

# THE GLOBE



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JUNE 27, 2012  
ISSUE 4 / SUMMER '12

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## MENTAL MARATHON

## SLCC Community Writing Center hosts tenth annual Wasatch Iron Pen competition

Julie Hirschi  
Staff Reporter

The tenth annual Wasatch Iron Pen competition was hosted by the Community Writing Center during the Utah Arts Festival at Library Square June 22 and 23. This event, much like a running marathon, tested the limits of each competitor but this competition required brains rather than brawn. The Wasatch Iron Pen is a 24-hour

writing marathon where writers can either compete in one of three categories —fiction, non-fiction or poetry—or the Ultra Iron Pen in which participants write in all three genres.

“[The Iron Pen] is always a nice intense experience,” said Donnae Marie Tidwell, First place winner in the Ultra Iron Pen marathon. “It’s always a challenge and it was funny this year, sometimes my life is more like fiction than non-fiction. It’s a great adventure.”

### Community Writing Center’s gigantic magnetic poetry board

Some writers wrote all night, while others were up until midnight writing varied lengths of stories. The challenge was to write as much and for as long as possible in the 24 hour period. Everything was to be hand written without the aid of a computer or electronics.

Participants in the event were from all age groups throughout the community. A writing prompt was given at 6 p.m. on Friday and writers had until 6 p.m. on Saturday to turn in their submissions. They all had to use the prompt and incorporate it into their story.

“I thought of the prompt of someone holding up the [Utah] license plate with the picture of the delicate arch against the real delicate arch [in the background]

and I just thought about comparing a picture to real life experiences so I wrote about that,” said Aubrey Nyberg, first place winner in the Ultra Iron Pen Youth division.

The winners of the competition read their stories and poems in front of an audience at the Big Mouth Stage during the Utah Arts Festival. Some stories were about road trips while others told of family and loss. All had elements of the prompt of either the Delicate Arch or the Utah License plate.

The judges of the competition were from the literary community, such as Quarterly West and Sugarhouse Review. Contestants were judged in either adult or

CWC/ continued on page A3

## The Martial Arts club welcomes all fighting styles

Stephen Romney  
Staff Reporter

There is a new Salt Lake Community College club for martial arts enthusiasts of any skill level, or just people who want to learn more about the art.

The new “Martial Arts Club” is not SLCC’s first or only club that is dedicated to the martial arts, but unlike the Capoeira and Taekwondo clubs, it isn’t focused on a single style.

“It’s a club where people can come in and practice their skills against other types of the martial arts,” said Martial Arts Club president Shane Green. “With our club, you don’t have to be taking any martial arts class currently; you don’t even have to have martial arts training; we welcome all styles.”

The young club is still in the process of finding a rhythm to their activities, but they have participated in events at the college, most notably during the Date Rape Awareness Expo in April. At the event, the Martial Arts Club demonstrated self-defense techniques in coordination with mixed martial arts instructor Max Weiss.

“I’d really like to see a wide variety of martial competition,” said club vice-president Wayne Gold. “Maybe we’re a group that someone who liked to wrestle in high school would like to join, practice their wrestling and perhaps go to a competition where other colleges have a wrestling team.”

Like any club, the struggle for dedicated members is challenging. Rather than cater to the elitist, this club is built on a foundation of diversity, unity and the pursuit of knowledge.

“If you were only taking Kung Fu and practice only against Kung Fu, you’d be great at defending against Kung Fu,” said Green. “But if someone comes up with Kempo, it’s a different style.”

Currently, the club is taking a break for the summer, but during Fall and Spring semesters, the club meets at the Lifetime Activities Center on Fridays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in LAC 163.

“We’re supposed to be working them [DECA] again on another event,” Green said. “We’re a pretty new club, so we’re still trying to structure it out a little bit. I want to see this club grow.”



Photo by Stephen Romney

Club vice-president Wayne Gold, club president Shane Green, and member Lauren Rowell wear t-shirts designed by advisor Jared Wright.

