

► Our view

'Gateway' proposal has several pluses

If Cache Valley is destined for another surge in commercial growth, the site being pushed by Logan officials for a new "gateway" shopping center would seem ideal.

A proposal to entice development on 30 acres of largely vacant land south of the Macey's supermarket was presented at a Logan Municipal Council meeting this week. We agree with Mayor Doug Thompson that the site makes good sense from a community-planning standpoint — as well as making good business sense.

The site borders U.S. 89-90 not far from where the highway enters Logan, thus the term "gateway." That's the good-business part, because you have to think a location like this would be hungrily eyed by big anchor retailers such as Wal-Mart or Target. And Logan has been hungrily looking for just such a retailer since Macey's — one of the city's largest sales tax revenue sources — announced it is moving to Providence.

The good community-planning part would be that the store, or stores, could help head off retail sprawl to the south, between Logan and Nibley. Although the recent addition of a movie complex, restaurant and

other stores in Providence has no doubt been welcomed by southenders, it's doubtful anyone wants to see that stretch of Cache Valley's main strip fill in commercially like it has between Logan and Hyde Park.

A Logan gateway center might also help alleviate the constant traffic crunch on Main Street — along with the air pollution that generates — by offering a major south shopping option. Then folks would be less likely to head 10 to 20 blocks north every time they need that certain screw, new CD or a bicycle tire pump.

Until now, the land in question has had the good fortune of remaining a pocket of rural life in a sea of development. There are five houses on the acreage, and not all the residents welcome the prospect of selling out.

We sympathize with them but would argue that even if the current plans don't pan out, it's probably only a matter of time before they are overrun by "progress" — especially since their lots have been mapped into Logan's latest redevelopment area.

One part of us says "egad" at the thought of another crowded big box store. But if it has to go somewhere, this is probably the place.

► Your view

Teach children; don't shield them

To the editor:

I'm responding to an editorial declaring that stores should cover up all of the violent and sexual images, that society portrays, from children. I believe that society should tone down a bit on the images, but I am downright sickened at all of these people who state that we should shield children away from such images.

Children do have a choice in observing what they are allowed to see. It starts with the parents. It starts in the child's household and how the child is disciplined. The child is not so much influenced by society, as is by the parental guidance that is used in the household. It is a proven fact that children learn more from parental guidance and mannerisms than by societal guidance and figures. So, why go throughout the stores in America, covering up the violent and sexual images? Children have to know and understand what and how such things happen in the world. This can start by parental guidance, not by society. Stop blaming society on parental problems!

Parents should introduce children to a little bit of violence and tell them that violence is bad. Watch a show with your child, and teach them about right and wrong. Same thing goes for sexual images. Don't sit there and watch pornography with your child, but do watch something like "Everybody Loves Raymond" or "Two Men and a Half Men." Or maybe even a rerun of "Beverly Hills 90210." Educate them and don't hide it from them.

I do not believe in this "Harmful to Minors Law." It is a disgrace to our country. We, as a nation, should stand up against such an atrocity. Parents need to stop blaming society on their children's actions. It all starts with the parents. No matter what you do, children are going to see what actually happens in this world. You can't shield them from it. Children are going to learn about it, somehow. It's in the news, on the radio, and in your grocery stores. There is no avoiding it.

Everyone who believes that shunning magazines with violent or sup-

posed sexual images should take a look at their actions in the household and how well they are raising their children. Are you exposing them to a little bit of violence and telling them that violence is bad? Or, are you going the way of the herd, and not educating your children on violent and sexual images, by hiding it from them? Whatever you do with your child now will affect their outcome later on in life. Think about it.

