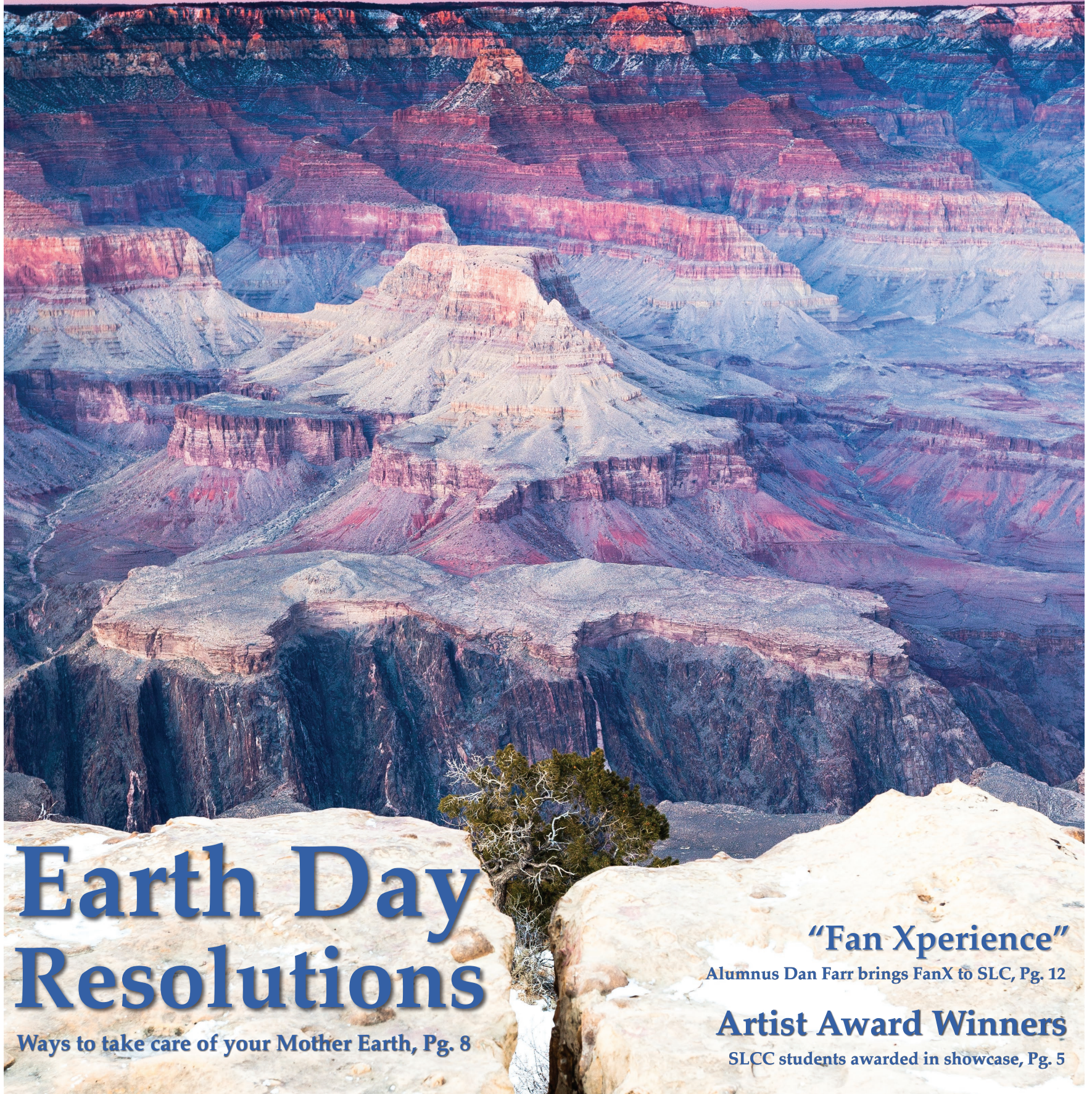


THE **Globe** *Weekly*



STUDENT VOICES AND VIEWS FOR THE SLCC COMMUNITY



Earth Day Resolutions

Ways to take care of your Mother Earth, Pg. 8

"Fan Xperience"

Alumnus Dan Farr brings FanX to SLC, Pg. 12

Artist Award Winners

SLCC students awarded in showcase, Pg. 5

Globe Weekly

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WED 16



SLCC Student Job Fair

When: 8:30 am - 2 pm

Where: TRC, Lifetime Activities Center (LAC)

2014 Visual Art & Design Student Showcase

When: 12 pm - 6 pm

Where: SCC, Center for Arts & Media Multipurpose Room

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

When: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: SCC, Black Box Theatre

THU 17



Health and Wellness Center: "De-Stress Fest"

When: 11 am - 1 pm

Where: TRC, Student Events Center

Academic Success Workshop

When: 6 pm - 7 pm

Where: TRC, Career Library, STC 242

Jazz Studio Ensembles Concert

When: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: SCC, Grand Theatre

FRI 18



"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

When: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: SCC, Black Box Theatre