## Play games to pay tuition

Katie Alvarez  
Contributing Writer

Cash-strapped students can now turn hours spent gaming online into educational grants and philanthropic donations with recently introduced “Granttoo.”

Granttoo.org is a free online gaming platform that provides college students with a way to play online games to win educational grants and donations for charities.

“I don’t play a ton of video games, but it would be worth it to win some tuition money,” said SLCC student Nick Crawford. “And I’d be willing to spend some time gaming to help a cause.”

Granttoo tournaments are open to any student with an email address ending in .edu from any college across the nation. The contenders can receive educational grants by winning tournaments in a variety of games.

Granttoo also gives students the opportunity to contribute to charities without cutting into their coffee budget. Before the game begins, participants pledge

Games/ continued on page A4



STUDENT EVENTS

WED/27

THURS/28

FRI/29

SAT/30

MON/2

TUE/3

Submit student events to [calendar.globe@slcc.edu](mailto:calendar.globe@slcc.edu)  
Visit [slcc.edu/campusevents/calendar.asp](http://slcc.edu/campusevents/calendar.asp)  
for more student events



Each week a different picture from an SLCC campus will be featured. If you know the location and campus of this week's featured picture, enter to win a prize by emailing your answer to [contest.globe@slcc.edu](mailto:contest.globe@slcc.edu).

Deadline for entries is Tuesday June 26.

Entrants may only win once per semester. Mass Communication staff and SLCC faculty are not eligible to win.

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The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0523

ACROSS

1 Best Picture of 2005

6 Homework-time prohibition

10 Vow words

13 1978 Nicolette Larson hit "\_\_\_ Love"

14 To the back

16 Cook like the Colonel

17 John who's now a Sir

18 "The Fast and the Furious" co-star

20 Player of 36-/39-Across

22 Global conquest board game

23 Keanu Reeves's character in "The Matrix"

24 Fix, as a drive

28 So far

29 Place for a revolving ball, maybe

31 See 45-Across

32 Sitter's charge

33 Paddle

35 Grandma, affectionately

36 & 39 Jedi master first seen on 5/25/77

41 Tough guy

42 Scatter, as seed

44 Currency board abbr.

45 With 31-Across, favored weapon of 36-/39-Across

47 Father-and-son Hollywood duo

49 "Rock Center" network

52 Figured the price of

54 MGM roarer

55 Zhivago's love

56 Player of 36-/39-Across

59 Temporary transport from a garage

62 Pessimist's plaint

63 Not to mention

64 Gawk

65 Vice President John Garner's middle name

66 Crossed (out)

67 Not go for at all

68 What a napkin may catch

DOWN

1 Children's writer Beverly

2 Relief pitcher Fingers

3 Swear

4 Cattle, e.g.

5 Pend

6 Combatants at Trafalgar

7 River past Ciudad Bolívar

8 Home state of Andrew Johnson: Abbr.

9 See 53-Down

10 Hypothetical cases

11 Rap's Dr. \_\_\_

12 Castor \_\_\_ of the comics

15 Reacts to leaven

19 Univision interviews are conducted in it

21 The Colts retired his #19

25 Simple rhyme scheme

26 Caesar's "I came"

27 The "E" in B.C.E.

29 Styrofoam maker

30 Barrel material

32 Constrict

34 Blitz, in football

36 Answer to the old riddle "What's round on the sides and high in the middle?"

37 Perturbs

38 \_\_\_ pros. (court record abbr.)