Kimberly Best
Logan

Professor's view of memo flawed

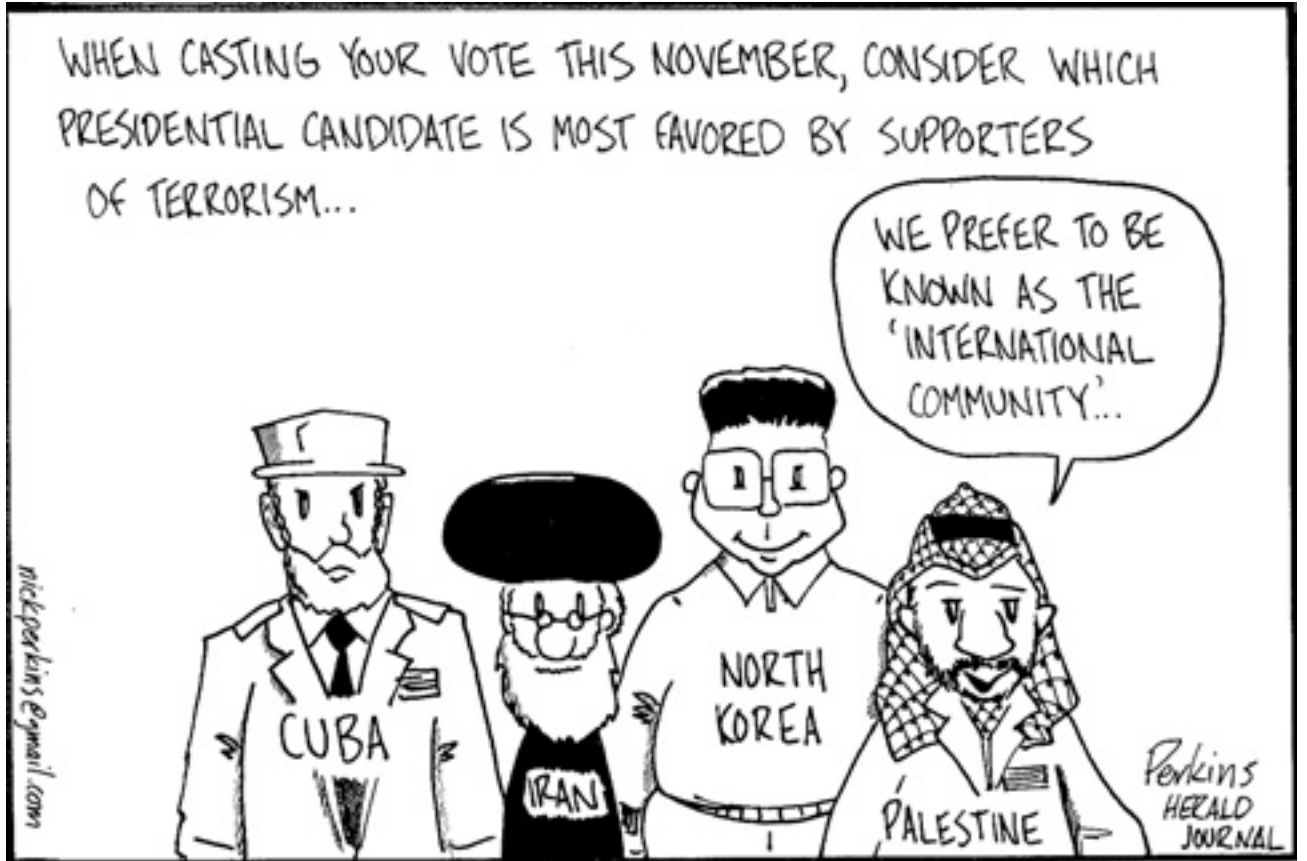
To the editor:

The Herald Journal of Saturday, Oct. 2, 2004, featured an article about a USU professor who ventured his opinion concerning the now famous Texas Air National Guard memo. The tenured professor opined that if Dan Rather had asked for his opinion his answer would have been "there's nothing in the memos that would indicate they're not authentic." He therefore suggests to the reader that the memo is in fact authentic.

The professor is just one of many who voice their opinion on a document that they have not seen. He concedes that he used a copy to make his judgment. What have we all seen? A copy. Nothing more. In many instances a faxed copy. These opinions are not worth the paper they are printed on. Why, because any reputable document examiner does not make a considered opinion from a copy. The original of the document is necessary to determine if the paper is of the type then produced, and the type used by the National Guard at that time? Was the print on the letter of the type produced and was that the type of print used by the National Guard at that time? Has the ink from the typewriter absorbed into the paper consistent with the age of the document? Has the paper and the ink aged together?