CWC 5-Part Workshop - Take It For Grant(ed): Grant Writing Basics

When: 10 am - 12 pm

Where: SCC, Center for Arts & Media Multipurpose Room

Chamber Singers and Salt Lake City Jazz Choirs

When: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: SCC, Grand Theatre

SAT 19



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

When: 10 am - 11 am

Where: TRC, Quad

CWC 4-Part Workshop - A Plethora of Poetry: Celebrating National Poetry Month

When: 1 pm - 3 pm

Where: Community Writing Center, 210 E 400 S, #8, SLC

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown"

When: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Where: SCC, Black Box Theatre

MON 21



Children's Easter Basket & Treats

When: 9 am - 10 am (Bargain Day)

Where: SCC

This Easter-themed event is just for the kids in the daycare at South City Campus.

Save Your Eggs

When: 4 pm - 6 pm

Where: SCC, Atrium

Join the competition! See if you can create the perfect container to assist your egg in surviving a two-story drop.

TUE 22



Fixing Our Food by Sustainable Startups

When: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: The Leonardo, 209 E 500 S, SLC

Devotional and Free Lunch

When: 12 pm - 1 pm

Where: Jordan Campus, Jordan Institute of Religion

Pick It Up, Clean It Up, Service Project

When: 4 pm - 6:30 pm

Where: Brickhill on Main Apartments, 4255 South Main Street, Murray



For more information on these events, please visit
www.globeslcc.com/calendar/

- 1 The Power Of One Conference and Gender Neutral Restrooms (32)
- 2 Student Art Showcase Featuring the Talents of SLCC Artists (19)
- 3 Draft Day Desperate To Be The Next Moneyball (7)
- 4 From the Fishbowl: It's All About Perspective (5)
- 5 SLCC Dance Company Presents eMotion in Motion (4)

T6P@
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Page Views

SLCC Talks: Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated this month. How do you stay eco-green?



Scott Garner
Business Major

"I recycle and I make sure to buy eco-friendly products."



Jimmie Breedlove
Photograph Major

"I try to recycle and being a smoker try not to throw my cigarette butts on the ground."



Caitlyn Johnston
Mass Comm Major

"Well, I recycle and my aunt has a hybrid car and I try to drive that whenever I can."

Pass the Passion Please

Andrea Ibanez

Staff Writer [@andrea_ibanez62](#)

There come times when we pause to reflect on what we're doing with our lives; whether what we've been doing is what we were meant to be doing. Those questioning moments can often happen during your time in college. They may be what brought you here in the first place, as was the case for me. I wanted to find something I could be passionate about. Something I was "meant" to do.

Entering my first year of college, I enrolled as an "undecided," a word that could define the way I felt about almost everything for most of my high school years. That first year of college I had taken a couple of English classes and realized that I had a bit of a knack for writing. I loved it. I loved the way it challenged me, and motivated me. And then I found journalism.

When I decided to change my degree to Communication, I didn't know the first thing about journalistic writing. All I had was my admiration for journalists who had written stories that had the ability to expose corruption and inspire change; inform the public and enlighten minds. I wanted to become a part of their world.

The first time my work was published in The Globe was honestly nerve-wracking. The thought of possibly hundreds of people reading something I had authored was strange to me. Oddly enough however, the feeling became sort of addicting. I found something that inspired me and allowed me the opportunity to inspire others. Journalism became my passion.

I encourage you to find your passion. Become involved in your community. Salt Lake Community College offers many opportunities to become involved and gather the experiences that can lead you to finding a career that you love. If you haven't yet discovered that thing which ignites the flame within you, you'll find it by becoming more involved in the world around you.

FROM THE
FISHBOWL



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ANSWER TO TODAY'S PUZZLE

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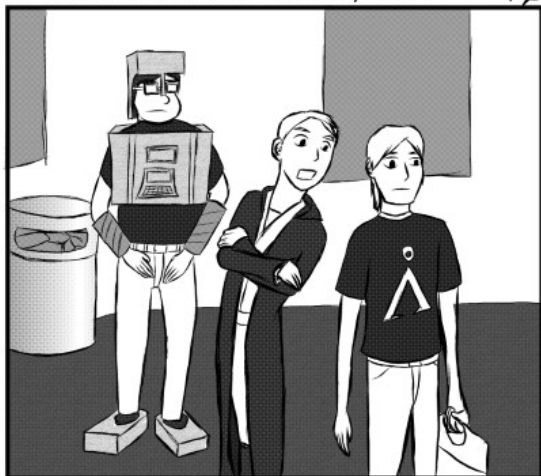


Before Bill Watterson transformed his main characters into an obnoxious six-year-old and a stuffed tiger, *Calvin & Hobbes* pretty much stunk.

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FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

THE WEDNESDAY EDITORIAL by C.A. Trahan



"You will never find a more wretched hive of scum and villainy. We must be cautious."

