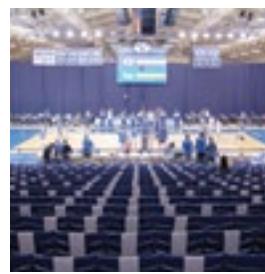


Upcoming drought

Low levels of snow during winter predict future water shortages

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Fewer numbers

Teams missing energy brought by fans while playing in empty venues

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Universe Plus

Use the Universe Plus app to read Spanish translations

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universe.byu.edu

February 9-15, 2021

THE UNIVERSE

Serving the Brigham Young University Community

UniverseBYU
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

BYU, Utah women find healing amid high rates of sexual assault

By CASSIDY WIXOM

Nightmares, PTSD, trust issues, insecurity, depression, feelings of worthlessness, loneliness, fear, shame and more are all common occurrences for those who have experienced sexual assault. But the expanding reservoir of resources and awareness of sexual assault in Utah is bringing many survivors hope, healing and strength to move forward.

"I felt like I was constantly being judged even though no one knew what was going on," BYU student Janelle said.

Janelle is one of many students who has experienced sexual assault during her time in college.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college. More than 90% of victims do not report the assault.

According to Title IX Coordinator Tiffany Turley, although BYU does not share specific statistics of assault on campus, BYU's rates are similar to the national average.

"At the end of the day, we have the same issues as everyone else," Turley said.

She said the Title IX office is working to educate the BYU campus on consent and raise awareness for sexual harassment and misconduct. "We really want people to know when you face something like this, go get help."

The Title IX Office provides services to those impacted by sexual harassment and sexual misconduct but Turley said other campus resources are also available like CAPS, University Police, the Student Health Center, Sexual Assault Survivor Advocacy Services, and Women's Services and Resources.

Turley said she is grateful for the people on campus who are helping to



The Younique Foundation

Women attend the Haven Retreat, provided by the Younique Foundation, and participate in activities to help them heal from childhood sexual abuse. Approximately 1 in 3 women have been sexually abused in Utah, and there are many organizations striving to help.

spread awareness and bring light to this subject to make a difference.

"I'm confident that as we work together, it will get better," she said.

In Utah, approximately 1 in 3 women have been sexually assaulted, according to a report in 2016 by the Utah Women and Leadership Project, meaning approximately 531,670 women in Utah have dealt with sexual assault.

While these experiences affect almost every aspect of a victim's life, many choose to not let it define them.

BYU student Abby was sexually assaulted by her ex-boyfriend. "I don't like to be tied to it and I don't want to be known for it," she said, adding that relying on God and going to therapy has helped her heal.

After blaming herself for so long,

Abby said she eventually learned to forgive herself for what happened.

Janelle broke up with her boyfriend, who had been sexually abusing her for almost two years, and is now in therapy to help her heal and move forward.

"It doesn't define my personality or who I am. Yeah, it's a part of me. But I went through this thing and I'm still me. I can still do the things I love," Janelle said.

One of the hardest parts for her, she said, was trying to understand why someone she loved, and who said they loved her, would abuse her.

"I was confused and hurt and felt like I didn't have anyone to talk to," she said. "I was worried I would be shamed because of the things that had happened to me."

Janelle said she had a difficult time

talking about what happened because of the high importance placed on chastity in the LDS faith. "Growing up in Utah, you're expected not to do those things. Period. End of story."

Janelle said surrounding herself with friends who she could talk to about her experience and not feel judged by has helped her come to terms with what happened.

While she knew those things had been done to her unwillingly, Janelle said she was paranoid she would get in trouble with her parents or the Church for what had happened. She said that in Utah, sexual assault isn't seen as a problem because people take for granted how "safe" Utah is.

"Just because there is a Church

community, especially in Provo, doesn't mean it doesn't happen here. It's more prevalent because we don't talk about it," she said.

According to the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, only 11.8% of women report sexual assault to law enforcement compared to the national average of 34%.

Melinda Colton is the communications manager for the Younique Foundation, an organization located in Lehi dedicated to raising awareness and providing resources for sexual abuse survivors.

"The biggest problem is people don't think this happens here," Colton said.

See HEALING on Page 4

See also Page 4 to read more about services available to help survivors

Where is BYU on female enrollment in STEM majors?

By ALLISON MCARTHUR

Statistics show female enrollment in STEM majors at BYU has increased over the past 10 years because of more awareness, opportunities and the supportive environments at BYU.

Including graduate and undergraduate students, data gathered from University Communications shows women now make up 24.1% of science, engineering, technology and math students at BYU in comparison to men who make up 75.9%. Women previously made up only 18.4%.

Though this difference may appear to be small, various majors within engineering, biology and computer science have seen a significant increase in female enrollment. Some colleges have also created new majors that have opened more doors for all students.

The National Center for Education Statistics found that 36.1% of those who receive an undergraduate degree in STEM majors in the United States are women. There is a difference in the data as BYU's data includes graduate level work and the national level data does not. However, BYU still falls short with only 24.1% of STEM graduates being female.

"We are focused and concerned about making sure we help our women and other underrepresented groups thrive in our college. We are seeking to improve in any way that we can," said Nicole Stewart, a BYU Women in Engineering coordinator. The organization continues to fight factors that draw women away from STEM.

College of Engineering academic advisor Bryan Bowerman explained this increase of enrollment could be attributed to the way modern culture advertises STEM-based careers. He has seen how STEM majors are now more appealing to all genders.

"Certain stereotypes in the way careers were presented have diminished so there are fewer gender-assigned



Sydnee Gonzalez

Female enrollment in STEM majors at BYU is increasing due to more advertised awareness of STEM, opportunities in majors and supportive environments. Data gathered from the university shows women now make up 24.1% of science, engineering, technology and math students at BYU.

subjects and areas of study, and that's not just a BYU thing, but rather a worldwide trend," he said.

Bowerman said this increase in enrollment can be correlated to a number of factors, including an increase in exposure to math and science opportunities from grade school through college as well as encouraging and supportive environments. While these factors reflect an increase, women at BYU still struggle to keep up in comparison to the nation.

What holds women back?

Women have not always had the same exposure to math and science as they do now.

In recent years, K-12 schools have created opportunities "in which a broader diversity of students are exposed to math, science and engineering subjects," Bowerman said. The more students are aware of STEM field

opportunities, the more they recognize their options.

BYU engineering student Kayla Lyman knows plenty of women who have the capability to work in STEM but lack the interest in STEM subjects. "If we could expose people to it younger and make it interesting and relevant to them, that would help increase female interests in technology," she said.

Bowerman recognized the work done by the College of Engineering to increase outreach to female students, encouraging them to consider engineering-related fields. Groups such as Women in Engineering at BYU often readily converse about the "reality of a STEM career for women at BYU."

Lyman said her peers are often married men who have no interest in being in a study group with her. However, she said she is confident electrical engineering is where she belongs because

she is passionate about what she is learning.

Stewart has started to notice an increase in concern of impostor syndrome among female engineering students in recent years. To combat these feelings of impostor syndrome, Lyman practices positive self-talk to remind herself that she is finding success where she is, and not everyone knows exactly what's going on all the time.

"I have to remind myself that I'm getting good grades, I'm doing research and I belong here. This is something I want to do, and I can do it," Lyman said. She is also a member of Women in Engineering and Women in STEM at BYU and said she is grateful for the support she finds through those clubs.

Many women, especially at BYU, may feel they need to choose between being a mother and pursuing a career. Physiology and developmental biology major Olivia Stubbs initially struggled with the idea of investing so much time and energy into her education and career if she were just to put it aside and be a mother. More recently, she said she realized she doesn't need to choose.

"My plan is that I am capable of doing both, so I am not going to make myself choose between doing one or the other. I think I can make it work," Stubbs said.

What propels women forward?

Women are developing the confidence and finding the support to succeed in STEM and find purpose in their majors and future careers. Stewart said she has noticed women's concerns about a STEM degree and career being compatible with families. "We have several events each academic year to address this concern."

Just as greater exposure to math and science for girls in grade school has impacted their awareness of opportunities, there are many groups and events on BYU campus that promote and encourage female participation in STEM.

These resources and groups have not always been available to students. Their establishment over the past 10 years has provided awareness of opportunities and support for women in STEM.

"During these events, female students can hear what other women in their fields are doing to manage work and family. Some students are surprised to hear how many companies are revising policies, for women and men, to make careers more compatible with families. Also, some companies provide incentives and support for employees to earn an MBA or graduate degree," Stewart said.

These groups on the BYU campus include: Women in STEM, Women in Engineering at BYU, Women in Computer Science, Women in Chemistry and many others.

"The (Women in Computer Science Club) functions as a vehicle and a place to gather for people who might be struggling with similar problems or may need other people around that they feel they can connect with," said Xinru Page, advisor of the Women in Computer Science club.

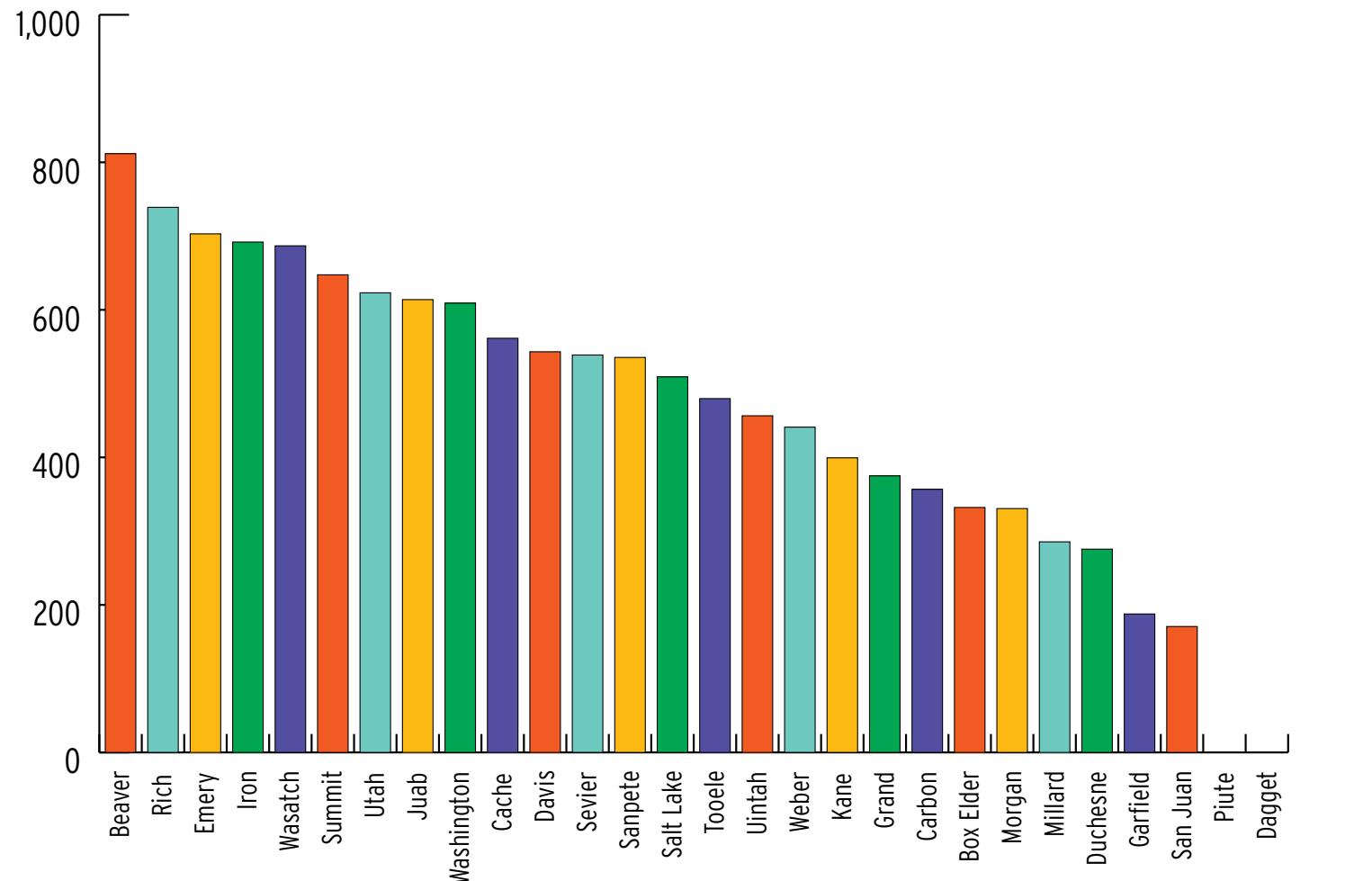
In Page's own experience throughout her studies, she's noticed "having (female) role models and others that you feel comfortable speaking with is really important."

BYU student Olivia Stubbs knew she wanted to pursue a career in the medical field and was confident she could make a career in STEM happen, despite the challenges. Through the Association of Future Female Physicians, Stubbs had the opportunity to attend a round table discussion with a current female medical student and a physician where the undergraduates spoke in a small group about the guests' journeys.

"That was by far the most powerful event and most exciting event that I have been to that made me feel like, 'I got this, if they can do it then I can do it and it's all going to work out,'" she said.

COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Utah counties



14-day case rate per 100,000 recorded in Utah counties by the Utah Department of Health as of Feb. 8.

Outside the outbreak

From the Associated Press



Utah police: Avalanche killed 4 local skiers

Four backcountry skiers in their 20s died when one of the deadliest avalanches in Utah history hit a popular canyon, police said Feb. 7.

Four other people also were buried in the Feb. 6 slide but managed to dig themselves out and didn't suffer serious injuries, according to Unified Police of Salt Lake County.

The skiers were from two separate groups, and all eight had prepared with the necessary avalanche safety gear, authorities said.

The four killed were all from the Salt Lake City area, not far from the spot where they were swept up by the skier-triggered avalanche in Millcreek Canyon.



Parents drop Black history curriculum opt-out request

Parents who sought to opt out their children from learning Black History Month curriculum at a charter school in northern Utah have withdrawn their requests.

Maria Montessori Academy in North Ogden experienced a public backlash after announcing plans to make participation optional, the Standard-Examiner reported Feb. 6.

"We regret that after receiving requests, an opt-out form was sent out concerning activities planned during this month of celebration," a statement from Academy Director Michal Hirokawa and the school's board of directors said.

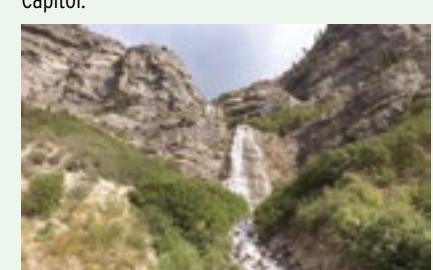


Dem-led House, drawing a line, kicks Greene out

A fiercely divided House tossed Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene off both her committees Feb. 4, an unprecedented punishment that Democrats said she'd earned by spreading hateful and violent conspiracy theories.

