

THE GLOBE



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Earth Jam pres. upgrades skills at SLCC

Kachina Choate

Staff Reporter

Salt Lake Community College programs are helping Earth Jam Productions president Dan Marsh learn the multimedia skills he needs to take his company to the next level.

Earth Jam Productions holds an Earth Day event with live music and entertainment at Liberty Park. While Marsh has run the company and event since 1992, technology has changed and he felt it was time to go back to school and learn.

"I wanted to gain experience so that I could actually do some filming, make some of our own DVDs and promos for [the event]," said Marsh. "These are things I have always asked other people to do, now I'm gaining the personal experience. I can start doing a lot of that myself and help out my organization."

Marsh is in the video production program that is part of the Mass Communication Center (MCC). He has learned how to use professional cameras and work in student news programs such as Express and Insight. Marsh did an Insight story about the 2013 Earth Goddess Pageant. For the past eight years, Marsh's company has held the Earth Goddess Pageant.

This fundraising pageant is not based on just the way a woman looks. The pageant is based on

EARTH/
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BOOKS ON THE MENU

Photo by Rachael Folland

Edible Book Festival showcases culinary interpretations of literature

Rachael Folland

Contributing Writer

Salt Lake Community College's "Edible Book Festival" and contest was held on Wednesday, April 17. Participants were able to show off their creative side through baking and literature. Each creation was shown on the main floor in the Markosian Library where people were able to walk through and see the edible literature displayed.

Judges were selected to critique each piece of edible artwork based on four different categories: most edible, humorous, literary and

This very hungry caterpillar's body is made of donuts and frosting.

artistic. There was also a "People's Choice" category, where the winner was chosen by the public.

"[The food's] gotta be yummy," says judge Jude Higgins from the Department of Anthropology. "The fruit looks good, but I might like the vegan cupcakes."

The first two hours of the contest were open to the public, while judges took a stroll amongst tables of cakes, cookies, donuts and even pizza. Notebooks in hand, judges made note of their favorite creations and also did some taste testing.

One piece that consisted of pastries and jelly, was based on Mark Twain's the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Eric Carle's the Very Hungry Caterpillar was depicted by three different artists, each with a unique interpretation of the book.

In one piece, the caterpillar's body was made of donuts covered in green and red frosting. A whole watermelon sat beside the caterpillar along with apples, pears, plums, strawberries and oranges.

Cupcakes made of devil's food cake with rum extract and yellow cake with amaretto fondant represented Angels and Demons by Dan Brown.

"This is the first time in my life

EDIBLE/
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Senate considers parking lot cameras

Committee set to explore options, invites student opinion

Brandon Crowley

Staff Reporter

Keith Chalmers

Contributing Reporter

Members of the Salt Lake Community College Student Association (SLCCSA) Student Senate are considering the installation of outdoor security

cameras as a means to curb property crime at SLCC parking lots.

While still in a formative stage, the idea is gaining traction. Senate President Carlos Artiles said that the Student Senate formed an exploratory committee after senate members reported a rising concern from students.

"This semester, we've been getting a lot of complaints from students who have been telling our student senators that there are a lot

of break-ins and hit-and-runs in the parking lot," said Artiles. "We started a committee within the Student Senate to see if we could figure out how to put security cameras in the parking lot."

The committee, headed by senate member Faith Oladele, is tasked with investigating the rate of parking lot break-ins at SLCC lots and examining the costs and logistics of camera installation.

"The Security Camera Committee was set up to check

how we can get security cameras on campus, to figure out what the costs are and how we can make the campus a safe place," said Oladele.

The committee is also evaluating student opinion about security cameras. Oladele invites interested students to fill out the issues/concerns form at the Student Senate's website (the link

CAMERAS/
continued on **page A2**

Jurassic talk at the Grand

'Science Friday' panelists discuss local dinosaurs and not so local stars

Julie Hirschi

Staff Reporter

The Grand Theatre at Salt Lake Community College provided the venue for National Public Radio's (NPR) live broadcast of *Science Friday* on April 19. *Science Friday* is a weekly national radio show hosted by science correspondent and journalist Ira Flatow. The show includes guest panelists who give their expertise on scientific topics ranging from space and technology to biology and physics.