City of Salt Lake

Readers to Writers Contest Winners

WRITING

Christine MacPherson
"Of The Earth"

“ The passionate curves and cracks of her voice drew me nearer to her music, cracked like my moon-bleached fingernails against the body of this rusted guitar. Singing expels from the abdomen in rushing waves, with all the power of the ocean slipping through teeth. The roots of soft human feet were torn from the earth at young ages, replaced with Happy Meals and iPods.

Should we take the wind with us through the corridors of a school, we will be ridiculed for singing, for dancing. We receive praise for giving the same answer for two-plus-two, and criticized for wrong should we receive an answer other than "A." The human mind constricts itself by conforming to the narrow walls of a worksheet; destroying an imagination that formed within our mother's womb. The cost of this destruction totals more than our tallest skyscrapers – more than our national debt; a digging grave we cannot seem to leave because it appears as comfortable and familiar as the delusion of reality we have grown to believe.

Truth has an uncanny way of shining like a star – its light would not be seen if no darkness were surrounding it. Music sings these truths to us, if we learn to listen. This singing still survives eternal – growing earthly tendrils from tender flesh, deep into the guts of heaven's indigo mountains.

”

ART

Jason Koelliker
"Practice Head"



PHOTOGRAPHY

Htet Nay Aung



Assistant Professor Matthew LaPlante paid a visit to SLCC for The Globe Readers to Writers Open House on Friday afternoon. Speaking on citizen journalism, he gave the audience in the Student Event Center better insight on how important journalists are. He stressed that all news shared on social media comes from journalists, who research and gather information in order to share what they discover with the world.

LaPlante shared his experiences as a reporter in Iraq, and his realization that the best stories don't come from overseas, but from everyday people. He says the best thing a journalist can do is be curious – find people to have a conversation with and share their story. That is how news is made. 📸

Student Art Showcase Recognizes SLCC Talent

Jacqueline Scheider

Contributing Writer

On the evening of April 10, students, artists and the community gathered at Salt Lake Community College's South City Campus for the Student Art Showcase reception and award ceremony in the Grand Theatre.

- **Dean's Award:** Douglas Jensen
- **President's Award:** Jason Koelliker
- **Best of Show Award:** Michelle Hallberg
- **Five Awards of Excellence:** Kevin Landeen, Terry Jackson-Mitchell, Rachel Beh, Leah Neerings and Trevor Berreth.
- **11 Awards of Merit:** Jake Gatenby, Maryam Moosavi-Johnson, Ed Browning, Jeffrey Juip, Brian Baity, Jared Christofferson (who received two), Josh Madden, D. Parker McCormick, Jessica Lee and Nichols Socci.
- **Honorable Mentions:** Elliott Jared, Angela Ang (who received two), Ruslan Sultanov, Jill Sullivan, Eileen Johnston, Brooke Steinicke, Sara Belnap, Ariel Norris and Danielle Ainsworth.

Contestants submitted their work from which judges in the art community picked a winner for each category. There was a category for every type of artist to receive recognition, from fine art to animation.

"We are here to support the community and the college," says SLCC alumna Lisa Wright. "I always love seeing what the students produce. I think it brings our community closer together. This is a great event to be had."

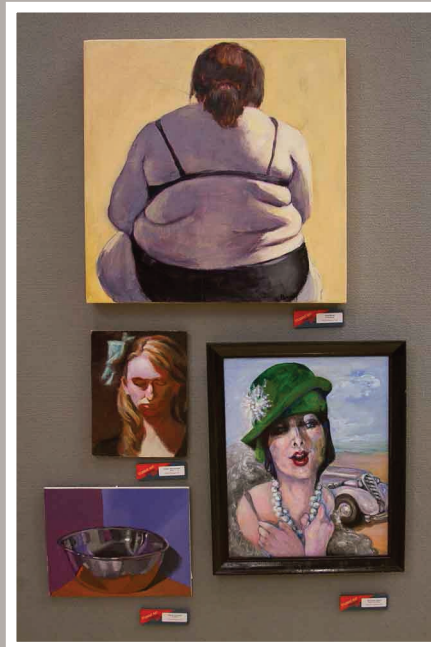
The panel of judges decided to give honorable mentions, in addition to the awards, because they believed that the level of work and talent by SLCC students did not deserve to go unrecognized. In all, there were 10 honorable mentions and 19 "best of..." awards.

"There was almost 500 entries into the show this year," says event host Lana Gruendell during her opening speech. "The problem is that the space we have will only hold a little over 200 pieces, so we had to jury out a lot of really nice pieces."

At the award ceremony, Gruendell congratulated everyone who participated, even those who did not make it into the showcase.

"I submitted my artwork to the show but it didn't make it in, but I still came to the reception to support my classmates who made it in the show," says student A. Foley. "Even though I didn't make it in [the showcase], I am glad I tried because this is an amazing thing that we [student artists] can get involved in. It's a good way to put yourself out there," says Foley.