Underscoring the political vice her inflammatory commentary has clamped her party into, nearly all Republicans voted against the Democratic move but none defended her lengthy history of outrageous social media posts.

The chamber's near party-line 230-199 vote was the latest instance of conspiracy theories becoming pitched political battlefields, an increasingly familiar occurrence during Donald Trump's presidency. He faces a Senate trial this week for his House impeachment for inciting insurrection after a mob he fueled with his false narrative of a stolen election attacked the Capitol.



Utah developer drops lawsuit to build waterfall development

A developer in northern Utah who wanted to build a drug treatment facility near a natural waterfall has decided to drop a lawsuit against Utah County that was filed after the county blocked private development.

Court records show that developer Richard Losee dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice on Jan. 26, less than a month after filing it in the state's 4th District Court, the Daily Herald reported.

His attorney Bruce Baird said on Feb. 3 during the public comment portion of the Utah County Commission meeting that Losee decided to drop the lawsuit and intended to support efforts to make Bridal Veil Falls a state monument.

Reopening debate testing Biden's ties with teachers unions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The increasingly heated school reopening debate is forcing President Joe Biden to balance two priorities: getting children back into the classroom and preserving the support of powerful labor groups that helped him get elected.

Following weeks of standoff in some cities and states where teachers unions are demanding vaccines as a condition of

reopening, the issue came to a head Feb. 3 when Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said vaccination of teachers "is not a prerequisite for safe reopening of schools."

So far, it doesn't appear that the issue is driving a wedge between Biden and the unions.

With the right mix of safety measures in places, teachers unions generally agree the vaccines aren't a condition for reopening.

WHO: Variants raise questions about vaccines

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA — The head of the World Health Organization said Feb. 8 the emergence of new COVID-19 variants has raised questions about whether or not existing vaccines will work, calling it "concerning news" that the vaccines developed so far may be less effective against the variant first detected in South Africa.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at a media briefing that South

Africa's decision on Feb. 7 to suspend its vaccination campaign using the AstraZeneca vaccine is "a reminder that we need to do everything we can to reduce circulation of the virus with proven public health measures."

He said it was increasingly clear that vaccine manufacturers would need to tweak their existing shots to address the ongoing genetic evolution of the coronavirus, saying booster shots would most likely be necessary, especially since new variants of the virus are now spreading globally.

Schools plan for potential of remote learning into the fall

ASSOCIATED PRESS

After seeing two academic years thrown off course by the pandemic, school leaders around the country are planning for the possibility of more distance learning next fall at the start of yet another school year.

"We have no illusions that COVID will be eradicated by the time the start of the school year comes up," said William "Chip" Sudderth III, a spokesperson for

Durham, North Carolina schools, whose students have been out of school buildings since March.

President Joe Biden has made reopening schools a top priority, but administrators say there is much to consider as new strains of the coronavirus appear and teachers wait their turn for vaccinations.

And while many parents are demanding that schools fully reopen, others say they won't feel safe sending children back to classrooms until vaccines are available to even young students.

COVID-19 losses cut deep in small town; vaccines offer hope

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PANGUITCH — There have been nearly 400 cases of COVID-19 in a county of just over 5,000 people — that means more than one in every dozen people have had the disease. Garfield County Sheriff Danny Perkins said he's seen firsthand what this disease can do.

"It's affected us all in a poor way — and I'm sure beyond Garfield County — but I'm just telling you

what I see here in my county," Perkins said standing outside the vaccine clinic. "From one side of my county to the other has felt the impact and it's not been good."

He said the spread of the virus really picked up this fall at the county jail. There, around two thirds of the inmates got it, but there weren't any serious cases among the prisoners.

As of Feb. 2, nine people in Garfield County have lost their lives because of COVID-19, making it second in the state for deaths per capita.

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Calls grow for US to rely on rapid tests to fight pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — With President Joe Biden vowing to get elementary and middle school students back to the classroom by spring and the country's testing system still unable to keep pace with the spread of COVID-19, some experts see an opportunity to refocus U.S. testing less on medical precision than on mass screening that they believe could save hundreds of thousands of lives. As vaccines slowly roll out, they say the nation could suppress the outbreak and reopen much of the economy by easing regulatory hurdles to allow millions more rapid tests that, while technically less accurate, may actually be better at identifying sick people when they are most contagious.

"Our whole testing approach, which has failed, has tried to tackle this pandemic as though it's a bunch of little medical problems," said Dr. Michael Mina, a Harvard University testing specialist.

Utah developer drops lawsuit to build waterfall development

A developer in northern Utah who wanted to build a drug treatment facility near a natural waterfall has decided to drop a lawsuit against Utah County that was filed after the county blocked private development.

Court records show that developer Richard Losee dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice on Jan. 26, less than a month after filing it in the state's 4th District Court, the Daily Herald reported.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM BYU COLLEGES

Students and professors discuss whether BYU needs theology department

By ALLIE RICHAEI

BYU professors and students shared different opinions about the university's lack of a theology department.

BYU currently does not have a theology department or religious major for undergraduates but offers a religious education graduate program. Students interested in philosophy and religion liked the idea of a theology department.

While students felt such a department would be beneficial for their future careers and religious understanding, professors didn't see a need and referenced other ways students can be engaged in theology.

Josh Johnson, a junior at BYU, said a theology department would help him in his goal to become a seminary teacher.

"Knowing there was a degree specifically to help me do that, I would take advantage of that," he said.

Garrett Maxwell, another junior, said he created his own theology program by majoring in both Middle East studies and Arabic and comparative literature. He said a theology department would enable students to better process other religions.

"If we really think the Restoration is God's call to the world, then we ought to invest in students with a predisposition to do theology and religious studies and get them into the larger world of scholarship and academic religious studies," Maxwell said.

J. Spencer Fluhman, BYU history professor, said theology



Sydney Gonzalez

BYU professors and students shared different opinions about the university's lack of a theology department. While students felt such a department would be beneficial for their future careers and religious understanding, professors didn't see a need and referenced other ways students can be engaged in theology.

training is meant for members of a clergy. He said job opportunities for BYU theology majors would be few since leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are not hired or trained.

While professors and students disagreed on the need for a theology department, they agreed on the importance of theological discussions on campus.

"I don't know if I see a need yet for anything like a theology department," ancient scripture professor Joseph Spencer said. "However, I would personally like to see more theology classes."

Both Spencer and Fluhman apply their theological backgrounds when teaching classes in the religious education, history or philosophy departments.

"We still do theology all over the place, and should and must," Spencer said. "There are lots of places on campus to engage in theological texts and theological reasoning."

BYU campus offers other resources for students interested in theology. One is the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship where Fluhman is the executive director.

"There are professors all over campus who have little armies of researchers in theology, so that's another way students can get involved," Fluhman said.

Maxwell is one of the students involved with the institute. "I do research for the Maxwell Institute. The student body ought to be more engaged in that," he said. He suggested students read books published by the institute to learn more about theology.

BYU Religious Education Student Symposium will be streamed this year

By ALLIE RICHAEI

The 23rd annual BYU Religious Education Student Symposium will be streamed on YouTube Feb. 19 to comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

BYU students write research papers related to any gospel topic to submit to the symposium. Committee members choose the best papers to present and potentially win cash prizes.

Student presentations normally take place at a formal event in the Wilkinson Student Center. This year students have already pre-recorded their presentations, which will be streamed on the religious education YouTube channel at 9 a.m. that day.

Professor Daniel Becerra presented in the symposium as a student and recently served on the symposium committee. He assisted in reviewing proposals, deciding which papers to publish and voting on who received cash awards.

Becerra said the symposium

is an important opportunity for students to study religious topics in a secular format.

"I think it's important because it allows them to stretch their wings. It allows them to talk about things that they're passionate about and study more deeply than perhaps they're used to at home and in church," he said.

Students choose a topic they find interesting and apply it to the gospel in a paper. Topics range from how the gospel helps with eating disorders to the history of Atonement prints, symposium committee chair Brad Farnsworth said.

The committee spends Christmas break blindly reading all student papers, Farnsworth said. It then places each submission in a ranking system, and the top papers' authors are asked to present at the symposium. This year there were 67 submissions total.

"I actually scan every one of the 67," Farnsworth said. "I look at the purpose of it, I look at the summary, and then I scan the paper. Some of them look so good I go ahead and read them."

"I've just been continually surprised and pleased at how thoughtful and insightful and intelligent students are," Becerra said.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Building relationships in capstone project following mothers who skateboard



A recent BYU media arts graduate directed a short film about mothers who skateboard. Sophia Prestwich's documentary topic was chosen as a student capstone project, giving her the funding and mentorship to make the film a reality. Prestwich worked with Emmy-nominated filmmaker Brad Barber, who works in the BYU Department of Theatre and Media Arts. Other contributors included director of photography Skyler Sorenson, producer Sam Richins, and editor Jenna Schaelling. The 25-minute film, "Skaterhood," was released in October 2020 and tells the story of skater moms Xan, Jen and Cass.

"One of the duties of being a filmmaker is building relationships with the people you film," Prestwich said. "I learned how emotionally taxing creating films can be, especially documentaries. But I also feel like I changed as a person. I didn't expect that."

COLLEGE OF FAMILY, HOME, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

BYU research team starts study on gut health and brain activity associated with autism



Rebecca Lundwall

A psychology professor and her team of researchers are finding answers in dirty diapers for their autism study. Increasing evidence shows that gut health is associated with brain activity, and adults with autism have been found to have different microbiota than those without

autism. Rebecca Lundwall's study is recruiting infants 8-12 months old who have older siblings with autism for her study. The researchers will search the diapers for unique microbiota.

"We want to help doctors have a simple test to identify autism risk for children at 12 months or younger," Lundwall said. "Something like this could really level the playing field and help all children, regardless of symptom severity, age and allow children access to resources."

Lundwall and her team are currently looking for families with infants who have a sibling with autism. They are also looking for participants in the control group who do not need a sibling with autism. To participate, contact Lundwall at RebeccaLundwall@byu.edu.

COLLEGE OF LIFE SCIENCES

New religious art installations promote faith and peace for students on campus



A new collection of religious artwork has added a reflective nature to the Life Sciences Building. The art was installed to facilitate opportunities to experience peace and faith during one's day, College of Life Sciences Dean James Porter said.

"I invite you to take some time to reflect on these paintings. I hope that your day will be brightened, your productivity increased, and your faith strengthened," Porter said.

Some of the paintings include Walter Rane's "Jehovah Creates the Earth," Yongsung Kim's "The Hand of God," and Simon Dewey's "Dear to the Heart of the Shepherd." Three paintings by Jorco Cocco Santangelo, "Come, Follow Me," "The Prodigal Son" and "The Good Samaritan" are also featured.

"We want our buildings to be places of refuge and peace," Porter said. "It is my hope and prayer that the Spirit will be in our buildings so that all who come to learn, to teach, to work or to visit will be edified and protected."

TODAY

UNIVERSITY DEVOTIONAL

Tuesday, February 9

11:05 a.m.

This event will be streamed live and available for viewing on BYUtv and via the BYUtv app.



Elder José A. Teixeira
General Authority Seventy

Elder José A. Teixeira was sustained as a General Authority Seventy of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in April 2008. He is currently serving in the Presidency of the Seventy. Elder Teixeira has also served as the president of the Europe Area and the South America South Area.

Elder Teixeira's education is in accounting, auditing, and business management. He was an international controller for the Church, with responsibility for Europe and Africa. In this capacity he managed the Europe/Africa processing center in Solihull, England, and supervised the controllers in the Europe East, Europe Central, Europe West, Africa Southeast, and Africa West Areas.

Elder Teixeira has served in a number of Church callings, including full-time missionary in the Portugal Lisbon Mission, elders quorum president, district president, counselor in a bishopric, national public affairs director, stake president, Area Seventy, and as a mission president in the Brazil São Paulo South Mission.

He also served in the Portuguese Air Force and was assigned to CINCIBERLANT, NATO, and was awarded for his services to that international military unit.

José Augusto Teixeira da Silva was born in Vila Real, Portugal. He married Filomena Teles Grilo, and they are the parents of three children.

Selected speeches available at speeches.byu.edu

NEXT: UNIVERSITY FORUM



Dambisa Moyo
Macroeconomist

February 23
11:05 a.m.

There's something new in the neighborhood...

Now on racks across campus

2021 HOUSING GUIDE

HEALING

*Hope and strength
for abuse survivors*

Continued from Page 1

In 2019, Utah ranked 12th in the nation for number of rapes per 100,000 with a rate of 56.8, according to Statista and the 2019 FBI crime report.

Many survivors deal with guilt or even blame themselves for what happened. When trying to deal with the trauma after, they sometimes feel they are making too big a deal of what happened.

"When you are in the depths of things, you feel like you are overreacting and you'd be taking someone else's spot if you asked for help," said Martha, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse.

Martha kept her abuse secret for 20 years until she "couldn't any longer hold in what had happened."

She said she sometimes worries who else her perpetrator has hurt. "I felt guilt and shame that I hadn't said anything and I could have prevented something from happening," she said.

Martha suffered a lot of trauma and said reaching out for help started her on a journey of recovery. After going through therapy, she saw a commercial for the Haven Retreat and eventually decided to go.

"It's really what saved me," she said.

The Haven Retreat, provided free to women 18 years or older who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, is a four day immersive program the Younique Foundation hosts to empower survivors.

"This is where we hope that women can come and start on their healing journey," Colton said. She said she hopes women in Utah who need help take advantage of this "invaluable" program.

Younique Foundation Executive director Chris Yadon said the retreat provides education to survivors on how the trauma affects their body and brain.

"Once she knows how it impacts her, she is empowered to do things that will help her heal," Yadon said.

According to Yadon, there's nothing better than helping a woman "reclaim hope and take back her life."

Most victims of sexual assault feel they are alone in their pain. The retreat, and other programs like it, give survivors a community to lean on.

"Building a community is so important because when you don't feel that you have the strength to keep going, it is through other people's strength that you are able to keep on going," Martha said.

The foundation has held 211 retreats and helped 3,575 women at their facilities in Utah and Georgia since their founding in 2015. They are currently holding three retreats each month and taking all COVID-19 precautions so women can still attend.

Alison, another survivor, attended the retreat in 2017 and said it helped her pain feel seen and validated.

"A lot of times we think we are the only ones. It's really awesome to see other people who have been through the same experiences," Alison said.

Resources like the Younique Foundation are available for women and girls of all ages who have experienced sexual assault. The Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Defend Innocence are two local organizations working to prevent sexual abuse.

Additional resources available for victims of sexual harassment of any kind include Pathways Real Life Recovery, the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN), Rape Recovery Center, National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Provo Police and Utah Department of Health.

Alison said she wished she knew what resources were available to her earlier.