Next issue is the signature. We have only viewed the signature on the letter. Where are the other original examples of the authors hand

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► Soapbox

Faithful should relish findings

Editor's note: Two recent commentaries on this page presented opposing sides in the controversy over DNA evidence as it relates to the Book of Mormon. This third offering, written by an individual who is both a scientist and a life-time member of the LDS Church, offers a third perspective that editors judged as relevant to the debate.

Richard S. Criddle

The recent book "Losing a Lost Tribe" by S.G. Southerton, raises DNA-based questions regarding the relation of Native Americans to the Lamanites described in the Book of Mormon. The book, and associated rhetoric, is generating considerable interest and no little controversy in (and beyond) Cache Valley. Much of this controversy stems from a lack of understanding of what DNA studies have or can yet reveal about human migration. Most people participating publicly in the controversy have obviously not endeavored to become familiar with the nature, extent, and meaning of available data. It should be recognized that the factual information in Southerton's book regarding DNA and its uses in identifying people and tracing ancestries is fundamentally correct. He accurately summarizes findings from research efforts conducted in many laboratories around the world over the past 40 years. The studies cited by Southerton employ precisely the same methods used in forensic analyses, paternity questions, medical investigations, and hundreds of other applications that all of us accept and rely on daily.



Richard Criddle

Southerton cites a large body of DNA data that provide information on early migration patterns into the Americas. His conclusions, simply stated are that DNA data (and much data from other sources) show the migrations of a majority of Native Americans into the Americas came from Northeastern Asia. No data has surfaced indicating a pre-Columbian migration into the Americas of people with Middle Eastern origins. The data and the logic supporting

this conclusion may be simply outlined. Each human has a unique DNA composition. Expression of genes coded as sequences of DNA nucleotides determines our individual personal characteristics. Children acquire a genetic makeup that is a unique combination of DNA segments from each parent. Thus, a child's DNA, though not identical to that from either parent, has segments that are identical in sequence to those of each parent. Examination of DNA sequence data can identify regions of common sequences and establish family relationships.

Siblings in a family have many genes in common because they are derived from the same parents, but also have differences because of variability in the way DNAs from the parents are recombined in each child. Some offspring may have their "father's nose" and their "mother's hair color" while in others it could be the reverse. Cousins also share many common gene structures but have more differences between DNA patterns than siblings. Non-related individuals have much larger differences in their DNA sequences. Thus, it is possible to map family relationships from analysis of DNA sequence data.

The recombination of parental genes in progeny makes it increasingly difficult to trace family relationships from DNA analyses as relationships become more distant. Fortunately, there are some classes of DNA that do not undergo recombination. For example, the maternal parent is the sole supplier of mitochondrial DNA (MtDNA) to the offspring. All offspring, whether male or female have MtDNA identical to that of their mother (and siblings) and also identical to that of their grandmother, great-grandmother, etc. The only differences across generations arise from slow, random, mutation. MtDNA affects cellular energy processes, not skin color. Some other classes of DNA do not segregate during a sexual cross and can also be used to study family relations, but MtDNA is most commonly used for analysis of human migration patterns and origins and will be the only DNA considered further here.

To examine how MtDNA can be used in tracing human migrations, consider colonization and population of an area by one, or a small group of related families. If this group lives in semi-isolation over many genera-

tions, inbreeding within the group will generate and maintain a population with recognizable commonalities among MtDNA sequences as mothers pass their MtDNA to children and grandchildren. Individual and familial differences among DNA sequences persist over time, and overall group similarities are maintained generation after generation.

MtDNA samples analyzed from individuals from such groups at locations around the world have shown many local populations with distinctly identifiable DNA patterns. This allows categorization of location-specific and/or ethnic-specific MtDNA patterns. When a portion of the people in one of these genetically-inbred groups migrates to another land, their DNA goes with them. Even thousands of years later, similarities in the MtDNA sequences from descendants of the stay-at-homes and the migrants continue to demonstrate their common origins.

