Holiday lights are common bombardment for the average American walking down the street beginning November 1st to about January 1st as Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas rev up for the holiday shopping season. The lights are always on, but here is a question to ponder: How many watts of energy do we use in one week for Christmas?

During the month of December, the average American uses 3,000 to 5,000 watts of energy to run a household. Just using my laptop computer to type up a paper requires about 15 to 45 watts. Now, let’s say Christmas is a holiday where everyone turned off those pesky electrical appliances and only left the Christmas lights on. According to christmaslightsetc.com, “a 100-count string of incandescent mini lights runs at 40 watts.”

Do we really only use one string of lights? Suppose each household used at least two strings of lights. That’s going to be another 80 watts on the electricity bill. Out of those who are in the holiday spirit and celebrate Christmas, 68% of Americans string those holiday lights. According to a Gallup poll, 95% of Americans celebrate Christmas. That’s 217,810,750 people who celebrate. 68% of 217,810,750 would equal to 145,775,190 people who put up Christmas lights. Crunching the numbers and assuming there are four people to a household would approximate to about 40 million households who string lights. 40 million households with all appliances on multiplied by 4580 watts per household would equal to 183,200,000,000 watts per day, or 183,200,000 kilowatts per day. As Americans, we waste 320,000 kilowatts per minute we leave a light on or turn on the electric heater for no good reason; this would add up to 460,800,000 kilowatts wasted in a day. The price of a kilowatt hour varies, but it varies; for example, Wyoming is 6.20 cents per kWh, but Hawaii is 25.12 per kWh. Besides this variation in cost, this still means a lot of money down the drain.

American households are not the only places stringing up the lights. Just look to downtown Salt Lake, and you will see another source of energy waste. One mature tree at Temple Square requires 1,500 strands of lights, or about 75,000 lights. It takes 40 watts of power to run 100 incandescent lights for one hour, which means it takes 30 kilowatts to light one single tree, and with power costing 11.3 cents per kilo-watt hour in Utah, that means it costs $16.95 to light one tree for one five hour week night, multiply that by the 24 days that the lights are on per year, that means one tree costs $406.82 to run for the entire season and releases 0.41 tonnes of CO2. However, most of the lights are light-emitting diodes (LED) lights which require only 4.8 watts per 100 lights, meaning that an LED tree costs $48.82 to run for the entire season and releases 0.06 tonnes of CO2.

Regardless of festivity, the cost and environmental impact of the “Lights On!” event seems a bit superfluous and wasteful. One tree in a season uses enough power to release almost half of a tonne of CO2 and costs about $50, when the scale of the event is taken into consideration, that is an enormous amount of money and carbon dioxide. For the cost to light one LED tree, the city could donate 100 bags of ramen, 24 14.5 oz cans of green beans, 25 cans of peanut butter, or 50 pounds of potatoes to help feed the hungry. Considering the Utah Food bank is able “to take each $1 donation and turn it into $8 worth of goods and services”, it would mean, if given directly, the cost to light one LED tree would provide $400 or one incandescent tree would provide $3200 worth of goods for needy Utahns.

However, the lights are a huge tourist attraction for Salt Lake City, and the money tourists spend on their trip does get poured right back into the Utah economy. Tourists use public transportation, stay in hotels, eat at restaurants and shop, both at local retailers and large malls like City Creek, the LDS church-owned mall. Also, the LDS church does do a lot for the poor of Utah, and are huge supporters and proponents of food banks, homeless shelters and career opportunities for the poor.

Since we were still in elementary school, we have been told to “save electricity” and (continued on Opinion Page, p. 4)
Nativities adorn Salt Lake City with the “true meaning of Christmas”

**SCOUT ARAY**

As Christmas approaches, festivities sprout up around the Salt Lake Valley, including live nativities, which are often held in neighborhoods, and like many sheltered parks where the holiday season rolls around, the park is cleared and prepared for the crowds, which are often upwards of 5,000 people.

The event is jointly run by the First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City and the Bonneville Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and has been in operation for roughly a decade. This year the Nativity In the Glen will be Dec. 4-6 pm. Hot chocolate and bread was served and live music performed in the Little Temple #700 neighborhood.