40 Figs.

41 Mom's "healing touch"

43 World's largest retailer

46 Lauren of "The Love Boat"ance of Pontius Pilate, e.g.

49 1998 Winter Olympics site

50 Mile High player

51 OPEC, e.g.

53 With 9-Down, villain faced by 36-/39-Across

55 Renault model of the 1970s-'80s

57 Final Four org.

58 Watermelon hull

59 So-called "Gateway to the Pacific Rim," informally

60 Undivided

61 Put on

PUZZLE BY ERIC WILLIAMS

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COMMUNITY

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Art in the city

Kim Higley  
Staff Reporter

This past weekend, June 21-24, held at downtown’s Library Square, artist of every shape and size, every media and discipline gathered in force to celebrate Salt Lake City’s 36th annual Art’s Fest. Writers, musicians, dancers, painters and performance artists wowed the gathering crowds, and proved yet again that art really does live here, in our very own SLC. Participants in this years fest not only came from Salt Lake and

the surrounding areas, but from all over the world, with some artist coming in from as far off a Canada, Venezuela and Spain. This year’s festival presented more artists than ever before and included such events as writing competitions, film festivals, “how-to” art workshops, concerts and even a mini-festival just for the kiddos. For those of you who missed it, there is always next year’s festival, which is supposed to be even bigger. Look out New York; Salt Lake City is now the new home for art.



Celtic Folk band StoneCircle played for the captivated crowd Sunday at the Arts Festival.

Photo by Kim Higley



Photo by Kim Higley

Performance artists of all kind, including this stilted bird and rider from Dragon Knights Stilt Theatre, wow the crowd at this year’s Arts Festival.



Photo by Kim Higley

Above:  
Aaron Ashcraft of Salt Lake displays his pottery.  
Below:  
Dave Borba shows off his unique, interactive and hand sculpted art.



Photo by Kim Higley

CWC

continued from A1

youth categories. Prizes included books on writing, gift cards, flight lessons and a grand prize of Jazz season

pass tickets. “The thing that I love about the Iron Pen is that you never know what to expect,” said Andrea Malouf, Director of the CWC and Assistant Professor of English at SLCC. “The idea of writing under pressure for 24

hours was kind of the key. Working with writers, one of the biggest obstacles that a writer seems to face is their own inhibition. It becomes overwhelming. So an event like this where you’re just forced to do it in 24 hours where you have a prompt, it

gets people [writing].” Each year at the Utah Arts Festival the Mayor of Salt Lake City gives awards out to those who have contributed to the community and the arts. This year the CWC received the Mayor’s Artist Award for Service to the Arts by an Organization. It was presented in a ceremony during the Utah Arts Festival by Mayor Ralph Becker. The CWC provides service to the community by offering one-on-one coaching sessions, workshops and writing peer groups that help focus on civic, practical and personal types of writing. Examples of writing assistance they offer would be help in composing letters to state

officials, drafting a resume or writing a novel. Types of workshops at the CWC that were available free to the public during the Arts Festival were screen and songwriting, creating comic books, zombie survival guide, Timpanogos Storytelling and poetry writing. One of the main attractions to CWC during the festival was a giant magnet poetry board affixed to the doors where passersby were encouraged to create poetry. “I’ve worked with everyone from high ranking Iraqi diplomats to adults who are struggling with a first grade reading level and everything in between,” said Elisa Stone Associate

Director of CWC and an Associate Professor of English at SLCC about her work at the CWC. “After being a college professor for a while, it’s really been fulfilling. I learn along with the people I’m teaching.” Many of the writing assistant and mentor positions are staffed by volunteers from Americorp Volunteers in Service to America [VISTA] program as well as members throughout the community. Call 801-957-2192 or visit CWC online at [www.slcc.edu/cwc/](http://www.slcc.edu/cwc/) for more information about volunteering or getting involved in their writing programs and workshops.



Photo by Kim Higley

Winners of the CWC’s Iron Pen competition preformed their pieces at the SLC Arts festival on Sunday- Back row- L-R Wei Song, Austen Diamond, Donnae Marie Tidwell, Aubrey Nyberg Front Row L-R Maya Johnson, Hannah Pugh, Makala Slade

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COMMUNITY

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# New entrance fee for Twilight Concert Series

Lundon Bywater  
Contributing Writer

Every summer, many Salt Lake Community College students attend the Twilight Concert Series for the opportunity to hear artists’ new hits and old favorites free of charge. This year, the lineup is as impressive as ever, but there is one major change to the event. The Twilight Concert Series is no longer free. Now, for the first time in the event’s 25 year history, there is an entrance fee of \$5 per person.