Friday's live national broadcast was preempted due to continuous coverage of the search for the Boston Marathon bombing suspect. The taped broadcast will be aired this Friday, April 26 from noon to 1 p.m. on KUER 90.1 and

can then be heard on the Science Friday website and on iTunes.

"I was thrilled when I heard [Science Friday] was coming to the Grand," said SLCC student Raina Dalby, who attended the event. "It's really important that we shine a light on what Salt Lake Community College has to offer, specifically on south campus. The Grand Theater is this hidden gem of South Salt Lake."

Science Friday occasionally travels around the country doing live broadcasts. They receive several requests and invitations to do remotes but accept only a few of them each year. This is the second time they have come to Utah.

"If you're into old stuff, Utah is a great place to be in," said Flatow during the broadcast. "I don't mean Antiques Roadshow vintage

JURRASIC/
continued on **page A3**



Photo courtesy of Benjamin Altenes

From left to right: Ira Flatow, Utahceratops skull, Randall Irmis, curator of paleontology at the UNHM, Brian Switek, author of "My Beloved Brontosaurus," and Brooks Britt, associate professor from the Department of Geological Sciences at BYU.

Student loan interest rates increasing

Rates set to double in July unless congress takes action

Shad Engkilterra

Staff Reporter

On the heels of a six percent tuition increase and 1.7 percent increase in student fees, Salt Lake Community College students are about to face another cost increase. Interest rates on subsidized Stafford Loans are set to double on July 1, 2013 if congress does not act to keep them at the current 3.4 percent. H.R. 1433 has been introduced to the House of Representatives to prevent the increase to 6.8 percent, but there has been little movement.

"We have got to make sure that, with the rising costs of college, we do what we can to make it more affordable," said Congressman Jim Matheson. "This is not the time for interest rates to increase [on student loans]."

According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, the average student debt for students in Utah is between \$20,000 and \$22,000. Federal limits for subsidized Stafford loans are set at \$23,000.

Student loan rates were original set in 2007 for five years with the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. Last year, those rates

LOANS/
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Student Talent
'Really Slick'
concert
wrapup
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Movies
'Oblivion'
review
pg. 5

STUDENT EVENTS

WED/24

9:00am-4:00pm
Latinos in Action Conference
@ TR Campus, SEC

12:00pm-1:00pm
Budget Forum for SLCCSA
@ TR Capus, SEC

12:00pm-1:00pm
Multicultural Career Advancement Program
@ SC Campus, W131

5:30pm-9:30pm
Cheer Tryouts
@ TR Campus, LAC

THURS/25

2:00pm-4:00pm
Chamber Music Masterclass
@ SC Campus, W252

6:00pm-9:00pm
6th annual SLCCSA Film Festival Awards Ceremony and Dinner
@ TR Campus, SEC

7:30pm-9:30pm
SLCC Faculty Recital Series: Leslie Henrie, violin
@ SC Campus, Atrium

7:30pm-9:00pm
Songwriters Showcase
@ TR Campus, TB203

FRI/26

1:00pm-2:00pm
TED Talk lecture by Ronny Edry
@ TR Campus, SEC

2:30pm-5:30pm
Student Conference on Writing and Social Justice
@ TR Campus, SEC, 2nd floor

7:30pm-8:30pm
Salt City Jazz Vocal Group
@ TR Campus, TB 203

SAT/27

1:00pm-3:00pm
A Plethora of Poetry: Celebrating National Poetry Month 4-part workshop
@ SLCC Community Writing Center
Cost: \$60

7:30pm-9:30pm
Bruin Chamber Orchestra Concert with a Special Performance by the SLCC Faculty Piano Trio
@ SC Campus, Atrium

MON/29

2:30pm-5:00pm
Club meeting - Chess club
@ TR Campus, Markosian Library rm 145

3:30pm-4:30pm
Social Work Association
@ TR Campus, Student Involvement Center

7:00pm-8:00pm
Showcase week: Dance classes showcase
@ SC Campus, Black Box Theatre