"The sooner you can reach out and find support and find validation, your life gets better," she said.

The National Sexual Assault Hotline is available 24/7 with call or chat options. The number is 800-656-HOPE.

Behind the curtain: Campus literary journal gives students a glimpse of the publishing industry

By HOLLY CLUFF

BYU English major Dylan Robinson said he had no idea what he was doing when he walked into a literature reading last winter semester. He didn't even know that Inscape — the journal hosting the reading — had accepted his poem for its publication until a few hours before the reading began.

He went to the reading at his professor's encouragement, listened to other writers share brave, personal pieces and walked away from the experience hungry for more. Robinson joined the Inscape staff the following semester, and that — as another poet once said — has made all the difference.

Inscape is an art and literature journal hosted by the BYU English Department. It has published short works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry as well as visual art in its semi-annual editions. The journal published its first edition in the 1980s.

The journal takes submissions during the first six weeks of fall and winter semesters and gives its student staff a taste of the publishing world as they select and arrange them into a polished anthology.

"It's an operation," editor-in-chief Rebecca Cazanave said. Inscape gets hundreds of submissions every semester, which the staff narrows down to their favorites.

"There's a difference between a functional short story," she said, "and a functional short story that is fresh and has a unique voice in a week where you've read fifteen other short stories."

The Winter 2020 edition published 18 submissions: four short stories, six essays, seven poems and one piece of art. It also included two interviews with professional authors.

Anybody can submit to Inscape, even if they aren't associated with BYU or the English department.

Assistant editor-in-chief Kath Richards submitted her first pieces as an undergraduate studying engineering.

Robinson said he's noticed BYU encouraging students to write for the purpose of getting their work published, and he thinks it's because it gives



The latest Inscape journal features cover art by Aisha Lehmann. Inscape is an art and literature journal housed by the BYU English department. It publishes short works of fiction, nonfiction and poetry as well as visual art. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

Preston Crawley
UNIV
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PLUS

struggles of faith at BYU. "It's cool to feel like you're a part of something that's supporting budding, growing authors and artists," he said.

Richards said the final editions are expensive to print and not well circulated like other magazines, but the real value for her comes from her interactions with the staff and the creation process.

"It's a fun way on either end for students to participate in a literary community," she said.

Every week, staff members read a handful of submissions. They meet on Thursdays to discuss them and vote on which ones they want to see in the final edition, Robinson said.

"I'm always blown away by how much I learn about creative writing across genres by

participating in discussions and submissions," Cazanave said. "For a writer, it's interesting to see what goes on behind the curtain."

She said there are different teams involved in the production process. The archival team has been working to put the 1980s editions of Inscape online, the design team works in InDesign to arrange the book and publicity teams keep the Inscape social media accounts running. Team leads have the chance to gain leadership experience and boost their resumes.

"My time at Inscape as editor-in-chief makes me stand out in a crowd because I have work experience," Cazanave said.

Robinson said his own experience getting published by

Inscape bolstered his confidence to enter more pieces in contests. None of them have been accepted so far, but he said he was glad to feel like his initial poem touched people beyond himself.

He helped run Inscape's Twitter page his first semester volunteering, and now as the publicity lead, he makes sure the social media pages are all functioning.

"Working there," he said, "it's a place to learn and grow — learn about the craft, learn about the business, and learn about the functions of the industry."

Inscape will be accepting submissions for its next edition through Feb. 15. Interested readers can learn more and submit their work on Inscape's website.

Rape Crisis Team provides refuge to victims of rape and sexual assault

By KRISTINE KIM

Orem's volunteer Rape Crisis Team is a vital resource for those in Utah County who are victims of sexual assault and rape.

The Rape Crisis Team is a part of The Refuge Utah, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic abuse, stalking, sexual assault and rape.

Utah ranks No. 11 for having the most rape cases per capita in the U.S., and rape is the only violent crime with rates higher than the national average in Utah.

"There is a higher number of rape cases of BYU students that occur off-campus than on-campus," said Refuge Utah sexual assault services director Lori Jenkins.

To help victims of rape and sexual assault, The Refuge offers emotional and psychological support through trained volunteers, therapy groups and a 24-hour sexual assault services hotline.

When someone is sexually assaulted, they are encouraged to get a forensic exam at the hospital (called a "rape kit") to collect evidence and provide any necessary medical care.

The team of volunteers, consisting of both BYU students and other Utah residents, are assigned 24-hour shifts in which they can be called to the hospital at any time to help a rape or sexual assault victim.

"Our Sexual Assault Services program has over 80 volunteers that serve on the Rape Crisis Team as Victim Advocates that answer the 24/7 crisis line and assist victims at the hospital during the forensic sexual assault exam that can take place at the BYU Health Center or at any ER in Utah County," Jenkins said.

The volunteers work in



The Rape Crisis Center part of The Refuge Utah is a center that provides resources and help for those who are victims and survivors of sexual abuse and/or rape. Scan this image with the **Universe Plus** app to read a Spanish translation of the story.

pairs during the 24-hour shift and one person is usually assigned to be a "primary advocate" in which they help the main victim. The "secondary advocate" helps with the secondary victims that may include family members or friends of the victim.

"We're their advocate and we help them with any questions to make the whole experience a little bit less overwhelming. We make sure that they have snacks, clothes, blankets and anything they need," said BYU student and Rape Crisis Team volunteer Ethan Lowe.

For those who have been raped or sexually assaulted, any service or examination including the rape kit, is paid for by the state of Utah.

"If someone is sexually assaulted, whether it's yourself, a friend or sibling, they can go to any emergency room in Utah County. If you've been sexually assaulted and would like an exam, you do not have to pay one penny," Jenkins said.

The volunteers work in



BYU Vocal Point is an acapella group made up of nine male singers. The group released its cover of "Anyone" by Justin Bieber a week after the original song came out.

Vocal Point creates Bieber cover one week after song release

By ALLIE RICHAEIL

BYU Vocal Point released a music video covering Justin Bieber's "Anyone" eight days after the original song came out.

"It was definitely one of the quickest turnarounds I think we've ever had," said Zac Love, a tenor in his second year with Vocal Point.

Bieber released the song and music video on Dec. 31, 2020, and Vocal Point then released its cover on Jan. 8, 2021.

The acapella group happened to have a rehearsal on Jan. 1, the day after Bieber released his song. Vocal Point directors went to rehearsal with an arrangement of the song already written, Love said.

Jenkins said most of all, the center aims to connect victims with services and help them understand that they are not alone. "It is not their fault, and we can help."

"The first step to change is just acknowledging that this is a real problem that exists in Utah, or 'Happy Valley,' and we need to stand up for consent and for women's rights," said BYU student and Rape Crisis Center volunteer Hannah Nelson.

Anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted can contact the 24/7 Rape Crisis Center hotline at 801-356-2511 or 1-888-421-1100.

collaborate to produce a music video. These shoots usually take about 12 hours, Meyers said.

Beatboxer Alex Brown said this process was the same for the "Anyone" cover, only sped up. "We were unanimously in favor of the challenge," he said. "It always works out."

According to Meyers, the group filmed the "Anyone" cover at Southworth Hall in Provo. Members tried on several wardrobe options before deciding on a casual look. The group then found an editor who compiled the video in 24 hours.

Love said the group chose Bieber's new song partly because of the clean lyrics, keeping with the group's purpose to help listeners feel the love of Christ.

"We try to put out really good content that's uplifting and professional," Meyers said. "We want there to be more joy in the world."

Vocal Point members agreed the week-long process was both stressful and enjoyable. They like to compare the acapella group to a startup company because of the work and dedication it requires.

"One of the things that you know when you sign up with Vocal Point is it's going to be hard," Brown said. "But it's always super fun."

U of U athlete's murder prompts amendment to revenge porn laws



Associated Press

Legislators moved to change Utah's revenge porn laws prompted by the death of University of Utah athlete Lauren McCluskey.

By LINDSEY REESE

The Utah State Legislature is considering amendments to revenge porn laws following the death of University of Utah athlete Lauren McCluskey.

McCluskey was killed in October 2018 by her ex-boyfriend Shawn Rowland after she found out he was lying about his criminal record and age. Prior to her death, explicit photos of McCluskey were held as blackmail, with Rowland demanding money in order to prevent them from being shared. Days later, Rowland killed McCluskey on campus.

University police officer Michael Deras, who was assigned to the case, was found to be sharing McCluskey's explicit images with coworkers that were not assigned to the case both before and after her

death. Deras is no longer an employee at the University of Utah's police department, but he was never charged with a crime due to the fact that the victim of the revenge porn was already deceased.

Rep. Craig Hall of House District 33 introduced HB147, which provides updates to existing revenge porn laws prompted by the McCluskey case.

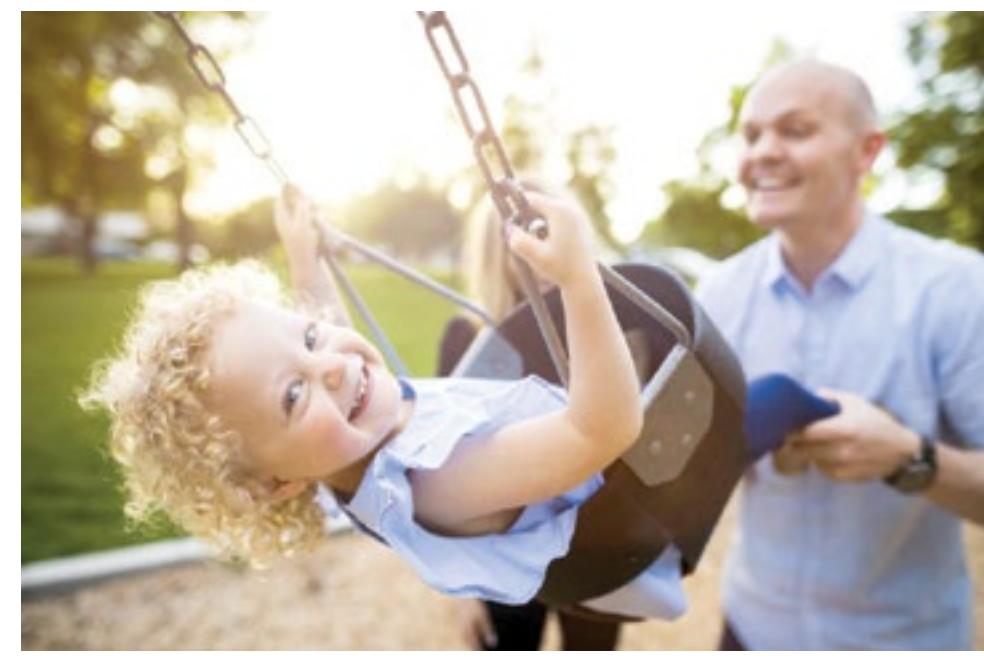
"When one looks at the specific elements of the revenge porn law, it's actually necessary for the victim to experience 'actual emotional distress,'" Hall said. "Since Miss McCluskey passed away before the distribution of the image and could not experience actual emotional distress, we could not press charges."

The amendment would strike "actual emotional distress" from the law altogether in order to make prosecution of revenge porn easier for victims who may already be deceased. Hall said he felt that death should not bar prosecution from these crimes.

Hall also said the law doesn't line up with current sexual assault laws regarding victims of sexual assault. Victims of assault are not required to testify on the stand of their emotional distress, which prompted Hall to change revenge porn laws to meet the same standard.

Lauren's mother Jill McCluskey expressed her gratitude to the legislators who are passing bills inspired by her daughter's case in a tweet. "Thanks to the Utah Legislators who are working to make campuses safer & police more accountable. #ForLauren."

McCluskey's family has started the Lauren McCluskey Foundation in her honor to help bring awareness to abuse.



Nate Edwards/BYU Photo

Provo Parks and Recreation was accepted into the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies from the National Recreation and Parks Association on Feb. 2. This accreditation states, among other things, that Provo is a great place to live.

Provo Parks and Recreation receives prestigious national award

By MOLLY OGDEN WELCH

Provo Parks and Recreation was presented with a prestigious honor from the National Recreation and Park Association during a Provo City Council meeting on Feb. 2.

The award highlighted the department's acceptance into the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

This accreditation places Provo in the top 0.5% of parks and recreation organizations in the country. "The Provo Parks and Recreation department is definitely leading the state and leading the nation in providing parks and recreation opportunities for your community," said Utah Recreation and Parks Association Executive Director LeeAnn Powell.

The National Recreation and Park Association has established 154 national standards and benchmarks for

parks departments to receive this accreditation.

"Just to kind of give you an overall sense of what it takes, currently in the United States there's 180 agencies that have met the accreditation process. That's out of over 10,000 agencies running parks and recreation programs throughout the United States," Powell said.

"(Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies) is the only national accreditation of park and recreation agencies and is a valuable measure of an agency's overall quality of operation, management and service to the community," the National Recreation and Park Association website says.

Powell was joined by John Bradley, president of Utah Recreation and Parks Association, at the Provo City Council's virtual meeting to present this honor to Provo's Parks and Recreation Director Scott Henderson.

"We're very impressed with

how Provo leads the state in innovation, and in performance, with its staff," Bradley said. "You have wonderful top notch staff members. We know many of them and get to work with them in meetings and conferences and are just very impressed with Scott (Henderson) and the whole crew."

Having the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies for the Provo Parks and Recreation department helps the city secure financial support to reduce costs to the community and holds the department responsible to the public to provide quality parks and recreational opportunities.

"I will pass on this recognition to our entire team because every single one of them had a part in this," Henderson said. "None of this would be possible without our citizens and support from our mayor and council, so I really do appreciate this opportunity to celebrate this because a lot of hard work went into it."

Pressure builds on schools to reopen during pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pressure is building on school systems around the U.S. to reopen classrooms to students who have been learning online for nearly a year, pitting politicians against teachers who have yet to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

In Chicago, the rancor is so great that teachers are on the brink of striking. In California, a frustrated Gov. Gavin Newsom implored schools to find a way to reopen. In Cincinnati, some students returned to classrooms Feb. 2 after a judge threw out a teachers union lawsuit over safety concerns.

While some communities maintain that online classes remain the safest option for everyone, some parents, with backing from politicians and administrators, have complained that their children's education is suffering from sitting at home in front of their computers and that the isolation is damaging them emotionally.

In Nashua, New Hampshire, the school board voted to stick with remote learning for most students until the city meets certain targets on infections, hospitalizations and tests coming back positive for the coronavirus.

Alicia Houston, whose sons are in sixth and 10th grade, said her biggest frustration is "not being able to help my children effectively," even though she has quit her job to attempt just that.

"Watching them become a little bit darker," she said last week. "Watching them fall apart. The emotional and mental health piece is one of the most important this is not something they're necessarily going to recover from right away."

