Utes. Colorado State head coach Dale Layer is just eight victories away from career win No. 250.

BYU volleyball falls in NCAA tournament

By MCCALL KNOWLTON

The BYU women's volleyball team suffered a heartbreaking and season ending loss to Pepperdine in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The 25-4 Cougars played at USC on Friday night against the 18-11 Waves and were favored to win the match but were not able to string together enough plays to pull through.

Pepperdine won in four games (30-24, 30-28, 24-30, 30-28) and went on to beat first round host and No. 12 USC in a three-game sweep Saturday. The Waves advance to the sweet 16 where they face Santa Clara this weekend.

"I'm incredibly proud of the season we had," said BYU head coach Jason Watson. "We made a significant amount of progress and have a great foundation on which to build next year. I'm just so proud of our team."

BYU sophomore outside hitter, Erica Lott, led all players with a career-high 24 kills on

.290 hitting. All-America candidate, Lindsay Hartsock, hit over .500 for the 16th time this year with putting down 13 kills and 10 blocks. Sophomore outside hitter Chelsea Goodman recorded her 15th double-double of the year with 16 kills and 16 digs.

Cougar senior setter, Lauren Richards Evans, had 59 assists and became the fourth-best setter in BYU history with a total of 4,056 assists throughout her time at BYU.

"We worked hard," Evans said. "It's not the way we wanted to end but we know we deserved to be here in the Tournament. It was a great year."

The Cougars got off to a slow start in Game 1 and faced a 22-13 point Wave lead. BYU defensive players Annie Kemp and Lindsey Evans kept the Cougars in the game and got within six points of the Waves but could not finish out the run.

Game 2 followed the same pattern despite Hartsock's attempts to keep the Cougars close to Pepperdine with her serving and combined blocking efforts with Rachel Dyer.

Coaches pick Cougars first

Athletic Communications

BYU was picked to finish first in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation for the 2006 season in the first-ever MPSF Preseason Men's Volleyball Coaches' Poll.

BYU received 28 points, nine ahead of UCLA, which finished with 37. The Cougars received the most first-place votes with six, three ahead of UCLA. Long Beach State, Pepperdine and Cal State Northridge all received one first-place vote. Long Beach finished behind UCLA at third and was fol-

lowed by Pepperdine, Hawaii, Cal State Northridge, UC Santa Barbara, UC Irvine, Pacific, USC, Stanford and UCSan Diego.

"It's a great honor to think other coaches think so highly of our program," BYU coach Tom Peterson said. "Obviously it's a good challenge for us to live up to those expectations. Of course the idea is to be in that same spot at the end of the season."

Peterson is entering his fourth season with the program and has a record of 72-21 with the Cougars. He led BYU to the title match in 2003 where the Cougars lost to Lewis and took them back in 2004, where they defeated Long Beach State.

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Former Cougar receives award

Athletic Communications

Former BYU basketball great Danny Ainge has been selected as one of six recipients of the 2006 NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. The award recognizes former student-athletes who completed successful collegiate careers in various sports 25 years ago and went on to excel in their chosen professions.

The Silver Award winners are selected by the NCAA Honors Committee, which is comprised of eight athletics administrators at member institutions and nationally distinguished citizens who are former student-athletes.

Ainge becomes the third former BYU student-athlete to receive the prestigious award, joining current BYU Faculty Representative Larry Echohawk (Football, 1970), who was honored in 1995, and former Cougar All-American quarterback Gifford Nielsen (Football, 1978), who received the award in 2003.

The awards will be presented at the NCAA Honors Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 7, during the annual NCAA Convention in Indianapolis.

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CAMPUS Calendar

MONDAY

National Security Education Program Seminar – Valerie Hudson will present “Statement of Purpose,” 4 p.m., Herald R. Clark Building.

TUESDAY

Devotional – Vernon L. Heperi of Studen Life will speak, 11:05 a.m., Marriott Center.

Trombone Concert Choir – 7:30 p.m., 151 TNRB.

University Orchestra and Strings – 7:30 p.m., de Jong Concert Hall.

Woodwind Chamber Night – 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall.

WEDNESDAY

Marketing for Foreign Businesses – Dale Thompson, marketing vice president for Mrs. Fields, will present “Marketing Fundamentals for Foreign Businesses,” noon, 238 HRCB.

Art & Architecture Films – “Frank Gehry: Architecture in Motion” and Guggenheim Museum “Bilbao,” 4 p.m., HBLL Auditorium.

Christmas Service Project – Graduate Student Association will host a workshop for all students to make school bags, bears and pajamas for children in Utah. Music and food will be provided. The Association will also accept donations of non-perishable food items and clothing, 5 to 8:30 p.m., WSC Garden Court.

Acoustic Explosion – 7 p.m., WSC Traditions Lounge.

Symphony Orchestra – 7:30 p.m., de Jong Concert Hall.

THURSDAY

Last Day of Classes, Fall Semester

Joseph Smith Exhibit – “Remembering Joseph Smith, Jr. 1805-2005,” will begin with a House of Learning Lecture by Western and Mormon Manuscripts Archivist and exhibit curator, David Whittaker, 2p.m., HBLL Auditorium.

Youth Ballroom Concert – 6:30 and 8 p.m., Canyon View Junior High, Orem (625 E. 950 North), cost \$3.

“It’s a Wonderful Life” – 7 p.m., HBLL Auditorium.

Panoramic Steel and Percussion Ensemble – 7:30 p.m., Madsen Recital Hall, cost \$9 or \$6 with student ID.

University Chorale – 7:30 p.m., de Jong Concert Hall.

FRIDAY

Reading Day, through Saturday – Good luck on finals!! Have a safe holiday break.



Washington Post photo by James A. Parcell

Some of Robinson Secondary School’s more than 4,000 students flood a hall between classes in Fairfax, Va. As states, school systems and private groups emphasize making high schools smaller, monster campuses increasingly look out of place.

Choices outweigh crowds at high schools

The Washington Post

The sprawling mass of teen-age humanity that calls itself Robinson Secondary School, the largest high school in the Washington area — with more than 4,000 bodies — overwhelmed Marco Garces when he arrived four years ago from a 400-student private school in Richmond, Va.

“The first week, I just felt lost all the time,” the 17-year-old senior said of the Fairfax County, Va., school. “I didn’t know where I was.”

But now, he said, he loves the noise and clamor at lunchtime and between classes. “There is always something going on,” he said, “and you always have someone to hang out with.”

As states, school systems and private groups, backed by donations from software magnate Bill Gates, emphasize making high schools smaller, monster campuses such as Robinson increasingly look out of place. Yet many of the educators who run them say big is not always bad and point to an array of unusual opportunities that large schools provide students.

“The fact that our school is so large allows us to offer a wide variety of electives that we may not be able to offer otherwise,” said Shawn Ashley, principal of Long Beach Polytechnic High School in California, which has 4,779 students in ninth through 12th grades. Long Beach Poly’s electives include print shop, auto shop, drafting, electronics, six kinds of art, nine science courses and many music choices.

Robinson, which has seventh through 12th grades, offers much

of the same, including seven classes in ceramics, seven in guitar, a jewelry making class and one devoted to Shakespeare. The 60-acre campus has 491,219 square feet in a seemingly endless two-story building of light brown brick with blue trim. There are nearly 500 teachers and staff members, 300 sinks, 196 toilets, 58 buses and more than 70 student organizations, including the Bowling Club, the Muslim Student Association, the Improvisation Club and the Korean Drumming Club.

“We have a great majority of good kids here,” Robinson Principal Dan Meier said. “And thank goodness, because there are so many of them.”

But as in much of American public education, big schools in affluent suburbs such as Fairfax County are very different from big schools in low-income neighborhoods, where parents cannot give as much support and good teachers are harder to find. Eight of the 10 largest public schools in the country are in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and in most cases those schools are full of students from poor and minority families, and severely overcrowded.

Garfield High School in East Los Angeles, for instance, is populated almost entirely by the children of low-income Hispanic residents. In 1988, when its Advanced Placement calculus teacher Jaime Escalante was made famous by the film “Stand and Deliver,” Garfield was already a large school with 3,500 students; it now has nearly 5,000. It must put its students on three vacation schedules so no more than two-thirds of them are on campus at the same time.