TUE/30

12:00pm-1:00pm
Mindful Awareness Group
@ TR Campus, SEC Rm 035

7:30pm-9:00pm
Acting 1 Showcase
@ SC Campus, Black Box Theatre

8:00pm-9:00pm
SLCC - Revolutionary Students Union Book Discussion
@ SC Campus, W261

Submit student events to calendar.globe@slcc.edu
Visit www.globeslcc.com/calendar for more student events

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Edible

continued from A1

I’ve made cupcakes,” says creative services specialist Carol D. Acevedo. Half of her cupcakes were decorated as angels and the other half devils. After the judges were done tasting, the public was free to taste the edible artwork. The winners of the contest were contacted with the judges’ results.

Cameras

continued from A1

can be found in this story’s sidebar). “We need to hear more student stories,” said Oladele. “That’s what the Security Camera Committee is about – to hear stories from students.” In the wake of a recently announced 1.7 percent increase in SLCC student fees, the cost for security cameras may be a determining factor for many students. While the scope and total price of a security camera program is still unknown, it’s likely that that costs would be paid out of student fees either directly or indirectly through a diversion of funds to SLCC parking services. This would either draw money out of preexisting programs, or result in

The winners of the Edible Books Festival and Contest are:

People’s Choice – Dale Smith, Brandi Benson, Brian Hartman, Rebecca Castillio

Most Artistic - Ashley Dailami

Most Edible – Carol Acevedo

Most Humorous – Kati Bradshaw

Most Literary – Rachelle Vandruff

another raise in fees. “It would all come down to the Student Fee Committee,” said Artiles. “They will look at how to best do it. If that means raising student fees, then they might have to do that, but I honestly don’t think they would. They’d most likely reallocate money.” Utah Highway Patrol Lt. Jeff Willmore is unsure whether the benefits would justify the costs. Willmore supervises troopers at Taylorsville Redwood, South City, Jordan and Meadowbrook Campuses, where they are contracted to provide police services. “To adequately put security cameras in the parking lots would likely cost – and this is a guess, but maybe tens or even into the hundreds of thousands of dollars,” said Willmore. “We have to weigh that against the actual benefit that we would get from the cameras.” Willmore said the use of security cameras isn’t a foolproof method for preventing crime or tracking down criminals. The cameras would not be continuously monitored, and the resolution of outdoor cameras, which have to cover a very large area, is often insufficient to capture details such as a person’s face or vehicle’s license plate. Willmore said that there are a number of lower cost preventative measures that students can use to prevent vehicle burglaries, such as removing valuables from sight, locking car doors and rolling windows all the way up. “If we could take some simple steps like that, I think we could potentially significantly reduce the crime rate,” said Willmore.

Members of the SLCCSA Student Senate invite students to share their opinions on security cameras, or any other SLCC issue through the issues/concerns online form at - orgsync.com/42943/forms/59709.

For video on this story, as well as coverage of the proposed SLCC campus wide smoking ban and the latest Zombie Apocalypse, watch the April 22 edition of Express News at vimeo.com/

The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0320

ACROSS

1 Learn at the altar

5 "___ Stop the Rain" (1970 hit)

10 "It" movies; titles

14 "Whisper!"

15 Garin sweater

16 Arthur Ashe kid? Day org.

17 Common who wrote "Joan"

18 Sweepstakes mail-in

19 Their motto

20 Paper view?

22 Stop on, as a bag

24 Fan house cries

25 Minimum

26 number of times each letter of the alphabet appears in this puzzle solution

28 "Rapid success"

