

Monetary system relies on our faith

By Calvin Petersen

Money is a simple concept. Almost any five-year-old knows what it is and something of how to use it. However, it is also an abstract social/psychological construct that has become increasingly difficult to pin down. Consider the cash in your wallet. It is intrinsically almost worthless, deriving none of its value from the paper, fiber, or ink from which it is made, and it cannot be redeemed for gold, silver, or anything else of intrinsic value at any government agency or financial institution. In short, "money" only exists by social consensus and common acceptance of its value, and what "it" is has even become unclear.

Like many people today, I receive my monthly income through direct deposit. I make most of my purchases by credit card and send "checks" from my online account — most of which are balance transfers requiring no exchange of legal tender or other paper. Thus, my "money" mostly reduces to information stored and exchanged electronically, and it has almost nothing to do with anything physically "real," unless it is exchanged for such.

This is, of course, very different than in previous generations when money constituted gold or silver coins and bills such as "silver certificates," which could be redeemed for silver dollars. Money having intrinsic value or backed by precious metals may have provided people with a sense of security over that of our current fiat system of valuing money. However, gold, silver, and bimetal standards had many drawbacks, including the fact that one cannot eat metal during wartime or famine, and as we are currently seeing with the copper penny, the cost of manufacture may exceed its worth. Furthermore, had the five-dollar gold piece or silver dollar remained in circulation, they would have undoubtedly mostly been melted down by now.

A major problem with our current monetary system is

Petersen



Man enough?

Stereotypes changing in a predominantly female career



Nursing students Tyler Crookston and Barry Boyce agree they feel comfortable in their nursing classes - which are 95 percent female.

An nursing student at Utah State University said he doesn't get too much harassment for being in the nursing program - except when his brothers come around. "One is wanting to be a doctor and he says I could come work for him and be his nurse," said Barry Boyce, first-year nursing student. "I said, 'You won't be able to pay me enough.'"

Boyce said he believes male nurses from 40 years ago were more hounded for choosing such a female dominated field. But that's changing.

"Nursing isn't just for women anymore," Boyce said. About 5 percent of nurses in the nation - as well as in the USU program coordinated through Weber State University - are male. Jon Kelly, who has been in the nursing career for about 15 years, said the old Hollywood stereotype of female-only nurses doesn't represent what's really out there. Kelly, assistant professor at USU for WSU, said a Johnson & Johnson poster put it well by stating, "Are you man enough to be a nurse?"

Believing nursing is only a field for women limits opportunities to patients and to anyone in the nursing field, said Brenda Cooper, director of women and gender studies at USU. This limiting crosses over into professions such as nurses or elementary teachers, which are traditionally female-dominated careers.

On the other hand, women struggle to get into traditionally male-dominated fields like coal mining and construction.

"I don't want to be a coal miner," Cooper said. "But if someone wants to, they should be able to."

Other stereotypes reinforce the idea that it's unusual to see stay-at-home-dads, Cooper said. The traditional expectation is for men to have careers instead of taking care of kids.

"There is not a shred of scientific evidence that women are born with a nurturing gene and men are not," Cooper said.

Instead, it's just the way culture has cultivated us to think. So, when a male college student wants to become a nurse, Cooper said mainstream culture needs to step

out of traditional stereotyping and accept males into female-dominated fields.

During the 1990s, Cooper said she knew a male nurse who said his job was tough because women nurses ostracized him. Other patients didn't want him to take care of them. At times, women expressed they didn't like having him for a nurse, Cooper said, and male patients would outright refuse to be helped by the male nursing student - something Cooper contributes to homophobia.

"He loved his career but he felt it was tough," she said. "There are still pockets of areas where people say, 'This job is for men, this job is for women.'"

One stereotype of male nurses is the "not enough ambition" stereotype.

See NURSES on C2



Story by Brittny Goodsell - Photos by Eli Lucero

See PETERSEN on C2

Study: Basic checklist cut surgical deaths in half

By The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Scrawl on the patient with a permanent marker to show where the surgeon should cut. Ask the person's name to make sure you have the right patient. Count sponges to make sure you didn't leave any inside the body.

Doctors worldwide who followed a checklist of steps like these cut the death rate from surgery almost in half and complications by more than a third in a large international study of how to avoid blatant operating room mistakes.

The results — most dramatic in developing countries — startled the researchers.

"It was blown away," said Dr. Atul Gawande, a Harvard surgeon and medical journalist who led the study, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

U.S. hospitals have been required since 2004 to take some of these precautions. But the 19-item checklist used in the study was far more detailed than what

is required or what many institutions do.

The researchers estimated that implementing the longer checklist in all U.S. operating rooms would save at least \$15 billion a year.

