

BRIGHAM YOUNG

**MYTHBUSTERS**

UNIVERSITY



**A Universe Production**

# Rock 'n' roll at the Marriott Center

*LDS Church leaders aren't the only ones who've taken the stage at the Marriott Center, in its early years, the sports arena*



BYU's Marriott Center is more than a sports arena and auditorium for campus devotionals. In the '70s and '80s the arena was used for rock 'n' roll concerts.

By Tasha Singer

**B**YU is not a party school.

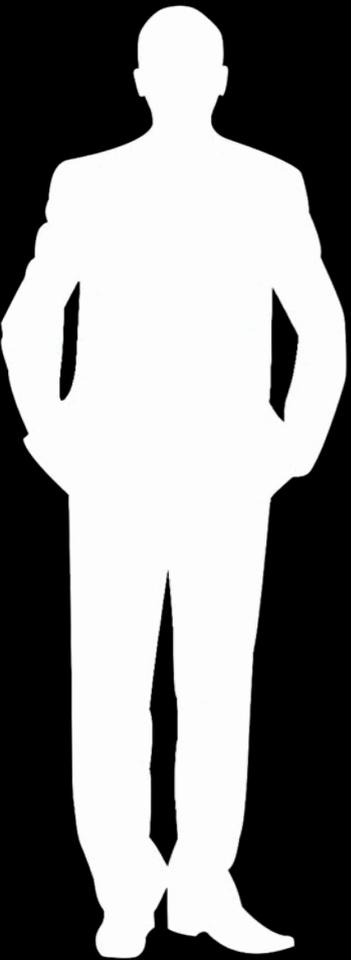
Known for its mostly Mormon student body, straight-edge Honor Code and top-notch academics, the university has never had a rock-band reputation, but it has played host to quite a few rock bands.

The Marriott Center, which is now used primarily for sporting events and

devotionals, once played host to big name bands and performing artists in the '70s and '80s.

Performers like Elton John, James Taylor, Boston and The Cars all made stops in Cougar country for shows.

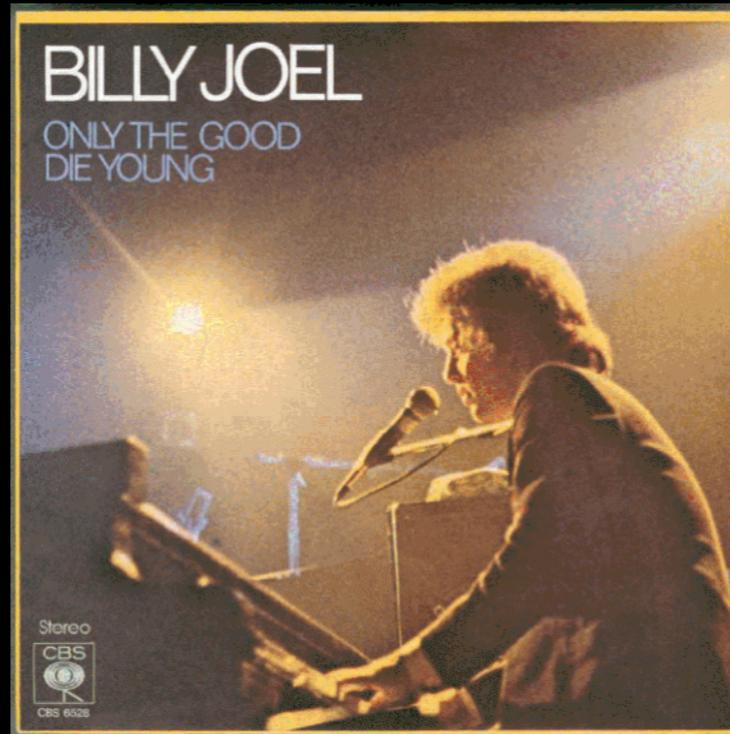
Though the more tranquil acts were well received by administrators and



students alike, the racier entertainers took it upon themselves to make a statement to their primarily LDS audiences, eventually leading to the ban of concerts.