29 Upside-down-sleeping animal

32 Candlelight event, perhaps

33 Solitaire, as term

34 Hard-to-curl hair

36 Dore crop shape

37 Headliner Kay

38 Foreign Legion last

39 Place-___

40 Hawk cries

41 Add to a film, as credit

42 Women with reputations

DOWN

1 Sister Starbuck

2 Breakfast restaurant chain

3 Mislay

4 One to speak off

5 Crested, as hawk

6 Female

7 Benet Profile

8 Before Tony since Alton

9 Steps for a while in the course of a journey

11 Len Ann who sang "I Hope You Dance"

13 Likely to break out into fighting

16 Half of dir

17 Rhinoceros record label

18 Yellow blouse

19 Sch. that publishes the Daily Bruin

21 Draw ___ on (pair of)

23 Having a tiff

24 Looney Tunes character ___

26 Erasing

28 Way to get from point A to point B

29 Fan brand owned by Starbucks

31 Moss record (with)

32 Super Bowl played in 2005

33 Plastic dish dish

34 Many a crooner's home

35 Member of "Joan"

36 N.F.L. dir.

37 Connected, e.g.

38 Roman wrote "Jurgens?"

39 response; titles

40 Charles and sisters

41 ___ lady (character singer)

42 Goggle-eyed

43 Zeolite breeders

44 Anonymous creature

45 Debate host

46 Shasta standard

47 Birth announcement color

48 He wrote "Capital is dead labor"

49 Orange fruits

50 Feature-improving machines

51 Run named for a Spanish literary hero

52 Genre pioneered by Miles Davis

53 Popular glass cleaner

54 Crests of a nation

55 Kefauver

56 Postphase shock color

57 Move like a hummingbird

58 ___ despite (victims)

59 Shady types Alton

60 Co-star of Joel in "Calcutta"

61 Pick in the overhead bin, say

62 Be a pugilist

CAMPUS

campus.globe@slcc.edu

Earth Day 5K at Redwood supports refugees

Emily Cruz
Contributing Writer

On April 20, the 2nd annual Salt Lake Community College Earth Day 5K Fun Run/Walk kicked off from the Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

Around 100 people registered to run in the charity race which looped around the SLCC campus. Proceeds from the race went to local non-profits including the Maliheh Clinic and the Sunnyvale Refugee Neighborhood Center.

“This is for a particular program, which is Sunnyvale Apartment Neighborhood Center where a lot of refugees live,” said Gerald Brown, director of the Refugee Services Office at the Utah Department of Workforce Services who also participated in the race. “We have a neighborhood center where they help kids with after school

homework.”

Daemon Hodges was the first to arrive at the finish line with total time of 19 minutes. Along with his gold medal, he received a swag bag that included a plant. Jack Brown and Brett Nestman came in second and third respectively.

The first woman to arrive at the finish line was Ashley Hammin at about the 21 minute mark.

“I didn’t really train; I just like to run,” said Hammin. “I run four times a week. I

usually run a mile in about seven minutes.”

After the race, organizers served bagels with cream cheese to everyone that went and supported the runners.

Sunnyvale Neighborhood Center is located at 760 West 3940 South. They provide several services for refugees, including adult English classes, a health clinic, citizenship programs, community support and parenting classes.



Photo by Jimmie Breedlove

Racers shoot out of the gate at the Earth Day 5K Fun Run/Walk at Taylorsville Redwood Campus.

Loans

continued from A1

were extended for one year with what Matheson called “strong bipartisan support”. “When I heard about the bill, I asked to sign on as a cosponsor. It’s just something I really felt strongly about,” said Matheson, who is one of 87 cosponsors.

According to Matheson, there is still time for Congress to act because current rates are in place until June 30. Only loans made after July 1, 2013 will be affected by the interest

increase if the bill does not pass. Matheson encourages students to contact their representatives to help this bill move forward. He said that it helps lawmakers to understand the impact of a bill when a real life story about the issue is attached to it.

SLCC student body president Aaron Starks said that it is up to the students to make a difference at the state and federal levels if they want to ensure lower tuition, fees and interest rates on student loans.

“They need to get involved and be more proactive at the

voting booths,” said Starks. “If students want lower tuition, they’re going to have to raise their voices.”

SLCC student government tries to help students with political involvement through activities such as inviting government leaders to the college, participating in Higher Education day at the state capitol and getting students to register to vote. This past year, 1700 students were registered at SLCC.

“The power is with the students,” said Starks. They just need to come together to exercise it.

Jurassic

continued from A1

kind of stuff, I mean really old stuff. Think Jurassic Park and older. The climate and geology of Utah makes this state a fantastic finding-fossils place.”