“The \$5 charge was needed because the concert series became financially tough. [The fee’s purpose is] to make sure that people’s experience is good and to be able to have more artists come in.” said Twilight Concert Series programs director Casey

Jarman. “This year we have nine shows. Last year we only had seven and if we didn’t charge people to get in this year, we would have gone down to five shows.”

The Twilight Concert Series started 25 years ago when Jarman realized that few people could come during the day to the Living Traditions Festival. Jarman, who also produces for the Salt Lake City Arts Council, Living Traditions Festival and Brown Bag Concert Series conceived the idea of the Twilight Concert Series and turned it into a reality.

“We wanted something that was accessible, at the time free, and to give people an opportunity to experience performing arts.” Jarman said. “We started with two hundred people working with us on the first few years, and the Twilight Concert Series

was held first at the Salt Lake City Arts Center, then Gallivan Center, and now Pioneer Park.”

Jarman is proud of the Twilight Concert Series, but he is quick to point out that many other individuals and organizations should also feel proud for making the event a success over the years.

“Twilight concerts have a different feel, and for that people are proud of it,” Jarman said. “It’s a public gathering, it’s a progressive concert series, and it has become a tradition in Salt Lake City where people feel like it’s theirs, and it is.”

In early years, the Twilight Concert Series was paid for by sponsors and the Salt Lake City Arts Council program fund. Now, it’s largely up to Salt Lake City to keep the concerts going.

Although there is no student discount, 24tix.com does offer a deal. Tickets for all nine of this summer’s concerts are available for a lump sum of \$35, which is a \$10 savings.

Cash will be the only accepted form of payment at the gate. There will be ATM’s located at all the entrances at Pioneer Park, but with the concerts’ expected attendance, lines for the machines might prove to be a hassle.

The future of the Twilight Concert Series may have a lot hanging on how this year turns out.

“My goal is to make Twilight Concerts the best possible,” Jarman said. “There is a lot of potential, but we will see how it goes financially. I hope we are back here next year in Pioneer Park.”

The Twilight Concert Series takes place every Thursday from July 5 to Aug. 30 at Pioneer Park (400 South, 300 West). Gates open at 5:00 p.m.

This year’s Twilight Concert Series lineup:	
July 5	Beach House / The Walkmen
July 12	Raphael Saadiq / JJ Grey & Mofro
July 19	Nas / Tinie Tempah
July 26	Band of Horses / Lower Dens
Aug. 2	My Morning Jacket / Joshua James
Aug. 9	Passion Pit / Austra
Aug. 16	Iron and Wine / Kathleen Edwards
Aug. 23	M. Ward / DeVotchKa
Aug. 30	Common / Aloe Blacc

For more information on the Twilight Concert Series, visit their website at twilightconcertseries.com

# Fireworks in Utah

Kachina Choate  
Staff Reporter

With a number of fires already sparking up around Utah this June, July’s hot weather, holidays and fireworks are a dangerous combination. Governor Gary Herbert has asked Utah citizen’s to use common sense during this wildfire season. Last year was the first time that Utahns were able to legally buy what are referred to as cake fireworks, which shoot up to 150 feet into the air and have unlimited discharging time. This year it is important to know that the firework laws have changed again, but toward more restrictions rather than less. “As a result [of the more

permissive laws], it was quite a lengthy firework season,” said Unified Fire captain Cliff Burningham. “The legislature, in return, got many, many complaints from citizens during the legislative session that followed. Also the cities in different municipalities were inundated, as most fire departments and police agencies, with complaints these times and excessive use of fireworks,” This year House Bill 33 was passed. This bill states that fireworks can be discharged from July 1 through 7, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and on July 4 until midnight. They can also be set off on July 21 through July 27, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and until midnight on July 24. On Dec. 14, 2012 the Utah

State Forrester issued a statewide fire restriction because of the hostile fire conditions. As part of this restriction is important to remember that using open fires of any kind such as smoking, discharging fireworks, welding, using exploding targets or tracer bullets in dry areas are restricted areas it is prohibited. “We, as Utahns, really enjoy going up in the canyons and enjoy the out of doors,” said Burningham. “Under the restriction the state has placed, folks can still use campfire pits, but they have to be in designated campgrounds, picnic areas or approved fire pits. So going out and making your own fire pit is prohibited.” Failing to follow the firework or burning

What is important to remember is to use them safely. Captain Birmingham gave us some tips for safe use of fireworks.