Alito’s opponents look hard at inconsistencies in record

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Challenging his candor and by implication his character, Samuel Alito’s critics are seizing on a handful of inconsistencies and omissions in the record to raise doubts about the judge’s fitness for the Supreme Court.

By themselves, the issues seem minor:

— shifting explanations for Alito’s participation in a 2002 case involving the mutual fund company Vanguard. Alito had pledged in 1990 to Congress that he would step aside.

— a statement that Alito did not recall his membership in a controversial conservative Princeton alumni group until recently seeing a document.

— a 1985 Reagan administration legal brief seeking the reversal of a landmark abortion rights case. The material was not sent to the Senate along with other records.

Critics of the federal appeals court judge say they detect a pattern.

“A credibility gap is emerging with each new piece of information released on Judge Alito’s record,” said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, a member of the Senate Judiciary Commit-

tee, which is to begin confirmation hearings on Jan. 9.

“He bears an especially heavy burden at the hearings in January to explain the growing number of discrepancies between his current statements and his past actions,” said Kennedy, D-Mass.

Ralph Neas, president of People for the American Way, said that as more documents about Alito’s record become public, “a disturbing lack of credibility has begun to emerge across a range of key issues.”

A White House spokesman, Steve Schmidt, said critics are “trying to smear a good man.” Schmidt said their claims were a “recognition by the Democratic groups that there is thin gruel from which to mount a rational opposition to the Alito nomination.”

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales told reporters on Friday that a lot of information was requested and “there may be some times when people forget.” He added, “When reminded, the key is coming forward with the information.”

The fate of Alito’s nomination to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O’Connor probably will be determined by his writings and formal rulings on abortion as well as the other opinions issued during 15 years on the appeals court.

Grandma caught stealing baby Jesus

Associated Press

EUREKA SPRINGS, Ark. — A 70-year-old grandmother was caught stealing the baby Jesus from the city’s nativity scene, police said.

A carriage driver tipped off police, who quickly caught up with her van after she foisted the statue.

Virginia Voiers was ticketed for misdemeanor theft, which carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

“It was a lark, it wasn’t any serious stealing,” Voiers said. “My granddaughter commented that no one had taken the baby Jesus this year and said, ‘Grandma?’ I said, ‘Oh, what the heck.’”

Usually, the baby Jesus is returned by the thief. Voiers

said her Saturday caper was the first time she’d taken anything from the nativity.

“I didn’t know we had a tattletale downtown,” said Voiers, a Sunday school teacher. She said she told her pastor what happened.

“He said, ‘Bless you, child. Go and sin no more,’” she said, adding that he asked, “‘You didn’t tell them you are a Methodist, did you?’”

This year, the nativity scene was accessorized with a security camera monitored at police headquarters.

A dispatcher saw the theft and put out a call to officers. Carriage driver Thomas Tharp heard the broadcast on his police scanner and cantered to the nativity. He relayed the van’s license number to police, who pulled over the vehicle. That held Voiers and several family members.

Scientists are winging it against bird flu

Los Angeles Times

DAVIS, Calif. — Each fall, millions of birds make the marathon migration south along the Pacific Flyway, winged phalanxes landing amid the swamplands and rice paddies of the Sacramento Valley.

Walter Boyce wants to ensure they’re not carrying unwanted baggage this year.

Scientists like Boyce look to the skies and see the possibility that bird flu might migrate from Asia along with geese and ducks.

Boyce, head of the University of California, Davis, Wildlife Health Center, sees it as a sort of biological domino theory, passing from bird to bird as they head south for winter.

He hopes the feared H5N1 virus, the deadly variant that has prompted concern of a worldwide pandemic, won’t come with them.

“It’s not going to make it here easily,” he said. “If you just look at the flyway maps, there’s not a lot of overlap between the Asian birds and those of North America.”

But at the tip of Siberia, the transcontinental populations do intermix while fattening up on summer plains of wild grasses and grains. Scientists from UC Davis and several other universities are attempting to act as a sort of early warning system.

Routine testing in British Columbia resulted in the discovery of a farm duck with a nonlethal strain of the virus, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency said Sunday. Health officials quarantined the farm, east of Vancouver, and plan to cull about 60,000 head of poultry as a preventive measure.

Health officials around the world have been on the watch for the Asian strain of the H5N1 virus that experts fear may mutate so it is easily transmitted among humans and possibly cause a



Los Angeles Times photo by Robert Durrell

Veterinary technician Yvette Hernandez calms a magpie before checking it for the bird flu virus at the University of California at Davis.

pandemic. There are nine known N strains of the H5 virus.

Finding bird flu, Boyce said, could prove akin to locating a needle in a haystack.

In Alaska, the scientists took 4,000 samples as the birds migrated through the state. In Ohio, 500 have been tested. In California, the UC Davis surveillance program expects to test 2,000 birds.

Many will be ducks and other wild fowl shot by hunters. Scientists are also testing crows, magpies and other resident birds that could act as a biological bridge to spread influenza from migratory flocks to domesticated birds, including those in California’s crowded commercial poultry ranches.

With millions of birds on some of the Central Valley’s industrial chicken and turkey farms, Boyce said, any infection “would be like throwing a match on gasoline.”

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Student goes back to school, beats challenges

By JENS ALAN DANA



Photo by Amber Clawson

Ken Zaitzu from Japan practiced how to coil electric cords Friday morning while Fauna Smith, at the counter behind him, prepares breakfast for the JFSB student custodial staff weekly training meeting.

On an average day, she slips out of bed at 2:30 a.m., quietly creeps out of the room to avoid waking her husband and begins the one-hour drive down the dark, windy road through Hobbie Creek Canyon in her Chevy Suburban.

By 4 a.m., 47-year-old Fauna Smith, a custodian, is hard at work, supervising student custodians cleaning the Joseph F. Smith Building. She said she wanted her children to develop a work ethic, so she teaches them by example.

"She likes to teach her kids to work hard," said Jeremiah Smith, her second oldest child. "She herself is a hard worker."

If the constant grind of a full-time job and taking care of 10 children and a disabled husband doesn't sound like enough, throw in the fact that Smith is also registered for six credit hours at BYU. Needless to say, her hectic schedule can take its toll.

"I go to class, but I'm asleep through half of it," she said. "There has to be a program where people can get an education [even] with all the difficul-

ties."

When midterms were closing in on her, the load she carried became too much. She was swamped with work and family issues and didn't have time to do the reading for her classes. She said she was just about to drop her classes and stay content

with her custodial job, but then she had an innovative idea to get through her class reading.

She went to the Learning Resource Center and found all the tapes she could on the subjects that challenged her. Instead of sleeping through the next class she was able to participate.

Smith is now applying for an ORCA grant to make books on tape available for all classes to all students who don't have the time to read three or four hours a day.

"I've got custodians who could be listening to a tape while they are working," she said. "There are mothers who could do home-

work and get an education."

Smith has never been a stranger to challenges. Sandra Jackson, her former college roommate, said for all her challenges, Smith is able to see the sunlight through the rain clouds.

"Fauna has had many struggles in her life and still remembers who to turn to and thank for her blessings," Jackson said.

Smith's long college adventure began when she came to BYU in 1976. Along the way, she's taken time off to serve a mission in New York City and to take care of her grandmother, who suffered a stroke. She took another detour in 1982 when she met her husband, Rex Smith, at a church dance in Mancos, Colo. About a week and a half later, Rex proposed to her on a bridge above a drainage ditch, in Kirtland, N.M.

"With my charm and good looks, I was sure I'd sweep her off her feet," Rex said. "She almost passed out on me; I didn't know whether to be really insulted or not. She almost fell off the bridge, and I grabbed her by an arm, but she wasn't falling for me."

A day later, Smith accepted Rex's proposal, and they were married Dec. 15, 1982, in Mesa, Ariz. Over the years, they have

lived in locales as foreign as Buenos Aires, Argentina, and places as remote as Point Barry, Ala.

In 2002, they moved to Springville so Rex could start a trucking job with UVSC, but he developed Fibre Myalgia, a condition that leaves the body in constant pain. When this happened, it was difficult for an independent man like her husband to suddenly have to rely on her for support, Smith said.

When Xandra, their oldest child, went to BYU in fall 2002, Smith decided to go back to school to finish her degree. She said she plans to graduate January 2007 and then attend law school.

