

THE GLOBE



WEDNESDAY
JULY 25, 2012
ISSUE 7 / SUMMER '12

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Taylorsville Redwood, Meadowbrook and South City to receive regular shuttlebus service

Julie Hirschi
Staff Reporter

Salt Lake Community College students can get a lift between select campuses via a new shuttle bus service starting this fall semester. The B-line shuttle will be free for students, faculty and staff with a OneCard.

The B-line is a pilot program that begins this year and may be

extended to other campus in the future. The shuttle is to begin service Aug. 6 before classes start in the fall. It will pick up hourly at the South City Campus, stop at Meadowbrook Campus and end at Taylorsville Redwood Campus. The returning shuttle will depart from Taylorsville Redwood Campus every half hour.

"I think it would be easier to get to each class on time," said SLCC

student Alvaro Martinez, who commutes between campuses.

"It takes a while to get on TRAX because you have to wait for everybody but if there's a shuttle that gets me from here to [other campuses], that would be a lot easier to get around."

The purpose of this service is to provide students with an affordable way to travel between the different campuses across town. It was a collaborative effort between the school administration and the student body. According to student body president Aaron Starks, with gas and UTA prices going up, this was a way to help students with travel costs.

"Assuming it's successful, we're going to measure it this year and see if we'll add a route to go to Miller and Jordan next year," said Jason Beal, Student Center and auxiliary services director

at SLCC. "It's just to help to get students from campus to campus. We have a lot of students that are taking classes on multiple campuses."

According to Beal, the shuttle service will be funded through student fees. More information about the funding was not available by press time. They are currently in the development stage, but information and flyers will eventually be sent out and posted on MyPage.

Beal said they are contracting jobs and buses through the University of Utah. The U of U is implementing a pilot program of their own as they replace many of their diesel shuttles with electric and natural gas buses this fall. "I think it's pretty cool," said Erik Dunn, Student Center employee

Shuttlebus/ continued on page A4

Khan Academy offers pressure-free math tutoring

Patrick Cassell
Staff Reporter

In 2006, Boston resident Sal Khan offered his New Orleans cousins remote math tutoring in a format that was unconventional at the time. Khan created video tutorials, and posted them on YouTube.

Other math students began to discover the videos online, and the tutorials gained a following. Khan realized his videos were an asset for many learners, thus the Khan Academy was born.

The Khan Academy is a free resource for online education in math and other subjects. Their website defines the organization as "a not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education to anyone anywhere."

"[My cousins] told me that they preferred me on YouTube than

Khan/ continued on page A5



Festival brings live acoustic music to downtown SLC

Justin Fulton
Contributing Writer

The Fourth Annual Intermountain Acoustic Music Association (IAMA) Folk and Bluegrass Festival took place on Saturday, July 21, at the Gallivan Center in downtown Salt Lake City.

The annual free event featured live acoustic music from both local talent and national headline acts.

"We try to keep it free so we can bring acoustic music to the public," said IAMA Board of Trustees member Todd Schultz. Schultz, along with fellow Board of Trustees member Guy Benson helped create the Folk and Bluegrass festival.

This year's festival also featured the Susanne Millsaps Performing Songwriter Showcase, which is a competition for performing solo artists who write and perform their own acoustic music. Contestants submit two original songs, and all entries get narrowed down to 10 finalists. The final 10 are

selected by a blind judging panel, scored according to their vocal ability, instrumental ability and songwriting ability.

Finalists for the showcase kicked off the festival's music at 11 a.m. as they performed their contest entry songs.

Utah native Chris Orrock was announced as the winner at 3 p.m. Orrock then took to the stage and was joined by the 2011 contest winner Peter Danzig. Danzig is also a Utah Native.

Despite the fact that both 2011's winner and this year's winner were both from Utah, there are entrants from all around the nation, including Idaho, Texas and Alaska.

"We like to showcase both local talent and national headlines," said Schultz.

After Danzig and Orrock completed their performance, the rest of the night's talent took to the stage in their respective time slots. The night ended with the

Festival/ continued on page A4



Photo by Justin Fulton

2012 Susanne Millsaps Performing Songwriter Showcase winner Chris Orrock (right) performs with the 2011 winner Peter Danzig (left).