Some families and their supporters have argued, too, that reopening schools would enable parents to go back to work instead of staying home to oversee their children's



Associated Press

Students wear masks as they work in a fourth-grade classroom, Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Elk Ridge Elementary School in Buckley, Washington. The school has had some students in classrooms for in-person learning since September 2020, but other students who attend the school are still learning remotely.

education.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said in a recent study that there is little evidence of the virus spreading at schools when precautions are taken, such as masks, distancing and proper ventilation.

But many teachers have balked at returning without getting vaccinated first against the scourge that has killed over 440,000 Americans.

Kathryn Person, a high school teacher in Chicago, wants to continue teaching remotely so she doesn't risk the health of her 91-year-old grandmother and an aunt battling lung cancer. Person said she trusts the union will fight school officials if they try to punish teachers who won't go back.

"If they try to retaliate, when

that happens we will go on strike," she said.

In California, with 6 million public school students, teachers unions say they won't send their members into an unsafe situation.

Newsom, a Democrat, has said he will not force schools to reopen but instead wants to give them an incentive and has proposed a \$2 billion plan that has met with criticism from superintendents, unions and lawmakers.

It would give schools extra funding for COVID-19 testing and other safety measures if they resume in-person classes. Schools that reopen sooner would get more money.

Newsom told educators that he is willing to negotiate but that certain demands, including the call by unions to have all teachers vaccinated before

school starts, are unrealistic given the shortage of shots.

"If everybody has to be vaccinated, we might as well just tell people the truth: There will be no in-person instruction in the state of California," he said.

The biggest districts, including Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, say the plan sets unrealistic rules and timelines.

"The virus is in charge right now and it does not own a calendar," the 300,000-member California Teachers Association warned in a letter. "We cannot just pick an artificial calendar date and expect to flip a switch on reopening every school for in-person instruction."

President Joe Biden's administration and Republican senators have dueling proposals for stimulus packages that

would distribute billions of dollars to help schools get children back into classrooms.

About 10,000 Chicago teachers and staff and 62,000 students in kindergarten through eighth grade were supposed to return to school Feb. 1 for the first time since last March. But the Chicago school system extended remote learning for two more days and called for a cooling-off period in negotiations with the teachers union.

Districtwide efforts to vaccinate Chicago's teachers won't begin until the middle of February.

In several states, lawmakers are advancing legislation to require more in-person learning.

An Iowa law, signed on Friday by Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds, requires districts to offer full-time in-class instruction to parents who request it. VanDerhoff said.

Despite concerns that teachers still haven't been vaccinated, they are set to return this month.

In North Carolina, Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper faces pressure from GOP lawmakers to reopen more schools. In South Carolina, a bipartisan push to get students back in class five days a week is underway.

"After this pandemic is over, I hope to never do another Zoom call," said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, a Democrat. "I hate it. I can't stand them. I can't imagine being in third or fourth grade and having to stare at a screen in order to learn."

In Utah, the Salt Lake City school system announced plans to resume in-person learning for at least two days per week under pressure from lawmakers who threatened to cut funding.

The schools chief in Washington state is pushing for teachers to get vaccinated when it's their turn but also insisting they get back to classrooms immediately, shot or not.

"The bottom line is a vaccine is a tremendous safety net, but it is never the thing that is going to create the perfect scenario," said Chris Reykdal, superintendent of public instruction.

Emily VanDerhoff, a first-grade teacher in Fairfax County, Virginia, and a union official, was scheduled to be vaccinated last Friday. But she and others saw their appointments canceled when the vaccine supply ran low.

The Fairfax County superintendent has unveiled a tentative plan for students to start returning on Feb. 16, but a union survey in October showed fewer than 10% of teachers feel it is safe to return.

"Even once we're all vaccinated, it's still going to take having lower community spread for people to feel safe and for it to be safer to have students in the schools," VanDerhoff said.

BYU students create new app to tie diversity to connections



Mikayla Cheng

Zachary Heaton, left, Mark Briggs and Jack Wolthuis participate in a user testing session for Tiedye. Tiedye is an app that connects BYU students together based on similar interests.

By INGRID SAGERS

Two BYU students created an app that helps connect students and create relationships based on similar interests.

BYU students Mikayla Cheng and Aaron Chan created Tiedye after seeing how hard it can be for students to foster friendships and meet people. Once the pandemic changed social interaction and increased distancing from others, Cheng and Chan decided Tiedye would be a platform for tying diverse groups of people together. The app launched Feb. 5.

"When we have a solid set of friends and sincere connection to others, we feel more whole as people. That's what we want for every Tiedye user," Cheng said.

The app will give BYU students the opportunity to build new communities specifically designed for them. App users can plug in a shortlist of facts about themselves into a survey, which will create around 10 to 12 tags that tie each person to others who share similar tags.

Users will be shown people who share similar interests, backgrounds, LDS missions, sports, clubs and everything else in between, Cheng and Chan said.

Both creators said one goal of Tiedye is to bring niche communities to the surface and show how valuable social connection is.

Chan recalled experiencing a sense of shock when coming to college and feeling like there wasn't a clear-cut community he could fit in. He said he understands some people feel right at home during their time at BYU, but for those who don't know where they belong, he is willing to bet there are communities for them.

"Every single person you could potentially meet on Tiedye, you could meet in person. But Tiedye provides a way where the most diverse parts of a person can help them make connections to new people," Chan said.

Cheng and Chan are both computer science majors who are double majoring in other fields. They said they created

Tiedye as a side project because of their love of people and hope to make a difference.

Through Tiedye's Instagram account and word of mouth, the app has already gained followers during its pre-launch period. It has gone through many testing sessions to prepare for its release date.

Jack Wolthuis, a sophomore studying international relations, participated in a Tiedye user testing session to help Chan and Cheng work out any problems a user might come across. Wolthuis said he would encourage BYU students to give Tiedye a whole-hearted chance because real friendships could be built using the app.

"The whole purpose of Tiedye isn't to make yourself look good or read memes — it's to meet people who have similar interests who you might not meet otherwise. The more people who use the app, the more effective it will be in helping you meet new friends," Wolthuis said.

Students can follow Tiedye on Instagram and find it on the Google Play Store and App Store.



Associated Press

President Joe Biden delivers remarks to State Department staff, Thursday, Feb. 4, in Washington. BYU professor Jacob Rugh said more educated voters in the Church are starting to lean Democratic.

BYU sociology professor shows educated Church members are leaning more Democratic

By HOLLY CLUFF

Educated voters within The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are leaning more Democratic, BYU sociology professor Jacob Rugh said at the Global Women's Studies Colloquium on Feb. 4.

He used a series of graphs and maps to show how votes are becoming bluer over time in communities highly populated with Church members. Along the Wasatch Front, 239 precincts voted for President Joe Biden, a Democrat, and Utah Governor Spencer Cox, a Republican.

Provo's tree streets area and downtown Salt Lake City, where BYU professors and Church leaders respectively are highly concentrated, are also leaning more Democratic, Rugh said.

He also showed that areas of Arizona highly populated with Church members — Mesa, Chandler and Gilbert — are all 6.3 points

more Democratic, and the Boise, Idaho area is 18% more Democratic and on the verge of turning into a blue county.

Moreover, prominent Church member politicians have supported President Joe Biden, including Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah; Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Arizona and Evan McMullin, R-Utah.

He partially attributed the rise in Democratic voters to changing generations, revealing through graphs the percentage of Gen Zs and Millennials projected to vote blue is nearly double the percentage of Boomers.

"Being LDS does not mean you are required to affiliate with any one political party," he said.

Although his research shows highly educated Church members are leaning more Democratic, Rugh said he does not agree with the concept of partisan politics.

"There's no reason why all Republicans or all Democrats would be bad," he said. "That doesn't even make sense

saying that out loud. Why would that be the case?"

Rugh also credited the influence of women who speak out and influence others. "There are many women who have different ideas of success than men."

He said voting rights activist Stacey Abrams, for example, declined running for president or the Senate because she first wanted to see all people voting.

He shared the stories of Utah Rep. Sandra Hollins, who led the fight to abolish slavery language from the Utah Constitution; Jenna Rakuita, who received the highest vote share of any Democrat in Utah County, and Mehrsa Baradaran, a lawyer and author he described as a "powerful, progressive, LDS woman of color."

The colloquium had an audience of 209 listeners at its peak. A recording will be posted on the Kennedy Center YouTube channel, and readers interested in seeing more of Rugh's maps can contact him.

Stay informed Save time

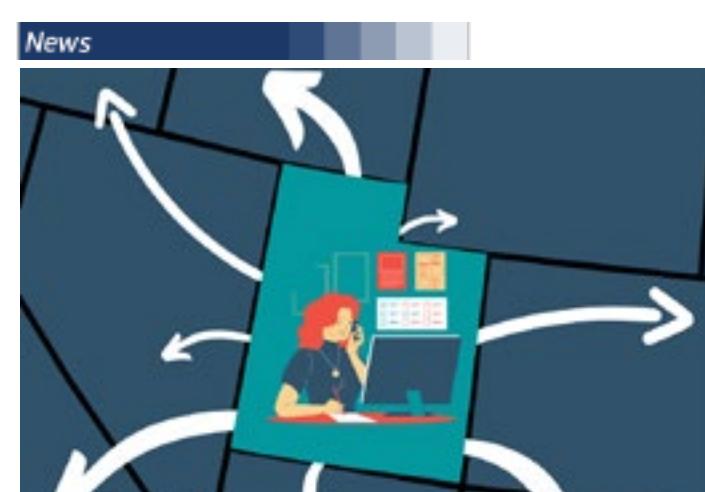
The Daily Universe Newsletter



Good morning,

Today's newsletter covers BYU's new policy for out-of-state work, fall sports that moved to winter and the first Reader's Forum of the semester.

Enjoy.



BYU bars out-of-state work for student and non-student employees

By Sydnee Gonzalez
BYU recently announced a new policy barring employees, including those who work remotely, from working outside of Utah.

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BYU's historic win over No. 2 Gonzaga, one year later

By JAKE GONZALES

It was a night never to be forgotten. BYU students will be telling their grandchildren years from now where they were when the No. 24 BYU men's basketball team beat No. 2 Gonzaga on Feb. 22, 2020. Whether they were physically in the Marriott Center, at home on their couch, or even just listening to Greg Wrubell on the radio, Cougar Nation was united that night.

Students waited outside the arena for days, eagerly anticipating the matchup. When the stadium officials finally started letting people inside, it wasn't long before the arena had reached capacity as 18,987 fans quickly packed together like sardines, waiting for the gladiator match to begin.

Finally, the lights went out. Kanye West's "Power" blared on the speakers. Students and fans alike joined together, swaying to the beat. The moment they had been waiting for all semester was finally upon them.

What happened next surprised everyone.

The Cougars won. Not just by the skin of their teeth, but in dominant fashion. The final score was 91-78, a full 13-point differential. Senior forward Yoeli Childs obtained a crucial double-double with 28 points and 10 rebounds. Fellow seniors Jake Toolson and TJ Haws added 17 and 16 points respectively. Needless to say, "Senior Night" was dominated by the seniors.

"We battled tonight," Toolson said after the game. "We really laid it all on the line. The message is pretty consistent this year. All the guys on the team want to fight for each other.



At this point, the Marriott Center was heating up. Fans were screaming, students were reeling, and the Cougar bench was leading the charge. One couldn't even hear the referee's whistle over the ruckus.

College basketball analyst Andy Katz would later say, "if you watched what BYU did to Gonzaga at home on Senior Night in Provo, wow! What an atmosphere at the Marriott Center. If they can get that on a regular basis next season, when they're back at the Marriott Center, forget it."

The fans were rewarded for their energy. With a pair of threes from senior Zac Seljaas and numerous layups by Childs, the Cougars went back up 87-76 with just 3:15 left in the contest.

Victory was close, the fans could smell it. They had already begun to walk towards the court, eagerly waiting for their cue to rush the court.

Finally, the clock wound down. Three. Two. One. Pandemonium.

The BYU team threw their hands in the air, running together to celebrate collectively. The fans were not far behind, rushing the court with reckless abandon. Shouts of "We love you, Yoeli!" and "We are the champions!" could be heard from every direction.

What a night.

"This is really humbling because these guys have gone through so much and it doesn't always work like this," BYU head coach Mark Pope said. "It was one of those special moments in sports and it's not going to be our last."

Gonzaga returned to the Marriott Center on Feb. 8, 2021 as the No. 1 team in the nation, but nothing could top the emotion on Senior Night in 2020 when the fans stormed the court and Pope's arrival at BYU was sealed with an upset victory for the ages.

BYU head coach Mark Pope is surrounded by fans after the Cougars upset No. 2 Gonzaga at home on Feb. 22, 2020. The two teams met again in Provo on Monday, Feb. 8. See game coverage at universe.byu.edu.

Hannah Miner

This shows how we can play. We can win when we're playing together and fighting for each other and we can win against the best teams in the country."

Right from the start, it was clear it was going to be a fun night. Childs quickly bookended a 13-4 BYU run to give the Cougars a 21-18 lead with just 9:15 left in the first half.

The Zags thundered back with a few key baskets, briefly regaining the lead at 25-24. But their victory

was short-lived.

From there, it was all BYU. Childs answered the call, scoring three of the next five buckets, giving the Cougars the lead at the half, 38-32. The Zags, on the other hand, were held scoreless during the final 4:36 of the first half.

"They came after us with their offense," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "They came after us with their defense, physically taking the ball from us."

The second half was much like

the first. Sophomore forward Kolby Lee and Toolson hit two early threes, keeping the momentum on the side of the Cougars. Within minutes, BYU was leading Gonzaga by as many as 14.

Then the Zags showcased why they were ranked second in the nation. After an impressive run and a key jumper from forward Drew Timme, the Bulldogs narrowed the lead to just 70-68 with 7:52 remaining in the game.

Lauren Gustin is 'just getting started' for BYU women's basketball

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO



Preston Crawley

Lauren Gustin shoots a free throw against Pepperdine on Feb. 4. She had a career-high 27 points and 20 rebounds against the Waves at the Marriott Center.

had a dream school, she knew she wanted to play Division I basketball.

Gustin got to BYU an unconventional way. She redshirted last year after she transferred from Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), following a semester at the University of Idaho where she started her college career. Gustin was an NJCAA All-America Honorable Mention and averaged 19.1 points and 13.1 rebounds at SLCC.

"It was hard having to sit out, not being able to travel with the team, and go on the road to have that bonding experience," Gustin said. "So that was definitely something I had to overcome."

COVID-19 has also brought some challenges for Gustin. The game on Feb. 2 against WCC rival Gonzaga was her first game in almost three weeks because of games being canceled and contracting the virus herself.

"It's been hard to get in the flow of things and get in a good rhythm," she said. "Hopefully from here on out, we won't have any more cancellations."

The statement is ringing true as Gustin continues to improve and reach milestones, including scoring 27 points and bringing down 20 rebounds against Pepperdine on Feb. 4.