West Winds offers opportunity to present art to the community

**EMMA METOS**

West Winds Arts and Literature Journa is hosting their second open mic for all West High School students, alumni and friends to participate and enjoy. The open mic will be held at Mos-tizo’s Coffee House (641 West North Temple #700) at 6:00 pm on December 28th. Those wanting to participate in the open mic are encouraged to bring a written copy of their work for submission to the magazine. The open mic itself will be filmed for publication on the magazine’s website, which will be up this spring.

Those wanting to participate can perform anything they would like, from music, to spoken word, to a reading of a short story or even a presentation of visual art. Everyone is welcome to participate in the open mic.

If you cannot make it to this open mic, but would still like to join in, there is an open mic nearly every month hosted at various locations. If you would like to submit your work you can email West Winds your submissions to submissions@westwindsmag.com, anonymous submissions are perfectly acceptable. If you have any questions or comments about the magazine you can contact Emma Metos at Editor@ westwindsmag.com, or drop by for a visit every Tuesday afternoon in Mr. Facker’s room (400).

Typhoon Haiyan Demolishes the Philippines

**EMMA METOS**

Typhoon Haiyan, known to locals as Yolanda, struck the Philippines in early November dissipating on November 11. As the second most deadly typhoon to have ever struck the Philippines, Haiyan claimed 2,400 lives and caused $10.8 billion in damage. Haiyan was historic in scale, with NASA experts stat- ing that it may be the most powerful tropical cyclone to ever hit land. The storm was 570 miles wide and sustained winds of 195 miles per hour, with some gusts of wind reaching 235 mph per hour. At its height, Haiyan’s storm surges, waves in the ocean created by a drop in air pres- sure, reached 17 feet in Tacloban, the largest city in central Philippines, and dropped 27 inches of rain on the island of Leyte. When compared to Hurricane Katrina, the 2005 dis- saster in New Orleans, which had sustained winds of only 175 mph, Haiyan is massive and incredibly destructive.

Haiyan affected an estimated 13 million people, with 4.9 million being children and of those 1.5 million are under the age of five at risk of acute malnutrition. There are 2.5 million people in need of food are- sistance, however there are “sever logistical difficulties” preventing aid says Tim Shelnik, spokesman for Doctors Without Borders.

Massive damage in infrastructure has been sustained. With 4,631 homes damaged, 287 were destroyed in the storm. “In Guiuan town, every single roof has been blown off in a town of 45,000 inhabitants,” says emer- gency coordinator Dr. Natasha Reyes of Doctors Without Borders. “Half of the city’s hospital has been destroyed— no roof, destroyed electricity equipment… The wind de- stroyed the concrete.”

375,795 people have received aid through food dis- tribution and so far $81 million has been contributed by donors such as the UN and other private sector organi- zations. If you would like to donate to the cause you can donate through Doctors Without Borders on their website, or text REDCROSS to 90999 to give $10 to the Red Cross Disaster Relief.
Digging Deeper into Obamacare

Carolyn Janecek

The dispute over defunding Obamacare has gotten out of hand. The situation has many citizens asking, “Why would anyone oppose a law that would make our health care environment more conducive for everyone to enjoy?” Few citizens know the reasoning behind the GOP’s adamant stance in resistance to the legislation and why they continue voting against it.

The immediate grievance conservatives have in opposition to Obamacare is the question of its constitutionality, concerning a section of the legislation that mandates individuals and business be required to purchase healthcare. If one does not want to buy healthcare, they must pay a fine called the Individual Mandate. In 2014, this tax can be $95 per adult or 1% of income, whichever is higher. The Individual Mandate also increases every year by 2016 it will cost nearly $700 per citizen or 2.5% of income to opt out of health insurance. The real question is can the government force the public to buy a product? The Commerce Clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution) gives the government power to regulate interstate commerce. In this situation, the question is if the government is not regulating the purchase of healthcare, but is requiring the purchase.

Obamacare was declared unconstitutional on June 28, 2012 in the Supreme Court case National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius by ruling the Individual Mandate is a tax, which would be within the Federal Government’s legal ability. There are multiple reasons why Republicans continue to vote against this legislation even though it was deemed Constitutional. Numerous Republicans feel there is still doubt in the ruling, as the definition of a tax is, “A compulsory contribution to state revenue, levied by the government on workers’ income and business income added to the cost of goods, services, and transactions.”