The first panelists on the show were experts of paleontology and spoke on how Utah is a prime place for finding fossils due to its barren landscape and geology. The speakers included Brian Switek, author of “My Beloved Brontosaurus,” Randall Irmis, curator of paleontology at the Utah Natural History Museum and Brooks Britt, associate professor of Geological Sciences at Brigham Young University.

A life size skull of the Utahceratops, a new dinosaur species recently found in southern Utah that is approximately 70 million years old, sat between Flatow and his guests. There was also a skull of Utah’s State fossil, the Allosaurus, and a cast of a six-foot-long Apatosaurus femur bone that laid at the foreground of the stage in front of the panelists.

During the broadcast, microphones were set up around the theater to allow audience members to ask questions of the panelists. Several grade school-aged kids, as well as dinosaur enthusiasts, asked questions, one of which was about difference between Steven Spielberg’s dinosaurs and the behavior of actual dinosaurs.

“If ever you do an impression of a Velociraptor, people mostly put their wrist down, with

palms facing down, but dinosaurs weren’t slappers. They were clappers with [their] hands together,” said Switek, as the audience applauded. “So if you take anything away from this today, remember that dinosaurs are clappers and not slappers.”

During the second half hour of the show the topic shifted from Jurassic age to space age and how the geology in Utah can help scientists study Mars. Marjorie Chan, professor of Geology at the University of Utah, answered questions from Flatow and the audience about what the comparisons are from Utah to Mars. Charles Killian of Mars Society spoke about the Desert Mars Station near Hanksville that is simulating what it would be like to live and work on Mars.

“We try to simulate as much as possible what it would be like, in terms of the human interactions and the physical interactions that are required, to do the kind of human exploration that the Mars Society would very much like to see happen in the not too distant future,” said Killian when asked what the Desert Mars Station simulations consist of.

In the last hour, guest panelists presented information on the biology of the Great Salt Lake and the James Webb Space Telescope. Bonnie Baxter, director of the Great Salt Lake Institute, spoke about the microbiology of the Great Salt Lake and how its saltiness exceeds that of the ocean.

“The ocean is about 3.4 percent sodium chloride all around the earth,” said Baxter. “The south arm of

the Great Salt Lake is about 11 to 12 percent salt right now. The north arm, where I do most of my studies, is between 25 and 30 percent salt. So, close to 10 times saltier than the ocean.”

Stacy Palen, associate professor of astrophysics at Weber State University, and Bob Hellekson, ATK program manager, spoke about the massive space telescope being built in Utah that is to exceed that of the Hubble telescope in size and viewing capabilities.

“James Webb [telescope] is optimized in the infrared instead of the visible,” said Palen. “It will be able to see things that Hubble Space Telescope was not necessarily designed [to do] as its primary mission. For example, James Webb is going to go after the first stars in the earliest galaxies ever to form in the universe.”

A question and answer session immediately followed the broadcast. Flatow and his staff answered questions about the show and shared stories of the 22 years that Science Friday has been broadcasting.

“I’m thinking about the subject matter and how I can make it as palatable and interesting and as personal as possible,” said Flatow when asked how he prepares for a show. “The ‘aha’ moments that we try to create and bring out is what really makes it a memorable program.”



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‘Really Slick’ concert features talents of SLCC music students

Andrea Ibanez
Contributing Writer

On Wednesday, April 17, the Salt Lake Community College Performing Arts Department hosted “Really Slick,” a concert featuring the talents of SLCC students and a plethora of vibrant and energetic Jazz and Blues tunes. The free-admission event took place between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. South City Campus’ Grand Theatre provided an enticing setting for the evening’s performances. Jazz and studio ensembles featured in the program included The Moon

Shiners, Vacancy, Cable and The Jeff Ringle Experience. Kicking off the night, The Moon Shiners, led by the vocal talents of Mariah Richard, performed Amy Winehouse’s *You Sent Me Flying*. Richard’s strong, resonating timbre evoked the intense sense of longing, rejection and frustration belonging to the lyrics while repetition of melodic phrases performed by trumpet player Cameron Wall accentuated elements of the vocal message and created a sense of lament within the piece. Vacancy, the second musical group to perform,

featured the talents of Mike and Jackie Huggard and Jake Wardell who covered popular numbers by artists such as U2 and Feist. Vacancy’s performances showcased the pleasantly unrefined and inventive characteristics of jazz with a catchy blues-rock fusion thrown into the mix, giving the group its unique charm. The group Cable performed *Seven Days in Sunny June*, a number by acid jazz group Jamiroquai. Vocals in this number, performed by Noel Imair, were spunky and carefree. A digital element, incorporated into the music with the talents of Disc

