

Brandon Payne

Observation Essay

EN 1010, 2A

October 8th, 2015

Salt Lake City

It was a gloomy day in Salt Lake. The rain had just stopped and the famous inversion that the Salt Lake valley is known for was thick. There was a cold breeze on the left half of my face as I rolled the window down and smelt the strong smell of wet asphalt. I took a less familiar route into the city. Small, one level brick houses past us on both sides as we drove along. We drove past a gas station where a homeless man in a brown leather coat laid on the grass. I have a high opinion of Salt Lake but the homelessness seemed to be an unsolved problem. Local government has taken no action and I just drive by and do the same. I take no action. My sympathy is gone as fast as it came and I hate myself for it.

We took a short stop at Temple Square which is quite literally the central point of all of Utah. All addresses are relative to the temple. It was my first time going and I had no previous knowledge of the large fence that separated it from the rest of the city. We didn't go inside but I did get to take a long look at how beautiful the temple really is. The tall white structure with several peaks and large windows looked sadder than usual. The dark sky and rain had made the building gloomy and non-aesthetically pleasing. Being a non mormon in the state of Utah is socially challenging. The LDS church gives Utah's reputation the the entire world and many people refuse to visit. The church gives off a narcissistic reputation. Many people around the United States believe that they are unaccepting of others and are caught up in their own religion. Personally I am happy to have the church in Utah. I take no interest in it but I see all the happy

people around me, walking the streets. They all have a sense of community with the church and if the people around me are happy, then so am I.

Figure 1. Going from left to right: *Utah Capitol Building, behind the two black buildings is the LDS Temple*

Utah is naturally one of the most beautiful places on earth. In figure 1 you can see the gorgeous light cast against the mountains and building sides. Many people believe all of Utah is a desert, but the cities' vegetation grows throughout the valley. Salt Lake City is one incredible view.

Driving along I began to notice an excessive amount of people walking the streets. I noticed their costumes and stereotypical features. The huge event Comic Con was in town. Every nerd in the state was on their way to see their favorite superheros. My companion and I



quickly parked and began to walk along with them like sheep in a herd. The wild and flashy costumes would catch my eye as we walked down the street, but of the most wild was the individual in the large dinosaur suit. It was extremely large and I questioned if there was anyone

even in there. It walked along the sidewalk like it was just another person. I would imagine to myself it consuming every being near it and wreaking havoc in the city, but then I would think to myself, it's just a costume. Following the herd of people, we ended up at the Salt Palace where the event was taking place. Outside stood to larger than life statues of big, green, ugly trolls. One with a wooden bat and the other with bow. In front of that stood the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. A 2016 chrome Audi R8. I walked around the car dumbstruck with my jaw hanging down. After much convincing my friend got me away from the car and we walked up the stairs to the entrance. We were denied in because of course we didn't have a ticket. We slowly made our way back to the car, making jokes and puns about the people that went by.

We decided to take a late lunch at Litzas Pizzas. A childhood destination which made me nostalgic. We found a parking meter near by to which I placed two shiny quarters into the old, worn down machine. As we walked inside I immediately noticed something different. The human brain is exceptional in seeing change and I saw it right away. The entire restaurant had been remodeled and my childhood memories were beginning to fade away. The new and improved interior had a modern New York like style with dark oak walls and creative wallpapers. I was saddened to see the change, but it was a good change. We sat down right away which is unusual for a busy place like that. I didn't waste any time looking at the menu and I ordered a medium cheese pizza and asked for extra blue cheese dressing. We had a lot of conversation, that until the food arrived. On a large silver platter placed among a rusty wire pedestal stood the most delicious cheese pizza I had ever seen. There was little to no conversation after it had arrived. The only sounds to be heard was the gobbling down of the food in front of us. As I held that golden slice in front of me, the deep orange grease dripped off

the tip onto my plate. It wasn't long after we asked for the check and headed out to our next destination. The Energy Solutions Arena.

We made it to our final stop. Home of the Utah Jazz; the only major league team in the entire state. I have fond memories of the team and I have a huge personal passion for the game of basketball. We walked along the side of the building to find the entrance. We passed the legendary bronze statues of John Stockton and Karl Malone. Our tickets were signed by a tall, skinny man whose hair had turned of a pure white from old age. As I walked in the door I looked up and exhaled, ready for this next NBA season. People walked past me at a fast pace trying to get to their seats. Alec and I took a pitstop in the Fanz store where we checked out new merchandise. We eventually made it up the black and yellow escalator and walked along the shiny cement floor towards our seat. Through portal GG up the stairs to row sixteen, seats eleven and twelve. I sat down and took a long look at the court hundreds of feet in front of me. It glowed against the light and the big Utah Jazz symbol in the middle glistened. When the game started I was locked in, focused on the game. I picked apart plays in my head and cheered minimally. It was late by the time the game was over. I was already used to constant losses so it was no disappointment when they did. I kept my head up as we began to leave. Getting on the freeway leaving the city, I look back at the day I spent and smile.

The reputation does not give justice to the great people of Salt Lake City. It's bad homelessness problem and overall isolation of people that are not involved with the church is overpowered by the good and purity the city has to offer. Salt Lake City is a place of good will and hard work. Of my seventeen years of living and my small road trip through the city, I can confidently say I am proud to live in such a great city. The people of Salt Lake are genuine and

kind. The history of Salt Lake dates back to the 1800's. Salt Lake City is one incredible location and I would recommend a trip here to any type of person.

Works Cited

"25 Reasons To Move To Salt Lake City And Live There - Movoto." *Movoto Blog 25 Reasons To Move To Salt Lake City Comments*. Ed. David Cross. Movoto Blog, 9 Sept. 2013. Web. 07 Oct. 2015.

The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Salt Lake City | Utah, United States." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2015.