BYU has not seen that from a women's basketball player in the Marriott Center since the 1979-80 season.

"I want (the team) to really be able to rely on me for rebounds and that toughness," Gustin said.

Gustin is ranked second in the nation this season in rebounds per game at 13.2 and tied for 19th in total double-doubles with eight.

"I'm definitely not the tallest or biggest player, but I have to be able to bring that presence even with my size inside," Gustin said. "I also have to run the court hard and be a reliable defender."

Gustin is from Salem, Utah, just 25 minutes from Provo. BYU head coach Jeff Judkins and her teammates say she is a "beast."

"I couldn't have asked for a better team to be around me, the coaching staff, and the location too, to be so close to home," Gustin said. "So yes I think it's a great fit I feel like for sure."

She said BYU has been what she always hoped for. Though Gustin never

since then," Gustin said.

Her mother, Scarlett Overly Gustin, played at BYU from 1987-89, where she was an All-Conference honoree before she transferred to Wyoming and married football player John Gustin.

"I think it's cool to follow her footsteps a little bit," Gustin said. "It's a fun atmosphere with all the history here."

Gustin's father played basketball in high school and coached her for a time, which she said was great. Her older brother, Porter Gustin, always played basketball growing up and is now a defensive end for the Cleveland Browns in the NFL.

"It's always been in the family," Gustin said of the hoops tradition.

The team

BYU's chemistry is as solid off the court as it is on the court, and Gustin said they are all very welcoming.

Gustin and sophomore guard Shaylee Gonzales were teammates previously at Mesquite High School in Gilbert, Arizona, before Gustin's family moved to Utah, where she finished high school.

"We definitely all get along, a lot," Gustin said. "I think it's been super helpful especially for Tegan (Graham) being new this year and Kayla (Belles-Lee). They just gel really well with us because we are always doing stuff together."

She said they like watching "The Bachelor" together on the road, and before games, she and her coaches will say a prayer before a game to calm the nerves.

"I love just being with the team, knowing that we have each other's back and sometimes it's been hard on the road when we are gone for a week or so," Gustin said. "Just having each other, we get through it."

Gustin is excited for the rest of the season and looks forward to playing Gonzaga again and getting to the NCAA Tournament. She is hopeful the Cougars can make it and said it would be her first time in the Big Dance.

"I think it's exciting to know that we can be even better and I think our team still has a lot that we can accomplish and improve on," Gustin said.

BYU is set to play 12 games in February and will play for the second time against league-leading Gonzaga at the Marriot Center on Feb. 18 at 6 p.m.

BYU teams missing the true 'home-court advantage'



Hannah Miner

BYU and UCLA play a men's volleyball match with no fans in the stands on Feb. 4. Teams are missing the effect fans have on "home-court advantage" in Provo.

not really home-court advantage," BYUtv volleyball analyst Steve Vail said during the men's match against UCLA on Feb. 4. "You can go down and get right back up again with the fans' momentum. BYU doesn't have that this year."

The Smith Fieldhouse holds a capacity of 5,000 people, which will often get sold out, and at times has held over 6,000 fans cheering on the Cougars. With the close quarters between the fans and the court, and the love for the volleyball programs at BYU, the usual game environment at the Fieldhouse is rivaled by very few in the nation.

"No matter what it's going to affect the atmosphere. It's loud and there's energy and excitement," BYU men's volleyball head coach Shawn Olmstead said of the normal crowd conditions.

The ROC student section has not been able to attend any games since the rise in COVID-19 cases in Utah County in November 2020. BYU has opted to only allow families of players to be present at the games. Not only are players missing the fans, the BYU student body is also waiting for when it is yet again welcomed into the stands.

"My whole social life is gone," BYU senior Savannah Ostler said. "All I want to do is get back into the games and be a part of that electrifying atmosphere."

Fans and teams eagerly await being back together. The presence of fans can change the entire dynamic of a game and is a huge part of the game-day experience.

"Crowds do make a difference," McCarthy said. "We want them back."

"It's still a home match, but it's

COVID-19 variants add more variables to playing in pandemic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playing college sports during the pandemic has potentially become more problematic as more contagious variants of the coronavirus start to show up across the U.S., including one that prompted the University of Michigan to shut down its athletic department for two weeks.

It was not clear this week how many athletic departments are testing for the mutations, either. A number of schools that responded to The Associated Press said they were, but others are not as the basketball season creeps toward tournament time and dozens of schools ramp up spring football plans.

The Wolverines put all their programs on pause Jan. 23 after the variant was linked to several people within the athletic department.

"Obviously, Michigan going on pause with the variant is of concern," Wisconsin basketball coach Greg Gard said. "That's obviously something that everybody's watching really closely to see what the impact of that, along with the normal strain, has as we continue to walk forward."

Cancellations, postponements and millions in lost revenue have hit sports worldwide over the past year and the blow fell particularly hard on U.S. colleges, where some seasons were canceled outright or pushed to winter or spring in hopes the pandemic would ease. More than 100 major college football games were disrupted last fall, but that number pales in comparison



Associated Press

Washington State and Utah play the first half of an NCAA college basketball game at Beasley Coliseum without fans present due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in Pullman, Washington on Jan. 21. Since the season began Nov. 25, more than 715 men's basketball games have been postponed, rearranged or simply called off, according to an AP analysis through Feb. 5.

to the sheer volume of schedule shuffling for college basketball.

Since the season began Nov. 25, more than 700 men's basketball games have been postponed, rearranged or simply called off, according to an AP analysis through Feb. 5 games, and the news was similar for women's teams. A handful of women's programs ended their seasons altogether after giving it a try, including Canisius earlier this week.

Still, most schools have pressed ahead, and the hope is to hold league tournaments just ahead of the NCAA's popular March Madness tourneys that begin in mid-March.

Athletic departments have

been testing their athletes for months. But less than 1% of positive specimens in the U.S. overall are being sequenced to determine whether they have worrisome mutations, which include a variant first identified in Britain that was the one discovered at Michigan. The British variant is more contagious and is believed to be more deadly than the original, while one from South Africa may render vaccines somewhat less effective.

Concerns about the growing number of virus mutations come as basketball tournament preparations reach their final stages.

"Most people think if the

same thing happens here that happened in the U.K., we'll see sometime between March and April that this could be the dominant strain here," said Dr. John Swartzberg, an infectious diseases and vaccinology expert at the University of California and a member of the Pac-12's COVID-19 medical advisory committee.

The NCAA responded to an interview request by referring to a statement it released last month in which it said the "emergence of variant strains compels us to be even more vigilant regarding infection risk mitigation and testing."

Most Power Five conferences referred questions to their

individual schools, where the responses varied when asked if sequencing was being done to look for variants: In the Pac-12, for example, Washington and California said they were while Colorado and Stanford said they were not.

A similar mix was found in the Big Ten. Dr. Cameron Wolfe, an infectious disease specialist at Duke and chairman of the ACC medical advisory group, said "a couple campuses" were starting to test for the variant.

The research lab doing the testing at Cal is among the minority in terms of testing for the variant, Swartzberg said, echoing broader concerns about the lack of an organized national approach.

"The large university medical centers are doing it, but there's no uniform plan," he said. "There's no funding for it, perse, at this point."

The University of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have been conducting genomic surveillance for months but sequencing was ramped up in early January as British variant data emerged.

Emily Martin, who leads Michigan's campus testing program, said there was a brand of PCR test that shows a unique pattern for the British variant that "doesn't work perfectly, but it can work as an initial screen."

"We use this as a first pass while we wait for sequencing results to come back," she said. "However, it doesn't work for the other variants we are watching for like the one that has been circulating in Brazil."

"Technically, the only way you're really going to be able

to find out if you have a variant is by full genetic sequencing," said Scott Mischovich, the SEC's contracted medical director for the league's COVID-19 testing program. He said the SEC's 14 schools were doing what Michigan is doing.

A more transmissible virus raises the specter of more positive tests, more quarantines and more disruptions for college sports. The economic blow of losing the NCAA Tournaments a year ago was in the hundreds of millions and the hope is to hold both tourneys this year in single locations to minimize travel and possible explore. The men's tournament will be in and around Indianapolis and the women's tourney will be in and near San Antonio.

"I think you can play sports if you do the right things," said Wolfe, the Duke doctor. "I think that's much harder to do at the moment. Will there be more cancellations over the next month or two? Absolutely."

Swartzberg agreed: "If it's 50% more transmissible, we're likely to see more cases occurring."

College administrators and coaches have done all they can to encourage students to make good choices when they're away from sports facilities. The emergence of the variants is a new warning and it comes not long after most students returned to their campuses after the holidays.

"I think it's a good wake-up call for us just to say, 'Hey, we're not out of the woods yet,'" Wisconsin men's hockey coach Tony Granato said. "I think sometimes you get a false sense of security."

BYU softball ready to play following schedule announcement

By ISABELLE ZYHAILO

The BYU softball team released its 2021 schedule on Feb. 2 and will begin the season on Feb. 11 in Tempe, Arizona after a shortened 2020 season due to COVID-19.

"After an unpredictable year, we are eager to play the game that we love," BYU head coach Gordon Eakin said.

The Cougars start the season at the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Arizona, hosted by Arizona State, playing back-to-back games against the Sun Devils on Feb. 11.

BYU will then co-host the St. George Classic with Dixie State the following weekend on Feb. 18-20, going up against the University of Washington, Utah State, the University of Montana, Utah Valley University and the University of Nevada.

The team will go to California to compete in the Stanford Invitational Mar. 4-6, followed by the Oklahoma State Invitational to finish the early-season tournaments.

A highlight of the 2021 schedule is a three-game home series against Big-12 rival Baylor on April 1-2. The Cougars will then start West Coast Conference games April 9 against Saint Mary's on the road.

"We have been preparing as a team, and working on specific skills sets," Eakin said. "We are a pretty driven and



Jaren Wilkey/BYU Photo

Rylee Jensen-McFarland looks on during a BYU softball game. Jensen-McFarland is returning for one last season at BYU after her senior season was cut short in 2020.

highly-motivated team. We are ready to play."

Eakin had regular Zoom calls with his team during the pandemic to stay optimistic, but he said that it was anything but normal.

"COVID has brought us something that we aren't used to, but we have been resilient and have learned to adapt," Eakin said.

There are seven newly recruited freshmen this season, including five from California and two from Utah.

"Recruiting is the life-blood of any successful team," Eakin said, as he has led the Cougars to the conference championship 11 years in a row. "We have highly-skilled recruits that have blended well with the team."

A new NCAA rule was made in October 2020 that gives seniors whose seasons were

affected by COVID-19 an optional extra year of eligibility.

Outfielder Rylee Jensen-McFarland and third baseman Emilee Erickson were standouts last season and have both decided to return and play one last season for the Cougars after having their senior seasons cut short in 2020.

"I had put my heart and soul into this season and all of the sudden it was just gone," Jensen-McFarland said after last year's canceled season. "I was having such a good season. I set my goal to be an All-American and I was on track for that. And in a moment it was all just taken away from me."

Jensen-McFarland and Erickson join a young group of promising new talent for a BYU team looking to claim a 12th-straight conference crown in 2021.

BYU men's volleyball splits season-opening series with UCLA



Preston Crawley
Gabi Garcia Fernandez spikes the ball in a sweep over UCLA in the Smith Fieldhouse on Feb. 6, after a season-opening loss to the Bruins just two days earlier. The Cougars started the 2021 season ranked No. 1 in the nation and have national championship aspirations with a star-studded roster.

Video game maker EA Sports announces return of NCAA Football

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Video game maker EA Sports announced Feb. 2 that it is bringing back its college football series, which was shelved eight years ago after the NCAA was sued for not sharing revenue from the game with college athletes.

Though there is still much to be sorted out when it comes to whether and how college players will be permitted to profit from the use of their names, images and likenesses in the game, Electronic Arts has already taken steps to relaunch the popular franchise.

There is no timetable in place for the next release of a college football game, the company said. But EA announced it has reached an agreement with

College Licensing Company, which allows the game maker to use school marques and logos.

"We've heard from the millions of passionate fans requesting the return of college football video games," EA Sports executive vice president and general manager Cam Weber said in a statement. "We love the energy, tradition and pageantry of college football and I am beyond thrilled to say we are back in development."

The game was a big hit among players from 2005-13, but it was discontinued as part of the fallout from a federal antitrust lawsuit brought against the NCAA by former UCLA basketball player Ed O'Bannon.

The NCAA Football video game did not identify players by name, but the game simulated teams and players as they



played in real life. The video game was part of a broad legal challenge and a judge ruled the NCAA had been inappropriately using the names, images and likenesses of college athletes.

names, images and likenesses of college athletes. The NCAA, through its licensing partner, pulled out of the game during the trial. The game stopped

being made and fans have been pining for it ever since.

The NCAA is in the process of trying to change its rules to permit athletes to earn money from their names, images and likenesses, but there are hurdles and complications to getting that done — including a case to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court later this year.

Last month the NCAA put on hold plans to pass legislation to allow NIL payments to athletes from third parties, with some limitations, because of scrutiny from the Department of Justice. Multiple bills have been introduced in Congress that address college athletes and NIL rights, along with the NCAA's ability to oversee the issue.