Jockey Ryan Moody, gave the music an edgy jazz-pop sound. Beats provided by drummer Caleb Goodman gave heart to the music allowing a forward feeling momentum to be created while interactions with other musical performances within the group provided a rich harmonic texture. The Jeff Ringle Experience concluded the program. They performed a rendition of Spencer Davis Group’s *Gimme Some Lovin’* from the 1980 film *The Blues Brothers*. Lively music of The Jeff Ringle Experience ended the evening on a high note incorporating

vibrant instrumental solos that showcased the unmitigated talents of each performer. Austin Gren, guitar player and chord composer for the group, provided basic underlying rhythmic foundation for the music while maintaining an individual personality in performance that gave the music a distinct energetic flavor. Drummer Jeff Ringle brought the performance to a close with a solo showcasing precise technical and creative ability and providing a pitch that added dramatic

punctuation to the piece. Stage lights in bold hues of red and yellow gave performances crisp and fiery warmth, while tinges of blue light enhanced the more somber elements of music. Overall, the concert provided an evening of hearty entertainment and soul-gratifying sounds. Unconventional thinking was refreshing and kept listeners attentive. Those who may have not had a burning passion for “all that jazz” coming into The Grand that evening left with a reinvented appreciation of the music genre.

Press [Start] to Game: ‘Injustice: Gods Among Us’ is not the game we need but the game we deserve

Aldo Gomez
Staff Reporter

8/10
For PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and Wii U

Injustice: Gods Among Us is a DC Comics fighting game made by NetherRealm Studios, makers of 2011’s *Mortal Kombat*. While both games share similarities, *Injustice* stands on its own. *Injustice* has a much slower pace than other fighting games such as *Ultimate Marvel vs Capcom*

3, but it’s not a bad thing. The slower pace makes every punch feel titanic as the stage starts crumbling to pieces around the combatants. *Injustice* is a technical fighter with combo chains, guard breaks and the inclusion of canceling, which is the ability to stop an attack mid-animation and start a different attack. New players shouldn’t be intimidated since *Injustice* offers many teaching and training tools. The ability to put moves

and combos on the fight screen and not having to pause and switch to the moves list mid-fight is very helpful. Even with two dozen characters, every hero feels unique with the addition of character powers and super moves. Character powers are assigned to one button and activate abilities unique to each fighter such as Green Arrow shooting electric arrows or The Flash tapping into the Speed Force to increase damage. Super moves are the

true highlight of *Injustice*. Players have a Super Meter that is charged by taking and giving damage. Once the meter is filled they can activate their super move, a highly cinematic and powerful attack. Super moves showcase each hero’s abilities such as Superman ability to punch his enemy into the stratosphere only to slam him back on earth, and Aquaman calls in a tidal wave and stabs his opponent with his trident to feed him to a shark.

Fighters don’t rely on just their own power to fight. Stage hazards and transfers are used to inflict damage and fight in new areas. A round may begin in the Fortress of Solitude before throwing an opponent through the Phantom Zone, finally ending up in Superman’s personal space zoo. Even though the stage hazards and transfers are fun, they can be long and can deal unblockable damage. The ability to

turn them off is found in the game if players don’t like them. *Injustice* is a great fighting game that caters to veteran fighters as much as it does to new players. Cinematic and over the top, the game looks and feels as amazing as its source material. People looking for a new fighting game or who just want to punch Aquaman in the face don’t need to look any further than *Injustice: Gods Among Us*.



Photo courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment
Wonder Woman squares off against Cyborg in ‘Injustice: Gods Among Us.’