The Student Art Showcase pieces will be open to the public for viewing April 11-17 at South City Campus' multipurpose rooms. The pieces will be on display Monday-Friday from noon to 6 p.m. 🐾



Photos by Jimmie Breedlove

SLCC STORAGE SALE

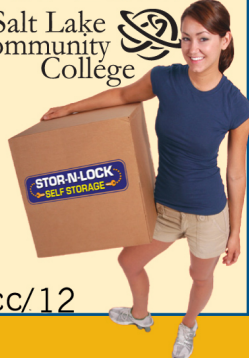
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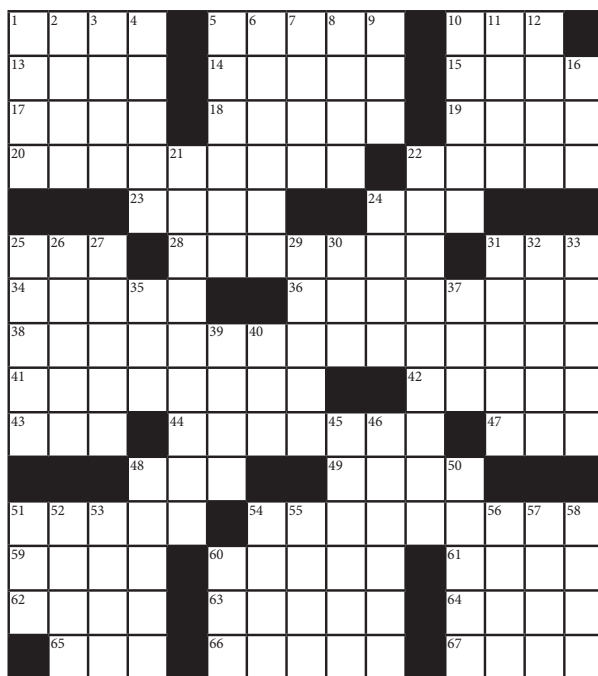
CLEAN • DRY • SECURE

The New York Times

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0312

- ACROSS
- 1 White breakfast beverage
- 5 Orange breakfast beverage
- 10 Tan breakfast beverage
- 13 Blunted blade
- 14 What a "V" signals to a violinist
- 15 Sock
- 17 Middle of a simile
- 18 Work like a dog
- 19 Body lotion brand
- 20 Admonition to the overly curious
- 22 Nut often found on a sticky bun
- 23 Agitated state
- 24 Ungentlemanly sort
- 25 R. E. Lee's org.
- 28 Like some shopping
- 31 Best-liked, in chat rooms
- 34 Kid's retort
- 36 Words said while tapping on a watch
- 38 "I'm buying!" at a bar ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme
- 41 Good-looking person?
- 42 "10" star
- 43 Density symbol
- 44 Alternative to pasta
- 47 Agcy. for retirees
- 48 "___ Misérables"
- 49 They build up in pores
- 51 Rainbow-shaped
- 54 Story threads
- 59 Bet
- 60 Fire-starting aid
- 61 ___ bene
- 62 One of Isaac's twins
- 63 Start of an elimination rhyme
- 64 Endor denizen
- 65 Fizzy dinner quaff
- 66 Plain dinner quaff
- 67 Genteel dinner quaff



PUZZLE BY JEFF CHEN

- DOWN
- 1 Product of fermenting honey
- 2 ___ facto
- 3 Not marbled, say
- 4 Jonathan and Martha of Smallville
- 5 Newly arrived
- 6 Pulling an all-nighter, e.g.
- 7 Letter-shaped construction component
- 8 Pirate hide-out, often
- 9 Meadow mother
- 10 Clucked
- 11 G.E. component: Abbr.
- 12 Halo, e.g.
- 16 Clear libation popular in England
- 21 Hornswoggled
- 22 Cutout toy
- 24 Knocked-out state
- 25 Product of fermenting apples
- 26 England's Fergie, formally
- 27 Bud in the Southwest
- 29 Fifth-century pope called "the Great"
- 30 Before, briefly
- 31 Trey beaters
- 32 Moorehead of "Citizen Kane"
- 33 Clear libation popular in Russia
- 35 Presenter of many a spoof, for short
- 37 Stocking stuffer?
- 39 Six, in Seville
- 40 Old-timey agreements
- 45 Nickname for the \$2 Canadian coin
- 46 Nervous giggle
- 48 Was a prelude (to)
- 50 Muscle connector
- 51 Product of fermenting barley
- 52 Speak like a tough guy, say
- 53 "Ta-ta!"
- 54 "Nolo contendere," e.g.
- 55 Dryer fuzz
- 56 "___ get it!"
- 57 School for James Bond
- 58 Clear libation popular in Japan
- 60 Not a lot

Veterans Club Cleans Up on Earth Day

Tyler Schiffman

Contributing Writer

The Student Veterans of SLCC (SVSLCC) is hosting a community "Pick it Up, Clean it Up" service project on April 22.

