*Ice Age* is here, after months of theater trailers and TV commercials. Those bits feature Scrat, the persevering, if slightly dimwitted, saber-toothed squirrel. His manic appearances bring comic relief throughout the movie. You may leave the theater and wonder why Scrat's actual screen time was so limited, given his prominent role in the previews.

The story is slight, and most adults will find it predictable, albeit occasionally amusing. Manny the woolly mammoth reluctantly saves the life of Sid, a sloth who has been left behind by the other animals as they migrate to a warmer climate. Manny has decided to stay put and meet the ice age head on. Naturally, Manny and Sid pair up. Shortly thereafter, they rescue a human baby and decide to reunite him with his family. Diego, a saber-toothed tiger, joins Manny and Sid and promises to help them find the humans. Unbeknownst to Manny and Sid, Diego has an ulterior motive.

The three main characters are charming. John Leguizamo brings playful humor to Sid. Were it not for Scrat, Sid would be the scene stealer of the movie. Denis Leary plays Diego with his trademark world-weariness. Ray Romano's Manny is gruff, yet caring. He is perfect as the reluctant hero.

The animation is top notch. Shading and texture give the animals realistic fur. The muted colors subtly create a frozen landscape. The movement of the animal characters is smooth, although the humans seem stiff at times.

The children in the theater laughed loudly at the comic parts, especially those featuring Scrat and Sid. The adults, including myself, mostly chuckled. *Ice Age* is a pleasant and simple diversion.