**inside
July 24
Pow Wor**



**opinion
Dear
Dick**

STUDENT EVENTS

WED/25

10am-5pm
Speed: The Art of the Performance Automobile

11am-6pm
Cantastoria & The Invincibility Fable
@ Utah Museum of Contemporary Art

5pm-8pm
\$5 after 5pm at Tracy Aviary

THURS/26

10am-5pm
Speed: The Art of the Performance Automobile

11am-6pm
Cantastoria & The Invincibility Fable

5pm-8pm
\$5 after 5pm at Tracy Aviary

7pm-8pm
Free Quick Qits Comedy Improv Show
@ TR Campus SEC

FRI/27

10am-5pm
Speed: The Art of the Performance Automobile

11am-6pm
Cantastoria & The Invincibility Fable

5pm-8pm
\$5 after 5pm at Tracy Aviary

SAT/28

11am-5pm
Speed: The Art of the Performance Automobile

11am-6pm
Cantastoria & The Invincibility Fable

5pm-8pm
\$5 after 5pm at Tracy Aviary

MON/30

2:30pm-5:00pm
Club Meeting-Chess Club
@ TR Campus

5pm-8pm
\$5 after 5pm at Tracy Aviary

TUE/31

10am-5pm
Speed: The Art of the Performance Automobile

11am-6pm
Cantastoria & The Invincibility Fable

5pm-8pm
\$5 after 5pm at Tracy Aviary

Submit student events to calendar.globe@slcc.edu
Visit 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.

Deadline for entries is Tuesday July 31st
Entrants may only win once per semester. Mass Communication staff and SLCC faculty are not eligible to win.

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Step Ahead.

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Due to the high volume of requests for articles we receive, The Globe may not be able to reply to every letter. Due to our limited staff, The Globe may not be able to attend or cover every event or issue submitted. The Globe encourage emails/ notices of events. However, any request of coverage of an event or issue should be made within a time frame of at least one week.

The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0620

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1 "Deliverance" instrument

6 Return of a lob, maybe

11 Corp. money manager

14 Reason for a February thank-you speech

15 Chaplain, to a G.I.

16 PC hookup

17 Actor's order to sock an N.B.A. legend?

19 Get totally right

20 Julian Assange posting

21 Bobble

22 Ladies' man

24 Teammate of the 17-Across legend avoiding toilet trainin'?

28 Saturday morning cartoon dog, informally

31 "C'est ____" ("Camelot" song)

32 Veracruz vane direction

33 Old comic actor's Little Bighorn headline?

37 Some purse items, for short

38 California's Big ____

39 Bedevil

40 Grimm tale figure

43 Threaten a classic comedienne like a talk-show host?

46 Maritime greeting

49 Noted flag-raising site, for short

50 Full of passion

51 Writer-turned-Utah carpenter?

55 Delivery doc

56 Barrister's deg.

57 "Copernican revolution" philosopher

61 Sac fly stat

62 Controls a prison guard like a pop singer?

66 Public-house offering

67 Greek gathering spot of old

68 Rapsallion

69 ____ Paul guitars

70 "Full court" tactic

71 Go along (with)

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1 Postseason grid matchup

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3 Org. with brackets

4 Super payoff

5 Mork's planet

6 Have on

7 Kneeler's words

8 Put in

9 Mrs. abroad

10 Artist Rousseau

11 Jumper cable ends

12 "Let's be honest!"

13 Score in a pitcher's duel, maybe

18 Riff, e.g., in "West Side Story"

23 Taking customers

25 Eligible for "The Biggest Loser"

26 Dry Italian wine

27 Falsified, as a check

28 Many an ology: Abbr.

29 It's a mouthful

30 Old spy org.

34 Brush with the law

35 He-man's asset

36 Banish to Siberia

40 Loop transports

41 Call for a do-over

42 Suffer from the heat

43 "Dear me!"

