

PERSPECTIVES



Bryan Dixon/Emerald

the FORCE IS BACK

The new Star Wars adventure brings reminiscences of childhood fascination and the realities of growing up

At movie theaters across the country, a strange phenomenon is developing that those too young to remember don't understand.

Small tents erected straight as a formation of X-wing fighters are pointing in the direction of the mecca of twenty-somethings' forgotten childhood — the entryway to a new "Star Wars" adventure.

Some people smile as they pass the young rebels in their newly built villages in front of the ticket counter at Cinema World, which started selling tickets for "Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace" at noon Wednesday.

The campers understand the hope of seeing something great and reliving an early childhood memory when Luke Skywalker swings Princess Leia across the chasm, narrowly escaping the storm troopers. Or when Luke hits the target dead on and blasts the dreaded Death Star to pieces and

the whole world, it seemed, cheered.

It was a time when pop was your favorite food and the phrase "too much of a good thing" didn't hold any meaning. Planning for the future meant figuring out what you wanted for your birthday.

That's what these hopeful campers are trying to relive.

There are others, mostly teen-agers, who laugh and jeer. They shout "Loser!" and "Get a life!" at the band of campers. They didn't grow up fearing a dark-cloaked half-man, half-machine called Darth who could choke a person by just looking at them, or rooting for an alliance that never seemed to have a chance until the very end, when they, of course, won.

They don't understand the mystique of the prequel, the power it has to give meaning and life to a collective American childhood experience.

This may make us old.

Not being understood by the younger generation, believing that somehow we know better and maybe they, too, will understand someday it's a right of passage and a sign of growing up. We may even begin to relate to our parents and how they

flocked to a Dylan concert trying to relive something that had already passed them by.

Teens may see the first three "Star Wars" movies at home with parents and think the special effects are hokey, Princess Leia is ugly and Han Solo is too old for the part. They have already forgotten what it is like to be 6 years old. But something like "Star Wars," when it is time, will remind them.

Not all is lost. There is a new hope.

The next generation of wide-eyed 7- and 8-year-olds will hold their parents' hands as they excitedly await the new "Star Wars" movie. They understand after seeing the first three in the theater that this is the one that started it all. They can share their parents' excitement.

They will fall in love with Anakin Skywalker in a way we never got to know him. Hopefully the "Star Wars" movies will follow them through growing up: seeing the first with parents, the next with a group of friends and the last with someone special. Hopefully they will love the new characters like we did the old and want to be like the hero.

They will tell their children about the time their parents took them to see it just like they are showing it to their children now.

A new "Star Wars" experience will be retold and reborn for the next generation and the force will live on in them.

And as we get old, children will ask about the dark side and the old movies with Luke Skywalker. We will smile at the name and remember when we first saw "Star Wars."

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

Letters to the Editor

Don't judge Dixon

As a student leader, one has the opportunity and responsibility to work with a diverse group of students. One also has the responsibility to work hard representing the students who elected them. Student Senator Michael Dixon is one of the strongest examples of this type of leader that I have seen at the University. Having worked with Michael in several organizations, I have seen the dynamism that he brings to whatever project or campaign he is working on. He not only works hard but seeks student input and involvement every step of the way. He has admitted to making a mistake and presented his mistake to the senate before the charges were publicized. He is committed to righting the wrongs that he has done and working toward a positive future. At this point, it is the role of the law to judge Michael and not that of the Emerald or the student body. I strongly support Michael Dixon and urge students to show their support for one of our University's strongest leaders.

C.J. Gabbe

Planning, Public Policy and Management

Corporate questions

Aaron Artman's May 5 commentary "Corporate Universities," criticizes OSPIRG and Ralph Nader for their critical views regarding corpo-

rate sponsorship at the University while failing to address the fundamental reasons behind their arguments.

Artman's column assumes that groups like OSPIRG are on a mindless mission to rid the University of corporate sponsorship and send the school into financial crisis. However, these groups are really concerned with how specific corporations earn the money that they donate to the University.

Sure, corporations may fund the construction of a new library or a lecture hall, but where is this money coming from? When it comes from businesses that rely on sweatshop labor and the exploitation of young girls in foreign countries to earn their profits, then the University makes a statement that it supports these practices. This is why OSPIRG and many students who believe that workers should receive a living wage question corporate sponsorship.

Artman's column makes other assumptions that do not address the larger issues. One of these issues is that professors, despite the arguments in Artman's column, do stop teaching about illegal labor practices. Universities often run like corporations, hiring contingent workers who can be let go at anytime. Most contingent professors will probably think twice be-

fore criticizing those corporations that fund their employers.

By supporting corporations without asking how they earn their money, students give up their power to demand responsible corporate practices, and no amount of "new computers and better facilities" will make up for this loss.

Nathan Moore
Sociology

NATO violence

The "hope" expressed by the Emerald that "Americans are not so easily fooled," inspired me to respond to the editorial "Looks can be deceiving" (ODE, May 3).

With a show of simple ignorance, the ever-engaging Emerald "antagonists" endorsed the brutal violence of NATO and President Clinton's policy. Milosevic did not release Americans to make NATO look bad or perpetuate his propaganda. Further, how can such a bold judgment be made when the letter had yet to be opened? Are you claiming that a white flag is a dirty flag? A blue, white and red flag is a display of freedom, equality and humanity, not exploitation, trickery or inhumanity? Presumptuous bomb supporters (Emerald editorial board), Milosevic may want to save the lives of his supporters, innocent Serbs. Three American lives are not more important than 47 civilians killed by

NATO bombs on the day of the soldiers' release.

To further criticize Clinton's policy, a position that turns any Emerald editorial board member's stomach, let's examine a deceptive quote from our great leader.

"We need to teach students to solve their problems with words, not weapons," was Clinton's hypocritical response to the Columbine High School shootings.

Now, can one of you peace endorsers see some kind of reason why our country is shattered with violent ideology that spans the world and tears every sensitive heart? Diplomacy ends where bombs begin. American's children can see the glaring hypocrisy of our nation's leaders. Open your hearts and minds, question the authority we live under and write for the people.

On a last cry for peace and justice, may I pitch a column idea? I'm interested in seeing one that examines the now-popular phrase "peacekeeping troops." This new concept is doted on by the media, military leaders and politicians. I implore you to tell us the significance of this ideology. A great title for that column would appropriately be "Looks can be deceiving."

Sara Bartley
Communications

Thumbs



THUMBS UP
To the contract of the year
Women's college basketball star Chamique Hold-sclaw signed a six-figure endorsement deal with Nike. The deal is the largest ever paid to a woman athlete.

To greater accessibility
A new ramp at the Hult Center will make the Jacobs Gallery, on the lower level, accessible to disabled patrons. Previously, a staircase was the only way to reach the gallery. Advocates hope all of Eugene will follow in an attempt to make the city more accessible to the disabled.



THUMBS DOWN
To losing a great storyteller
Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout and dear Ickle me, Pickle me, Tickle me, too, were just a few of the characters Shel Silverstein introduced us to in his cherished books that seem to turn the world upside down: "Where the Sidewalk Ends," "Light in the Attic" and "Falling Up," to name just a few.

To dodging the issue
Citing discrepancies between the law and the current situation with Senator Michael Dixon, Senate President Michael Olson declares that Dixon, although he was found guilty of stealing from the University, should retain his senate seat.