Billy Joel was one of the last performers to take the stage at the Marriott Center, and comments that he made during his performance may have been the reason that concerts ceased all together.

Before singing his hit “Only The Good Die Young,” which is all about promiscuity, Joel took a moment to give a little philosophical insight to the crowd.



Billy Joel's song “Only the good die Young” talks about a man trying to convince a devout young catholic woman to give up her virginity.

Courtesy of BillyJoel.com

“I’m not trying to convert anyone; I just want to provide you with an alternative,” Joel said.

Needless to say, this “stick it to the man” rock’n’roll attitude was frowned upon by conservative school leaders.

Joel’s comment may not have been as big of a problem if one audience member hadn’t been present.

Seated in the audience that night was then Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric Glenn L. Pace. Pace was so infuriated by Joel’s comments that the experience became an anecdote for an Ensign article.

Shortly thereafter, concerts were removed completely from the university events schedule.

Joel may not have started the fire, but he certainly didn’t try to fight it.



# Class on Monday, church on Sunday, baptisms on Saturday?

*While many buildings on the BYU campus serve as chapels for church services, only one has a baptismal font.*

By Jenn Cardenas

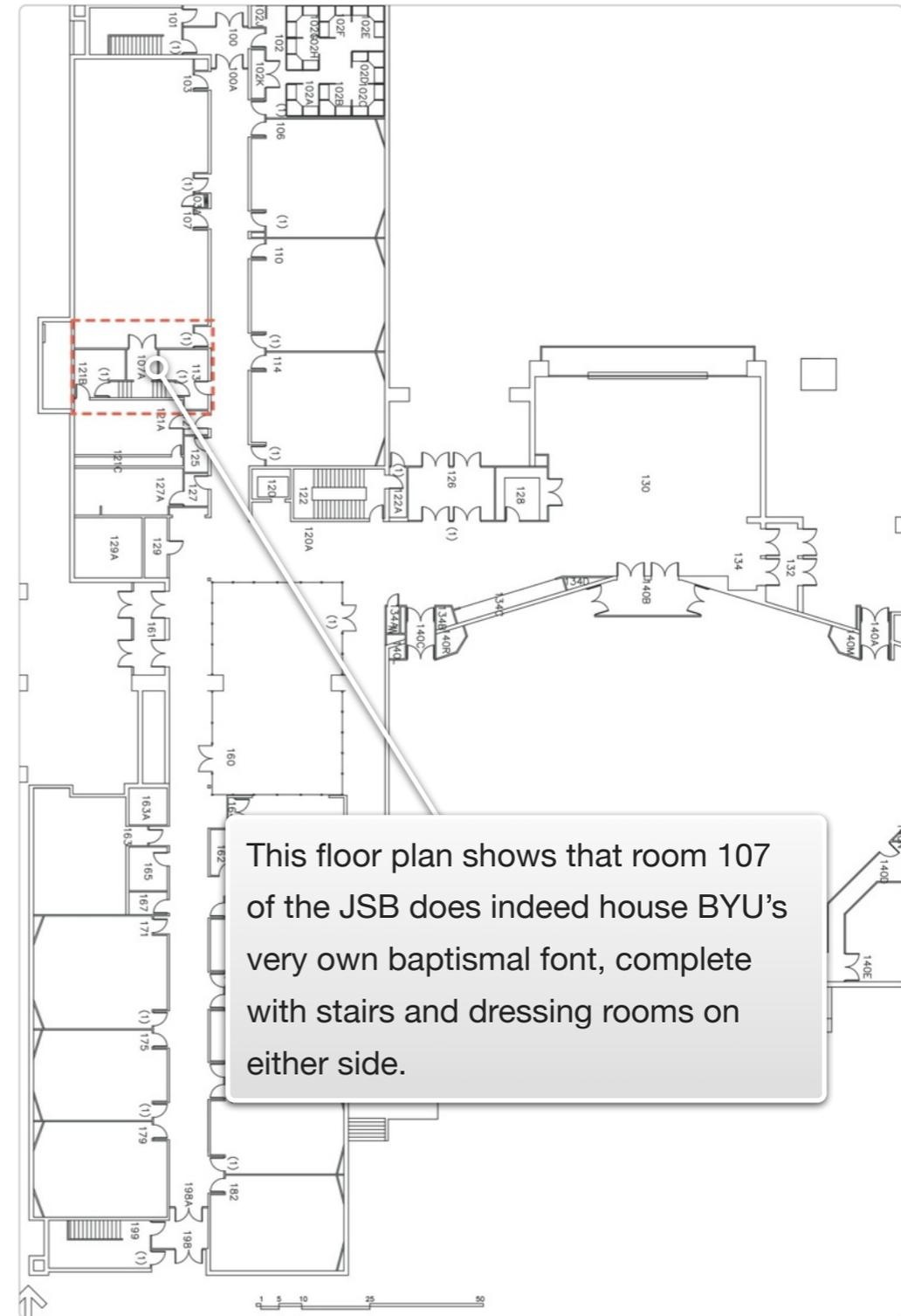
Most buildings on the BYU campus are open on Sunday for church services, but only the Joseph Smith Building is equipped to handle a baptism.