44 Some fuel transporters

45 Hiding in the shadows

46 Unconcerned with right and wrong

47 Walk haltingly

48 Saturnalias

52 In-a-bottle alternative

53 "Casablanca" heroine and others

54 Pres. with an on-board swearing-in

58 Withdrawn apple spray

59 Campbell of "Scream"

60 Site of many a cat rescue

63 U.S.D.A. part: Abbr.

PUZZLE BY ALAN ARBESFELD

COMMUNITY

community.globe@slcc.edu

A new July 24 tradition in the first Native American Pow Wow

Kim Higley
Staff Reporter

The 24th of July here in Utah often calls many locals to look back on their heritage and remember those dedicated pioneers who walked across more than half of the nation looking for the place where they could settle down and plant the hope of a better life.

Many of us eat macaroni salad and Jello salad and potato salad washed down with Kool Aid and homemade root beer as we watch the parade and the

fireworks.

This year, a tradition that is both new and very old started up in Sugarhouse Park. July 24 marked the first annual community sponsored Native American Pow Wow, hosted by the non-profit organization Native American Events.

Mitchell Eriacho, one of the organizers of the event, is very pleased by the turnout. With support from other local non-profits such as The Indian Walk-In Center, Little Feathers Youth Dances and the Wasatch Native American Youth Council, the event

drew a crowd of 300-400 people, along with quite a few curious passer-by's.

Eriacho said that events like these help to promote respect of their elders and of the youth. They teach the importance of different traditions, different dances and the meaning behind the different styles of dress.

For years, locals have been asking the NAE to host a traditional pow wow, and he hopes that this will become an annual event that will help bring the community together.



Photo by Kim Higley

Dancing to the rhythm of the drums, the Jr Girls Fancy Shawls dance captivated the audience.



Photo by Kim Higley

Kaneyesa Zuckkahosse watches the proceedings at the Pow Wow while he waits for his turn to dance in the circle.



Photo by Kim Higley

After the Dance, all who gathered to watch went thru the line of dancers to shake hands, hug and welcome a woman back into the dance circle.



Photo by Kim Higley

Teepee's, drummers, dancers and the smell of baking flat bread and spicy Navajo tacos greeted those who attended the Pow Wow at Sugarhouse park on July 24.



Photo by Kim Higley

The men follow the chief, dancing to celebrate the return of a young woman to the dance circle after a year's period of mourning.

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COMMUNITY

community.globe@slcc.edu

A spoonful of natural sweetner

Tesia Nadhirrah
Staff Reporter

I have a confession to make. I have a sweet tooth, or maybe a mouthful of them. I say this because my recipe book has a dessert section larger than the entrée section.

When I was researching a healthier lifestyle, one of the assumptions that kept coming up was that sugar is bad. I'd heard that for years, but no one ever shared with me why it was bad or how to eliminate it from my diet. I wanted to have my cake and eat it too, without all the negative consequences.

Refined sugar is addictive. This is the reason you'll find it in almost every prepared food you buy, including some canned and frozen vegetables. I read in a food history book that refined sugar was used as a recreational drug when it was first introduced to early European courts.

I believe that Dr. Imhotep Llaila Afrika, author of

"African Holistic Health" said it best when he said, "white sugar is sweet, it is delicious, it is good, however, it is a drug!" It sounds audacious to say that refined sugar is a drug, but the difference between a sugar molecule and one of cocaine is just a few nitrogen atoms.

So if sugar is so bad why do I have such a large dessert section in my book? Well, I replaced the refined sugar with natural sugars.

There are many alternative sweeteners that can be used in making sweets. These use only natural unrefined sweeteners and are usually lower on the glycemic index, which measures blood sugar levels.

Some of my favorite sweet things come from nature in the form of bananas, dates, raisins and unrefined raw honey.

Honey is the nectar made by bees that contains small amounts of nutrition.

Agave nectar is the juice from the agave plant with trace elements of

potassium calcium, iron and magnesium. It is a little thinner than honey and low on the glycemic index.

Coconut palm sugar is made from the sap of coconut palms and dried into crystals and is also low on the glycemic index.

Coconut nectar is also made from coconut palms but it is extracted as a liquid and is more comparable to maple syrup thickness.

Stevia is very low on the glycemic index and is made from the Stevia plant.

Artificial sugar sweeteners should never be used. They are unhealthy, and the chemical sweeteners are often toxic to the body. They are approved for consumption by the FDA only because they won't kill you immediately.

Controlling blood sugar levels is the best way to prevent type II diabetes, which is a chronic disease related to sugar in the bloodstream. So when looking for food, watch out for hidden refined sugars and watch your health.



