

FAITH

LEAVING UTAH » A Mormon "exodus" of sorts began in the early 20th century when members traded their desert haven in Utah for ivy-covered schools back East. A conference will explore their quest for higher learning. » C3

RELIGION VS. SPEECH » Religious freedom is making headlines again in the wake of an LDS apostle's speech. This time, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton weighs in on the topic as it relates to free speech. » C3



Iraqi women try to rebuild families using LDS model

Outreach » With the help of a nonprofit group, a contingent visits Utah, taking workshops and sharing stories of loss.

By PEGGY FLETCHER STACK
The Salt Lake Tribune

Not many Mormon women don disguises in order to call on those they have been assigned to visit by the church's Relief Society.

They don't risk car bombs, dodge land mines or duck stray bullets either.

But their Iraqi counterparts sometimes do just that, and more, as they emulate the LDS Church's program for women-to-women outreach in individual homes — all in an effort to bring hope and rebuild families.

"Doing our family visits, especially to widows, was very dangerous," Azhar Abdul Karem Al-Shakly, former minister of state for women affairs, said last week. "Security was bad."

Al-Shakly was in Utah with seven other Iraqi women for workshops on how to better their families, their communities and their future in a country with

Please see VISITS, C2

More online

To learn more about this program, go to womenforfuture.org/.

ROBERT KIRBY



Boos and ahhs from my readers

It's time once again to let you have your say. The following comments are the result of columns that ran during the past two months.

Perhaps the column that received the most feedback was also the one most misunderstood.

When I wrote about Civil War church spires being used to sight artillery, supporters and detractors of gay marriage both thought it was a rebuttal of comments made shortly before by an LDS General Authority.

Please see KIRBY, C2



Halloween is all about the dead. While pagans and Christians have dramatically different notions about life, death and the afterlife, the two traditions that gave us Halloween agree on this: The dead are still with us. They must not be ignored.

By KRISTEN MOULTON
The Salt Lake Tribune

CRADLES OF RITES MOST GRAVE

Bring out your dead

Pagan roots » The ancient pagan holiday Samhain (pronounced sow-en) had a big influence on how Halloween came to be celebrated in 20th-century America.

Samhain, which translates as "summer's end," was celebrated by the Celtic people of Ireland as the beginning of the dark half of the year, a new year and the greatest of four yearly festivals. It was associated with slaughtering livestock before winter, but its spiritual aspect was the

Ode to All Saints Day

Christian roots » The name of the holiday, Halloween, reflects its Christian heritage.

It is a contraction of All Hallows Eve, the eve of All Saints Day, which is the day early Christians honored holy people who had died. The earliest reference to a celebration of All Saints was in the fourth century after Christ, but it was established as a feast day in A.D. 609 by Pope Boniface.

All Saints Day was celebrated in the spring for several centuries, but

Please see PAGANS, CHRISTIANS, C2

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