"I don't like lawyers," she said, as her lips turned up in a sly smile. "That's the main reason I want to be one."

Smith said her time away from college has given her an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and a determination to finish her classes.

"Instead of just going with the program like you've always done since you're 5, it's my idea," she said with her blue eyes flashing behind her prescription glasses. "I want to do this. I'm not doing this for my parents, I'm doing this for me."

TOPS volunteers make a difference

By LAUREN LEWIS

Math was a challenge for eighth-grader Taylor Robinson. But when a BYU volunteer came to the rescue, decimals and equations became fun.

"You know when something's hard, and you don't want to do it?" Robinson asked his mom. "Well, my helper made math fun for me!"

This is just one example of the many ways in which BYU students are giving to the Provo's Meridian School. With more than 120 volunteers, they have performed more than 1,075 service hours this semester. It's all part of the university's Tutor Outreach to Provo Schools, or TOPS program.

"The results have been amazing," said Katherine Hall, TOPS site coordinator for the Meridian School. "Test scores are improving, and parents have stopped me in the halls to say how great the BYU volunteers are."

One student volunteer is Johanna Jensen, a pre-music major from Manassas, Va. Jensen has been volunteering with the school's choir program, an experience she finds "fantastic."

Every now and then, a student will be having a hard time, Jensen said. Once, a young girl had trou-

ble learning to sing a German song. She expressed her frustration to Jensen, looking for some comfort.

"I told her, 'It's only too hard if you tell yourself it is,'" Jensen said. "She didn't believe me at first, but then she started singing again and gradually got better. It's very rewarding when things like that happen."

Meridian is an independent college preparatory school for pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

"The thing that impacts them most is working with a college student," fourth grade teacher Keri

Wahl said. "They hear the perspectives of solid role models."

It's helpful to know when someone has been in your shoes, Wahl said. One girl in her class struggles with dyslexia. The girl's volunteer, whom she calls "Mr. West," also suffered from it as a child. As a result, he is able to provide his own advice and support for the student.

Many BYU students are required to perform service through classes such as American Heritage. But any student can participate in the TOPS program by visiting the Service and Learning Center.

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Vernon L. Heperi
Dean of Students

Vernon L. Heperi was born in Kaikohe, New Zealand. He completed his high school education at the Church College of New Zealand and then served in the England London South Mission.

Following his mission, Vernon enrolled as an international student at BYU, where he was involved in a variety of campus organizations and activities, including the rugby team, Lamanite Generation (now Living Legends), the International Student Association, and BYUSA.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in communications from BYU, Vernon completed a master's degree in psychology from Utah State University and returned to complete

a doctoral degree in education at BYU. After a variety of employment experiences in Student Life, he was appointed dean of students in 2003 at BYU, where he currently serves.

Vernon has served in the Church as a missionary, Primary and Sunday School teacher, elders quorum president, stake missionary, and bishop. He currently serves as first counselor in the Provo Utah Parkway Stake Presidency.

Vernon met his wife, Elaine Cole, in the Lamanite Generation at BYU. Elaine is a Mohawk Indian whose family hails from the Akwesasne Reservation in upstate New York. She is also a graduate of BYU. Vernon and Elaine are the parents of four children.

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Daily Universe file photo

Students line up for refunds at the BYU Bookstore during the December 2004 sellback period. Despite the generous percentage of refund, some students are dissatisfied with the amount they get back.

Some unhappy with sellback policies

By NATALIE K. CLARK

"We have met our quota."

"We do not buy back course packets."

"There is a new edition coming out."

With the semester coming to an end and textbook sellback looming, students are preparing to hear these phrases from BYU Bookstore employees.

At the end of each semester, students can sell their textbooks back to the Bookstore. And, in turn, the Bookstore resells them to students the following semester. In theory, textbook sellback should be a win-win situation: students receive money back for their unwanted texts, and the Bookstore saves money by not needing to purchase as many new textbooks.

The BYU Bookstore offers 60 percent of the current new price

for sellback, while most other Utah universities only offer 50 percent, said Mike Foster, the assistant manager of textbook operations at the Bookstore.

But that is not good enough for some, and to hear students tell their stories, the sellback is nothing but a losing proposition.

"I did a speech on how the Bookstore offers 60 percent for sellback, but places like Half.com actually give better prices," said Jenna Platt, a senior majoring in public relations. "Take your books elsewhere."

Some would agree that 60 percent is better than nothing, but nothing is what some people get.

While the Bookstore pays 60 percent for qualifying books, students are out in the cold if a new edition of the textbook is published.

"One time the line was wrapped around the upstairs

floor of the Bookstore, and when I finally got through, they wouldn't take back my books because they're using a new edition next year," said Jill Newbold, a senior from Newhall, Calif. "Some classes use new editions every year. What's it going to hurt to keep the old edition? Maybe a paragraph was added to three chapters. The professors should just incorporate the new information in class."

Newbold's complaints, and literally dozens like it, come as no surprise to Foster. However, the Bookstore is caught between students wanting to get rid of "dead weight," and the store only needing so many textbooks back.

"[Our biggest complaint from students] is that the Bookstore can't buy all their books back," Foster said. "It would be an ideal situation, but it is never possible. People need to understand

that's the economics of things. We want to buy back as many as we can, based on the request that we get from the faculty."

After the Bookstore meets its quota at the 60 percent mark, which is usually around the sixth day, they buy back books at anywhere from 10 percent to 30 percent for a national wholesaler, Foster said.

The wholesalers offer 30 percent if it has a strong national resale value because they're not going to put money into a book they don't have some hope of being able to sell to another school, Foster said.

For students stuck with a textbook that does not qualify for sellback, candy is little relief to the frustration they are left with.

"It is irritating that after I stand in line forever, I can't sell back any books, and then they give me a piece of candy for compensation," Platt said.

Book Exchange helps students sell textbooks

By LISA JOHNSON

The end of each semester comes with the stress of final papers, projects and exams — not to mention worrying about selling textbooks.

BYU student Nathan Given has made it a little easier for students unable to sell back their books to the Bookstore. He created the Book Exchange, an online service where BYU students can find other students to buy or sell textbooks.

"It's mainly like a classified ad system," said Given, an information systems major from Los Alamitos, Calif. "There's a market to buy and sell textbooks between students, but students don't have a way to do that. That's why the Book Exchange exists."

Since it officially relaunched last December, over 2,000 books have been sold using the Book Exchange. Given said, on average, Book Exchange prices are 45 percent lower than the new book price at the Bookstore and 27 percent lower than the used book price.

Given said students find the Book Exchange simple to use. Almost 5,000 different students have already used the Web site this semester.

Students are able to log in at bookexchange.byu.edu using their Net ID and password. There they can search for specific textbooks or list ones they need to sell.

But Given said he doesn't want to step on the Bookstore's toes and still supports their textbook buyback.

"The Bookstore buyback is a great opportunity," Given said. "I'm not saying this is

better than the buyback. [But] the Book Exchange is different. It serves a different market."

Karl Hale, assistant to the dean of students for Information Systems and Technology, is the faculty sponsor for the Book Exchange. He said many students know how it feels to end up with a bunch of books at the end of a semester — not being able to sell them back to the Bookstore.

"Every once in a while you get lucky and know somebody who will be taking the class you just finished," Hale said. "You get a good deal, and they get a good deal. It's a real slam dunk."

He said that is why students need the Book Exchange.

"It opens up a market to be available to a one-on-one exchange," Hale said. "I think it can be a real money savings for students."

Of course the Bookstore buyback shouldn't be overlooked, he said. Students need to educate themselves on the advantages of both.

"I would not say one is better than the other," Hale said. "I would say it depends on your needs."

BYU student Jimmy Zimmerman uses both the Bookstore buyback and the online Book Exchange. Between he and his wife, they have sold six or seven books using the Book Exchange.

"Each semester we save probably around a hundred dollars or more using the Book Exchange," said Zimmerman, an information systems major from Sandy. "I think it's a great service. It makes it really quick to contact a lot of people who potentially have the book that you want. And it's all free."



Photo by Robb Costello

Students peruse textbooks at the BYU Bookstore in January 2006. The bookstore now publishes some titles.