Here is an example of what DNA migration has shown. The Polynesians of the South Pacific have distinctly recognizable DNA sequence patterns. World-wide DNA studies reveal there are similar patterns among natives in Southeast Asia. Further analyses led to conclusions that human settlement of many South Pacific islands occurred via migrations from Southeast Asia. DNA studies also provide information about who did not as well as who did migrate between given areas. For example, examination of MtDNAs among the Alaskan Eskimos shows large differences from the Polynesian MtDNA and reveals no subpopulations of Eskimos with Polynesian-type DNAs. These data negate any hypothesis postulating that Alaska was settled by migrant groups from Southeast Asia.

Another identifiable category of MtDNA sequence patterns is that associated with individuals with family roots in the Middle East. We will refer to these DNAs as "Israelite DNA". These make it possible to examine MtDNA from groups currently existing at locations around the world for similarities with Israelite MtDNA. If families of Israelite origin migrated to and began a large population in the new world, the existence of Israelite MtDNA sequence patterns would be expected

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The Herald Journal

Editorial policy

The Opinion page is intended to acquaint readers with a variety of viewpoints on matters of public importance and provide members of the community with a forum for their views. Personal columns, cartoons and letters from readers reflect the opinions of their writers and creators. Editorials under the heading "Our View" represent the views of the Herald Journal editorial board. Members of the editorial board:

- CINDY YURTH/features editor
- BRUCE SMITH/publisher
- CHARLES McCOLLUM/managing editor

Letters policy

The Herald Journal welcomes letters to the editor. Potentially libelous or offensive letters will not be published, however, and the editor reserves the right to edit all letters to conform to the length and style requirements of the newspaper.

- Letters should be:
 - ▶ Typewritten and double-spaced.
 - ▶ No more than 450 words in length.
 - ▶ Addressed and include daytime phone number for purposes of verification.
 - ▶ Signed by the author.
- Individuals are limited to one published letter within any 30-day period. Address E-mail letters to hjletter@hjnews.com. Guest commentaries are also welcome and are run at the editor's discretion.

Election letters deadline

Letters to the editor on political candidates and topics related to the upcoming primary election will be accepted no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct 27.

The deadlines give the newspaper ample time to process and make room for an anticipated rush of letters at election time. Letter writers should also know that unsubstantiated claims about candidates cannot be published by the newspaper.

Findings

sistent with some widely expressed LDS Church teachings.

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in the genes of their New World descendants, the current-day Native Americans. Over 7,000 DNAs from more than 150 Native American tribes or groups in North, Central, and South America have been studied. No groups with DNA sequences consistent with a pre-Columbian migration from the Middle East have yet been identified. Early links to native people in Northeast Asia are evident, but not to the Middle East.

Not all cultural and ethnic groups in the Americas have been subjected to DNA analysis. So, unambiguous conclusions about the absence of Israelite DNA await analysis of the remaining groups. However, Southerton cites credible studies suggesting that about 99.6% of Native American lineages fall into classes that are not candidates for Israelite origin. The probability of unambiguously demonstrating pre-Columbian, Israelite MtDNA in the remaining 0.4% is small. An overwhelming number of LDS as well as non-LDS scientists support these conclusions.

These data, whether or not they suit any particular religious expectations, accurately identify source DNA populations. The question then becomes, what is the correct interpretation of the data? Southerton proposes one logical explanation for the (apparently) missing DNA. He concludes that claims of Israelites establishing large pre-Columbian population centers in the Americas are not correct. Other explanations are possible.