The Individual Mandate is neither an income tax, nor is it being added to the cost of a service. The individual paying the mandate is actually refusing a service. The thought process behind the Republican’s opposition is that the legislation is so disputable, even if the Supreme Court must try to make it work, it is by a stretch.

A more conservative reason for opposing Obamacare is the fact that the population hit the hardest financially will be young insurance-ineligible people who have established their own home and have the least need for healthcare. These young people, still paying off their student loans, will be the ones supporting the bulk of the legislation, and are deemed Constitutionally unconstitutional by ruling constitutional on June 28, 2012. If one does not wish to purchase healthcare, insurance companies may refuse to provide coverage for the individual. This may result in higher premiums on the healthcare. What’s more is that the average, working American family, citizens receiving welfare, and are under no obligation to present proof that they are, in fact, searching for a job. Obamacare focuses on covering the largest amount of people possible, rather than considering how it is all going to be paid for and who will be paying for it.

None of these arguments are flawed in theory. Although not identical, Obamacare’s goals are similar to socialized medicine. The Czech Republic, currently funded by Parliament, has a socialized healthcare system in the Supreme Court case which the Social-Democratic party, has a socialized healthcare system. The Czech Republic has one of the best infant mortality rates in the world, and the overall health of its citizens is higher than average within the European Union. The system sounds ideal, right? In reality, citizens are less likely to visit a doctor as a much-needed operation, and then receive less than mediocre care and it is not uncommon for doctors to accept bribes.

The GOP has its reasons for opposing Obamacare. Republicans, like members of any political party, will defend their stance. Although the debate has sent our nation into a tumult, in the end, that is the process of democracy.
CONSOLE WARS: ATTACK OF THE CLONES

The fan boy war between Xbox and PlayStation has increased in both hostility and mud throwing. Over the summer both Microsoft and Sony released new information about their new and improved gaming consoles. Both companies are claiming better graphics, better processing speeds, higher quality audio, and all of the stereotypical things the companies always promise with each new gaming console they release. Microsoft released their new product and improved gaming console with all of its features during the summer Las Vegas convention. Revealing the new rectangular shape of the Xbox One, as well as some of the features it will be supporting, caused an uproar with the Xbox fan boys. Microsoft announced that the Xbox One would require a “check-in” once every 24 hours with their servers to maintain game playing ability. Xbox One would no longer have programming within its system to play older games. Nostalgic players would have no capability to play their old favorite games, unless you keep your old outdated system. This also affects the Kinect, audio and video capture device, caused a dispute as well, as many people do not wish to pay for and own the Kinect (without $170.00 tacked to the Xbox One price). The Kinect is always on, thus providing Microsoft instant access to any audio or video within range of Kinect. According the User License and Agreements, you accept these terms when you use the Kinect. Microsoft has slowly released information about the new PlayStation 4. Sony may have taken the motto, “slowly but surely” a little too far. Sony held a two hour conference where they announced a new system, but never. Many PlayStation fan boys felt deceived, and with reason. Avid fans sat through the two hour meet- ing, only to receive meaningless information. Players were enraged and defiant according to posts on Reddit, Tumblr, and 4chan. Sony also revealed a non-compatible backwards playing system. Sony revealed their previously free service, PlayStation Network, would no longer be a non-gratis in their new PlayStation. This free service gave PlayStation fanboys a “one up” over Microsoft’s expensive Xbox Live service. Like a Brony coming out of the closet, the “new reveals” caught fan boys by surprise. Many fan boys have secretly switched sides or have taken up the habit of blindly internet post-fighting for their beloved system. All the disputing between the two gaming consoles giants, Sony and Microsoft, leaves an opening for Nintendo’s newest system, the Wii U to fight to the top.