Textbooks published here cheaper

Continued from Page 1

250 page spiral-bound workbook. After crunching the numbers, BYU Bookstore employees found they could publish the workbook for \$11.

"We are not trying to compete with the national publishers by sending these books all over the world," Berry said. "We are taking our own BYU

professor's work and publishing them for BYU students here."

More and more faculty are aware of the service of the BYU Bookstore publishing their own custom textbooks.

Professors who have the Bookstore publish their textbooks have services available that national publishers would not be able to provide.

"Besides the price aspect, a lot of national custom publishers don't offer the typesetting help that we can because we are here," Berry said. "We can go visit the faculty. We meet with the physical science faculty weekly. Students are involved with the project, we have a student photographer and illustrator, and it has been a great experience for them."



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Special Section Tuesday, November 15, 2005

Newspaper Captures Shots Of...

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nger Smith was 27, he had

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ad three missions, had been

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egislature, had married, had

been ordained an apostle by Brigham Young and

had been called to serve as a counselor in the First

Presidency.

Later, he became the sixth president of The Church

of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Decades after his death, the Smith Family Living

Center was named after him. Now a new building

stands in its place and bears his name—the Joseph

F. Smith Building.

"The reason the building was named after him

was because of his family values," said Alex Baugh,

professor of church history and doctrine. "He really

was a family-man prophet. He was c

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In 1915, President Smith establish

weekly family home evening prog

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In the groundbreaking ceremony

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BYU student finds father in Katrina aftermath

from New Orleans.

But his second words were distur

ing.

"I've been through hell."

In the Louisiana Superdome, he

witnessed the breakdown of society

firsthand. He saw massive looting. He

saw 7-to-10-year-old girls raped. His

saw women being killed.

"Things the human eye shouldn't

have seen," Laura said.

As if it ever could, life for Predium

ed the rest of Laura's extended fam

By BRITTANY KARFORD

He is diabetic, has high blood

pressure and can't swim, and

Laura Kay Mower was sure he

was dead.

It had been two weeks since Hurri

cane Katrina struck the heart of New

Orleans, and she had no word from

father, 306 long hours, and Laura

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Ballet West celebrates Nutcracker's anniversary



Ryan Galbraith

Ballet West, Utah's professional ballet company, will produce its 50th year anniversary performance of the Nutcracker on Dec. 9-31. Above, is the battle scene of Act I of Ballet West's 2002 production of the "Nutcracker" in Salt Lake City. Left, Christiana Bennett performs as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

By ERIN C. PIERCE

A larger-than-life Christmas tree, more than 280 dancing and tumbling children, a gold-costumed nutcracker, Tchaikovsky music and seemingly magical pyrotechnics combine this month to celebrate the golden anniversary of The Nutcracker.

Ballet West, Utah's professional ballet company, will perform The Nutcracker on Dec. 9-31 at The Capitol Theatre in Salt Lake City.

"I think the Nutcracker absolutely puts the holidays right in your hand," said Cati Dallas of Ballet West, the children's ballet mistress in this year's Nutcracker production. "It's just larger than life — and just the most incredible holiday experience. It's the ultimate fairyland."

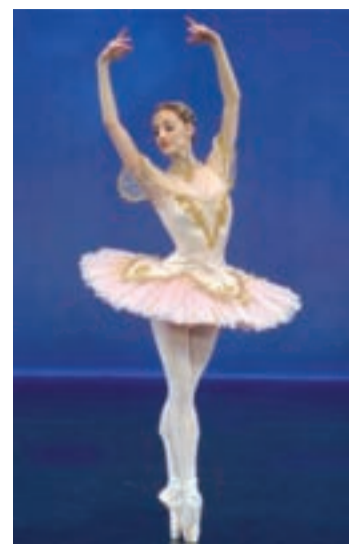
This year's Nutcracker, the 50th anniversary performance, will be an even more magical fairyland than ever, Dallas said. Because the color for the 50th anniversary is gold, the nutcracker prince is gold-costumed. Another addition is the new Christmas tree, with more than 300 lights compared to last year's 80 lights.

"We have some new tricks because we've added a new tree. The nutcracker prince when he comes to life just appears. Poof — and he's there," Dallas said. "We have some new pyro guys too, so the nutcracker just appears out of a burst of pyro. In a puff."

HOW TO SEE THE PERFORMANCE

For tickets to Ballet West's production of The Nutcracker:

- Call ArtTix
355-ARTS (2787)
 - Visit www.arttix.org
 - Go to the Capitol Theatre ticket office
50 W. 200 S., Salt Lake City
- Ticket prices range from \$17-\$65



Quinn Farley

Stage tricks aside, the Ballet West performance of The Nutcracker has historical value as well.

"Our Nutcracker was the first full-length Nutcracker staged in America," Dallas said. "Ours was the first, and we're still here, and we're still trying to keep it authentic."

Ballet West founder William Christensen was the original choreographer of The Nutcracker, which was performed in Utah for the first time Dec. 27, 1955, at Kingsbury Hall on the University of Utah campus.

"I think it is fun to say I was there for the 50th anniversary — it's a mark in history really," said Peter Christie, director of the academy at Ballet West.

Although this year is a special year for The Nutcracker, for many families the production has been a treasured holiday tradition for many years, Christie said. The Nutcracker often draws a four-generation audience, with ages ranging from grandparents to great-grandchildren.

"The Nutcracker has a high entertainment factor for a ballet. Your focus of attention is constantly changing, and this gives you a little taste of different things," Christie said. "For our MTV generation who constantly are wanting to be stimulated by something new, and also for little kids, it will hold their attention."

The Ballet West performance has more than just entertainment value though, Christie said.

'39 Pounds' has heart

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Dani Menkin's documentary "39 Pounds of Love" is a heart-tugger that, although highly inspirational, has a strongly orchestrated quality. The film's title refers to the weight of 34-year-old Israeli 3-D animator Ami Ankilewitz, afflicted with spinal muscular atrophy that has reduced his mobility to a single finger on his left hand.

Despite the prognosis of a doctor in Laredo, Texas, where Ankilewitz was born to a Mexican mother and an Israeli businessman, that he would not live beyond age 6, he has survived and flourished. He is sustained by a loving family — which settled in Tel Aviv, Israel — and friends, plus his own will and creativity. And "39 Pounds" benefits from Ankilewitz's animated sequences, in which he whimsically expresses his longings and dreams.

When Ankilewitz realizes that he has fallen in love with Christina, his pretty, vivacious caretaker, and that she can reciprocate only as a friend, he sends her away and decides to pursue his dream of returning to America,

not merely to discover the country but to confront the doctor who told his mother he would not live. Ankilewitz's journey to Laredo begins in Los Angeles with a specially equipped trailer, accompanied by his best friend and former caretaker, Asaf, plus the film's seven-man crew.

In any event, the film's "spontaneity" has the feel of considerable planning, which lends its stellar moments an overly rehearsed quality. Even so, there's a heroic defiance to Ankilewitz — and those who enable him to live as fulfilling a life as he does are heroes themselves.

"39 Pounds of Love" — Unrated. Family fare suitable for older children. Running time: 1 hour, 10 minutes.

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Los Angeles Times photo by Beatrice De Gea

Brendan Gleeson joins the "Harry Potter" cast as Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher Mad-Eye Moody.

The man behind the Mad-Eye

Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD—In the fourth "Harry Potter" book, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire," J.K. Rowling introduced fans to the latest Hogwarts Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Mad-Eye Moody. Mad-Eye was a former auror (a specialized wizard) who had lost an eye and a leg in his battles with the dark side and "He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named."

Moody possesses a swiveling blue eye that seems to have a life of its own and, always on the lookout for evil forces, he tells his students to be constantly vigilant.

Bringing Mad-Eye vividly to life in the new "Harry Potter" film is burly Irish actor Bren-dan Gleeson, 50, a former teacher who has given memorable performances in such films as "Braveheart," "Michael Collins," "Artificial Intelligence: AI," "Gangs of New York" and "Kingdom of Heaven."

Gleeson's breakthrough was in John Boorman's acclaimed 1998 film "The General," in which he played the infamous Irish criminal Martin Cahill. He's since worked with Boorman in "The Tailor of Panama" and "In My Country."

