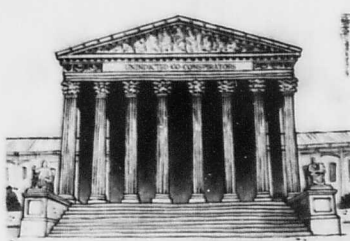


## DRAWN &amp; QUARTERED



## THE PUBLIC FORUM

All commentary, letters and cartoons on The Salt Lake Tribune Opinion pages represent the views of the identified writers and artists and are not necessarily those of The Salt Lake Tribune. The Our Views editorials reflect the views of The Salt Lake Tribune Editorial Board, which is separate from the newsroom.

## Cox at the convention

After countless hours of volunteering to attend and listen to candidates running for an opportunity to be elected to serve this great state, I attended the Utah GOP state convention. Already many hours into the event, Gov. Spencer Cox took the stage for his re-election campaign speech.

Facing the 4,000 volunteer state delegates, visitors and campaign staff, he was met with a mix of applause and boos from the crowd. I, nor any of the people sitting in my section, booed the governor. Gov. Cox quickly switched from his prepared speech and moved to statements about what he had achieved, before ending with the denigration of the entire body he faced with a statement: "Maybe you hate that I don't have enough. I felt like he had slapped me in the face."

"Maybe" delegates didn't like his decision to not protect women's sports from transgender athletes competition or protecting females in their locker rooms. "Maybe" the delegates were frustrated with his rash launching out publicly regarding BYU vs. Duke women's volleyball racial slurs — before the facts were discovered! "Maybe" it's about his embracing of pronouns — and someone has made him suspect as a conservative! "Maybe" it's about him wanting the power to appoint the attorney general, instead of letting A.G.s be elected by the people. "Maybe" it's about him using SB54 to assure his name on the ballot, while supporting its repeal. "Maybe" the delegates felt galled by his non-conservative actions.

Nevertheless, instead of insulting the entire body of delegates gathered to protect what they value and believe in, a bit of understanding, accountability, patience and the ability to "disagree better" was needed! As the governor stated following the investigation of the women's volleyball incident: "Part of that requires patience — something I could have done better in this."

Carole Gallagher

Wasatch County state delegate

Editor

## CONNECT WITH THE OPINION PAGES ONLINE

The Tribune's online Opinion section includes all the editorials, columns, cartoons and letters found in the print edition, plus additional commentary, cartoons and features. See [slttrib.com/opinion/](http://slttrib.com/opinion/)

## To appear in the Opinion section

The Salt Lake Tribune encourages readers to submit their own commentaries for publication. These essays should address timely topics of general interest and should not exceed 800 words.

Authors should include a recent photograph and a sentence or two of biographical information that includes any experience or expertise in the subject matter addressed. They may be sent to Sara Weber, Voices editor, at [sweber@sltrib.com](mailto:sweber@sltrib.com).

Sending text in the body of an email is preferred, as attachments do not always arrive in a usable form. We accept one commentary per person in any 45-day period.

Submissions may also be mailed to The Salt Lake Tribune, Editorial Page, 90 South 400 West, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.



A protester waves a Palestinian flag as law enforcement order protesters to disperse during a pro-Palestine rally at the University of Utah on April 29.

## As a Palestinian-American, I saw hope at the U. encampment

As a member of Utahans for a Just Peace in the Holy Land, I attended the encampment at the University of Utah this past Monday in support of our students.

As a Palestinian-American, my first assumption was that the encampment was erected in opposition to what is taking place in Gaza. However, as soon as I arrived and saw the crowd that had gathered and how diverse it was religiously, ethnically and nationally-wise, I was taken back to the sixties and the civil rights movement; the seventies and the protests against the war in Vietnam; and the eighties and the encampments against South African apartheid.

It was great to see the reincarnation of the spirit of freedom in our young students. Speakers at the U. encampment represented the environmental movement, the LGBTQIA+ movement, women's rights, religiously devout students and dabkeh dancers, among others. These students are the living conscience of our society. They are the lanterns of light who are taking us forward to a better future and reigniting the desire for freedom, justice and equality for all. They are indeed a refreshing hope. In their faces, I could see that they are not only there for Gaza. They are there for humanity as one race, to enjoy this globe in peace and fairness, thriving on our similarities and aspirations and not on our fears and differences.