- Fireworks are designed to be used outdoors, and that’s the only place they should be used.
- Only adults should light fireworks. They should not be used without the prsence of an adult.
- Have a noncombustible bucket of water nearby to dispose of fireworks.
- Make sure you have enough clearance for the cake fireworks. Don’t light them near trees or any overhangs buildings.
- Even when operating in the nonrestrictive areas use common sense and stay away from the dry areas such as fields and in other dry vegetation areas that might catch fire.
- It is recommend not to consume alcohol and light fireworks simultaneously because that’s dangerous.

restriction can result in a class B misdemeanor citation, which has about a \$500 fine associated with it. Citizens can be responsible for themselves. Knowledge and recognition of the guidelines helps keep people safe.

Generally speaking, if a firework is sold in Utah, it is probably legal to shoot off. There are fireworks that are illegal to use in Utah which are not sold in the state. “Please follow the guidelines and restrictions

that are in place,” said Burningham. “They are there to eliminate potential injuries, deaths and also the loss of personal property.” For more information about fire safety or fireworks in open burning restrictions visit [www.unifiedfire.org](http://www.unifiedfire.org).

# Games

continued from A1

between 10 percent and 100 percent of their winnings to a cause they care about. Although the minimum donation is 10 percent of winnings, most students have opted to pledge an average of 35 percent of their winnings and some students even donate 100 percent. The website offers three original games: a poker game called “Grantoo Hold ‘Em,” a crossword game called “Wordy Bird” and a trivia game called “Quiz Night.”

Small-scale tournaments are hosted daily, and larger tournaments are hosted every Sunday. Students from colleges and universities nationwide are eligible to play. Salt Lake Community College is currently ranked 151 out of all of the schools nationwide. Grantoo is the brainchild of Dimitri Sillam. In 2007, Sillam was struggling to pay his own student loans, and he came up with an idea to help relieve other college student’s tuition difficulties. Sillam later partnered with his best friend from high school, Mikhael Naayem, who brought the charity aspect into the mix.

By March of 2012, grantoo became reality. Grantoo partners with colleges and businesses nationwide, such as the University of Southern California and Verizon Wireless, to sponsor the online gaming tournaments. This gives companies an opportunity to gain favor from the student demographic by increasing the visibility of the company’s donations. There are seven different charitable causes to choose from when making a donation. These range from Pencils of Promise, an organization dedicated to building schools in developing countries, to

Engineers Without Borders. When a student wins, Grantoo sends a check for the pledged amount to the chosen charity. They will also send a check for the remainder of the winnings to the student’s college or university to go towards their tuition. To participate in a Grantoo tournament, a student must submit their name, college or university and college email address, and then create a user name and password. To find out when the next tournament will be held, users can view a countdown from the grantoo.org sign-in home page.

# Quick Wits

## Comedy Improv

### Free Show!

### Thursday, July 26, 7pm

Taylorsville Redwood Campus Student Events Center

Come catch Utah’s Best Improv Comedy Show, Quick Wits. Not even the actors know what will happen each night, but the laughs are guaranteed!



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# Honest Abe defends the Union with an ax

Patrick Cassell  
Staff Reporter

Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President of the United States, has been given mythic status which has grown over the years. This heroic treatment has never been so sharp in recent times as in “Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter.”

This movie is based on Seth Grahame-Smith's novel of the same title. Thankfully, he also wrote the screenplay. This means that the author's creative vision was probably not distorted much by the screen adaptation.