A graduate of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, he was a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company. The

Dubliner also has a cameo in Neil Jordan's new film, "Breakfast on Pluto," which opens Friday, and he recently finished Robert Zemeckis' production of "Beowulf" in Los Angeles.

Is it true you're the first "Harry Potter" cast member who plays a teacher who actually was a teacher?

Yeah! That was quite a bit of fun, actually.

Did you feel like you were returning to your teaching days?

It was kind of bizarre because I found myself kind of playing teachers I had myself, rather than — hopefully — myself as a teacher.

So you had teachers as off-the-wall as Mad-Eye in school in Dublin?

Oh, yeah. They weren't necessarily priests. Most of the real lunatics were laymen.

Did you teach the same age students as Harry, Ron and Hermione?

I did, actually. It was all boys from about 12 to 18. You know, that interesting time of life!

What did you teach?

I taught English and Irish — Gaelic. I had a good 10 years (as a teacher), and I really did enjoy it. You kind of make great friends with some of the kids too. It is a time in their life they prefer to forget, but if you like them to begin with, it kind of helps.

Weren't you acting while you were teaching?

When I left college, we had started a kind of theater company. I was working for about three years and went back to college after that. I met some people in college, and we were doing (theater) as well. But acting was something I wanted to keep separate. I didn't want to have to make money on it to live. In one way, maybe there was a lack of confidence, but I didn't think it was a kind of life that was destined for me. It never really dawned on me until I started working with a chap called Paul Mercer in the 1980s. We started packing larger halls and then started moving into established theaters and going for, like, 10-week runs. It grew bigger and bigger.

Were you familiar with the "Harry Potter" books and movies before being cast as Mad-Eye?

I have four lad boys — they are not kids anymore, either. The youngest is 16 now. But they were mad for the books. There was a big shout when they heard there was a possibility of it, even.

It was a fascinating thing to take on. I went to the boys, and they more or less told me what he was (about in the book).

He's kind of a father figure, and he's that kind of mad lunatic on your side, and he always seems to be there whenever you are in very bad trouble. And then the fun of the eye and his madness ...

LOL chooses new members

Funshoppers proved comedic genius

By TIFFANY POTTER OLSEN

After 20 hours of training spread out through a 10-week training program, a dozen BYU "Funshoppers" performed Wednesday in hopes to make their audience laugh out loud.

Funshoppers proved their comedic genius at Wednesday's performance where current Laugh Out Loud members choose new Laugh Out Loud cast members.

"The philosophy is that you can learn and learn in a practice room, but until you really get on stage with a live audience you haven't learned," said Kenny McNett, the Laugh Out Loud Funshopper coach. "The whole semester is an audition. Every week we are looking to see if they are going to be a good addition to the team, that will make the audience want to come back."

McNett said Laugh Out Loud — which started over three years ago as 23 Skidoo — started funshops because the club wanted new recruits and this was an opportunity to give students a fun way to ex-

perience improv.

"Workshops — or Funshops, as we call them, because they're not work, they're fun — are pretty standard in comedy industry and improv because that's how you get into the comedy circuit, is you do workshops," McNett said.

Cast members from BYU-SA's Laugh Out Loud improv comedy troupe trained six males and six females over the past fall semester for the performance. Since Laugh Out Loud's beginning, there has been one woman in the cast.

"It's nice because the whole theater world seems to revolve around boys, it's so hard for girls to get into it and it's easy for boys, so it's nice to get into improv where you're valued for being a female," said Kimberly Dunn a Laugh Out Loud Funshopper.

Both male and female Funshoppers began the semester with varying levels of background experience in improv. While some said they had no previous experience in improv, others learned by watching "Whose Line is it Anyway?" Some took drama in high school and one started his own

improv group when he was a student at Southern Virginia University.

"When I came here, I was really looking for more people I could have chemistry with," said Rob Hickman, Funshopper. "You do come here and have fun, you make friends and then once you start developing that relationship by being with each other so often, you realize a kind of chemistry that you have and how well you can work together."

This semester's Funshoppers went beyond the weekly two-hour practice.

"What we actually did for this show was that David Hutchison [a Funshopper] organized study groups," Dunn said. "So we could get together and give each other feedback."

Though finding chemistry and learning how to work together in improv presented challenges for Funshoppers, their talent proved well at Wednesday's performance.

"At the beginning [McNett] said, 'Don't try to be funny, just do it, and the funniness will come,' and it does," said Courtney Montrose, a Funshopper.

Connery approves 007

Associated Press

LONDON — Sean Connery thinks a blond Bond is just fine.

The former 007 says Daniel Craig is a "terrific choice" as the new British superspy.

Some eyebrows were raised in October when producers cast the sandy-haired, relatively unknown Craig in the next James Bond film, "Casino Royale."

But Connery, 75, told British Broadcasting Corp. televi-

sion that he approved.

"Craig's a great choice, really interesting — different," Connery said in comments released Friday by the broadcaster. The full interview is due to air Monday.

"He's a good actor. It's a completely new departure," he added.

The respect is mutual. Craig told a news conference in October that Connery was his favorite 007.

Connery was the first actor to play Bond, appearing in six

films beginning with "Dr. No" in 1962 and ending in 1971 with "Diamonds Are Forever."

Roger Moore, George Lazenby, Timothy Dalton and Pierce Brosnan have also starred as the womanizing, gadget-loving spy.

Connery said he'd left the role in part "because I got really fed up with the space stuff and special effects. I just found it getting more and more influential in the movies."

"Casino Royale" is due in theaters next November.



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Photo by David Stephenson/SThe Los Angeles Times

Muslim sorority

Amira Shalash, left, and Boushra Aghil are among Muslim students at the University of Kentucky interested in joining Gamma Gamma Chi, the nation's first Islamic sorority. "My parents would never, ever let me join a regular sorority," Shalash said.

Web sites quell e-rumors

By ELIZABETH STITT

A widely circulated e-mail from Capt. Abraham Sands of the Florida Police Department warns readers about the dangers of hypodermic needles at gas pumps. The e-mail states pranksters placed hypodermic needles containing the HIV virus on the underside of gas pump handles. The captain advises people to look carefully before filling up their cars.

But according to truthorfiction.com, this letter is entirely fabricated. The truth is there is no Capt. Abraham Sands, there is no Jacksonville Police Department and no incidents have been reported of HIV-infected needles on gas pumps.

Yet, one click of the mouse sends these rumors worldwide. This Internet rumor, known as an e-rumor, is one of thousands the staff at truthorfiction.com and many other e-rumor busting Web sites tries to quell.

The rumors contain information about viruses, chain letters, cancer-causing plastics and hoaxes advising users to send the e-mail on to as many people as possible and they'll receive a check. While some may be true, the majority are false. A quick look on hoax-busting Web sites reveals the rumor's validity and where it originated.

In 1998, Rich Buhler started truthorfiction.com, a Web site people can refer to when validating an e-rumor. He has researched and written about urban legends and rumors for more than 30 years and developed this Web site to get the word out about false information.

"Hopefully people who come [to the site] can quickly and easily find whether something they got in an email is there and if it's truth or fiction," Buhler said. "They can trust this is good, accurate, first-hand information."

Buhler and a small staff of employees and volunteers regularly receive thousands of e-mails and their Web site has up to 15,000 hits a day. They research most of their information on the Internet,

but if they can't find it there, they try and track down the source. If they still cannot find any information, they list the e-rumor as unproven.

Barbara Mikkelson and her husband David started Snopes.com, another urban legend Web site that investigates rumors. They receive about 300 to 400 inquiries a day, with more than half of them dealing with online rumors.

Mikkelson said she and her husband use online news sources to verify rumors. They have also researched in books and even looked in century-old microfilms to discover the truth.

She said some rumors might be started deliberately, but only a small fraction of them.

"Most of the ones we find originate in an honest mishearing, misunderstanding, or misremembering of something," Mikkelson said.

For example, a popular forwarded e-mail contains a speech Bill Gates gave at a high school graduation. He talks about 11 rules for life. The speech starts with rule one: "Life is not fair, get used to it" and ends with rule 11: "Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one."

But according to truthorfiction.com, Bill Gates never said those words. The rules are really an excerpt from the book "Dumbing Down our Kids" by Charles Skyles.

Buhler said many e-mails tell readers to send the e-mail off to a certain number of people and they'll receive money. But he said there is no system to trace forwarded e-mails to give benefits to the originator.