Photo by Kachina Choate

Raw honey, raw agave and raw coconut nectar are natural sweeteners.

The good news is that I have found a way to have the cake and eat it too. This cake is not only sugar-free, it is gluten-free as well.

Nadhirrah's Tall Cake

Cake

- 2 cups almonds, soaked overnight
- 1/2 cup dates, pitted
- 1 inch vanilla bean or 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Cream Topping

- 2 cups walnuts, soaked overnight
- 1/4 cup raw honey or raw agave
- 1 tablespoon water

Fruit Toppings

- 2 bananas, sliced
- 1 quart berries (any combination you like), sliced
- Shredded coconut

Soak the almonds and walnuts overnight in separate bowls. Drain and set aside. Slice the berries in with the bananas.

In a food processor combine the almonds with dates and vanilla. Combine until well mixed. Form into equal size rounds and set aside.

In a blender combine the soaked walnuts, the sweetener and water until it is creamy. You may need more water if you have a less powerful blender.

Place a cake round on your plate, add some berries and bananas and then pour some cream topping over.

Place another cake round on top and add as many layers as you would like. Cover with coconut and place a whole berry on top to make it look pretty.



Photo by Kachina Choate

This tasty cake is sugar and gluten free.

Festival

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festival's big name acts, which were Red June, Ellis and Red Molly.

The festival not only showcased live talent, but food and beverage vendors were also present. Attendees were also able to purchase CDs of the performing artists. IAMA had a booth where those who were interested in the organization could find more information.

The "Water Walk" was also up and running during the festival, with two curtains of water splashing down, split by a walkway in the center. Thanks to this, festival attendees were able to take a stroll through the water walk and get cooled off without getting soaking wet.

For more information about upcoming IAMA events, or how to become and IAMA member, visit their website at www.iamaweb.org.

Shuttlebus

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at the information kiosk on Redwood Campus. "It probably will help the students get here without having to spend too much more money especially if they live out in Ogden and take FrontRunner. I'm sure it helps them to get to the campus a lot quicker where you don't have to go to every bus stop."

The route will begin at the South City Campus east entrance every hour on the hour. It will then stop at the Meadowbrook TRAX station and then continue to the Taylorsville Redwood Campus north bus stop. It will depart every half hour from the Taylorsville Redwood Campus along a reverse route back to South City Campus. Service will run Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Fridays from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. except on holidays and school breaks.

"We're excited for it," said Beal. "We hope that folks take advantage of it."



A Dear Dick to Dear Dick,

I don't like you. I don't like writing about you. I don't even like referring to you as Dick. I think that this forum to complain and rant is just another sad, sick commentary on the failings of our society. Have you seen comments lately on various news outlets and blogs? It's a sad representation of us as a community and a culture. And it's documented for our future generations to see.

I know we all have our disagreements and differences, but can we all agree to disagree? Also, can we have a civilized discussion without lowering ourselves to name calling and character bashing? It's only the anonymity of your screen name that gives you the courage to say these terrible things that aren't worth repeating. So what if someone can't spell, or believes in a God or just has a different viewpoint than you? That is their right. You don't have to agree but you can act civilly.

I think that the world would be a different place if we respected each other, talked considerately to one another and viewed each other as human beings rather than just a moniker. Dear Dick, I'm ashamed of you. You, who gives the students a public forum to rant and rave. Civilized discussion is constructive, but addressing someone we disagree with as 'Dick' is not.

In a school that my son attended, parents were given the assignment to read The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz. That school was peaceful and cooperative where we talked about our problems instead of lashing out. We were encouraged to communicate with one another in a civilized, respectful way. Our kids watched and emulated our example.

The Four Agreements are: be impeccable with your word, don't take anything personally, don't make assumptions and always do your best. That school flourished. We were a community. We helped each other, our kids and the teachers by supporting and listening to one another. I have never been involved in another place like it since. It was beautiful and it worked.

How does it work you ask? First of all, by not referring to each other in demeaning terms (such as 'Dick'). Second, by listening, really listening to the other person and their concerns. Many people are acting out in fear or misunderstanding. Try to understand the other person. Take a walk in their shoes for a while. Try to figure out where they're coming from. Finally, try to come up with a solution. One that works for everyone, not necessarily for just yourself.