The service project is open to all who wish to participate, and all ages are encouraged to come lend a helping hand to clean up the community. This activity is geared towards fostering camaraderie amongst veterans and neighbors alike.

"We've got veterans, we've got students, we've got community and we've got food. What more do you need," says John Luque, president of the SVSLCC.

All supplies and work equipment will be provided so the only thing you need to bring is a helping attitude and a smile.

"In addition to the service project, after we are done there will be a barbeque," says Luque.

During the barbeque, 24 Hour Fitness will have a booth and will be giving away free samples and shirts. After you've broken a sweat helping to clean up the community, you can learn more about breaking a sweat in the gym.

"You don't need to be a veteran to help with the service project," says Luque. "We are partnering with EMG Management, and 24 Hour Fitness to bring awareness to the community about some veterans services."

EMG Management has worked closely with veterans over the years and has provided housing for homeless veterans.

"I live in one of their complexes," says Luque. "It's called Birkhill Apartments, and that is where the service project will be. They have such nice facilities and they have always been very veteran friendly. I am excited to show my appreciation for how they have helped me, and others can show theirs as well."

The event will take place from 4 to 6:30 p.m. on April 22 at the Birkhill Apartments, 16 E. Gilbride Avenue (4255 Main), Murray.

"Please come help and give back to the community," says Luque. "Make the difference and get involved."



SLCC Dance Company shines on eMotion

Beca Castaneda

Staff Writer [@bequiii](#)

On April 11 and 12, the Salt Lake Community College Dance Company's annual production was presented to the public, reviving the audience with dance choreography that left everyone in the Grand Theatre applauding for more. The multimedia concert offered diverse dances with energy and vibrant movements that expressed every kind of emotion, hence the name, eMOTION in MOTION.

"I am delighted [with] how the concert turned out; the dancers performed exceptionally well," says Tess Boone, Director of the SLCC Dance Company in an online interview. "The student choreography was thoughtful and well crafted. Some of the students used their choreography class to put together their movement concepts, and the extra feedback from that really made a difference in the artistry of their work."

This year, the theme was based on finding movement that delves into the many human emotions. From the first dance piece to the last, an assortment of intricate technique demonstrated by each dancer - along with the level of working with props, and boxes. All of the elaborate movements of each dance, whether it was a samba or a hip-hop piece, showed complete contemporaneous with one another. "The dancers made every effort to portray the emotional content intended in the choreography,"

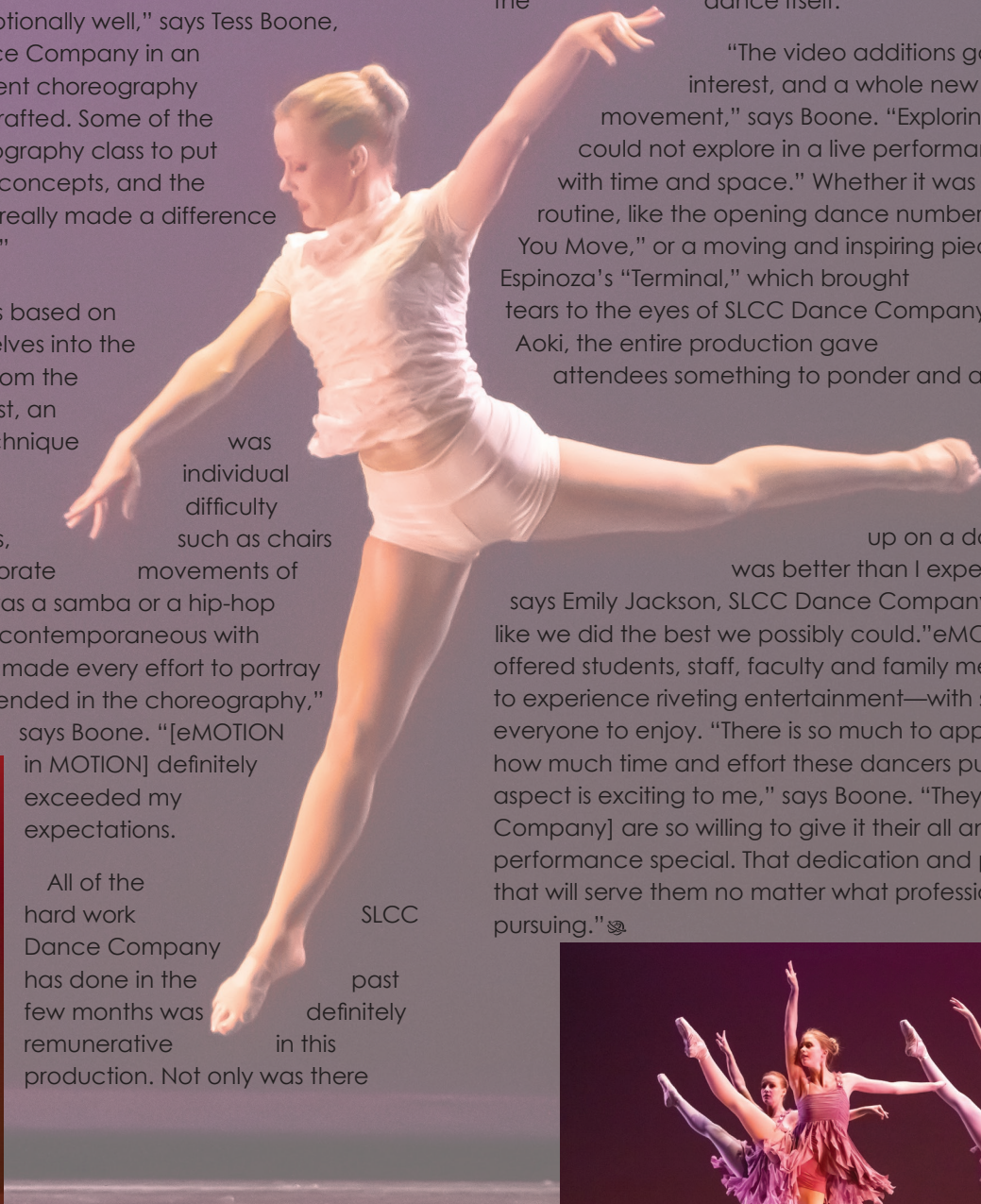
says Boone. "[eMOTION in MOTION] definitely exceeded my expectations."