"Someone has created a prank to see how big it would get," Buhler said. "They're like arsonists turning a match into a fire."

Many urban legend researchers look in to why these e-rumors are passed on.

Eric Eliason, a folklore professor in the English Department, said e-rumors have some element that piques the interest of the reader and helps them survive. It may be they warn of something, they're interesting stories, or they deal with concerns and fears.

"E-rumors don't have a national endowment," Eliason said. "They survive like organisms in an environment. If they're not well-suited, they're going to die out."

Although many may suspect the stories are not true, they still pass them on, Eliason said.

Buhler said this attitude is harmful. He said when people send an e-mail, they automatically become a publisher, even if it's only to their friends. He said this is why it's important to research the facts and find the truth when sending information to friends. He said many Web sites, including his, are dedicated to providing the truth.

"They deserve to know you're not sending them something that's an error," Buhler said. "You need to check these things out."

"Someone has created a prank to see how big it would get. They're like arsonists turning a match into a fire."

Rich Buhler
Founder of truthorfiction.com

Couric is on CBS' wish list

Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — NBC's "Today" show co-anchor Katie Couric is being actively wooed by CBS to be its next evening news anchor — a move she is seriously considering, according to sources at both networks.

In recent weeks, CBS News President Sean McManus has been doggedly courting Couric to switch networks and assume the anchor seat of the "CBS Evening News," according to three senior editorial employees at CBS and NBC.

While the 48-year-old morning host is contemplating the offer, sources said, it's unclear whether she can formally negotiate a new job until her NBC contract expires in May.

NBC News President Steve Capus said the network hopes to hold on to Couric, who has been the face of the "Today" show for almost 15 years. He called the growing speculation about her next step "premature."

"I don't think she's decided what to do," he said. "We're still sitting here with many months to go before this is going to be in

front of us.

"Someday, at some point in the future, she is going to feel that it's time to get off the 'Today' show," Capus added. "I don't know when it's going to be."

Couric's agent did not return calls requesting comment. CBS officials declined to comment.

CBS Chairman Leslie Moonves had tried to lure Couric away last spring when Dan Rather left the anchor desk. Since then, veteran Washington correspondent Bob Schieffer has served as interim anchor of the evening newscast, a stint he expected would last only a few months while network executives pondered how to remake the show.

When McManus replaced News President Andrew Heyward in October, he announced that one of his immediate goals was to court new talent to the network. Couric has been his priority, sources said, with the news president offering her "the moon" to come aboard. Any offer would have to involve a substantial salary to match Couric's current deal with NBC — a reported contract of \$60 million over 4 1/2 years.

The switch would represent a dramatic change for Couric, whose folksy style has been the

hallmark of the "Today" show, a lively mix of breaking news, entertainment and lifestyle stories. Some network news observers question whether she would be the right fit for the more staid world of evening news.

"Her big strength is her versatility," said analyst Andrew Tyndall. "The job of a nightly news anchor is different: It requires less range but more depth."

If CBS is successful in signing her, the move would upend the dynamics of the evening news competition — pitting her against her current NBC colleague Brian Williams — and shake up the race between the highly profitable morning shows.

With Couric — and later co-anchor Matt Lauer — at the helm, "Today" has been the top-ranked morning program for a decade. But ABC's "Good Morning America" has made a strong run at overtaking its rival this year, coming tantalizingly close in the spring. In recent weeks, "Today" has regained its wide lead, beating its rival by 864,000 viewers at one point last month.

The possibility of Couric's move has all three networks locked in a complex game of chess, each trying to anticipate

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Animal handler lives charmed life in 'Lion's Den'

Los Angeles Times

In the Discovery Channel documentary "Into the Lion's Den," premiering Sunday night, animal handler Dave Salmoni goes out into the semi-wilds of a private game reserve in South Africa to chill with the king of beasts, to see how close he can get to them, and for how long, without getting eaten.

The producers impose a frustratingly commonplace idea of what constitutes "drama" onto footage whose prime quality is one of near-mystical stillness, but ultimately the pictures win out.

Salmoni, we are told, is "pioneering new methods to approach wild lions unarmed and on foot," the practical value of which seems as good as nil, really, unless the

lions get out one day and find you without your whip or bicycle. Notwithstanding the pointed use of the words "experiment" and "project" and "zoologist" to legitimize the enterprise, the whole business at times seems more stunt than science, a lion tamer's gambit rather than a researcher's.

The real question here may have been what to do with the telegenic Salmoni after "Living With Tigers," an earlier, controversial Discovery documentary about training animals raised in captivity to get along in the wild.

Salmoni, who can seem a little obnoxious when dealing with mere humans, clearly loves the big cats. Here he wants to prove that lions are "more wired to accept humans than attack them," though since he never acts like an ordinary person around them, this point is moot.

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Real estate hot in county

By DAN MONSON



Photo by Amber Clawson

Housing prices in Utah County have jumped this year.

interest rates.

"As interest rates go up, more people want to buy before the rates get too high," said Harman Sen. "We will see a busy market until the interest rate gets high enough to block first-time homeowners out of the market."

With the optimistic promise of real estate, Mayor Billings said there seems to be a demand for owning over renting in the valley.

Students who come to the university are faced with the choice of renting or trying to purchase a property. Though the prospect seems attractive, there are many factors that affect the outcome of

a purchase, including listing fees, closing fees and agent fees.

"Buying is a good option that I am looking into," said Ryan Morgan, 23, American studies major from Beaverton, Ore. "It is valuable to build equity in a place rather than throwing your money away with rent."

Appreciation has continued to benefit many local residents, and ownership has also provided most with other benefits.

"There are powerful tax advantages to ownership," said Don Livingstone, director for the Center for Entrepreneurship at the Marriott School of Management. "But the exit and entry costs of owning are not insignificant. The question of appreciation versus exit and entrance cost is what needs to be looked at."

The Commerce Department reported that the recent 13 percent rise in new home sales nationwide is the biggest one-month gain in 12 years.

"Housing markets are subject to interest rates — and remember that the only thing that keeps going up in life is your age," Livingstone said.

Keeping roads safe focus of 3D month

By JULES LINDGREN

For nearly a quarter of a century, the President of the United States has proclaimed December National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, know colloquially as 3D Month.

President George W. Bush followed suit this year, saying in his official proclamation, "My administration remains committed to saving lives and preventing injuries resulting from drunk and drugged driving."

According to statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes accounted for 16,694 deaths last year, nearly 40 percent of all vehicle fatalities. They estimate someone dies from an alcohol-related accident every half-hour.

As part of the national campaign, the Utah Department of Public Safety is promoting NHTSA's "You Drink & Drive, You Lose" campaign, in conjunction with the "Click it or Ticket" media campaign, said Teri Pectol, program manager with the traffic

"As long as people are still dying, it's still something we have to worry about."

Teri Pectol
Program manager,
Utah traffic safety division

safety division.

Pectol said drunken driving is a problem everywhere. Of the 1,961 crashes that were drug- or alcohol-related in Utah last year, 1,078 resulted in injuries and 72 were fatal.

Those numbers represent a 53 percent increase from 2003, and that's despite the fact there were more than 14,000 DUI arrests in the same period.

"Even though law enforcement are out there working as hard as they can to get those people off the road, as long as people are still dying, it's still something we have to worry about," Pectol said.

The Department has also provided 700 overtime hours for law

enforcement this month, which will allow them to be out in even greater numbers.

"You will see a lot of police on the roads," said Enid Hudson, secretary of Mother's Against Drunk Driving.

The Salt Lake City chapter of MADD is supporting the effort by sponsoring radio ads. Hudson said the spots will air primarily on 103.5 FM.

The Utah County Health Department is not working on project directly related to the national 3D month, but are working on legislation that will come before the Utah legislature in January.

If passed, the legislation would implement a tough cashier training program statewide that the county has been using for a year and a half with good success, said Pat Bird, with the Utah County Substance Abuse Department.

Other issues the legislature may look at are renewing the Plea in Abeyance program and increasing the use of ignition interlock devices, a breath analyzer attached to the car ignition that will allow the car to start only if it doesn't detect the presence of alcohol.

City punishes ventilation violations

By KIMBERLY MCLEAN

Provo City received the support it needed from the Utah County Health Department to continue enforcing the requirement of separate ventilation systems for each dwelling unit.