Graham-Smith is best known for taking classic novels and altering them to make them more exciting and interesting for the contemporary reader, such as with “Pride and Prejudice and Zombies,” his bestselling adaptation of the Jane Austen classic. In “Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter,” he took the legendary story of Abraham Lincoln, played by Benjamin Walker, and fictionalized it with the same goal in mind.

As hinted at in the trailer, Lincoln's mother, played by Robin McLeavy, is killed by a vampire when Lincoln is a child, which causes him

to grow up with a vengeful heart.

Lincoln's associates include, Will Johnson, a free African-American played by Anthony Mackie, Henry Sturgess, Lincoln's vampire hunting mentor played by Dominic Cooper, and Joshua Speed, a shopkeeper played by Jimmi Simpson.

As he learns to be a vampire hunter, Lincoln's mentor warns him of the dangers of personal attachments. This idea is reminiscent of Spiderman and myriad other hero characters who are counseled to avoid relationships. Lincoln ignores this advice when he meets Mary Ann Todd, played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead. She soon becomes Mary Todd Lincoln.

Lincoln is famous for emancipating the African-American slaves and for making slavery a prime issue of the Civil War. In the last act history is brought to bear with force.

This movie serves to strengthen the mythos of Lincoln. Anyone who reveres The Great Emancipator will have their adoration fortified. While large portions of this story are total fiction, it is rooted



Courtesy of 20th Century Fox

**Abraham Lincoln (Benjamin Walker, right) prepares to fight Vadoma (Erin Wasson).**

in real history.

This movie is entertaining and fun. It is also a quite graphic and a bit suspenseful. You probably should leave any children with a sitter for this one. People sensitive to blood and gore may find this

picture disturbing.

You may be able to excuse the violence if you get caught up in seeing our President defending the Union with his own axe. Lincoln is portrayed as a true action hero, not just giving speeches and acting

as President, but becoming  
a soldier, defending the  
people against darkness.

This feature is worth watching if you are a fan of Lincoln or of American history in general. You will probably leave the theater pumped and feeling

patriotic.

“Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter” is rated R for violence throughout and brief sexuality by the Motion Picture Association of America’s Classification & Rating Administration.



Dear Dick,

I have a wonderful wish for you. I wish that your car would break down and be unfixable and that you could not get a new one. Then you would have the wonderful privilege of depending on UTA.

I believe you would find it so much fun. It starts with you having to walk four or more blocks to your bus stop. But hey, exercise is good for you right? You know the summer heat and the winter cold? You know falling on the ice? That's all great because you develop coordination and get the chance to acclimate to the weather.

But the trip has just started. Your bus arrives just as your transfer is turning the corner without you. But this is no reason to be discouraged. You only have 50 minutes to wait until the next best leaves.

Perhaps now would be a good time to mention my suggested bus survival kit. It includes a book to read, preferably a really exciting one to keep you entertained on those long waits in the heat or cold.

Now that it's summer, don't forget sunblock, lots of water and perhaps a snack to tide you over while you wait an hour for the next bus. Oh, and because there are no restrooms located near the bus stops, don't forget that adult diaper.

You finally arrive at your destination late, tired and very frustrated. Soon you get to the best time of the day—quitting time! You are so excited because the train is running late. You're tired, ready to go home and when you finally get to your station, ready to catch a bus back home, you realize that no more buses are leaving the station tonight.