All of the hard work SLCC Dance Company has done in the past few months was definitely remunerative in this production. Not only was there

a great turnout for eMOTION in MOTION, but the crowd had the chance to experience the showcasing of dance-for-the-camera films, created by SLCC film student Angela Rosales Challis. Dance-for-the-camera was a way to vision the performances in a different way. Some of the dances such as "Loud Hands Welcome" and "Regrets" used a screen in the back of the stage, displaying videos of the dancers performing at a different angle—creating a powerful presentation of the dance itself.


"The video additions gave [the concert] interest, and a whole new way of viewing movement," says Boone. "Exploring aspects that one could not explore in a live performance, like playing with time and space." Whether it was an up-tempo routine, like the opening dance number, "I Like the Way You Move," or a moving and inspiring piece, such as Laura Espinoza's "Terminal," which brought tears to the eyes of SLCC Dance Company president Kristen Aoki, the entire production gave attendees something to ponder and admire.

"I usually feel really nervous that I will trip up on a dance, but overall it was better than I expected it to turn out," says Emily Jackson, SLCC Dance Company member. "I feel like we did the best we possibly could." eMOTION in MOTION offered students, staff, faculty and family members the chance to experience riveting entertainment—with something for everyone to enjoy. "There is so much to appreciate. I know how much time and effort these dancers put in, so every aspect is exciting to me," says Boone. "They [SLCC Dance Company] are so willing to give it their all and make each performance special. That dedication and passion are skills that will serve them no matter what profession they end up pursuing."



"I am delighted [with] how the concert turned out; the dancers performed exceptionally well." – Tess Boone

Photos by Lindsay Daniels



If your idea of helping the environment ends at watching “An Inconvenient Truth,” you may want to step it up and take a little more of an active approach. Lucky for you, Earth Day is right around the corner and is the perfect time of year to re-evaluate your impact on this ball of dust we all call home.

You don’t have to go out and buy a Prius, or live on bean sprouts and organic quinoa for the rest of the year—although that wouldn’t hurt. No, the biggest impacts can come from some of our smallest actions. We all know the basics: reduce, reuse, recycle. It’s never a bad thing to review and practice these basics, but what about the old adage, “Leave it cleaner than you found it?” I think this is one of the most important and often overlooked environmental reminders.

It may take some extra time, but how nice would it be if your favorite outdoor location was completely free of garbage? A few years ago, on a kayaking trip at the Great Salt Lake, I gathered a bag full of random, non-degradable garbage. It all consisted of plastic and Styrofoam. It was amazing how much garbage was scattered along the shores; there was even an entire car chassis! It was obvious I wasn’t going to be able to fit everything into my eight-foot kayak. So, I gathered what I could and made a promise to myself to pick up what I can, when I can. It’s as simple as that.

You don’t have to spend more money, or show-off how “green” you are. It’s the little efforts that go a long way. Whatever your politics or religious beliefs are, just remember that earth is OUR home. It is a joint effort that requires us all to be involved. So, be proactive. Start simple by gathering a bag of strewn garbage, or take that extra step and plant a tree. Whatever your effort, it’ll be rewarding. 🌱



EARTH

Pick

Lindsay Dan
Photographer

BIRTH DAY

Pick It Up and Bag It

Daniels
LindsayDaniels3



Photos by Lindsay Daniels

FARR BRINGS THE

SALT LAKE
COMIC CON

FAN
XPERIENCE

TO UTAH

Aldo Gomez

Staff Writer [@Aldo531](#)

Salt Lake Comic Con (SLCom) began Sept. 5, 2013 and provided fans with all things nerdy in Utah. Salt Lake Community College alumnus, Dan Farr, producer of SLCom, is bringing the fun of Comic Con to Utah again, with FanX in April, before round two of Comic Con in September 2014.