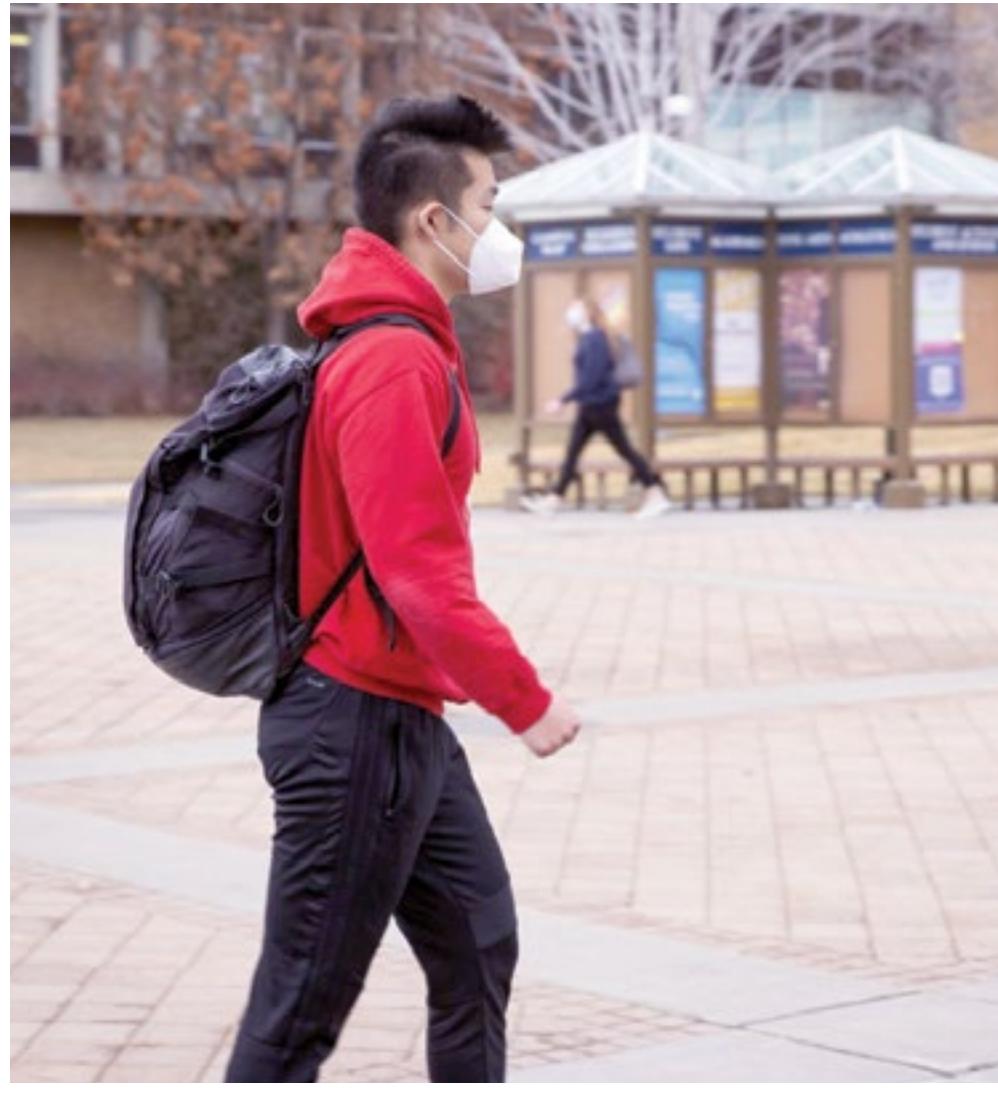
Plus, numerous states have been acting on their own NIL bills, some scheduled to go into effect later this year. "The NCAA and its member schools are committed to defending the rules that govern college sports — the same rules that create an environment where hundreds of thousands of student-athletes can receive the life-long benefits of a college education and compete at the highest levels of their sport. We look forward to continuing to make our case before the Court," said Donald Remy, the NCAA's chief legal officer.

Maybe most importantly, the Supreme Court will be hearing a case involving the NCAA and antitrust laws in the spring that could lead to sweeping changes or protect the status quo.

Earlier this week the NCAA filed a brief to the high court. The association is challenging a lower court ruling in a different case that said NCAA rules were not in line with antitrust laws.

"The NCAA and its member schools are committed to defending the rules that govern college sports — the same rules that create an environment where hundreds of thousands of student-athletes can receive the life-long benefits of a college education and compete at the highest levels of their sport. We look forward to continuing to make our case before the Court," said Donald Remy, the NCAA's chief legal officer.

The latest on masks: When, where & how to wear them



A masked student walks through the BYU campus. Professors say students have been adherent to mask mandates for the most part, but need to diligent as the virus grows more contagious.

By MADISON SELCHO

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new mask requirements at the end of January, including mandatory face coverings on all public transportation as well as in transportation hubs.

"Effective Feb. 2, 2021, masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations," the CDC said.

While this may be a change for the way BYU students get to campus and travel in general, the mask-wearing protocols have not changed for when students are on campus.

"Most students I think are doing their best. Unfortunately, some violate protocols about mask wearing out of forgetfulness or fatigue," said BYU public health professor Chantel Sloan.

BYU's current guidelines say students, faculty and campus visitors must wear masks in classrooms, inside all buildings and any time

they are within six feet of an individual who does not live with them.

Face masks must cover the mouth and nose and cannot be "crocheted or made of lace, mesh, or similar open weblike construction or material," according to the guidelines. Face shields do not meet those requirements on the BYU campus.

BYU students have overall adhered to campus mask mandates, but Sloan said they need to continue to be diligent.

"We are playing defense against a respiratory virus that is becoming more contagious, not less," Sloan said.

President Joe Biden enacted an executive order on his first day in office to require mask-wearing in all federal buildings. Masks are also currently required in all state buildings in Utah.

A global topic of conversation since the virus began is the CDC's recommendation as to the most and least effective face coverings and techniques.

According to the CDC, face shields are, "not recommended: evaluation of face shields is ongoing, but effectiveness is unknown at this

time."

The CDC also advises that while it may be tempting to substitute a scarf as a mask, it is not yet proven to be effective in stopping the spread of the virus.

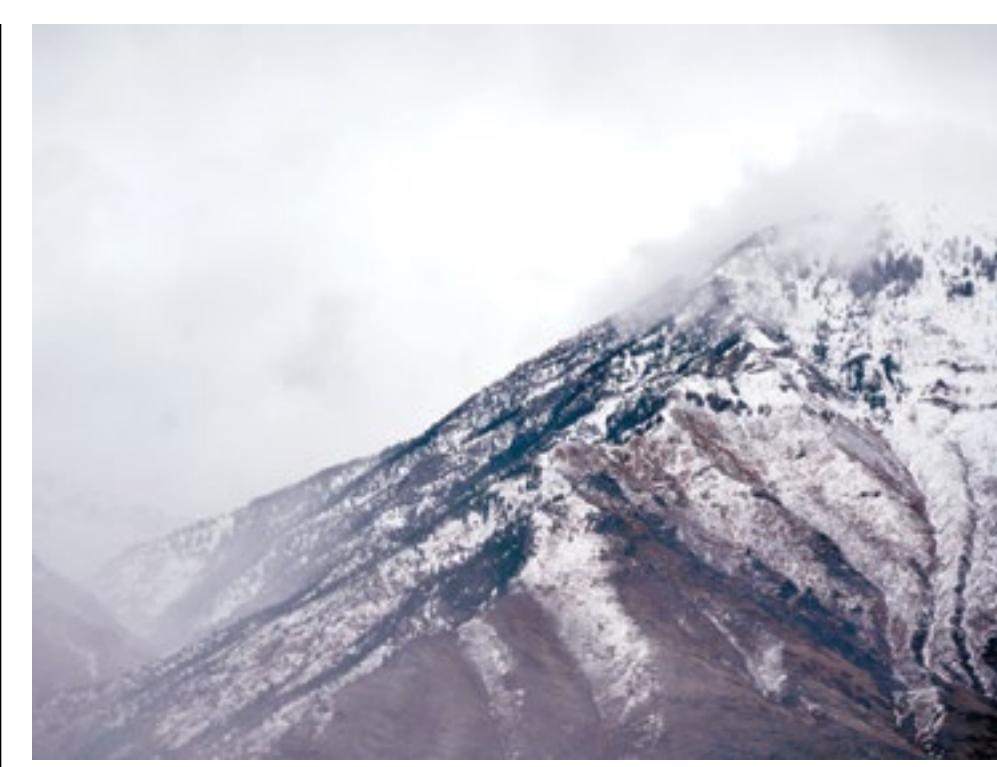
Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has been making headlines lately in regards to his statement on double masking during the "Today" show.

"So if you have a physical covering with one layer, you put another layer on, it just makes common sense that it likely would be more effective. That's the reason why you see people either double masking or doing a version of an N95," Fauci said on the show.

While N95 have been proven to be the most effective mask against the virus, the CDC tells people to not purchase those masks in order to save them for healthcare personnel.

"Do not choose masks that are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks," the CDC says.

The CDC has not yet tested the effectiveness of double masking against the virus.



The snow falling on Utah's mountains has been decreasing every year, creating a mega drought, according to environment experts.

Utah's lack of snow could cause 'mega drought'

By KRISTINE KIM

Environmental experts say Utah's lack of snowfall could trigger a mega drought and is evidence of human-caused climate change.

Utah has been very dry the past few years because of a lack of snow fall and snowpack, which is crucial for filling the reservoirs and supplying water to be used in agriculture.

"It's normal for one year to be wetter or drier than the next, that's called natural variability. But what we are experiencing right now is fundamentally different; it's not just a dry spell," said BYU plant and wildlife sciences professor Ben Abbott. "This is the driest 20 year period in almost 1,000 years."

Snowboarders and skiers have seen a change in the snow this past winter. "The snow this season started out pretty low with no real powder until over Christmas break. There were a ton of rocks still exposed and the resorts were hard to ski anywhere that wasn't a groomed run," said BYU student and avid skier Cody Messick.

When there is a lack of snow, not enough snow melts to fill reservoirs Utahns use for their water supply, especially in the summer.

"We're experiencing a long-term shift from snow-dominated to rain-dominated

precipitation. That is a result of human-caused climate change," Abbott said.

The amount of water that can be used is already limited. Abbott said that with consecutive years of less snow, Utah is expected to experience a mega drought, or a drought that lasts two decades or longer.

"It was dry last year which means, again, less water entering into our reservoirs and less water available to use, especially as we get to the end of next summer. When it gets really hot, water demand goes up," said BYU plant and wildlife sciences professor Sam St. Clair.

St. Clair said if Utah keeps having dry weather, the average temperature of Provo could go up drastically, shifting Provo's environment and climate. "The projections are that by the end of the century Provo's climate will be at least similar to Moab or maybe even St. George."

"Climate change is no longer something that is only going to affect us two generations from now. It's the reality we're living in right now," Abbott said. "It's going to be a complete rework of water in the western United States. There's really big societal implications."

However, Abbott said climate change can be combat by individuals working together. "This is actually a global ecological disaster that we really need to respond to together in a

unified way."

There are small changes that people can make to decrease their carbon footprint and the amount of pollution being produced and released into the environment.

BYU students can use public transportation like the bus or ride the FrontRunner to reduce fossil fuel emissions. "We can also reduce our water footprint through changing how we eat. There's as much water to grow the beef in one hamburger as you are going to use in your showers for nine or 10 months," Abbott said.

Residents can also encourage local and state legislators to pass bills that will help the environment and not pass harmful laws.

For example, the Utah State Legislature is considering HB209. If passed, owners of electrical vehicles will be charged extra fees. Many fear that this will discourage Utahns from owning and driving electrical vehicles, which help the environment through sustainable clean energy.

"Anyone can go on www.utah.gov, find their representative corresponding to their area, can call them, and say no to the HB209 bill," Abbott said. "Even though it's just one bill, we need to make sure that every single piece of legislation we pass is going in the right direction to encourage the use of renewable and clean energy, not propping up the use of dirty fossil fuels."

Utah cosmetologists fight against hair styling deregulation bill

By LINDSEY REESE

The Utah Legislature has introduced a bill to deregulate hair styling services that previously required a license to perform.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Curt Bramble, R-Provo. SB87 would take certain styling services such as washing, blow-drying and curling hair and open them up to individuals without a cosmetology license.

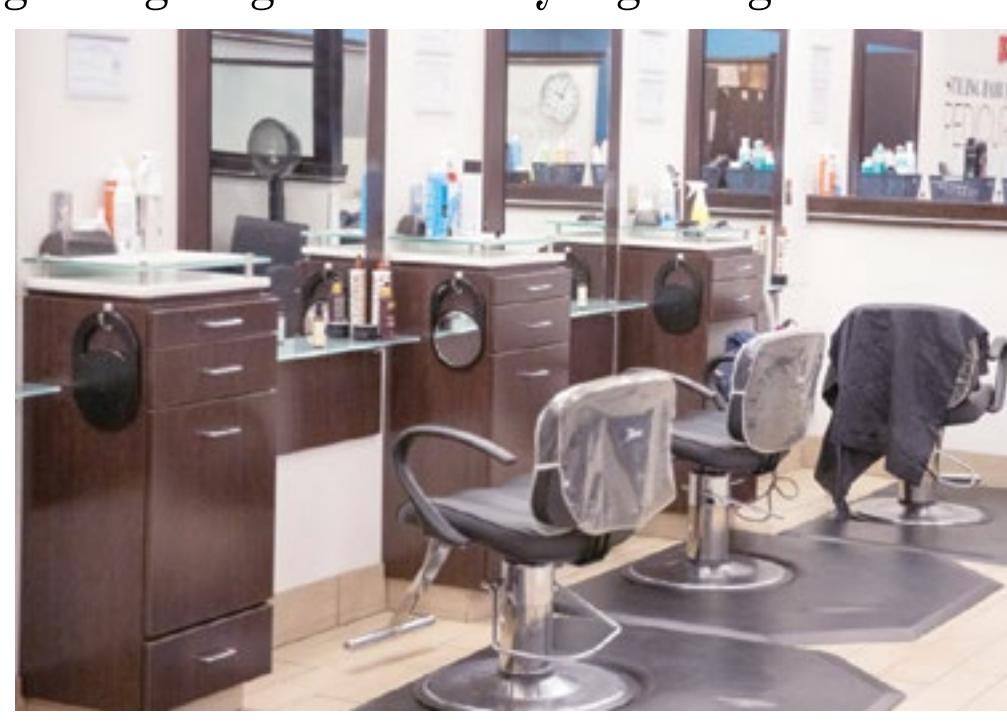
The bill would still require stylists without a license to receive a hair safety permit from a hair safety program.

Cosmetologists around the state rose up to oppose the bill, staging a protest on Jan. 31 at Washington Square Park in Salt Lake City. Many felt the bill would cause significant harm to both customers and stylists.

Devin Johnson, a licensed cosmetologist at Haus of Flint in Draper, felt the bill would cause major concerns to health and safety of customers.

"Our education covers many things, it isn't just technique," Johnson said. "We learned human biology and anatomy as well as how to curb infectious disease."

Bramble did consider these concerns on the legislature floor. "A facility that would be exempt from the cosmetology licensing would still be subject to the regulation of the



The Utah State Legislature is considering a bill that would deregulate certain styling services in Utah salons.

department of health," he said.

A Lehi-based libertarian group called the Libertas Institute expressed support for the bill. "The cosmetology industry is one that is highly burned by licensure — and the existing licensees, including the schools that are paid to train them, fight efforts to reduce these legal requirements. Over the years, they have fought reductions in licensure burdens in order to protect their economic status quo," the institute wrote on a blog post. "Requiring

1,600 hours of classes at a cosmetology school does not make sense for all situations."

Johnson disagreed, explaining her own time in cosmetology school did not feel like enough. "There's a lot of things we need to cover and a lot of education we need to receive in order to be successful."

The bill would be specifically helpful to blow dry bars, an urban trend beginning to make its way to Utah. Stylists at these salons simply wash, dry and style the client's hair without

performing more complicated skills like cutting and coloring.

The bill has passed 5-1 through a Senate committee and will now continue despite the fight from many cosmetologists.

"What I would say to someone who doesn't have a strong opinion on the topic is that it's important to listen to professionals no matter what. We're professionals for a reason," Johnson said. "They should probably ask what their stylist thinks."