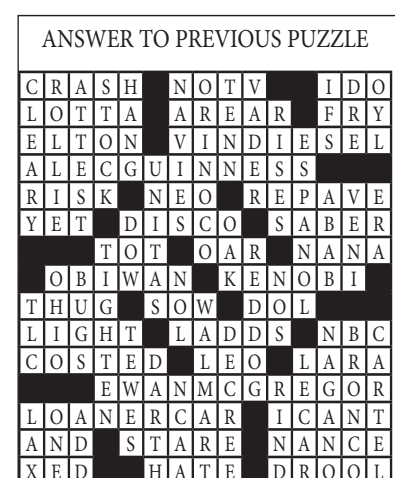
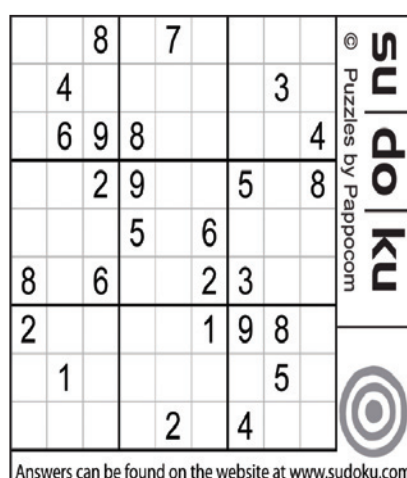
Seriously Dick, I have a novel idea one so simple, so unique and so marvelous that I'm surprised you haven't already thought of it. Why don't you have the people who plan the schedules actually have to ride and depend on UTA for transportation. Does it take too much thought to know that someone who actually rides the bus would be qualified to plan the trips? I know, you have people who are more qualified for the job because they have a degree in engineering or city planning. What ever happed to common sense?

Is it just too logical to expect people who plan systems to actually know how to use it? Or in the very least listen to the drivers and people who actually do use it.

Dick, I bet if you had to depend on that bus you would go crazy and the transit system would soon be changed.

I do wish you the happiest of Fourth of July, one without a car. But there's no need to worry, you can still go to those fireworks because the tracks is operating on extended hours. Good luck trying to get to your home from the TRAX station because the bus service is on Sunday's schedule. Which means the bus you need might not be running at all, or that it stopped running at 3:00 p.m. But no worries, TRAX is running late for your convenience.

Sincerely  
Hopefully soon to be ex-bus rider,  
Kachina Choate



"I'd like a Grande Arabian Mocha Sanani. . .oooo,  
and could you put some blood in it?"

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ARTS&ENTERTAINMENT

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# ‘Brave’ is right on target

**Stephen Romney**  
Staff Reporter

Pixar has one of the best track records in Hollywood. Even when their films are franchised follow-ups mandated by Disney, they never disappoint, but they’re at its best when they create ideas from the ground up. This rule is proven in “Brave” their latest animated film. For a Pixar film, “Brave’s” plot is surprisingly complex, but the movie’s trailer does a keeps the meat of the story hidden. The movie is set in medieval Scotland and follows princess Merida of DunBroch, voiced by Kelly Macdonald. Merida is resistant to the traditions and mandates of her royal duties often butting heads with her mother, Queen Elinor, voiced by Emma Thompson. When Merida breaks a tradition, it puts her kingdom on the verge of war with the neighboring clans, and she sets out to make things right. When you take away the fantasy elements it’s really a simple story about a teenage girl and the relationship to her mother. With the fantasy elements added in it takes on an

air akin to stories by the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Anderson, not completely dark but not overly light, striking a nice balance. One of Pixar’s strongest points would have to be the way they are able to create an environment and atmosphere that pulls you in within the first few minutes, if not seconds. This works hand-in-hand with the 3-D glasses. Their focus does not involve things flying out at you, but rather pulling

you into the world of the story. More often than not you’ll forget that you’re watching a 3-D film. For a computer animated movie, you can tell that the people at Pixar take the time to establish their shots. They build the composition as well as make the movement dynamic, which shows how far the technology has come since the 90’s. There is a great attention to detail regarding how the characters move, emote and

carry themselves, making the bits of 1’s and 0’s feel every bit as real as a normal person. “Brave” has a similar air to the early Pixar shorts. There’s no Disney aura looming over the story and it manages to insert more mature elements that Disney would have never signed off on if this were made in the previous decades. Overall, I can’t recommend this film highly enough. Pixar has once again

raised the bar for not only computer animation, but overall storytelling. They take a story that would have been overly simplified if handled by anyone else and manage to turn it into something that is deep,

enchanting and, above all, heartwarming. This goes to show that creativity is not dead in the film industry. On my personal scale, I give Brave a 5/5.



