

# Uris reveals alter ego in public

Cindy Hines Kurfman  
Copy Editor

History Instructor Joe Uris prefers to keep his performance life separate from his teaching career, but posters along Hawthorne advertising his appearance at Cafe Lena's last Saturday were hard to miss: next to the words "JOE URIS" was a photo of his "friend from the S&M community" seductively posed in a scanty black leather costume and holding a whip.

Actually, only the first part of the evening could be described as a performance. The rest of his two one-hour sets were uncannily similar to his history lectures, except with the addition of a "Wheel o' Topics." *The Oregonian* also advertised the event, describing Uris as an "aging" radical who promised to do everything except disrobe. However, most of the evening consisted of an audience-initiated monologue.

Uris, wearing a red tie, dark shirt and light blue jacket, began his first set in the small, but packed Cafe Lena's by portraying a Bible-thumping, southern preacher. He was not satisfied until he had the audience of about 50 people shouting "Hallelujah." Then he performed the only stripping of the evening: he removed the tie and jacket and continued the rest of the night as his regular, rumpled self. The southern accent was harder for him to remove.

The next event was the "Wheel o' Topics." The audience wrote topics they wanted Uris to talk about on scraps of paper



Photo by Cindy Hines Kurfman

As his daughter Elisa assists, History Instructor Joe Uris amuses the crowd at Cafe Lena's with his off-beat humor.

which were then collected and placed around the wheel by Uris' daughter, Elisa.

Elisa, 25, portraying a voluptuous Vanna White in a short, tight, low-cut purple satin evening dress, spun the wheel. When the arrow stopped spinning, Joe spoke on the topic it pointed to. The first selection was transsexualism, which Uris confused with tranvestism. Next was menopause.

"I'm against it," said Uris, spinning off into the right-to-die issue.

Many of the topics had to do with sex, death and/or leftist philosophy. Uris' own theme was that "the powerful get to [take advantage] of the powerless" in our society.

Even with unrelated topics such as "community college students in the 90s," Uris managed to tie in what he called a "sexual

metaphor." He said students today want to "get in and get out."

The poster tie-in was the subject of fetishes. Uris talked about watching from across the street, along with his family, the raid on the X-Rated Cafe, a place infamous for inviting people from the audience to bare bottoms for spanking with a stalk of celery or a feather. Uris suggested that Douglas Squirrel, owner of the establishment, be nominated as the next mayor of Portland.

Uris ended the night with a discussion on hysteria and Satanic Ritual Abuse, the only topic he requested not be reported in *The Print*.

People interested in hearing Uris can listen to KBOO's Talk Radio program on Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. Or sign up for his U.S. History class next term -- his lectures are as entertaining as his performance at Cafe Lena's.

# Crichton takes off with his newest novel

Brendon Neal  
Sports Editor

During a time when we are constantly bombarded stories of airplane crashes -- TWA flight 800 being the most covered -- renowned Author Michael Crichton brings us *Airframe*.

*Airframe*, out in hardcover, gives the reader insight into the world of aeronautics. When flight TPA 545 encounters "severe turbulence" in flight, killing three passengers and injuring others, Casey Singleton leads a team of investigators in search of the real cause of the accident.

Singleton, the newly appointed vice-president of Quality Control for the maker of the airplane, becomes suspicious that more is involved than is apparent when a strange car begins following her and watching her house. When she finds the company has hired guards to "protect" her from disgruntled union members, her fears and suspicions increase.

The investigation is stonewalled from the start by parts manufacturers and the owner of the plane, an Asian corporation who wishes to avoid taking the blame for the accident. The plane's crew suddenly returns to

Asia and the carrier is unwilling to set up an interview.

As Singleton digs deeper she finds company officials misdirecting investigators. A major sale of planes of the same make is under negotiation and no one seems to want the truth behind the accident. The discouragement peaks as Singleton is chased through a hangar by a strange man intent on violence.

In the tradition of *Rising Sun* and *Disclosure*, *Airframe* is a solid mystery that you can not put down until you finish. Crichton continues to give us an insight into the politics of big business while providing an interesting and captivating story.