So much of what is reported in the news and in our politics seems so one sided. Us against them. Good versus evil. Republican or Democrat. Our country is so divided right now, it would be nice to come together and see some of things we do agree on and not in just finding fault with everything we don't agree on.

If we did come together, we would see that we really do agree and want some of the same things in our lives. We need to have places where we can come together and communicate our suggestions, our ideas for making the world a better place. That would be a far better forum than just criticizing one another as in this one. We might actually get something positive accomplished in the world. But then I just Dear Dicked you, so maybe there is no hope for humanity after all.

Sincerely and respectfully,
Julie Hirschi

The vanishing Renaissance man

Patrick Cassell
Staff Reporter

What is a Renaissance man or woman? Also known as a polymath, Wikipedia offers an accurate definition, saying, “The common term Renaissance man is used to describe a person who is well educated or who excels in a wide variety of subjects or fields.”

The term can be applied to both the polymaths of history and those of the present. In general, polymaths have interests in the arts and humanities as well as the sciences. A person with a well-rounded education may play a musical instrument or sing. They may create art or write.

At the same time, they have a keen interest in fields such as mathematics, physics, chemistry or the biology of the natural world.

In our modern society, extreme specialty is

rewarded. Specialists and surgeons are better compensated than general practitioners. Attorneys specializing in specific areas of the law, such as trademark and copyright law can receive higher salaries or fees than those with less specialized education.

While specialization alone will not lead to disaster, people seem to be focusing so exclusively on their specialty that they deprive themselves of a more general education.

In a recent episode of the TED Radio Hour on National Public Radio featured an interview of Patrick Awuah, who was born in Ghana. The NPR website says “Awuah left Ghana as a teenager to attend Swarthmore College in the United States.”

The interview goes on to reveal that Awuah returned to his homeland to found Ashesi University in 2002. He modeled the curriculum and pedagogy of the

university on the liberal arts education he received at Swarthmore. He knew that learning according to the status quo, rote memorization, would not lead to positive change in Ghana.

It seems like the more costly private and Ivy League universities do emphasize the liberal arts. They teach people to think critically and to solve problems through deep thought and in creative ways.

Colleges such as Salt Lake Community College do require a core of general education courses in the associate degree programs they offer. These courses broaden students’ outlook on the world and make them a little more into the polymaths of today. These courses should not be seen as a burden, but as an opportunity for growth.

The urgency with which people get their education today is narrowing their possibilities. People seem

to be in a rush to get higher incomes at the expense of a complete education. Intellectual curiosity is not rewarded in American society.

Do not let our community colleges’ and public universities’ missions be to churn out mostly technical program graduates. Their sole purpose should not be to supply the economy with a middle class labor force.

Expect more from the education we are asked to pay so much for. Demand to have your mind bent and your world view challenged. Insist to really think.

If we celebrate curiosity and conversation, instead of memorization and flash cards, we will be the renaissance men and women of our generation.



Khan

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in person,” said Khan in his 2011 TED talk. “[With YouTube,] they can pause and repeat their cousin, without feeling like they’re wasting my time.”

Khan explains that the viewer can review something they should have learned in the past without feeling embarrassed. This freedom to learn at one’s own pace may be helpful for some Salt Lake Community College Students. If a student has been away from school for an extended time, he or she may have forgotten grade school math skills.

The website is divided into two sections for students. The first section contains the original group of videos, which has grown to over 3,200. The videos are primarily focused on math, but also include subjects such as science, finance and economics, humanities and test prep along with talks and interviews.

The second part of the website has practice exercises for math and telling time. These exercises range from basic addition all the way to calculus. The purpose of these exercises is to test the mastery of the

student on individual types of math problems before moving on. These exercises have grown in number over time as well.

Progress through topics can be tracked individually by the student, a teacher or a tutor called a coach.

Khan Academy has been deployed in public and private grade schools. According to documentary-style videos on the website, Khan Academy has helped many students catch up with their grade level and get ahead in some cases.

One of the ways the website keeps pupils coming back is a game-like system. For every video watched and every exercise correctly answered, the player gets “Energy Points.” The website also awards badges such as “Ten to the Fifth” when the learner gets to 100,000 energy points. This game-style way of awarding progress motivates the scholar to continue and return to the website.