Explanations for a lack of Israelite DNA in current Native American populations that are both plausible and consistent with claims of an Israelite colonization of the Americas center mostly on numbers. If Israelite colonizers (termed Lamanites in LDS Church accounts) remained small in number in lands also inhabited by numerous non-Lamanites, various scenarios can be postulated to explain the absence of Lamanite DNAs in the current gene pool. Several BYU professors, recognizing the obvious absence of Israelite DNAs, have advanced explanations of this sort. When the hypothesis that Israelite colonizers remained small in numbers among other large populations is invoked, the use of DNA studies to unambiguously prove or disprove a pre-Columbian, Middle Eastern origin for some Native Americans becomes virtually impossible. **Southerton notes, however, that the small population hypothesis is not con-**

Will diligent further search for Lamanite DNA eliminate the ambiguities in data interpretation? Probably not. Any DNA evidence found to support the existence of Israelite DNA within the unaccounted for 0.4 percent of DNA sources will prove to be as ambiguous to interpret as is the current lack of evidence. Accurate genealogical records would have to be found to rule out post-Columbian immigration of such small groups of individuals. Moreover, even should DNA analysis of some

“Truth is not something to be afraid of and reconstructed, but to relish and build on.”

remote subpopulation of Native Americans show striking similarities to Israelite DNA, and should this group be able to trace its distinct origins to pre-Columbian times, the Book

of Mormon claims would only be supported, not proven. The jury on is likely to be out on this argument for a long time.

Some conclusions outlined in Southerton's book are far less ambiguous. He notes that LDS Church leaders, from Joseph Smith on have referred to specific Indian groups in the Midwestern and Western U.S. as Lamanites. DNA evidence now clearly shows Asian origins for members of these tribes. Some Mormon apologists, recognizing that the term Lamanite has frequently been misapplied, now proclaim that many "modern day" references to Lamanites refer to patterns of religious belief and behavior rather than to genetic origins, i.e. people may be defined as Lamanites by non-genetic means. Each reference should be evaluated to decide whether this interpretation can be applied.

All-in-all, Southerton should probably be thanked for a book which, though overtly anti-Mormon, brings to the attention of many Church members for the first time some topics that have been a focus of interest among scientists, including LDS scientists, for decades. The book probably will change few opinions in the short run, but does present many valid points, and raises timely, provocative questions that will not go away in pro- and anti-LDS circles until they are fully addressed. Facts ought to be faced, whether we like them or not. **Attempts to explain away good scientific data with the irrational hyperbole of "Letters to the Editor" only bring well deserved criticism.** If truth contradicts ones religion, there is a problem. Truth is not something to be afraid of and reconstructed, but to relish and build on.

Richard Criddle is resident of Logan. He returned to Cache Valley recently after a 40-year absence, spent in large part as professor of biochemistry and biophysics at the University of California, Davis.

► Your view

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writing to compare with the questioned document? Does the author of the signature on the letter use the same pressure in signing his signature to the questioned document as he does to the known examples? Is the ink used in the signature of the type used at the time of the letter? Are the characteristics peculiar to the signature on the questioned document similar to the characteristics found on the known document signatures?

All these issues demand the production of the ORIGINAL document. It's fine to have an opinion based upon one's own bias, but that is not good enough if we are searching for the truth about the document. Professor Hailey and Dan Rather along with many others ought to withhold their opinions and spend their time and energy searching for the original of the memo and other verifiable examples of documents used by the National Guard at that time.

George W. Preston
Logan

Newspaper part of conspiracy

To the editor:

It is a sad day in USU student-community relations when The Herald Journal fails to note the filing by a student of a civil rights action against Logan city, a landlord and booter challenging the constitutionality of the booting ordinance that targets student victims. The headline in the Utah Statesman on Monday, Sept. 20, was "Student files complaint for civil rights violations." Does the Herald Journal not even take note of our student newspaper headlines? Is it part of a conspiracy of silence with the city that the community and its newspaper are really very student unfriendly? The targeted 20,000 potential student victims and the thousands of past victims deserve an explanation. I am told that the booting of the mayor made front page but a court claim that the booting ordinance is unconstitutional on its face does not even get dishonorable mention. The complaint is a matter of public record (Case No. 040101921 CR in the Cache

County District Court).

The Municipal Council minutes attached to the complaint sadly reflect that the students were the targeted victims, that serious questions were raised about legality of the ordinance and practice but were never answered before the landlord-booter friendly and student hostile ordinance was passed.