"The reality is that [FanX is] going to feel like the same show we experienced in September, just bigger" says Farr. "It'll be over double the floor space than what we had in September and we're anticipating a pretty strong increase in attendees as well. If somebody attended Comic Con in September, then they're going to feel at home at FanX."

SLCom broke records in its inaugural year, exceeding the 30,000 ticket pre-sale record by maxing out with 70,000 at-door tickets sold by Saturday afternoon. The success was an indicator that events like this have a home in Utah, as predicted by Farr himself in other interviews.

"While I was [at SLCC] I got my associate's in business and then when I finished there I went on to the University of Utah and got my business bachelor's degree there," says Farr about his attendance at SLCC. "I really felt like the path of going to Salt Lake Community College first to do my generals and then focus on the business, because I knew I wanted to do a business, I just didn't know what business I wanted to do."

Farr was originally recruited to SLCC for its basketball program in 1991, and after graduating from the University of Utah he co-founded DAZ 3D in 2000. The company created visual designs like those on fast food drink cups, but its 3D designs were what put Farr in the convention scene.

"There's just something electric in the air when you get to see people having such a great time," says Farr about what inspired him to bring the Comic Con experience to Utah.

"For me, I really enjoy watching the fans. I love the people that will take months of their time, and some people years, building costumes just to wear to an event like this or people that are bringing multi-generations. Parents are bringing their kids, or grandparents are bringing their grandkids into an event to see celebrities that they were fans of while growing up. That's the type of energy that really sucks me into it," says Farr.

No stranger to stress, Farr has had to deal with last minute celebrity appearances and cancellations, an exponential increase in attendees with limited staff, and catering to the many different fans in Utah. Farr and company have been preparing for FanX by increasing the number of volunteers and the quality of training that they receive, increasing the floor space and listening to fans on social media.

One of the most recent guests announced was celebrity Nathan Fillion. Fillion is best known for playing Captain Malcolm Reynolds in the television series "Firefly" and as Richard Castle in the crime series "Castle."

"It's kind of hard to explain the energy that you feel at a Comic Con event unless you attend it," says Farr. "I just really enjoy seeing people have a great time and being a part of producing something that has that impact on people."

"THERE'S
JUST SOMETHING
ELECTRIC IN THE
AIR WHEN YOU GET
TO SEE PEOPLE
HAVING SUCH A
GREAT TIME"

Photo courtesy of Marilei Puentes



Check out next week's **Special Comic Con Edition** of The Globe for full coverage of FanX, taking place **April 17** through **April 19**.



EXCLUSIVE WITH DAN FARR & FANX

Marilei and Julio Puentes

Contributing Writer @ HeSaidSheSaid

Last Tuesday, we had the privilege of talking with Salt Lake Comic Con producer Dan Farr, and we asked him the questions that have been on everyone's minds. How did he react when he found out Norman Reedus was no longer coming? Will there be any more surprises for FanX? Why isn't Bacon coming anymore? (If you missed the bacon reference, it was announced on Salt Lake Comic Con's Facebook page on April Fool's Day that Bacon would be making an appearance.)

We asked Farr about any last minute surprises that might be in store for FanX. He said that he "hopes there will be [surprises]," but he can't make any promises.

HE: Do I think there will be any surprises? Oh absolutely! Farr mentioned how Stan Lee was a last minute addition to the lineup last year. Because of the success of announcing such a big star as Mr. Lee himself, which set attendance records, I'm confident that there will be some big surprises for FanX.

Some of the saddest news to hear concerning FanX was the cancelation of Norman Reedus.

SHE: I was deeply saddened when I found this out. Who was going to sign my pillows with Norman's face on them, Carl Grimes? I don't think so, people. Well, to be honest, I don't have any Norman pillows — yet. We asked Dan Farr what his initial reaction was when he found out Norman was no longer coming, and it's safe to say that he was as surprised and saddened by the news as everyone else.

"With someone that's that big, and you book them that far in advance, there's always a possibility that something's going to come up on their schedule," Farr stated.

We were also definitely curious to know if we could find a little inside info about the picture they shared on the Salt Lake Comic Con Facebook page about who may be coming next. If you haven't seen it, it has Benedict Cumberbatch, Matt Smith and Patrick Stewart.

Farr made it very clear that invitations to FanX have gone to all three actors, and if their schedules allow it, then they may be coming. We know there is going to be an awesome Star Trek panel happening,

Be sure to check out our newest video online featuring the entire interview with Dan Farr. Feel free to drop us a line, suggestions, topics to discuss, etc. to officialhesaidshesaid@gmail.com or follow us on Twitter. Don't forget to subscribe to our YouTube Channel.