"Most of these things happen most of the time for most patients, but we need to make it so that all these things happen all the time for all patients, because each slip represents an opportunity for harm," said Dr. Alex Haynes of the Harvard School of Public Health, one of the study's authors.

The checklist was developed by the World Health Organization and includes measures such as these:

- Before the patient is given anesthesia, make sure the part of the body to be operated on is marked, and make sure everyone on the surgical team knows if the patient has an allergy.
- Before the surgeons cut, make sure everyone in the operating room knows one another and what their roles will be during the operation, and confirm

that all the needed X-rays and scan images are in the room.

- After surgery, check that all the needles, sponges and instruments are accounted for.

That checklist was tested in 2007-08 in eight cities around the world: Seattle; Toronto; London; New Delhi; Auckland; New Zealand; Amman, Jordan; Manila, Philippines; and Ifakara, Tanzania. (Heart and pediatric cases were excluded.)

Before the checklist was introduced, 1.5 percent of patients in a comparison group died within 30 days of surgery at the eight hospitals. Afterward, the rate dropped to 0.8 percent — a 47 percent decrease.

The biggest decreases were in developing countries, with the combined death rate for Jordan, India, Tanzania and the Philippines falling 52 percent. There was no significant difference in deaths in the wealthiest countries.

Overall, major complications dropped from 11 percent to 7 percent. Again, the biggest decreases were in the lower-

income countries.

"What we're seeing is the benefits of good team work and coordinated care," Haynes said.

The results were so dramatic that Dr. Peter Pronovost, a Johns Hopkins University doctor who proved in a highly influential study a few years ago that checklists could cut infection rates from intravenous tubes, said he was skeptical of the findings.

One possible flaw, he said, is that "you had people who bought into the system collecting their own data."

The researchers acknowledged it is possible that the results were partly because people perform better when they know they're being watched.

However, the 19-point checklist is already being adopted. Ireland, Jordan, the Philippines and Britain have recently established nationwide programs to have the checklist used in all operating rooms.

In the U.S., the Joint Commission, which accredits most hospitals and sets standards

for them, said it is considering adopting more of the steps. The agency already requires three of them, including marking the incision site and pausing before surgery to make sure everything is in place.

At least one patient in the study at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle welcomed the checklist.

Darrell McDonald, 63, had a hernia operation in March. A longtime bush pilot in Alaska, he followed a checklist before every takeoff, including checking the controls and walking around the propeller-driven plane "to make sure nothing is getting ready to fall off."

So McDonald was fine with his doctor writing on his body where the incision would be. He had no problems with repeated inquiries about who he was and why he was there. He applauded measures such as a poster-size checklist hanging from an IV pole in the operating room.

"It eliminates the little bit that could possibly go wrong," he said.

Inspection reports from peanut plant varied widely

By The Associated Press

BLAKELY, Ga. (AP) — A Georgia health inspector who toured the peanut butter plant now at the center of a national salmonella outbreak noted only two minor violations in October. Less than three months later, federal inspectors found roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitation problems.

Food safety experts say the lapse is a major concern and shows state inspectors are spread thin and might need more training on how to spot unsanitary conditions.

"It's surprising to me that that many major deficiencies were not observed at one time, and none of these were picked up previously," said Michael Doyle, head of the food safety center at the University of Georgia.

In October, state inspector Donna Adams noted only two violations in her

report on the Peanut Corp. of America plant: tote containers with butter residue and "black butch" and "mildew and possibly some static dust on ceiling of butter storage room."

No samples of the finished product were taken for salmonella testing during the October inspection, despite a push by the state to check for the bacteria after a salmonella outbreak was traced to another Georgia peanut butter plant in 2007.

The October report showing only minor violations seems to conflict with conditions observed by at least one former employee, though others said they saw no problems.

Jonathan Prather, who said he worked in the plant's peanut butter room until he and most of the plant's other employees were recently laid off, said he sometimes saw old and soggy peanuts



AP Photo
An Early County Sheriff's car sits parked in front of the Peanut Corporation of America processing plant in Blakely, Ga., in January. In the face of a national salmonella outbreak, Peanut Corporation of America is voluntarily recalling all peanuts and peanut products processed in its Blakely facility since Jan. 1, 2007.

being used and other unsanitary conditions. When he raised concerns about the plant's cleanliness, Prather said he was ignored by managers.

"The only thing they

said is, 'We'll handle this, we'll handle the problem,'" he said. "But I don't see that they did because if they had, none of this would have happened."

Another former employee, Jimmy Boozer, said he worked at the plant for six years and never noticed any unsanitary conditions. Co-worker Lewis Smith, who had

been working at the plant for about two years, said the plant appeared generally clean. One problem Smith noticed was a roof that leaked for months and continued to leak even after plant managers said it had been repaired.