It would go a long ways in restoring some sense of fairness to the students if the present city council would revoke the ordinance now and stop this booter tyranny targeting the defenseless students. The students have no recourse because the city surrendered to booters the police power to seize our cars. We cannot even get the police to respond because the booting ordinance cloaks the booter with supposed authority. Students have no due process. Regardless of the ultimate outcome of the case, booting is horrible city policy and the challenge to this city ordinance is newsworthy.

Lester Essig
Logan

Police action out of line

To the editor:

A few weeks ago, my friend was tackled and arrested for swearing in front of an officer.

After being booted for having his tire slightly up on the curb at school, he confronted the officer and was very upset. The officer explained to him that parking his truck in this way was a trademark of being in a gang. This infuriated my friend. How could parking your car slightly on the curb be a sign that he was in a gang? He thought it was ridiculous and demanded that they take the boot off of his truck immediately. After the officer refused to take the boot off, my friend swore in disgust as he walked away. The officer then demanded that he come back and talk to him. When my friend refused, he was tackled and arrested for disorderly conduct.

After hearing about this incident, I was very upset. While it was wrong for my friend to use bad language, this officer's actions also need to be considered. I realized that it was the same officer

that had used the "F" word and called us retards at the local fair only a few weeks before this incident for no reason. I found it very upsetting that it was OK for this "mature" officer to call us names and use vulgar language, but when a 16-year-old juvenile uses bad language, (which wasn't directed towards anyone) he is tackled and arrested.

The officer's actions were ridiculous. I don't care if you are 16 or 40 years old, everyone deserves to be respected. I really hope this officer (he knows who he is) will mature and realize that he needs to respect others also, including kids. I respect this officer and what he does for our community. The officers serve an essential function to the citizens in our community. However, it is this type of thing that causes me and other young people to lose all respect for him. While he may be a good officer, I hope that he can mature and set an example for his community by showing respect for others.

I truly hope I didn't offend any other officers. Generally, I respect and look up to those officers who respect me. As for the community, be careful how you park your car, you may be considered in a gang.

Alex Bearson
Providence

Editor's note: The Cache County Sheriff's Office was offered a chance to respond to the incident described above. According to the officer in question, several key elements of the arrest have been omitted in the description offered here.

Too little known about DNA

To the editor:

First, The Book of Mormon does not preclude possible immigrations to the Americas other than groups led by Lehi and Mulek. The title page states that these are the principal ancestors of the American Indian.

From the research I have done on DNA, found in FAIRS.com, DNA studies are still in their infancy. There is

too little known to draw any conclusions regarding immigrations.

Thus far it is found that those with the most common DNA of that of the American Indian, are found in Mongolia and Centra Siberia. Thus reinforcing the claim of Asian migration to the Americas.

However, there is one fact that should be considered. That is the dispersion of 10 of the tribes of Israel following the Asyrian Captivity in 721 B.C. to the lands of the North. Would not Mongolia and Siberia be among those lands that some of them may have migrated to, thus leaving their descendants with some common DNA as that of the American Indian, who are also of the lost tribes of Israel?

While I acknowledge the lack of scientific data to support such a claim, I ask, where is there such data to support that of Asian migration to the Americas? To my knowledge there is none.

It seems to me, that those who pursue such a course, in another desperate attempt to discredit the Book of Mormon, do so at the discredit of their own faith. For such studies state, that such migrations took place between 10,000 and 15,000 years ago. Predating the Great Global Flood and also Adam and Eve.

For that matter, where is the scientific date support that there was ever a Global Deluge, or Adam and Eve, or ever the very existence of God. To my knowledge there is none. Nor is there any such data to dispute those claims. There is simply much that must be accepted by faith.

Now concerning the Book of Mormon. It has been my experience that the greatest criticism of the book comes from those who have never read it in its entirety. It is a book with a promise, if one will read, ponder and pray, asking God concerning its truthfulness. God will manifest the truth of it by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Having put that promise to a test, I know of the reality of that promise and of the truthfulness of The Book of Mormon.

Tory Ballard
Benson