The JSB, widely known as the religion building because of the number of religion classes held there, is home to BYU's own baptismal font.



Many freshman complain about the small bathrooms on the first floor, this may be based on the need for dressing rooms, rooms 121 and 113 that both are connected with the font.

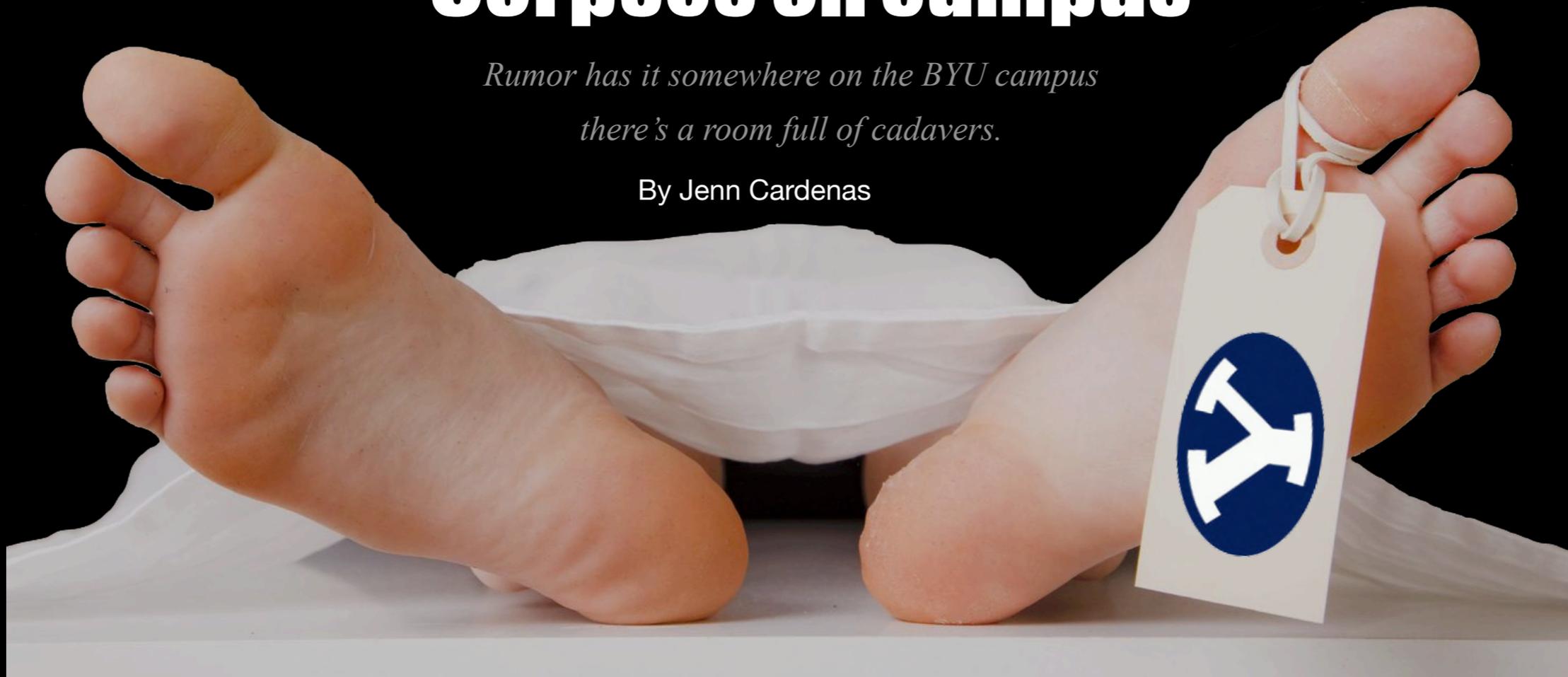
At the south end of room 107, there are double doors that open to reveal the baptismal font.