I would like to end with a passage from Khalil Gibran's "The Prophet" as a message to our leaders who refuse to listen to the voice of reason:

*Your children are not your children,  
They are the sons and daughters of  
Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong  
not to you.*

*You may give them your love but not your  
thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow,  
which you cannot visit, not even in your  
dreams.*

*You may strive to be like them, but seek not to  
make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with  
yesterday.*

*You are the bows from which your children as  
living arrows are sent forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the  
infinite.*

*And He bends you with His might that His arrows  
may go swift and far,  
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for  
gladness.*

*For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so  
He loves also the bow that is stable.*

Mustafa Khader

Sandy

## What a feeling. My vote is bound to count in Utah at last.

As a Democrat who is registered Republican, I am unable to come up with the appropriate words that accurately express my feelings.

Finally! This year my vote will count and have a definite influence on which candidate will eventually be on the ballot in November.

and then of course subsequently lost the job as governor — Spencer Cox or Phil Lyman.

Wow! What a feeling. My vote — literally — will have an impact here in Utah.

Peter A. Orum

Salt Lake City

## LETTER POLICY

The Salt Lake Tribune welcomes letters of up to 300 words on a single topic of general interest. If published, they become the sole property of the newspaper, may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy or clarity, and be stored or reproduced by electronic means. Letters must include the writer's full name, street address and a daytime telephone number, though only the name and the city of residence will be published. Letters by email are encouraged.

They should have the word "letter" in the subject line and not include attachments. Only one letter per writer can be published in any 30-day period.

Send letters to [letters@sltrib.com](mailto:letters@sltrib.com) or mail to The Public Forum, 90 S. 400 West, Salt Lake City, Suite 600, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

## Space for LDS women's voices

Recently, an area authority's opposition to women sitting on the stand prompted a letter in response, signed by almost 3,000 members of the church, and a quote from President J. Annette Dennis during the recent women's conference prompted over 17,000 comments on Instagram. Those events highlight a simple truth: Many mainstream Latter-day saint women are fed up with the church's continued and blatant gender discrimination.

This is not the first, nor the last time that women have mobilized to express their frustrations to the church about their second-class status.

In 1979, the Alice Reynolds Forum, a group of feminist Mormon women concerned by the church's aggressive stance against the women's movement, wrote a letter to Spencer W. Kimball, part of which stated, "As daughters of Zion we had expected to be trusted to perceive our own particular truths. That we are seen by the brethren as having no discrimination cuts deep." They gave anecdotes of women losing responsibilities in their congregations due to their feminist leanings, an issue that still exists in many wards today.

Today, I echo the forum's plea to the church: "We desperately need to know whether after serious consideration, soul-searching and prayer you find us unworthy...and ultimately expendable."

Similar to the church's response to the recent Instagram comments, the church acknowledged that the letter was received, but refused to engage with the complaints. Three months later, then BYU president Dallin H. Oaks banned the forum from meeting on BYU campuses. However, the women kept meeting and discussing their desires for the church, paving the way for women to speak up today.

Perhaps we can learn from our religious foremothers and follow their example by creating spaces to speak up, whether church leaders are ready to hear that criticism or not.

Emily Peterson

Salt Lake City

## The health care test

I think that many Utahns agree that the issue that most reveals the basic values of our two U.S. parties is health care.

For the Republicans, it is not one of the "un-salable rights" but a privilege or a benefit that people receive from their generous employers, and it is best managed by the private sector. The private sector will make sure that people receive health care according to what they work for and pay for, so that hard workers will be compensated for their efforts, and business will be intrinsically "rewarded," as "justice" requires.

For example, higher-earning employees will be able to pay for a platinum insurance plan that will allow them to pay very little in extra cash. Instead, lower-income employees can afford only a silver or bronze plan and will have to pay thousands of dollars if they need a hospitalization. So, they pay less monthly for insurance, but they lose the peace of mind of not having to pay huge cash payments. They are "broke" for their lower productivity. A complex administration of "underpayers" will be needed to take into account all these different insurance "levels." Lots of paperwork.

The Democrats, instead believe that standard health care belongs to the unalienable rights ("life") and should be provided as public service to all citizens, with no or minimal cash extra payments for all. Such as it happens with our decent K-12 public education. The productivity of people can find plenty of just rewards in other non-necessary products and services, but not in the necessary ones.

Because the necessary ones belong to the general welfare, which is a constitutional right, depended on "all men are created equal" and connected equal dignity. Are the Democrats more faithful to our great U.S. Constitution than the Republicans? And, ultimately, do they propose a better organized health care system, with easier administration?

Adrian Camello

LDH