Which Console is the best? Chris Chen

You are either an Xbox One fan or a PlayStation 4 fan. An Xbox One costs around $399 and a PlayStation 4 costs around $400. The PlayStation 4 had a rocky start. The DualShock controller for the PlayStation 4, had its button sticking out after a couple hours of gameplay, making it defective. Sony reported that 4% of their PlayStation4s are defective and many people who won a PlayStation 4 via the Taco Bell contest could not properly turn theirs on. However, many of the applications it provides are free such as Netflix and Hulu Plus. Xbox One does not provide these apps for free, asking their buyers to buy a Xbox Live Gold Subscription. A twelve-month subscription to Xbox Live costs around $60. The Xbox One is not compatible with any Xbox 360 game, leaving collectors in a shock. Many of the old school games can now only be played on an older system. According to IGN, a very popular gaming site, compared to the PlayStation 4, the Xbox One is less powerful with some performances have already been sold out. The address is 300 S. 1400 E. in Salt Lake City

Christmas is Quickly Approaching Scout Asay

A long-running tradition, A Christmas Carol is back this holiday season for its 29th year at the Hale Theater. A Christmas Carol is a stage adaption of Charles Dickens’s work of the same name. Incorporating a number of traditional Christmas songs, this play is not usually considered a musical: it is a play that happens to have some music in it. Performances will run Dec. 7 through Dec 24, with evening shows Monday through Saturday, and in addition, a matinee option on Saturday. Tickets are available, although some performances have already sold out. The address is 300 S. 1400 E. in Salt Lake City

The Nutcracker, another traditional holiday performance in the Salt Lake region, returned Nov. 30. There are performances nearly every day of December, aside from Christmas day and a few others, and the show does not close until Dec. 29. The show is 2 hours long. The performances is Salt Lake as well as Ogden, but due to the renovations at Capitol Theater, the Salt Lake performances will be at Kingsbury Hall.

First, they narrowed the investigation down to four suspects: the decorator who had designed the exhibit, the carpenter and electrician who had worked on the grotto last night, and the night watchman. The defender, electrician, and carpenter each said he’d been the first to leave. The police were left wondering who had planted the bomb and then turned off the bright lights required for their work. The watchman was no help. He said he’d been on the midnight to 8 AM shift, that he’d made his regular rounds, and that when he’d arrived the store had been dark except for the dim nightlights, so dim he’d had to use his flashlight. The police were stunned until my cousin Phoebe came along. She’d been wandering around the store and, after seeing the crowd clustered at the Blue Grotto exhibit, asked a few questions, examined the sled, and acquired the information you have, on the basis of which she told the police who had planted the bomb.

Who was it? Andy Widdicombe

Widdicombe said, “Ah!” and had no further questions when Sloppentropper showed up. Many fan boys by surprise. A Brony coming out of the closet, the “new reveals” caught fan boys by surprise. Many fan boys have secretly switched sides or have taken up the habit of blindly internet post-fighting for their beloved system. All the disputing between the two gaming consoles giants, Sony and Microsoft, leaves an opening for Nintendo’s newest system, the Wii U to fight to the top.

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Despite the costs, the Xbox One can also be better in some ways. The Kinect, part of the system, can capture and place your personal facial expressions in the game, allowing you to feel like you are in the game. You can also stream their games or watch the games from other broadcasters using Twitch, a live stream website. Using the voice-activated technology on the Xbox One, you can open Netflix just by saying the name. Which is better? The choice is up to the buyer.
“Wishing You Existance”

The holiday season is nearing; the trees are dripping with lights, Target is selling pine-scented Febreze, and all of the greeting cards are blank.

During the month of December there is an unpleasant clashing of religious holidays such as Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanza, and the ever-elusive Boxing Day. Not many people are aware the United States Congress annually votes on what phrases will be acceptable to use during this controversial season.

“Happy Holidays” did not pass the rigorous series of tests this year. It was concluded that any Jehovah’s Witnesses or atheists would run screaming if they heard the vulgar greeting one more time. Alternative drafts were outlined promptly:
• “Merry December” was the first to go, because the few people who follow the Roman calendar do not believe in December.
• “Jolly Winter” was quickly tossed as well; the entire southern hemisphere would be appalled.
• “Happy Existence” was almost passed, until a Nihilist in the crowd objected, expressing quite angrily that existence has no meaning and therefore cannot be described with such an arbitrary term as “happy.” There was an awkward silence amongst the representatives, and the nearly finalized papers were revised to read, “Wishing you existence.”

The bill was signed, but soon the administration began receiving angry and threatening tweets about the change, all reading, “There is no such thing as existence. It’s only our warped perceptions and inflated egos that lead us to believe that we have the privilege to exist.”

The change was recalled, and it was ruled that no matter what you say, you will offend someone. You are advised to remain silent and come off as rude, rather than politically incorrect.