# Corpses on campus

*Rumor has it somewhere on the BYU campus  
there's a room full of cadavers.*

By Jenn Cardenas



**T**he dead are among us.

It may sound like the setup to a terrible zombie flick, but BYU does have dead bodies on campus — but fear not, these corpses aren't going to eat your

brains, though they might enlighten your mind.

The anatomy lab in the Widstoe Building is home to cadavers, bodies donated to science, that students work on to learn more about the human body. Both p.d. bio and exercise

science programs have access to these bodies.

Most other undergraduate programs do not have access to cadavers, instead opting for computer programs that don't offer the same tangible experience.



# Making the grade at BYU

*Accompanying BYU's growing reputation as an outstanding academic institution are myriad rumors surrounding the university's admissions criteria reputation.*

By Alysa Kleinman and Tasha

Many high school-aged Latter-day Saints grow up hoping to attend BYU, but relatively few of them are chosen.

According to [Yfacts.byu.edu](http://Yfacts.byu.edu), only 55 percent of the 12,500 applicants were admitted to the university for Fall 2012, leaving thousands of others to wonder why they didn't make the cut.

Over the years, myths surrounding the BYU admissions process have formed.

Courtney Howle, a sophomore from Justin Texas, said she's heard some student's have been denied for not being well rounded enough.

"I think it's strange that some people, from what I hear, aren't accepted into BYU because of



Photo by Tasha Singer

Both students and prospective students alike find the BYU admissions process to be a little mysterious, but the staff there has an open door policy.

a lack of extracurricular activities even though they were academically adequate," Howell said.

Kayli Wakefield from Pleasant Grove, said she's heard that BYU admissions is more it's a more spiritual process.

"Since it's BYU, I've heard they pray about each person that applies and that decides whether or not the person should be accepted," Wakefield said.

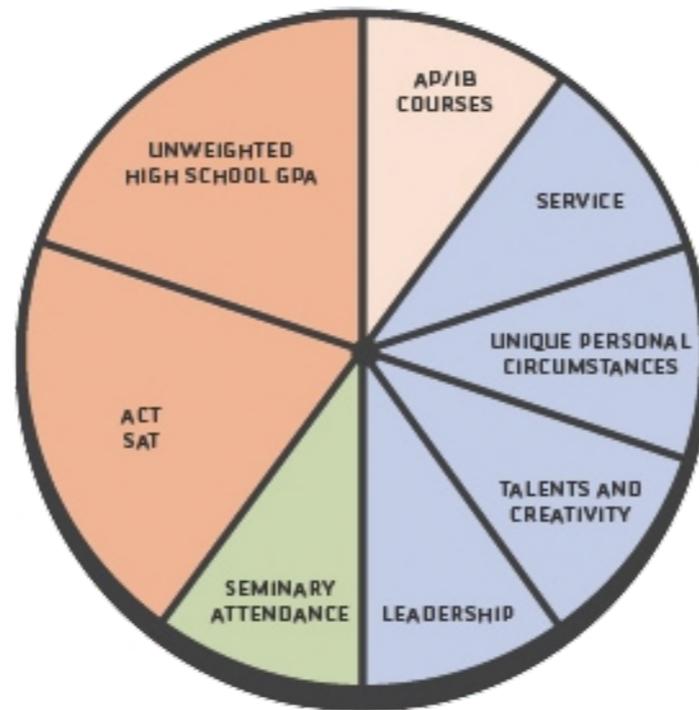
Todd Hollingshead, manager of BYU Media Relations, clarified what is true and what unknowns have turned into rumors about being admitted to BYU.