Courtesy of Disney

**In addition to being a skilled markswoman, Merida, voiced by Kelly Macdonald, is also skilled with a sword.**




Courtesy of Disney

# A good female protagonist

**Stephen Romney**  
Staff Reporter

There have been many efforts and discussions regarding how women are portrayed in fiction, particularly in film and television. For most of the history of these mediums, women were often relegated to the roles of supporting characters, usually the love interest or damsel-in-distress. In the wake of more active females like “The Hunger Game’s” Katniss Everdeen, “Brave’s” Princess Merida, and “Avatar’s” Korra, as well as the controversial comments made by Crystal Dynamics executive producer Ron Rosenberg regarding the upcoming “Tomb Raider” reboot, we must ask: What does it take for a female protagonist to be accepted by the mainstream audiences? I guess the easiest place to start is by looking at common mistakes writers and authors make when writing female characters. The biggest pitfall, and one that is not solely limited to the female gender, is the creation of the “Mary Sue.” Mary Sue is a critical term given to overly idealized characters whose clichéd mannerisms ultimately serve as wish-fulfillment for the author. The term was originally used in regard to “Star Trek” fan fiction, but over time its use has spread to the fan fiction world at large. It has also become a literally criticism applicable to many original works thanks to the introduction of canon Mary Sues, or “Canon Sues.” There are many common elements of your typical



*The Weekly Reel*

Mary Sue. The character is young, attractive, and virtually good at anything and everything. She is incredibly lucky, always gets her man, wins every battle and is essentially unable to fail. Beyond these similarities, there are two primary extremes when it comes to the production of your typical Mary Sue, which has to do with their personality, or lack thereof. In trying to make a female character who appeals to a mainstream audience, the two extremes can be summarized with simple phrases. The first extreme is the “tomboy feminist.” This is where the female character has little to no romantic interest in anyone, often has a huge chip on her shoulder regarding the opposite gender, and engages in activities usually exclusive to men in most works of fiction, such as combat, sports or whatever activity can be used to create some sort of strife. The opposite end of the spectrum is best described as “the helpless child.” This is a character that often starts out as a meek, easily frightened girl with low self-esteem. This character is then revealed to possess some sort of character trait that endears the audience and the other characters

going out of their way to make sure she succeeds with little to no effort on her part. I’m not saying that those are the only Mary Sue archetypes, but those are two extremes I have found in many films, comics, novels and other works of fiction that I have perused throughout my life. In recent times, there have been an increasing number of female characters that are actually characters. Some people have made entire careers out of creating these sorts of characters. This leads me to the conclusion that the people who try to create a marketable female protagonist often make things far more complex than they need to be. When things go right, it’s not some formulaic approach that made the memorable female characters appealing, it’s that their writers didn’t succumb to the pitfall of making the fact that the character is a girl be that character’s defining trait. When you take a look at the traits of characters such as Katniss Everdeen or Emma Frost, you’ll find that quite a few of those traits can be given to male characters and still accomplish the same purpose when it comes to the grand scheme of the story. All it boils down to is good writing.

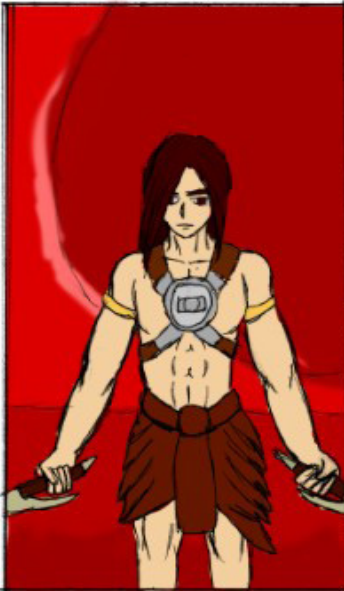




Cartoon by C.A. Trahan

Two key emotions of the Mary Sue: anger and dull surprise

MY THREE PANELS

by C.A. Trahan

		
John Carter	Mother 2 aka Earthbound	The Rescuers Down Under

Three awesome things that failed due to lousy marketing strategies