Earth

continued from A1

how the woman is on both the inside and out. Involvement is one of the most important parts of being Earth Goddess. Each year the new Goddess is

asked to be on the board of Earth Jam and become active in planning and promoting Earth Jam events. “I am representing something that I love, which is my Mother Earth,” said newly crowned 2013 Earth Goddess, Nina

Gilardinelli. “It’s great to be able to be involved with the organization that puts on Earth Jam every year.” Both Gilardinelli and Marsh say that SLCC students can make a difference in the environment by doing small things such as recycling, reusing and reducing use of everyday products. Other things are as simple as turning off the water while brushing your teeth and not littering. “By continuing to do this event it makes a difference, it creates a celebration and fun time for people to come together. As long as we keep the issues out in the open,” said Marsh. “You can just go to one place and learn about a lot of different things.” Students can also make a difference by volunteering for programs and events. They can write stories, create websites or give of their time in service. This year Earth Jam is on April 27 and 28 at Liberty Park. They have two different stages with entertainment, a children’s area and booths. For more information about Earth Jam visit earth-jam.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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‘Oblivion’ feels like a really long episode of ‘The Twilight Zone’

Stephen Romney
Staff Reporter

★★★★★

Oblivion has a very interesting history. It is the first film to be based on a comic from Radical Press, which was founded to test high concept ideas in comic form prior to producing those same stories as feature-length films. (See more information in this week’s Weekly Reel.)

This particular comic-turned-film is coming to us from the director Joseph Kasinski of *TRON: Legacy* fame. It is set in a post-apocalyptic future where most of the planet has been left destroyed and unlivable as a result of a large scale war between humans and “scavengers,” an alien race that sought to claim the planet’s resources for themselves.

Jack Harper, played by Tom Cruise, is a technician in charge of repairing drones that guard a series of machines that are converting the Earth’s oceans into “fusion energy” that is used to power a human colony on Saturn’s largest moon, Titan. With only two weeks until Jack and his partner Victoria, played by Andrea Riseborough, are finished with their mission and sent to Titan, a mysterious spacecraft crashes into their sector of the Earth.

Jack begins questioning the world around him when the drones he repairs fire upon the human survivors of the crash, with Jack only able to save a woman named Julia played by Olga Kurylenko. He also uncovers a group of human survivors, led by Morgan Freeman, who are fighting to destroy the organization that Jack has worked for most of his life.



Photo courtesy of Universal

The film boasts some decent acting, but a lack of development renders some of the supporting cast unnecessary. Pictured: Tom Cruise (Left) and Morgan Freeman (Right)

If you thought that synopsis was long-winded, just wait until you get into the actual story, which follows a more episodic flow than most of its three-act contemporaries. It takes a while for the film’s inciting incident to really kick off. Even after that, it takes a really long time for a lot of the major revelations and sci-fi action to take center stage.

It does an okay job building up some of the mystery, but some of the other introduced elements suffer as a result. This is mostly seen in how the human survivors are developed, if at all, as we follow Jack and Julia throughout most of the film.

For the most part, the story is engaging,

but it has its fair share of goofy moments with the big reveals feeling like something out of an episode of *The Twilight Zone*. While most of the reveals are actually really good twists, the final scene of the film left me with a feeling of confusion.

It does boast some pretty good visuals, but a lot of the artistic choices, while consistent, felt like a blend of various sci-fi aesthetics taking cues from *The Terminator*, *Portal*, *Total Recall*, the *J.J. Abrams Star Trek* and even *2001: A Space Odyssey*. It feels very similar to *TRON: Legacy* in that regard, as that film also boasted good visuals while having a fairly confusing story.

Overall, *Oblivion* is fairly entertaining, but

didn’t leave as much of a lasting impression as I would have expected from a high concept sci-fi film. Its pacing is more akin to a Stephen King miniseries except with a much better payoff. The visuals are good, but have too many elements that feel lifted from other sources. It keeps that feeling as subdued as it can but is still noticeable to the trained eye. If you’re into the kind of science fiction one would find in shows like *The Twilight Zone* or *The Outer Limits*, you’ll probably enjoy this film.



Can comics be used as high-concept film pitches?

Find out in the Weekly Reel, this week exclusively at globeslcc.com



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