*The admissions committee inputs applicant information into a formula which makes the admission decision.*



Every application is thoroughly examined by two admissions committee members. Each committee member reviews the application independent of each other and then come together make a final decision on whether or not that applicant should be accepted. There is no formula or computer program where the numbers are plugged in and out comes a "yes" or "no."

"(Each applicant) is considered on a holistic basis, which means they're considering all the elements of the application and they are also done on a case by case basis," Hollingshead said.



Courtesy Yfacts.byu.edu

Admissions Committee members take a number of criteria into account when reviewing an application. While, aspects like ACT scores and high school GPA carry the most weight, all criteria are considered.

*The admissions committee prays about each applicant.*



Because each committee member reviews the applications privately, he or she can do whatever mental pondering or meditation they feel is necessary

to make a decision. There is no instruction to pray or not to pray.

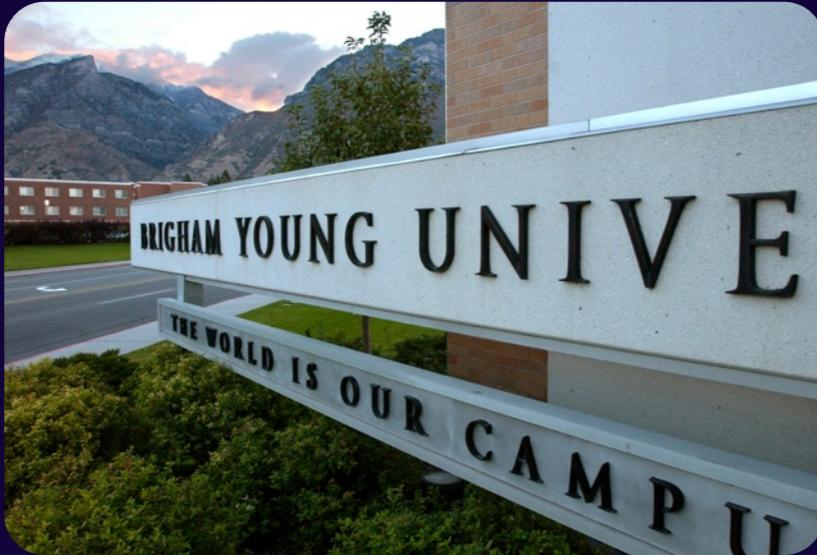
*Participants in the Visiting Student Program have a better chance of being accepted in the fall semester.*



Some students believe the Visiting Student Program to be an audition for full time student status, but no such backdoor approach exists. Applying and participating in the Visiting Student Program is a completely different application process than the standard BYU student application.

If a student would like to attend BYU as a full time student for fall semester, they can include in the application that they participated in the Visiting Student Program but it is not a guarantee that they will be accepted.

## The world really is our campus



Some feel The BYU adage “The world is our campus” might be an exaggeration, but there might be something to it. Here’s some fun facts about international studies at BYU:

- There are an estimated 2,000 international students studying at BYU.
- Nearly 70 percent of BYU students speak a second language.
- There are 120 countries represented on the BYU campus.
- BYU offers 166 study abroad programs in more 54

*The admissions office is hiding something about the acceptance process and therefore, will not speak with media representatives.*



Truth is, there is no secret. The admissions office refers all media representatives to the communications department not because they are trying to hide anything, but because that is the job of the communications staff to handle all interviews relating to questions about the university. It is simply a job-work split.

*The number of accepted students will increase due to the change in missionary ages and a lack of freshman.*



There has been much speculation concerning how the recent change in missionary age will affect both enrollment and admissions at BYU. At this point, university officials are still just as curious as students.

"It's hard to tell," Hollingshead said. "We still won't know. We do take into account that in two years we expect the numbers to normalize out again."

