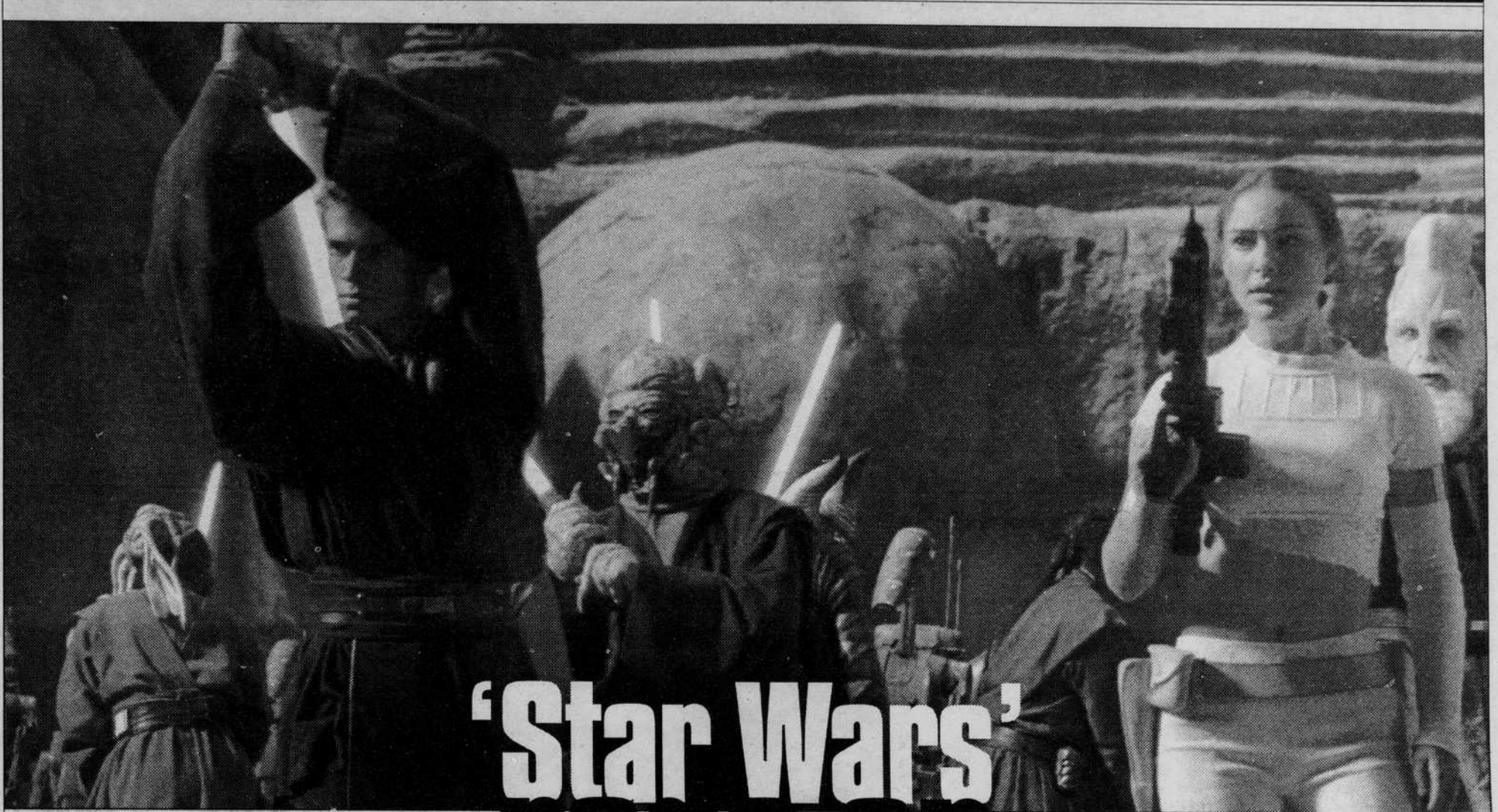


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Thursday, May 16, 2002



'Star Wars' Rage on

REVIEW: 'Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones' hyperjumps past "Phantom Menace" in visual quality, storytelling and appeal

By Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

The much-anticipated "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones" hits theaters today, and it is well worth the wait.

Writer/director George Lucas redeems himself with this newest chapter in the prequel trilogy that incorporates high-tech special effects and great storytelling with a finesse that far surpasses his lukewarm film, "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace."

Modeled after "The Empire Strikes Back," "Attack of the Clones" is much richer and darker than its recent predecessor and even rivals the artistry of the classic "Star Wars" trilogy.

The events of "Attack of the Clones," set 10 years after "Phantom Menace," explore the budding romance between Anakin Skywalker (played by Hayden Christensen) and Padmé Amidala (played by Natalie Portman) and the beginning of Anakin's turn to the dark side.

This is the

dark romantic chapter of the prequel trilogy, but like its predecessor, it is a love story that unfolds under the strain of a developing war.

Those wary of the romantic aspects in this movie need not fear. The love story does not distract from the action, and after all, Luke and Leia have to come from somewhere.

The state of the Republic goes from bad to worse in "Attack of the Clones." The movie is riddled with subplots and surprises that pull the characters and the audience on a wild ride to several planets to thwart a multitude of

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ANALYSIS: Ongoing 'Wars' between critics, fans focus on whether George Lucas' films portray strong female models

By Alix Kerl
Oregon Daily Emerald

For die-hard "Star Wars" fans, any attack on the Holy Trilogy is considered blasphemy, although there are those who think the series is targeted at males and features, at best, weak female characters.

Since the release of the original "Star Wars," the series has become a popular classic and has spanned generations. There are fans who think that the heroines of "Star Wars" are positive female role models, while others argue they are merely stereotypes.

The roles of the "Star Wars" women are "one-dimensional and patriarchal," said Edrie Sobstyl, a research fellow with the University's Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Some fans say that Princess Leia kicks butt in the original "Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi," and Queen Amidala (played by Natalie Portman) rules in "Star Wars: Episode I — The Phantom Menace" and "Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones." But the female stars are vastly outnumbered on-screen by their male co-stars.

"Amidala's role is overwhelmed by special effects and technology," Sobstyl said. "You don't get the sense that she is a strong role model."

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones'

★★★★★