A leaky roof would likely cause some concern for inspectors: After the 2007 salmonella outbreak was linked to a Georgia peanut butter plant operated by ConAgra Foods Inc., company officials said jars were contaminated when moisture from a roof leak and a malfunctioning sprinkler system mixed with dominant salmonella bacteria in the plant.

Adams, who inspected the plant twice last year, did not come to the door to speak to a reporter who visited her home in southwestern Georgia. A man who identified himself as her husband referred all questions to the state.

Petersen Nurses

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that it depends on faith in a time when government and private financial institutions have been guilty of bad faith. The "get-rich-quick" mentality that has led to getting people into mortgages they could not possibly afford and easy credit card debt that slides into user before default are primary examples. The creation of highly speculative financial instruments for private and institutional investment that almost no one understood have also been implicated as causes of our current financial meltdown.

There are undoubtedly a multitude of reasons for such dishonest and destructive fiscal policies, but as money seems to have become ever less "real," perhaps there has been a declining sense of responsibility for how we acquire it and what we do with it.

Calvin R. Petersen, Ph.D., is a psychologist in private practice with LifeSpan Mental Health Services.

Happenings

Hester Pryme will perform with Whisteria Cottage, and Hell Following With and The Elephant Gun (death metal/crunk/hardcore) at 8 p.m. Wednesday at Why Sound, 30 Federal Ave., Logan. Cover charge is \$6. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/whysound or e-mail info@whysound.com.

The Cache Valley Historical Society will host a **discussion with Randy Williams and Barbara Middleton** titled "Oral Histories from Logan Canyon" at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Room 840 at the Bridgerland Applied Technology College (enter the building from the main entrance on the east side). The society will also recognize its two scholarship recipients, Kandice Newren and Jami Van Huss. For more information, contact Kent Christensen at 753-0103.

Clio Club will meet at the home of Janice Shousen at 1 p.m. Wednesday. Janice will also present the program.

The Bear River Area Agency on Aging will host a "Maintain Your Brain" meeting the first Wednesday of each month starting Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. in

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"If a woman's a nurse there's not that expectation of, 'Well, why didn't you go further?'" Cooper said.

With a guy, there is that expectation. Quinn Lish, second-year male nursing student, said his reaction from family and friends were positive and affirming while reactions from random acquaintances were different.

"They were engineers or construction workers, just with different mind sets," Lish said. "A few were like, 'Really, nursing? Why?'"

With a baby-boom generation of nurses retiring, a demand for nurses is even higher and Lish thinks male nurses will continue to be highly accepted in this field.

"Yes, it's predominately women but it's becoming more acceptable to be a male nurse," Lish said. "I think we need more male nurses because we have a lot to offer. We add diversity to the field."

Tyler Crookston, first-year nursing student, said his family was impressed when he chose nursing as a career. They knew it's a difficult line of work since Crookston has an aunt who is a nurse.

"It's a stressful program," Crookston said. "It's not a walk in the park."

When Crookston received his nursing school letter of acceptance, a list of books to buy was included. The list stated Crookston should bring a friend to carry all the books out since one person couldn't do it alone.

"I thought they were joking but they weren't," he said.

It's just one way to show the intensity of the nursing program through WSU - and that

is a challenging field for women and men.

Kelly said many nursing students go on to receive a bachelor of science in nursing.

Crookston, who hasn't decided on a specific nursing area yet, feels awkward when people call him a male nurse.

"They're not pointing out if there are female nurses as well," the first-year student said. "Whether you are a guy or a woman you are there to help patients."

Jody Reese, assistant professor at USU's nursing program, has been in the nursing

“Today I think there is far greater acceptance or recognition that men can be compassionate, can be understanding and are interested in the welfare of others.”

— Jody Reese, Assistant professor, USU's nursing program

field for 15 years and has seen a change in public thinking.

"I think one of the biggest differences really has been that in the past it's been harder for people to accept that men could be interested in learning how to care for people," Reese said. "But today I think there is far greater acceptance or recognition that men can be compassionate, can be understanding and are interested in the welfare of others."

Reese said nursing is holistic in nature; nursing is looking at the whole person rather than looking at one aspect. He teaches his students to be nurses, not male or female nurses.

the large conference room at BRAG (east entrance of the building). This meeting is for the Utah Alzheimer's Association's innovative project that involves doing something proactive and preventative regarding dementia. For more information, call 752-7242 or e-mail allisonr@brag.utah.gov.

The **USU Department of English Speakers Series** will continue with associate professor Phebe Jensen, who will present "Religion and Revelry in Shakespeare's Festive World" at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday in USU's Haight Alumni Center. Admission is free and everyone is invited.

For more information, call 797-3858 or e-mail marina.hall@usu.edu.

A **Quarterly Arts Summit** will take place at noon Wednesday at the Bullen Center, 43 S. Main. In this forum, those who plan arts events meet to coordinate their calendars, share best practices and discuss issues of common concern. Everyone is invited. For more information, contact Tricia at 753-6181 ext. 11 or thancock@CenterForTheArts.us.