# Maeser Hill dangers?

*Maeser Hill may not be the hot bed of sexual assault that some students think it is.*



By Kayla Franson

The BYU campus is generally a safe place, but one can never be too careful.

Maeser Hill, or "Rape Hill" as some students refer to it, is the southernmost boundary of the BYU campus; it's also historically a spot for sex crimes, but does it deserve its nickname?

Jessica Wilkinson, a senior studying public health, had to walk down Maeser Hill after dark during most of last semester. Sometimes she went with classmates and sometimes, though it made her nervous, she walked alone.

"There's a stigma toward that area, so of course when I think of Rape Hill, I'm like, 'Oh, that's so creepy, I want to avoid it,'" she said, "but actually being there I don't feel any less safe."

According to Lieutenant Arnold Lemmon of the BYU Police Department, 32 sexual crimes have reportedly occurred on Maeser Hill since 1990, including one unconfirmed forcible sexual assault, one unconfirmed rape, and one confirmed forcible sexual assault. The other 29 accounts were reported



Photo by Chris Bunker

Though Maeser Hill was the site of a number of sex crimes in the '90s, it has since been made much more secure with the addition of emergency call boxes. Still students are encouraged to use caution when traveling on the hill after dark.

indecent exposure; all perpetrators were male and all victims were female.

The incidents were most frequent in the early '90s, and they have become much more sporadic in recent years. Campus police and BYU administration have made an effort to make Maeser Hill more secure by installing emergency phones and posting signs.

Even with these precautions, campus officials encourage students to use caution when walking in that area or any other more secluded part of campus and avoid being there alone after dark.

Lemmon said that the hill is safe overall and discourages students from using the nickname.

"[Maeser Hill] is not Rape Hill," Lemmon said.



## Even statues have to 'shave' at BYU

*Students believe the 'beard ban' is so strictly enforced that the once bearded statue of BYU's founder was given a real 'cut-throat' shave*

By Charles Beacham

Not even Brother Brigham's whiskers are safe from BYU's notorious beard ban.

Legend has it, the statue of Brigham Young located just south of the ASB once had a beard, but when administrators decided that facial hair was a faux pas, the statue was decapitated and given a new, beardless head.

Photo by Sarah Hill

The earliest mention of the rumor was made in May 2003 on BYU's 100 Hour Board, an online forum where volunteer



Illustration by Charles Beacham

Rumors about Brother Brigham's beard have been around for at least 10 years. On May 9, 2003 1000 Hour Board member, Cosmo, inquired about the Brigham Young statue in hopes of finding the truth.

“know-it-alls” answer questions about all things BYU.

According to recent BYU grad Jeremy Balleck, the rumor has come up in several conversations throughout his college career.

“I’ve heard a lot of horror stories about people getting in trouble for not shaving,” Balleck said. “And, honestly, it always sounded to me like something the administration would do.”

Balleck, who studied civil engineering and is somewhat familiar with



metal work, said he took the time to investigate on his own. According to the rumor, remnants of a “scar” or “suture” can still be seen on the neck of the statue.

“I even looked at (the statue) once and it does look like there was some kind of work done,” Balleck said.

Though what may be a “scar” is visible on the statue’s neck, in the world of myths, not everything is what it seems.