Utah poised to remove concealed weapon permit requirements

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Utah gun owners would be able to carry concealed weapons without a permit under a bill that passed the state Senate on Feb. 5, leaving one procedural vote before it heads to the desk of a supportive Republican governor.

Several other states this year are considering similar measures, which are backed by gun-rights groups like the National Rifle Association. Tennessee's governor has also supported the idea.

Utah now requires people to take a weapons course and undergo a background check and get a permit to legally carry a gun in public hidden under a jacket or inside a purse. Gun-control groups say those are steps that are supported by many gun owners and keep people safer.

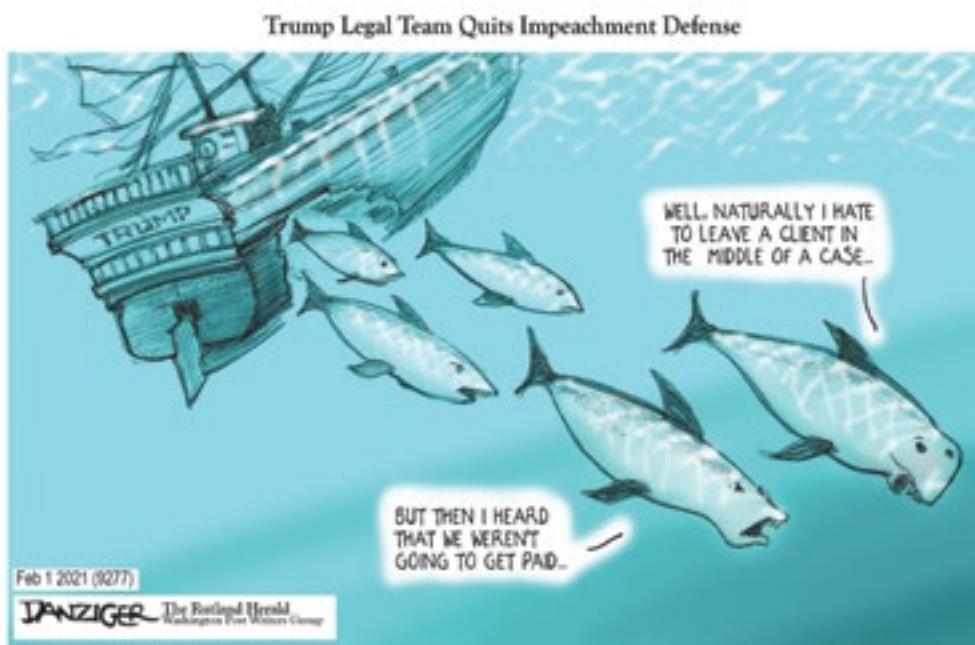
But opponents say the permit system is ineffective on ensuring safety and having to get a permit undermines citizens' rights to defend themselves if needed.

"Criminals have guns, and they're going to conceal and do with them what they do," GOP Sen. David Hinkins said. "All this does is (for) law-abiding citizens, this allows a woman to put it in her purse or a man to put it in his jacket."

Opponents have also objected to the removal of required education on weapons and suicide prevention.

"It's unacceptable that our lawmakers passed a bill to gut suicide prevention training when nearly 85 percent of Utah's gun deaths are suicides," said Mary Ann Thompson, a leader of the Utah chapter of Moms Demand Action, in a statement. Lawmakers have put aside some resources for suicide prevention and weapons education. The permit system would still exist for people who choose to get one.

The bill now goes back to the House to approve minor revisions. At least 15 other states already allow concealed carry without a permit. Republican Gov. Spencer Cox has said he supports the idea.



WEEKLY QUESTION

Daily Universe editors post a question on Instagram each week asking readers their view on a specific topic. Here's what they had to say. Responses are unedited.

Should potential employers consider an applicant's social media during a job application?

i think it's fair game if their account is public
@TIALARSON02

No. My selfies do not indicate my capacity to fill out a spreadsheet.
@ALEXA_MERR

Absolutely. It can really tell you what kind of person they are
@N8SEAL

It sounds really smart to look at their social media. Says a lot about a person
@CAMMYGRILL159

Yes, a lot can be learned about a person's work habits just by looking at their social media
@LKAYGILL

I don't think it's a good gauge because some don't use it enough to judge or use private accounts
@RACHELHALVERSEN

Not for technical positions, maybe only for social media positions
@JEREMYRAWLINGS

Yes! If they like what they see you will just be a more accurate fit for the job.
@JGIRLCOOK

Yes, they are choosing an employee to represent their company
@ASHLEY_AVERY

No. Social media can be fake and is not necessarily indicative of the person.
@MORGAN_HARTMAN

As long as they don't base their decision on what we post, especially as teenagers, it's ok
@ESTEBANGVC

It can be shared and used in the process, but should check for red flags, not culture fit.
@CADECHRISTIANSEN

STAFF OPINION

When did we forget how to forgive?

It seems like just about every week there is another celebrity, politician or athlete who gets fired, kicked out or slandered on social media for something they said or did. A post from 10 years ago that included a racial or sexist comment gets brought up again and again to continually shame the person in question until their future prospects are all but nonexistent.

As society continues to embrace this "cancel culture," the continual reminder is that we, as a society, have forgotten how to forgive.

Right now in the BYU community people are "canceling" football player Wes Wright and calling for him to be kicked off the team for a denigrating remark to a woman on Tinder. Without condoning Wright's actions, or excusing bad behavior by celebrities, politicians and other public figures, it is a little ridiculous when there is a person-destroying feeding frenzy over individual mistakes that begs the question: Who gets to decide who is and isn't deserving of forgiveness?

Mimi Groves was recently kicked off the University of Tennessee cheer team due to a viral video of her uttering a racial slur. Mounting backlash on social media led the university to pressure Groves to withdraw from the university as well.

She was 15 in the video taken during her freshman year of high school. Classmate Jimmy Galligan received the video of Groves from a friend three years later during their senior year. Galligan held onto the video until Groves got accepted into college a year later. At the height of the Black Lives Matter movement, he published

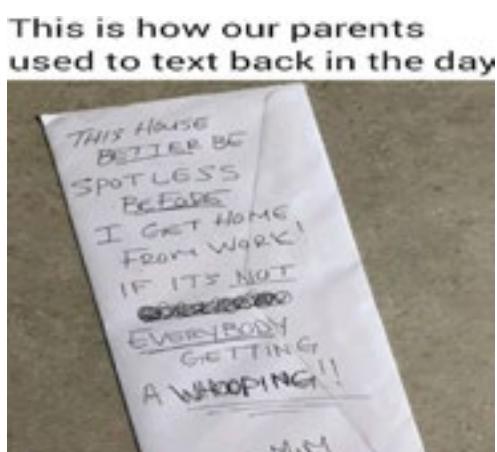
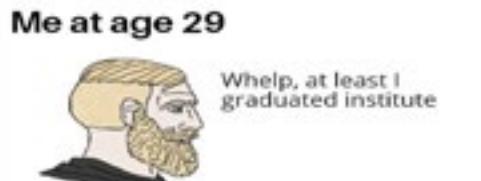
the video. Groves apologized profusely, saying she was too young and didn't understand the gravity of the situation. Publicly shaming her and getting her kicked out of a university for a misstep she made in high school and now regrets begs the question: Where should forgiveness weigh in?

Everyone makes mistakes. Bad behavior should involve consequences and not just an empty acknowledgement by someone that they are "taking responsibility." From those mistakes, fellow travelers in this experience of mortality should give each other opportunities to learn rather than just play the role of judge to those who mess up.

Canceling someone who acknowledges mistakes and asks for forgiveness deprives them of the ability to learn why they were wrong and communicate that they want to improve.

Who would want their career, life, education stripped away from because of something wrong said while young and dumb? Wouldn't most people want to make amends and have a second chance? Canceling everyone who does something wrong just divides society further. At this point in history, the last thing society needs is more division. Holding grudges will put up walls to separate people. Forgiving will build bridges to bring people together. And everyone needs a little extra compassion in this increasingly lonely time.

—Cassidy Wixom
Senior Reporter



Tweet Beat

#BYU #BYUprobs

Want to see your tweet in print? Tweet something about life around you with #BYUprobs or #BYU and hopefully it makes the cut.

Leave comments at universe.byu.edu or @UniverseBYU

@joshforrealz
just a reminder not to get married to someone you just met! I know some of you forget

@Fancy_friday_af
Hey if your ex sets you up on a date with their cousin I'd recommend not going, it's just weird

@MadeJoyful
One day, you'll see your last Bernie meme. You probably won't even know it's the last time. Cherish the time you have left.

@realbevanheaven
Thinking about how schoolteachers would give you a worksheet to fill out while you watched the movie. Such a buzz kill

@dannyjniemann
yes gen z is addicted to our phones but

better than crossword puzzles

@kylefitzy8
I applied to grad school so at least I'd get a response after shooting my shot

@sammy_smileless
I absolutely do not have the emotional bandwidth for the "skinny jeans are out" conversation

@tsouthwick21
very annoyed that me putting absolutely zero effort into finding a significant other hasn't gotten me any dates yet

@Jared_VanL
Did I eat a whole medium-size pizza for dinner today? Yes. We call that self-care

@mck_vaccinated
I gotta stop checkin my phone as if something has changed

@vinny_powell_
Y'all listen to a groundhog but not the CDC? Okay

@naurfinde1
Bruh you're 26 and single, you're worried about the wrong Bachelor

@pant_leg
why could they not make the covid vaccine a gummy? maybe shaped like a little bear or a fruit?

Tweets are unedited.

OPINION OUTPOST

Canada

As with so much else that President Biden has done during his first days in office, a simple act of courtesy — a phone call to Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau, and a promise to

get together soon — is in itself viewed as a major and welcome break with the Trump era. But being friends again, Canadians have been quickly reminded, does not cure all ills.

Improving relations with Canada was not a heavy lift.

Former President Donald Trump's treatment of America's northern neighbor and closest ally stood out even in the general disdain the administration displayed toward international allies.

—Editorial Board
The New York Times

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Daily Universe encourages students, faculty and BYU staff to add their voice by writing letters to the editor or by submitting editorial cartoons.

- All letters should be submitted by email to universe.ideas@gmail.com. The topic of the letter should be included in the subject line.
- Letters should also include the author's name, hometown (for students), campus position (for faculty and staff) and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published.
- Letters should be no more than 250 words and may be edited for length, clarity or style.

Opinion editor Kenzie Holbrook can be reached at universe.ideas@gmail.com.

College admissions
There was a bit of good news for high school students across the country last month: The College Board announced that it plans to nix the SAT's optional essay section and subject tests, which have long added fees and headaches for college applicants. The move comes amid a rapidly changing world of college admissions, as colleges have been rethinking the role of standardized tests in their applications....

SAT and ACT requirements may also be deterring some prospective students from applying to selective colleges. Many schools that dropped testing requirements this year... saw an application surge.

—Editorial Board
The Boston Globe

Quarantine

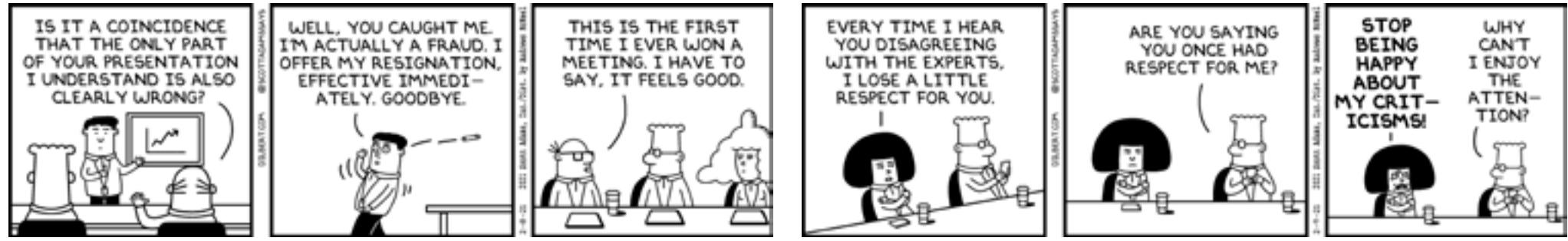
Countries with the strongest records against disease have applied the full range of containment measures quickly and thoroughly, including efficient testing, contact tracing,

and a presumption that all new arrivals face quarantine....

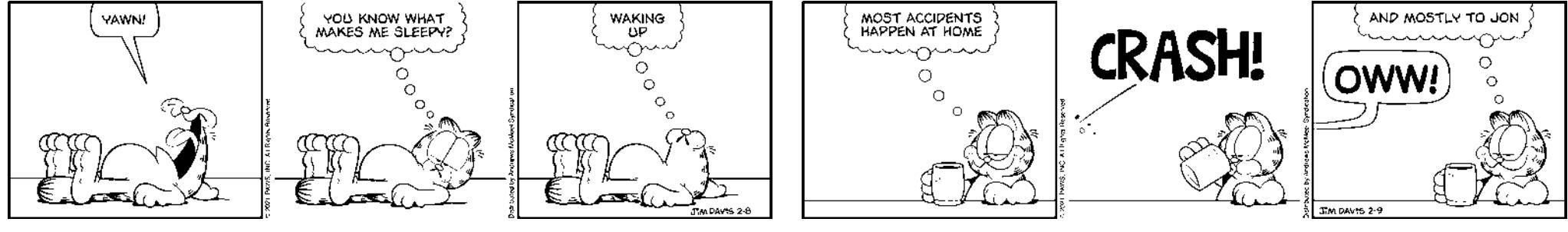
No one should belittle the social, economic and psychological cost of anti-Covid restrictions. Quarantine, like lockdown, is a harsh instrument to be used only as an emergency resort. But we are now a year into such an emergency. The government's haphazard approach, justified by a pursuit of short-term economic relief, has only prolonged the ordeal. The vaccine programme illuminates a way out. It would be a tragic squandering of that success if overreliance on new technology were to breed complacency regarding older but no less vital methods of protecting the public.