Khan Academy is funded by charitable foundations and individual donors. Whether preparing a returning student for a placement test, or helping a child learn math skills for the first time, Khan Academy is available to help users of all income levels achieve academic success.

The horrorscophant man

Shad Engkilterra
Staff Reporter

Libra – Sep 23 – Oct 22
Even when someone claims to be fair and balanced, it is important to look at what they say and what their actions say about them. The dog may have wanted more fresh air; that does not mean that tying it to the roof of the car is a good idea.

Scorpio – Oct 23 – Nov 21
People are frightened by what they don’t understand. Work on understanding it, so that you can rid yourself of the fear. Sometimes the anticipation of the sting hurts more than the sting itself.

Sagittarius – Nov 22 – Dec 21
Leadership is about taking responsibility not making excuses. You’ve been rather harsh on them. When an elephant steps on a trap – no more trap.

Capricorn – Dec 22 – Jan 19
Not having any capital may be the bane of your existence, but it is temporary. Sooner or later you will make good on your potential – at least that is what they want you to believe. You’re a Romeo regardless of gender. Use it to your

advantage.

Aquarius – Jan 20 – Feb 18
The principles that made this nation a great and powerful leader of the world have not lost their meaning. They never will, so long as its citizens continue to practice them. What have you done to make this nation great? It is time to do it again.

Pisces – Feb 19 – Mar 20
Nothing will die. The stream flows, the wind blows, the cloud fleets, the heart beats.

Aries – Mar 21 – Apr 19
If you ever have to shoot a wild elephant in your pajamas, do not ask him how he got into your pajamas, just shoot.

Taurus – Apr 20 – May 20
Dependency is death to initiative, to risk taking and opportunity. Get rid of those things that provide no interdependence and start taking some risks.

Gemini – May 21 – Jun 20
Discipline builds character and all that sort of thing, you know. Put on your magical underpants and start doing the right thing like any disciplined person would. Then your friends will think that you are

a bigger character than ever, especially after last night.

Cancer – Jun 21 – July 22
Abominable things – these machines – you can’t reason with them, so stop talking to your computer, get out and meet some people that you can reason with. No use in becoming an automaton in front of a screen.

Leo – July 23 – Aug 22
An elephant is a mouse built to government specifications. Be sure that you aren’t making a mountain out of a molehill when you run across a problem this week.

Virgo – Aug 23 – Sep 22
Opportunity expands when there is excellence and choice in education, and you can take advantage of those things. Life is full of surprises, just go with it.

Horrorscope is a parody meant for entertainment only that tries to prove that the universe does not revolve around you. “The Globe” denies any resemblance to anything living or dead. Every living being is afraid of something. What is your fear?



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ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE							
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‘The Dark Knight Rises’, but not without a few stumbles

Stephen Romney
Staff Reporter

Review Rating: 4/5
A lot of time and money has been invested into Christopher Nolan’s “Dark Knight” trilogy. Batman’s success has been the only recent theatrical claim to fame for DC comics. Attempts to either resurrect or launch other DC film franchises have fallen flat, if not completely crash and burn. Even the upcoming Nolan-produced Superman reboot has fans filled with concern as more information is released. So how does Nolan’s epic conclusion hold up?

Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Gary Oldman and Morgan Freeman reprise their roles in “The Dark Knight Rises.” Picking up eight years after the events of “The Dark Knight,” Bruce Wayne, played by Bale, has retired from his late night escapades, which have begun taking their toll on his body. Commissioner Gordon, played by Oldman, is wrestling with guilt over letting Batman assume responsibility for the crimes committed by Harvey Dent. After an encounter with Selena Kyle, played by Anne Hathaway, and the arrival of the mercenary Bane, played by Tom Hardy, Bruce Wayne comes out of retirement for the biggest battle ever to hit Gotham City.

The film manages to tell an engaging story that keeps you guessing up to the end credits. The dialogue is layered with subtle foreshadowing and some very clever misdirection that adds to the mystery. This film also recalls elements introduced in the first two



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Bane (Tom Hardy) makes his move at the Gotham Stock Exchange.

films and ties up loose ends while still leaving room for continuation. It also takes some of the more complicated elements of Batman mythos and simplifies it to something that is easier to explain in a shorter amount of time.