Roughly 200 units in Provo are in violation of this building code.

Ventilation systems between attached dwelling units, such as upstairs and basement apartments of houses, have several adverse health-related repercussions from the sharing of re-circulated air, said Joseph Miner, executive secretary for the Utah County Health Department.

Miner stated his stance firmly in last week's Board of Health meeting. The most severe repercussion: the spread of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis.

In a letter to city officials, Miner wrote: "There is also a concern for adverse health effects from odors, fumes, pet dander and secondhand smoke. These types of things can trigger asthma episodes or cause other respiratory problems."

The city was questioning the necessity of the 1946 ordinance because of its hefty cost to landlords and difficulty to enforce.

Provo building officials said they realize it can be difficult for landlords to keep up with building codes, but Dennis Thomas, a city building inspector, said all new buildings are built to code. Older units, on the other hand, are harder to monitor.

Thomas said Provo only has two ways to monitor building conditions. The first is if a tenant reports hazardous living condi-

tions, and the second depends on whether the owner applies for a business license so an inspector can check the site for code violations and other life safety hazards.

"I think we've resolved some real hell-holes in this city, but there are still a lot that haven't been taken care of properly," said Chuck Hugo, Provo's chief building official.

With more houses recently being converted to apartments, Hugo said ventilation units have become a serious life safety issue.

However, many landlords may be hesitant to fix such problems because of the cost and time required to install new ventilation units.

"Installing an entirely new ventilation system usually costs between \$1000 and \$1500," said Mark Lowe, a heating technician for Provo ventilation company ESCO Heating and Air Conditioning. "In addition to the cost,

it usually also takes a couple of weeks to completely install."

Total Property Management, a large Provo property management company, declined to comment on their compliance with building regulations.

Lisa Barker, from Orem-based Hidden Vale Management, said that while it is difficult to keep properties updated, most landlords do their best to comply with city ordinances. If they don't, it is probably because they either don't realize the extent of their responsibilities or they are ignoring them, she said.

The city will now pursue this building violation more aggressively.

"Right now we're attacking the more obvious concerns and the more serious hazards in Provo residential areas," Hugo said. "We hope to eventually be able to expand our enforcement of these and other important building issues to all Provo renting establishments."

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Mexico ambassador's visit draws demonstration outside Utah capitol

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Mexico's ambassador to the United States pressed for a political solution for the U.S. immigration problem in a visit Friday with Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman.

The diplomat, Carlos de Icaza, endorsed a guest worker program for his countrymen and a fair resolution for the millions of undocumented workers already in the United States.

"Building walls and fences is not the way to solve problems among neighbors," said de Icaza, whose two-day visit ended with a demonstration by the Utah Minute-man Project outside the Utah Capitol.

The immigration opponents called for tougher border security and sanctions against U.S. employers who hire undocumented workers, and to de Icaza they evoked the "vigilante groups" adding enforcement to the U.S.-Mexico border.

"There is no place, managing immigration flows between neighbors, for people to pretend to take the law into their own hands," said de Icaza.

Huntsman, who supports a guest worker program, had no public comment after the meeting, but during it he told the envoy he supported stronger economic and cultural links and an education exchange between Mexico and Utah. Huntsman invited reporters and cameras into his ceremonial office at the outset.

The meeting was expected to



Courtesy of Gov. Huntsman Office

Mexico ambassador, Carlos de Icaza, speaks to Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman on Friday, for a political solution to the U.S. immigration problem.

pave the way for a visit to Utah by Mexico's president, Vicente Fox, sometime next year, de Icaza said. Huntsman visited Fox in July.

The ambassador emphasized the economic ties between Mexico and Utah, and said Mexico's economy was improving, though not enough to satisfy his countrymen, who are drawn to a U.S. economy that is 15 times larger and acts like "a big magnet," de Icaza said.

Utah exports \$95 million worth of goods a year to Mexico, mostly minerals, ores and chemicals, while Mexico sells \$382 million worth of goods to Utah, his advisers said.

Utah companies can take ad-

vantage of more opportunities for trade, especially those in the software and information technology sector, de Icaza said.

Outside on the Capitol plaza, a few dozen placard-waving demonstrators weren't impressed. They said foreigners who sneak into this country were breaking the law, and that de Icaza was avoiding the subject.

Jerry Owens, of Midway, Utah, said the United States needs to build a fence along the Mexican border.

"My children are going to be competing with illegal aliens for jobs," said Eli Cawley of Salt Lake City.

Student loan budget cuts not final, bill not law yet

By Dani Woodland

The House of Representatives passed a bill Nov. 18 that cuts \$14 billion in student aid and loan programs, but its progress toward becoming a law is far from over.

The next step is for the House and the Senate to work out the differences between their versions of the bill, called the Deficit Reduction Act 2005. Discussions begin this month.

Both houses cut large amounts from government spending, but each proposes these cuts in different programs and arrive at different totals.

"The numbers are very different," said Alyson Heyrend, the spokeswoman for Rep. Jim Matheson, D-Utah. "The Senate's version cuts \$39 billion, and the House cuts about \$50 billion [from the 2006 budget]. They arrive at those savings very differently."

For this reason, Heyrend said the two plans would be difficult to combine.

The House bill reorganizes student loans in a way that will cause the interest rates to go up. It is part of a sweeping program that also cuts funds for farmers and those using Medicaid in effort to reduce the national deficit.

While the nation waits for the final word on where their money will be going next year, some individuals have inserted themselves into the decision process. The bill, sponsored by the Republican Party, passed 217-215.

Of Utah's representatives, Rob Bishop and Chris Cannon — both Republicans — voted for the bill. Jim Matheson, a democrat, voted against it.

Ashley Walton, a freshman from Spanish Fork majoring in English, said she does not think it fair for the government to take funding away from students who would not be able to pay for school otherwise. She wrote all three congressmen from Utah.

"The fact that it only passed by two votes makes it an attainable goal to me that it won't pass next time," Walton said. "It's not so far out, like it was an overwhelming vote that can't be changed."

Cannon encourages anyone with a concern to contact his office, said Charles Isom, Cannon's spokesman.

"He is concerned with what people are writing in about, how many letters we get, what they're saying, whether the people take the time to write themselves rather than just send an internet form or that kind of thing," Isom said. "Every letter we get we treat with respect and concern. We take them all very seriously."

Cannon and Bishop have received a few dozen letters in response to the bill's passage, and Matheson's spokeswoman said he has received a few.

If the bill becomes law, students will have to come up with more money to pay for a college educa-

tion. Those who voted for the bill, however, say the benefit will be worth the cost — even for students.

"The bill is about saving taxpayers over \$50 billion," Isom said. "College students are going to be the ones paying taxes in the future."

Bishop's spokesperson, Scott Parker, said, "Honestly, we need to reduce the deficit. One of the worst things we can do to students and the rising generation is to pass on the national debt. One part of that process is streamlining and reforming the student loan process. We are trying to make sure it remains solvent and that there's money in the future."

Isom said students who oppose the funding cuts should keep their eyes on the bill's progress. As members of the Senate and the House discuss revisions to the bill that will make it acceptable to both houses, students can urge their representatives to contact those involved in the process.

Bush cracks down on immigration nationwide

By CATHERINE HARRIS

Immigration laws may make it harder to get across the border and find a job, not only for states bordering Mexico, but in all states.

President Bush is pushing for tighter immigration laws throughout the states. Bush said he hopes tightening the laws will keep the borders tighter and those here to stay.

Bush's proposal was announced in early 2004, after his re-election, but he finally took initiative on his proposal last week in a two-day tour to several border states.

"Illegal immigration is a serious challenge, and our responsibility is clear," Bush said in a conference with border patrol and customs personnel at an air force base near Arizona.

Bush also said he is concerned

about the number of people that get across the border without being subsequently sent home.

Another part of Bush's agenda is to help those who are already here, stay here. He hopes Congress will pass a law that will help immigrants by creating a temporary worker program that will help illegal immigrants find jobs and become citizens.

Immigration effects Utah, but by a notably smaller percent than the rest of the country.

According to the Office of Immigration Statistics in the Department of Homeland Security, .04-.99 percent of people immigrate to the United States come to Utah. It is minute compared to California and New York, the two highest receiving 10.0 to 25.04 percent.