Photo courtesy of Marilei Puentes

so having Patrick Stewart there would be amazing.

But here's what we both really think. With all the amazing work Farr and his whole team have been doing, we think all three are more than capable of coming.

What do you guys think? Do you agree that all three will be coming? Well, either way, we are definitely excited for FanX and we hope to see you there. Be sure to look for us so we can get you on camera for our Cosplay video. 📸



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HEAVEN IS FOR REAL



Stephen Romney

A&E Writer  Studio Ghost

This year has been a crowded one when it comes to religiously-themed cinema. Whether they were adaptations of stories from the Bible, or modern-day “inspirational” dramas, studios seem to be hoping that God is going to provide the greenbacks.

For some films, it’s worked when you look at the current gross of films like “Noah.” For others, most hope to rake in the first week ticket sales from the more zealous religious communities before dropping out of the top ten like a rock, as seen with “Son of God.”

Which category will “Heaven is for Real” fall under? That remains to be seen, but the prospects of this film’s box office performance look very grim indeed.

Greg Kinnear stars as Reverend Todd Burpo, a pastor whose faith and livelihood is put to the test when his son Colton, played by Connor Corum, has a near-death experience during a surgery to remove his appendix. Upon recovering, Colton claims to have visited Heaven, describing it with equal parts innocence and straightforwardness. He also mentions information regarding Todd’s deceased grandfather and events surrounding his surgery that he had no way of learning prior or during the surgery. Caught between faith and logic, Todd has to decide what he believes, and how to tell his son’s story to the world.

There were three things that came to mind while watching this movie. First, the overall message, while mostly harmless, is a bit muddled. This comes from the feeling that the people involved with this film were trying to make it appeal to everybody, as it comes across as very “safe.”


Second, the film is shot and paced in a manner more akin to a TV movie than a theatrical release. It has a really slow beginning, with the inciting incident occurring after a good 20-30 minutes. While that pacing works for a TV movie with commercial breaks, as an uninterrupted feature, it drags on after a while.

Last, the trailers set up the wrong kind of expectations. When seeing the trailer, it makes the film look like something akin to “Ghost Whisperer,” where it’s going to be a story about the comfort of life after death. That’s not the case, as it’s more the story of a man, Greg Kinnear’s character, trying to make sense of a strange event that even he himself has a hard time believing despite being a pastor.

The only major problem I had with the film was its attempts to actually show Heaven, or at least Colton’s description of it. While I can understand the rationale of film being a visual medium, if they kept those elements ambiguous by having Colton’s story be the only thing we learn as an audience about Heaven, it would’ve made the story stronger as a whole.

Have a comment?



All in all, this isn’t a bad movie, but it doesn’t carry that much staying power either. The “safe” execution of the film is probably its weakest point. The story could’ve been an interesting one if the director had made a clear decision about his approach. As it stands, this is probably not worth seeing in theaters and it probably better viewed on Netflix out of mild curiosity, while enjoying a lazy Sunday afternoon. 



Photos courtesy of TriStar Pictures

“Heaven is for Real” gets a 3/5   

Disney's 'Bears' provides entertainment but little information

“Bears” manages to rectify one of those things, as John C. Reilly narrates the story of Sky, a brown bear raising two cubs named Scout and Amber. We’re taken through a year in their life, as the new mother tries to lead her cubs to a safe place where they can eat all the salmon they want in order to build up the fat reserves necessary for winter hibernation.

The film is more upfront about the comedic narration. As such, it’s easier to get into, but the film also benefits from having its humor come from what’s actually on screen. Reilly’s narration comes across as less forced and more organic, giving it an almost improvised feeling. Another plus is that the names given to the “characters” of the story are a lot more creative this time around. This may stem from the fact that there’s no clear “villain,” but none of the names caused me to groan nearly as much as the ones in “Chimpanzee.”

What also helps this film is that the story is clear and easy to follow. We have a clear protagonist, Sky, a clear goal, finding a safe place to eat salmon, and clear stakes, making sure her cubs will survive the journey and the following winter hibernation.

From a technical standpoint, the film is well shot and edited, treating the viewer to some breathtaking scenery and some intense shots, when either predators are approaching, or two bears are fighting.

This film has the same problem as seen in “Chimpanzee” in the sense that it’s not very informative. I didn’t really learn anything over the course of the film’s 90 minute runtime. That’s not the mark of a good documentary.

It made some improvements over the previous outing for DisneyNature, but the brand itself really needs to decide what type of documentary it’s going to put forth, be it informative or tantamount to the dubbed over animal footage of “Whispers: An Elephant’s Tale.”

If you’re looking to learn about animals this Earth Day, there are better documentaries available, even when it comes to ones intended for children. Better yet, just go to the zoo. 🐾

3.5/5

Stephen Romney
A&E Writer  Studio Ghost

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