While it did take some iconic moments from the comics, it kept those connections subtle, rather than shove it into the audience’s face the fact that it was a moment from the comics. This is a very dense story, almost to the point that’s fairly overwhelming. Even for a movie that clocks in at two hours and 45 minutes, there’s a lot that happens as the film covers almost an entire year of events.

As a result, there are moments in the movie that make it feel like a feature-length trailer. The way certain sounds and music are layered over footage that make things appear

like a trailer with certain scenes coming across as trailer-bait. There are also a few jump cuts that pop up as they try to get through things quickly, sometimes it feels like an artistic choice, other times it feels like an editing mistake.

The camera is almost always in motion. This film doesn’t succumb to the “action-film-queasy-cam,” but there’s rarely a moment where it’s stationary for more than a second. The exception to this is during the second act where the characters aren’t necessarily able to be as dynamic. It was evident that they had to use steady-cam for a lot of the shots, so there are times where it shows that the camera crew had trouble keeping the actors in sharp focus during some of the more action-packed scenes.

While the music is pretty good, I personally felt that there were times that the heavy nature of the score

was a little overplayed. During the action scenes it was fine having the harsh chant-like score echo throughout but during the ending I felt that they could have gone for something that was a little more subtle and allowing the audience to take a break and let events process in their minds.

Overall, despite some flaws, I still feel that this is great film and definitely lives up to the fan’s high expectations. It brings the full story of the Batman trilogy to a nice, satisfying end while still leaving room for continuation. It does require the viewer to have seen the previous two films in order to understand some key elements, so it’s not as accessible to the uninitiated. It is also really long, so I don’t recommend back-to-back repeat viewings. On my personal scale, I give “The Dark Knight Rises” a 4 out of 5.

So you want to give comic books a shot...

Stephen Romney
Staff Reporter

This has been quite the summer movie season. It started out strong with “The Avengers,” hit a nice beat with “The Amazing Spider-Man” and just peaked with “The Dark Knight Rises.” After seeing these films, you may want to follow these beloved characters in the pages of their respective comic books. This week we’ll take a look at how a person can enter the world of comics without being overwhelmed.

There are numerous ways to begin reading comics but I have found a few common approaches that have been used by comic fans for years when they first get into the medium.

The first thing that I must warn you about is the prices. The base price for most comics is \$2.99 in U.S. dollars; however some single issues sell for up to \$5.99 when they are first released, even higher if they are specialty variant covers. I’ll advise you to read through this article



carefully before beginning your journey into sequential story-telling.

The Blind Plunge

This method is to go to a comic book store, scan through all the titles they have on sale and grab the comic, or comics, that are interesting or stand out. Most comics usually have a page at the beginning that recaps any major changes or events as well as what happened in the previous issue. It’s a good way to discover titles that may not have caught your interest before.

This is also a good approach if you’re someone who likes a character that was recently featured in a movie, as you’ll have no trouble

finding comics with that character featured.

The Archaeologist

This method is to go back and read the classic stories of any particular character. These comics feature major events that shaped the current status quo. Most people accomplish this by hunting down trade paperback collections of the issues that told that particular story while a few people may hunt down the single issues themselves.

The Speculator

This more social method is to get recommendations from comic shop owners, friends or websites with recommended pull lists. There are web series

dedicated to this particular approach that take a look at what’s currently happening in the comics and give recommendations accordingly, such as Bleeding Cool’s “Think about the Ink.” There’s also PREVIEWS magazine that, as its title suggests, has previews of upcoming storylines in titles. Sometimes they’re just teasers, other times they feature portions of the comic within those pages.

Final Thoughts

These approaches are just generalizations, and a potential comic fan doesn’t need to stick to just one approach. Many people alternate between the three, usually starting in familiar territory and then branching out accordingly. In an era where comics have become more and more expensive, it’s all too easy to accidentally pass a good comic and purchase a bad one. It’s definitely important to get your money’s worth. Good luck and happy reading.

LIFE AS A FRESHMAN

BY C.A. TRAHAN



FOURTH WALL NINJAS