Homeland Security also reports that, of the legal immigrants that come to the United States, 175,364 came from Mexico in 2004. Of those,

only .00-.74 of those immigrate to Utah.

After immigration the job search is hard. Utah's Workforce Services provides alerts for people looking for jobs.

"As of today, 68,467 people have registered for us to alert them for jobs," said Rick Little, manager of information systems for Utah Workforce Services. "Of those people, 3,033 are not U.S. Citizens."

Little also said the numbers of people looking for jobs does not reflect the immigration status.

"There are those that are looking for jobs that don't register with us," Little said.

Immigrants who are not U.S. citizens do not have a harder time finding a job, Little said.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 10.5 percent of Provo's population is Hispanic, many of which are immigrants.

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Non Sequitur®

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MOM AND DAD SAY I SHOULD MAKE MY LIFE AN EXAMPLE OF THE PRINCIPLES I BELIEVE IN. BUT EVERY TIME I DO, THEY TELL ME TO STOP IT. I'M NOT SURE THAT TOTAL SELF-INDULGENCE IS REALLY A PRINCIPLE.

The New York Times Crossword Edited by Will Shortz No. 1101

ACROSS
1 "Jaywalker" of late-night TV
5 C sharp equivalent
10 ___ Spumante
14 Worse than bad
15 Something coffee has
16 Golda of Israel
17 Leaves for cooking
18 About 39 inches
19 Scottish hillside
20 Coming attractions shot at a mobile home park?
23 It may be passed on the Hill
25 ___ Speedwagon
26 ___ work (road sign)
27 Full-length films shot at a day spa?

32 To any extent
33 Chafes
34 Lariat
35 Late civil rights pioneer Rosa
37 Gillette razor
41 "___ on Down the Road"
42 Throat malady
43 Film segments shot at an arsenal?
48 Ice cream sundae, e.g.
49 Eggs
50 Anka's "___ Beso"
51 Documentaries shot at a vacation paradise?
56 Did laps, say
57 Modern reading material
58 "Sorry about that!"
61 Fountain of jazz

62 Water ride
63 Expert
64 Iditarod entry
65 Like most manuscripts
66 On

DOWN
1 French article
2 "Deliver Us From ___" 2003 film
3 Nip before a tuck?
4 Table spread
5 Interest of a knight in shining armor
6 Without
7 Trent of the Senate
8 From the U.S.
9 Skater Lipinski
10 English novelist Eric
11 Unruffled number
12 Jeweled coronets
13 "___ my case"
21 River to the Caspian
22 Don of morning radio
23 Many miles away
24 Roman statesman and writer
28 Spot of land in the Seine
29 Goofed
30 Diving bird
31 Superstation letters

35 Scorecard reminder
36 "___ was saying"
37 U.S./Eur. divider
38 Auditions
39 Counts in the gym
40 Lhasa ___ (dog)
41 Words to Brutus
42 Surgery reminder
43 Embroidery yarn
44 Make fizzy
45 Rear-ended, e.g.
46 "Beat it!"
47 Brought forth
48 Kitchen
49 ___ measures: Abbr.
50 "How's it hangin', bro?"
53 Skillfully
54 Egg drop, e.g.
55 "Animal House" attire
59 For
60 "How's it hangin', bro?"

Puzzle by Sarah Keller

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Image courtesy of www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney

The United States Treasury will begin distributing the new \$10 bill in March

Hamilton gets a makeover on the new \$10 bill, out in '06

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The trees won't be the only thing sprouting new colors come springtime.

Americans' wallets will have more red, yellow and orange as the first of 800 million redesigned \$10 bills start showing up in cash registers and ATM machines on March 2.

Government officials said Thursday that they had selected the March date to start distributing the more colorful \$10 bills, which will have shades of the new colors added to the traditional green.

The makeover of the \$10 follows colorization of the \$20 bill in 2003 and the \$50 billion last year.

The new \$10 will still feature Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first Treasury secretary, on one side, and the Treasury building on the other side.

But those two images will be joined by the Statue of Liberty's torch and the phrase "We the People" in red along with small yellow 10s and a subtle orange background. All the changes are designed to thwart counterfeiters.

The Federal Reserve, which has the responsibility of supplying coins and currency to the nation's banking system, will begin on March 2 filling orders placed by commercial banks for the new \$10s.

The new design for the currency was unveiled during a ceremony in New York City in September. Bureau of Engraving and Printing

AT A GLANCE

Interesting facts about the \$10 bill:

- March 2, 2006 - 800 million \$10 notes will appear in ATMs and cash machines.
- This is the third makeover of U.S. paper currency - \$20 bill was redone in 2003 and the \$50 bill in 2004.
- Features Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first treasury secretary.
- The average life-span for a \$10 bill is three years, while \$1 bills last about 22 months.
- New images include the Statue of Liberty's torch and the phrase "We the people" in red along with small yellow 10s on a subtle orange background.

Director Tom Ferguson said the lead time gives operators of vending machines and other devices that accept currency time to make the changes needed to recognize the new bills.

It also allows time for a public information campaign so that consumers, clerks and other people who handle the bills will not be taken by surprise by the changes.

"A good currency program depends on a highly secure currency design, very good law enforcement and also an educated public," Ferguson said in an interview with

The Associated Press.

Some people could see the new \$10 bills right in early March but the introduction in any given area of the country will depend on the demand by commercial banks for new \$10s to replace worn-out bills.

The average life-span for a \$10 bill is three years while \$1 bills last only about 22 months. As with all currency changes, the old bills maintain their full value as long as they are in circulation.

Plans call for the \$100 bill to be redesigned in 2007, a change that was delayed to allow for more security features to be added to what is the favorite denomination of counterfeiters outside the United States. There are no plans to change the \$1, \$2 or \$5 bills.

Scriptures come alive online

By JESSICA GURNSEY

Students concerned about finishing President Hinckley's Book of Mormon challenge by the end of the year might want to start checking their e-mail.

A new Web site, readthescriptures.com, offers subscribers the chance to create reading schedules that will e-mail a portion of the scriptures to them, in text and audio formats, each day. Deann and Wayne Dixon created the Web site in response to President Hinckley's Book of Mormon challenge.

Wayne came up with the idea during October's General Conference and began work on the concept immediately. The site is free to users and funded entirely by the Dixons.

"If you want to challenge yourself, unless you actually figure out [how to pace your reading], you'll never sure if you'll make it," Dixon said. "Here, they've done it for you. It takes away the worry."

Once each section is finished, the user clicks completed on the bottom of the e-mail. E-mails are sent each day only if the previous day's reading was marked complete.

Readthescriptures.com allows users to create reading groups with friends and family members to discuss the scriptures and track each other's progress. A stake president even contacted the site hoping to implement a reading group

for the youth of his stake.

The site also offers space to keep a personal journal. The journal can be downloaded to Microsoft Word and printed out or kept solely on the Internet.

"Journals are totally private," Dixon said. "We don't even have access to it. You can include pictures or make back entries. It's completely editable and searchable."

The Web site, which has been operating for the past month, has approximately 650 members and receives nearly 6,000 visitors every day, Dixon said. It has members from such diverse places as Australia, Chile and South Korea. The couple hopes to gain permission soon from the LDS Church to offer the scriptures in different languages, which are copyrighted, Dixon said.

This site is one of the first to offer a scripture e-mailing program, but having the scriptures available online is not new.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints offered text and audio versions of the scriptures at lds.org.

Nancy Randle, a junior from

Orem, majoring in advertising, listens to the Book of Mormon online to help her complete President Hinckley's challenge.

"It's really interesting to hear someone else read them [the scriptures] to you," Randle said. "He [the audio voice] knows what's happening, so he reads it to you like a story. Instead of me reading it verse by verse or picking things out; it's a story."

She said she also enjoys listening to the scriptures because it allows her to do other quiet activities, such as folding laundry or dusting, at the same time.

Randle, who was introduced to the audio scriptures by her husband, chooses to listen to the Book of Mormon online because it is free, she said.

"I have found when I listen to the scriptures I get a lot more out of them than when I read them," Randle said.

There are 26 reading days left to finish President Hinckley's challenge. Students deciding to start their reading today will have to read 245 verses a day to finish in time.

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