As with *Disclosure* this book is based on real events. Many facts offered in the book are contradictory to how the news media represents accidents in the air. However, Crichton makes the story so real the reader is able to consider the other side of the "story" not seen by watchers of network television coverage.

Like *Disclosure* this book seems to be written with the big screen in mind. Crichton fans and new readers alike should enjoy this book.

Grade:A

# Star Wars returns in January

Jon Roberts  
A&E Editor

Many people have come up to me and asked me what I think will be the biggest event of 1997. I tell them there is only one thing that will make this year a year to remember for the entertainment industry and that is the rerelease of "Star Wars."

Those same people would ask if that event would be the many sequels coming out this summer? Well, no. Even though I like the ideas of "Speed 2," "Lost World," "Aliens 4," "Batman & Robin" and many other sequels too numerous to mention here, "Star Wars" is the event of the year.

Is the biggest event of this year the many new albums from bands that seriously rock like U2, VanHalen, or Aerosmith? No. The biggest event of this coming year is the rerelease of the American cult classic "Star Wars."

In case you have been in locked away in a cave in the middle of North Dakota, the news of "Star Wars" rerelease in theaters is old news. But what about the many new scenes and redone special effects? Do you know the redone version of "Star Wars" is cool? It is rad that it will be followed three weeks later by "The Empire Strikes Back" and then two weeks later by "The Return of the Jedi."

All three parts of the trilogy

have been digitally remastered for cleaner pictures and digitally-enhanced soundtracks.

Of the three movies, "Star Wars" has the most new scenes added, with almost 10 minutes of new scenes. George Lucas was never happy with most of the special effects in "Star Wars" due to the lack of funds. ("Star Wars"



budget was only \$15 million.)

Several of the many new scenes clean up the plot. One of the most talked about shots is the scene where Han Solo confronts Jabba the Hutt on Tatooine in hanger 94. This scene was shot way back in 1975 with a British actor standing in for Jabba, who was supposed to be matted in later. But, due to lack of funds, the scene was dropped from the final film.

Now the scene returns with Jabba being a CGI (computer-gen-

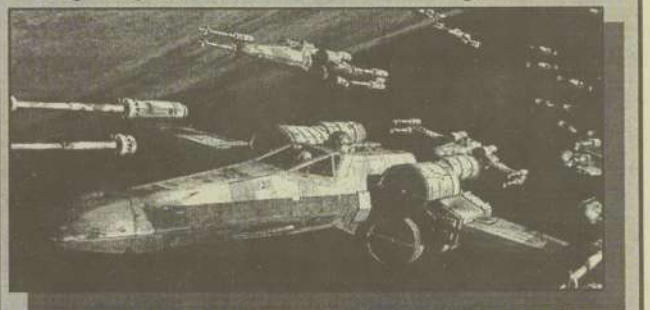
erated image), just like the dinos from "Jurassic Park," the T-1000 from "Terminator 2" and the frolicking tornados from "Twister." In fact, all the new scenes and computer effects have been done by the San Francisco based wizards at ILM (Industrial Light & Magic), the same people who handled the original "Star Wars" effects and the effects for many other movies like "Terminator 2," "Jurassic Park," "Lost World," "Twister" and "Mission: Impossible."

Lucas was not happy with his ground-breaking dogfights during the climax of the first movie, so he had ILM clean up the shots to make the scenes more clearer. One of the many shots reworked was the scene with the Rebel squadron approaching the Deathstar. Lucas always wanted the starships fly past the camera and wanted more ships, not just the handful that attacked the Deathstar in the original. Neither of these effects were affordable, or the special effects were not advanced enough to do these shots.

The whole dogfight was re-shot and made clearer (see insert at right for an example of some redone shots).

Well, now that you know a little about the new version of "Star Wars," perhaps you will join me on Jan. 31 to see another page in American history unfold.

"You must unlearn what you have learned."  
Yoda  
Designed by Jon Roberts



Above: The new CGI scene of the X-wings streaking toward the Death Star. Right: The original stop/go-motion scene.



Above: The New CGI Jabba the Hutt scene from Star Wars, Below: The original pre-CGI scene filmed in 1975 (notice the grainy appearance of the original scenes, this will be cleaned up in the remastered scenes).