—Editorial Board
The Guardian

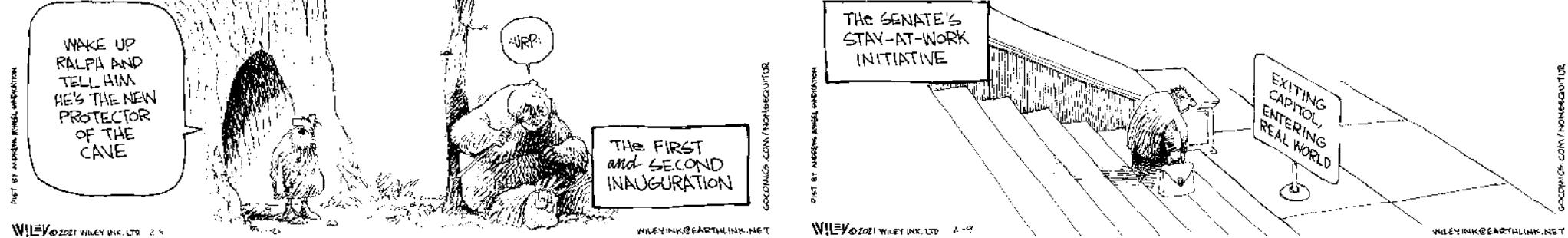
Dilbert®



Garfield®



Non Sequitur®



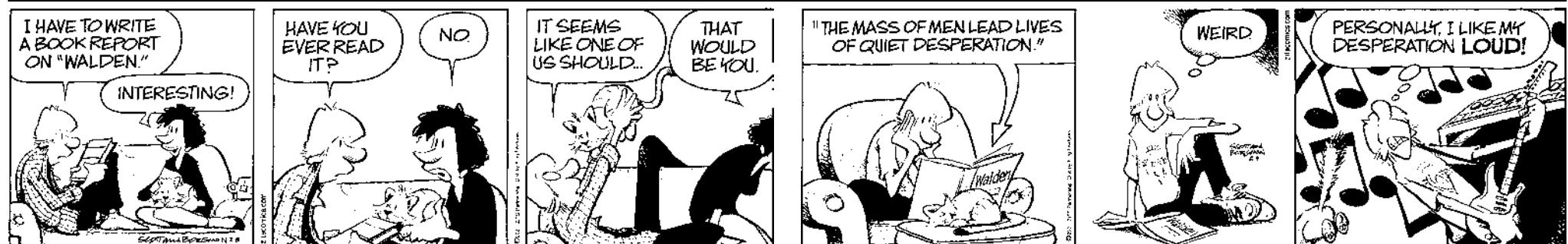
Peanuts®



Pickles®

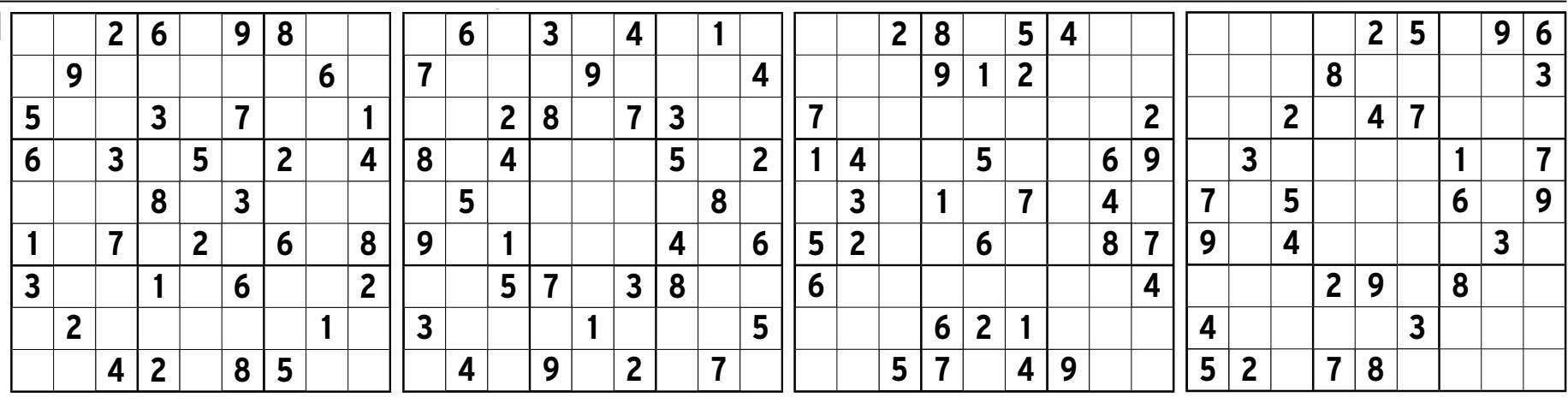


Zits®



Sudoku

Use the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column and marked grid of 9. Puzzles increase in difficulty from left to right.
Solutions are at universe.byu.edu/sudoku.



The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0104

ACROSS

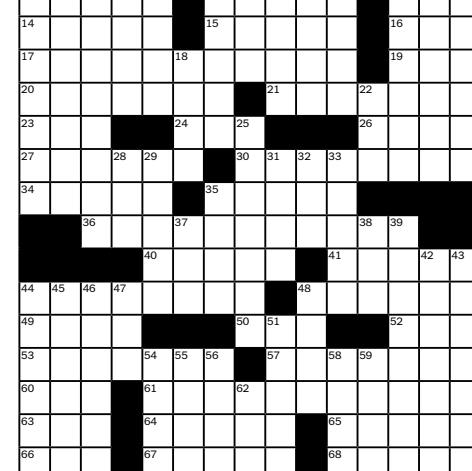
1 Has a long shelf life
6 The Lone Star State
11 Place to recover one's health
14 Native Alaskan
15 Vigilant
16 Arctic diving bird
17 Identity of 61-Across
19 "The X-Files" agcy.
20 Like some reactions and flights during storms
21 Blackjack
23 Opposite of WSW
24 Part of a needle
26 Something a diva may sing

27 Overhaul, as a show
30 Originator of 61-Across
34 Teacher's note accompanying a bad grade, maybe
35 Rapper Shakur
36 Television portrayer of 61-Across
40 Singers Bareilles and Evans
41 Steer clear of
44 Film portrayer of 61-Across
48 Contract stipulation
49 Lead-in to "man" in superhero-dom
50 Flow out, as the tide
52 Youngster
53 Pain in the lower back
57 "Just leave!"

DOWN

1 Corporate hierarchies, figuratively
2 Property recipient, in law
3 Rising concern?
4 ___ fish sandwich
5 Linger
6 Late in arriving
7 Inventor Whitney
8 "Hercules" character who got her own show
9 Rainbows, for example
10 Part of an assembly instruction
11 Mac browser
12 Go ___ (become listed on a stock exchange)
13 Japanese dogs
18 "I don't want to hear a ___ out of you!"

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0104



PUZZLE BY KATHY WIENBERG

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0105

ACROSS

1 Petite pooch, familiarly
4 Small lumps
8 Plot twists may elicit them
13 Group of docs
14 Aware of, as a scheme
15 Lassie, for one
16 Singer Benatar feels blue
18 Consignment shop business
19 Aromatic dried pepper
20 Author Grafton has arrived for dinner
22 An alto probably can't hit
25 California ball team
26 Adelbraitrain
28 First company to feature a gay couple in a mainstream U.S. TV ad (1994)
29 How a used item may be sold
30 Slugger's stat
32 Stop by
36 Tailor's concern
37 Actor Nicholson will bat next
40 Medium for some sculptures with short lifespans
41 Sample
43 "Fly swatter" for an elephant
44 One of a fairy tale threesome
45 Jazzy James
48 Baseball's Boggs has agreed to join us
50 Shot follower
52 Online magazine covering politics and culture

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

53 Actor Norris got tagged

55 ___ Lama

58 Chart-topper, e.g.

59 TV father Cleaver has just left the starting line

62 Some garden dwellers

63 Skin care brand

64 Org. with an inspector general

65 Located (in)

66 Lily that is Utah's state flower

67 Head of England?

68 "Come to ___"

69 Country whose name can be an exclamation

70 Compete intellectually (with)

71 Condo restriction

72 Numero ___

73 "So you know...." in a text

74 "Fast Money" channel

76 Adelbraitrain

77 Locale of both the highest and lowest points on the earth's surface

78 "12 Years a ___"

79 One who didn't make it to the office

80 Trial stages

81 Mike's candy partner

82 Some engine fuel

83 Purple berry

84 Cool cat

85 Relative of a sea gull

87 Zipped along on a watercraft

88 Proverbs

89 Name of a mountain range or a river

90 "How do you want to know?"

91 Trial stages

92 In that case

93 Jaunty piano tune

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).
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A mix of hope and dismay as religious leaders assess Biden

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Trump's departure from the White House and the start of Joe Biden's presidency have stirred new hopes among many religious leaders in the United States, while causing dismay among others.

Here's a look at some of the issues that major faiths will be grappling with as the new administration takes shape.

Abortion

For leaders of the two largest Christian denominations in the U.S. — the Roman Catholic Church and the Southern Baptist Convention — the paramount concern about the Biden administration is its strong support for abortion rights.

Biden, a practicing Catholic, already has rolled back some Trump policies aimed at curtailing abortion access. On Jan. 22, the 48th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision establishing a nationwide right to abortion, Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris said they would seek to enshrine that right into federal law to protect it from court challenges.

That stance was assailed by Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, Kansas, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"It is deeply disturbing and tragic that any president would praise and commit to codifying a Supreme Court ruling that denies unborn children their most basic human and civil right," he said.

The Rev. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said in a recent radio broadcast that Biden "is entirely, unquestionably sold out to the abortion rights movement."

Clergy of other denominations who support abortion rights, including from mainline Protestant churches and the Reform and Conservative branches of Judaism, will likely embrace the administration's efforts to expand access.

"We're not pro-choice in spite

of our faith — we're pro-choice because of our faith," said the Very Rev. Katherine Hancock Ragsdale, an Episcopal priest and president of the National Abortion Federation.

LGBTQ rights vs. religious freedom

Another issue uniting Catholic and Southern Baptist leaders is concern about expanding nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people.

They say such measures — some already taken and others expected later — could infringe on religious freedom for faiths that oppose same-sex marriage and question the inclusion of gender identity in nondiscrimination policies.

In a recent statement, five prominent bishops warned about "the imposition of new attitudes and false theories on human sexuality which can produce social harms."

Massimo Faggioli, a Villanova University theology professor who authored a book about Biden and U.S. Catholicism, said these issues will fuel serious tensions. The bishops, he said, fear Catholic institutions will lose their right to provide government-subsidized social services if they do not abide by certain nondiscriminatory policies.

Francis DeBernardo of New Ways Ministry, which advocates for LGBTQ Catholics, predicted that Biden will find a balance even as he bolsters LGBTQ rights.

"As a person deeply committed to his church, he is not likely to trample on the religious liberties of faith institutions," DeBernardo said.

Leaders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, another conservative denomination, may be relieved at Trump's departure and willing to work with Biden on some issues, said Matthew Bowman, chair of Mormon studies at Claremont Graduate University in California.

Bowman said they would likely ask that any new nondiscrimination initiatives provide expansive exemptions for religious institutions,



Associated Press
Doug Emhoff, left, Vice President Kamala Harris, President Joe Biden, and first lady Jill Biden, stand during a performance of the national anthem during a virtual Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service on Jan. 21.

however, including faith-based schools such as Brigham Young University.

Immigration

Faith-based groups have called for raising the annual cap on refugee admissions to the U.S. and relief for beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which shields some young immigrants from deportation.

Evangelical organizations that assist refugees offered advance praise for Biden's expected raising of the admissions ceiling after what one called "numerous harmful changes" under Trump.

Leaders of the Catholic bishops' conference cheered Biden for shoring up DACA on his first day in office, while urging him to go further by creating a path to citizenship for its beneficiaries as a "first step" toward a broader overhaul.

More action is set to come from the White House as soon as this week, and lawmakers also vow to pursue it through legislation. Whether religious groups can maintain their support for future immigration measures may depend on the specifics.

Racial Inequality

Many denominations in the U.S. have committed to combatting racial injustice. Their leaders

were critical of Trump's divisive rhetoric and expect Biden and Harris to make substantive efforts to reduce racial inequality.

"It's my hope that the administration will do everything they can to promote racial justice, truth-telling and healing," said Michael Curry, the first African American to serve as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. He added that criminal justice and education are areas where racial disparities must be addressed.

The Rev. Terri Hord Owens, the first African American to lead the Disciples of Christ, was encouraged by the Biden transition team's extensive outreach to faith leaders and hopes the administration can address economic inequality in ways that will simultaneously combat racial injustice.

The chairman of the Catholic bishops' Committee on Racism, Bishop Shelton Fabre of the Houma-Thibodaux diocese in Louisiana, said differences with Biden over abortion won't prevent cooperation on race-related matters.

"While we have strong disagreements regarding abortion and other issues — I nonetheless look forward to working together to address racism as it impacts society and individuals," Fabre said.

The Rev. Russell Moore, head of the Southern Baptists' public

policy arm, acknowledged that some white evangelicals don't consider racial inequality a high-priority issue. But he argued that it's crucial to develop a "Christian vision of racial justice" and said an increasing number of multiethnic evangelical churches share his view.

Domestic security

The Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol lent fresh urgency to the debate over combatting domestic security threats, including hate crimes targeting houses of worship in recent years.

Faith-based groups such as the Jewish Orthodox Union lauded an increase in federal grant money for protection at religious institutions, aid that's distributed through a program Biden vows to strengthen.

But discussion of expanding legal authority to prosecute alleged domestic terrorists has raised alarms among civil rights groups, including Muslim organizations that fear it could be unduly deployed against minority communities.

Among the 135 groups signing a letter last month opposing establishment of a new domestic terrorism charge or "other expansion of existing terrorism-related authorities" were six Muslim American groups, three Jewish American groups, and the United Church of Christ.

Police Beat

BYU

TRESPASSING

Jan. 30 - An individual previously warned against returning to campus was reported for trespassing and contacted by an officer.

FRAUD

Jan. 31 - An unauthorized individual tried to access a student account but was prevented by DUO, a two-step verification system used by BYU.

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Jan. 31 - Approximately 15 indi-

viduals were reported for riding office chairs down the street outside the Wilkinson Student Center.

VEHICLE FIRE

Feb. 1 - A vehicle fire was reported at the old Provo High School. A responding officer found Provo Fire working to put out a fire caused by a mechanical problem. No injuries were reported.

Provo

THEFT

Jan. 30 - Property theft was reported at a construction site

near 1000 East and 1300 South.

Jan. 30 - Property theft was reported at a hotel near 1500 South and 40 East.

Feb. 1 - Property theft was reported near 2300 West and 300 North.

Feb. 1 - Property theft was reported near 100 South and 300 West.

Feb. 3 - Property theft was reported near 200 North and 2200 West.

Feb. 3 - Property theft was reported at a convenience store near 800 West on Center Street.

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

Jan. 30 - An automobile was reported stolen near 1000 North on Geneva Road.

Jan. 30 - An automobile was reported stolen from a parking garage near 1500 West on Center Street.

Jan. 31 - An automobile was reported stolen near 500 North and 2310 West.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

Feb. 3 - A sexual assault was reported near 1500 North on Canyon Road.

Roses are red, violets are blue. Whether single or taken, you can enter the giveaway for

TWO

Send us the story of a first date or how you met your significant other and be entered to win a Crumbl giftcard! Email us at byuuniversemaking@gmail.com with a story under 200 words and the subject line "Single" or "Taken" to describe what kind of story you have written.

There will be two winners: one from the singles category and one from the couples category, because everyone deserves cookies on Valentine's Day.