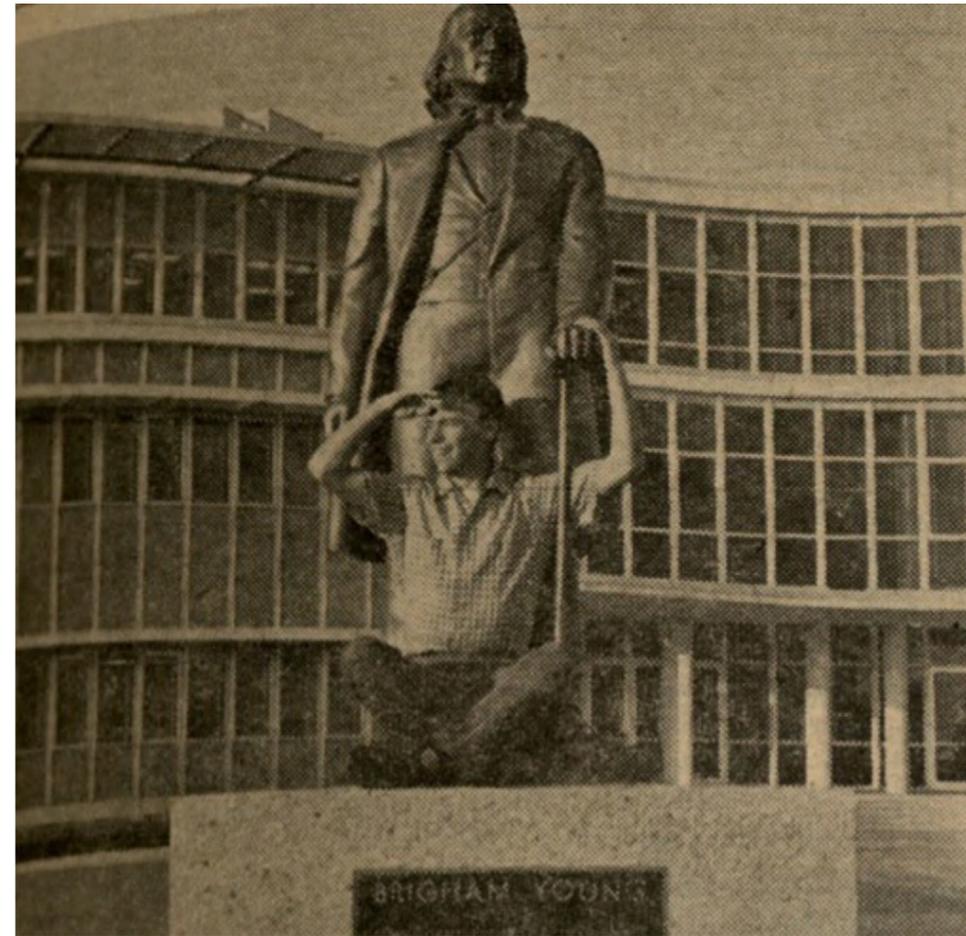
The statue of BYU’s founding father was introduced to campus on Nov. 4, 1961 as a part of that year’s Homecoming celebration.

According to a Daily Universe article, “Great-grand-



Courtesy The Daily Universe

This photo taken from the Nov., 3 1961 edition of the Daily Universe shows Homecoming Queen Julie Bagley seated in front of the statue, prior to its unveiling.



Courtesy The Daily Universe

The Daily Universe released this photo of BYU student Billy Youngreen sitting at the feet of a beardless Brigham Young statue one week after the statue was unveiled.

son unveils Brigham Young statue,” published the day prior, the statue has always been clean shaven.

“The statue depicts Brigham Young standing and holding a cane in his left hand,”

the article states. “HE IS WITHOUT BEARD, his hair is long and flowing, and he wears a knee-length frock coat.”

Though the photo in the Nov. 3 edition of the paper didn’t show the statue’s face, a

photo of the clean-shaven, unveiled statue was published a week later. If that’s not proof enough, there’s a second witness that this Brigham has always been an Honor Code abider — the statue on the BYU

campus as a twin — well a nearly identical older brother at least.

The plaster cast used to create BYU's statue was also used to create the Brigham Young statue featured in the "This is the Place" Monument at Heritage Park in Salt Lake City.

The Heritage Park version, which was sculpted between 1939 and 1947, features oversized bronzes of Heber C. Kimball and Wilford Woodruff on either side of Young, but even here, Young is still clean shaven.

The only alteration ever made to the BYU statue was in 1999 when it was moved a few feet north to accommodate expansions of the HBLL.

Though this myth is officially busted, Balleck said he thinks it will still continue to be a rallying cry for the bearded boys of BYU.

"Even if it's not true it makes a heck of a story," Balleck said.



Courtesy Heritage Park



The BYU statue of Brigham Young was made from the same cast as the one that stands on top of "This Is The Place" monument at Heritage Park in Salt Lake City.