A **Backcountry Awareness Expo** will take place from 6 to

9 p.m. Wednesday at Plaza 255 (255 S. Main, behind Blackstone Restaurant). Booths will be presented by the area's backcountry experts showcasing the latest safety products as well as basic training in CPR, the use of avalanche equipment, maps, avalanche forecasting and more. Admission is free.

Cache Valley Transit District General Manager **Todd Beutler** will speak at the Logan Kiwanis Club meeting at noon Wednesday at The Copper Mill Restaurant. For more information, contact Curtis Roberts at 563-0618 or 713-6963.

Free vouchers for mammograms and low-or-no-cost breast and cervical cancer screenings are available to women ages 40 to 64 who qualify. Screenings will be held, by appointment, between 8 and 11 a.m. Thursday. To schedule your visit or find out if you qualify, call 792-6500.

Neighborhood Non-profit Housing and its Self-Help participants will celebrate the completion of the 150th **Mutual Self Help Housing** home from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday in the Shadow Crest Sub-division at 2600 S. 1000

West, Nibley. Look for the "Open House" signs.

The Northern Utah Woman's Council of Realtors will host a **business luncheon** at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at the Iron Gate Grill, 517 W. 100 North, Providence. Topic will be "Technology will be the Trade." Cost is \$13 for members or \$20 for guests. RSVP to Valerie Hall at 753-5978 ext. 225 or valerie_hall@countrywide.com.

A **Master Gardener Program** has been scheduled in Cache County starting Thursday. This is a 40- to 50-hour course for \$95 that offers in-depth training in multiple subjects so Master Gardeners can better serve the public.

ACTION!
Cinefour
Tronators
2297 N. MAIN
MOVIE HOTLINE 753-4444
ALL SEAT BY THE TIMES 12:00
WE OPEN UP AT 12:00 AM FOR MATINEES
NO FOR OR MATINEE SHOWINGS ON SUNDAY

AUSTRALIA (PG-13) 8:20	TALE OF DESPEREAUX (G) 4:20 & 6:20 Sat Mar 12:10 & 2:20
BOLT (PG) 4:10 & 6:10 Sat Mar 12:10 & 2:10	MADAGASCAR 2 (PG) 4:00 & 6:00 Sat Mar 12:30 & 2:00
YES MAN (PG-13) 7:43 & 9:55	TWILIGHT (PG-13) 5:00, 7:30 & 10:00 Sat Mar 12:05 & 2:30
BEN BUTTON (PG-13) 8:10	

lic. Each participant is required to complete 40 hours of community service. For more information, call the Cache County Extension Office at 752-6263.

Utah State University Aggie Cat Services will host a **community education presentation** from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12, at St. John's Episcopal Church's Champ Hall, 85 E. 100 North, Logan. This event will feature a slide-show update on progress in cat-popula-

tion control and news about plans for upcoming expansion. There will also be a surprise guest to share perspectives from the wider community. Admission is free and everyone is invited. For more information, call 752-1298.

During the **AARP meeting** this week, participants will watch slides of a humantarian trip taken by a local couple. Come Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center, 236 N. 100 East.

FEBRUARY 1-5 • HOT LINE 435-753-1900

UNIVERSITY STADIUM 6 Midnight Shows University Stadium 6 Every Friday & Saturday Only \$5.50 1225 N. 200 E., Behind Home Depot	STADIUM 8 535 W. 100 N., Providence
Gran Torino (R) 1:20 4:10 6:45 9:20	Taken (PG-13) 1:10 3:10 5:10 7:10 9:10
Bride Wars (PG) 1:10 3:10 5:10 7:10 9:10	Underworld 3 (PG-13) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15
Uninvited (PG-13) 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15	Last Chance Harvey (PG-13) 12:40 2:50 5:00 7:10 9:20
Taken PG-13 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	New In Town (PG-13) 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50
Inkheart (PG) 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30	Gran Torino (R) 1:00 4:10 6:55 9:25
Defiance (R) 1:00 3:45 6:25 9:05	Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
MOVIES STADIUM 5 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00	Bedtime Stories (PG) 1:05 3:10
Marley and Me (PG) 4:15 6:45	Frost/Nixon (R) 6:45 9:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) 6:30 9:00	Inkheart (PG) 1:05 3:10 5:15 7:20 9:25
Valkyrie (PG-13) 4:10 7:05	LOGAN ART CINEMA 795 North Main All Tickets \$5.50 with Student ID BEST PICTURE GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER Slumdog Millionaire (R) 7:00 9:20 • SUN 4:30
Bedtime Stories (PG-13) 4:25 6:55	
Hotel for Dogs (PG) 4:20 7:10	

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