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Lessons from Laramie



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## Star Wars III: Our Last Hope

Exclusive pre-release review

Barth Creel

Editor-in-Sith

The best 140 minutes of my life were spent on Thursday at the Lloyd Center, where the Jedi Council headed by Master Lucas found within their infinite wisdom to grant me an advanced screening of "Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith."

The pacing was incredible. Every scene was exactly the appropriate length, no lagging, no downtime. Parallel plotlines were flawlessly arranged so that each scene cut to the appropriate complementary point across the galaxy.

Ewan McGregor's General Kenobi seamlessly bridged the gap between the wise, old Jedi we meet in Episode IV (played by Alec Guinness) and the younger, less experienced Jedi of Episodes I and II.

Yes, the morale of the average Star Wars fanboy/girl has waned with the previous releases ("Phantom Menace" and "Attack of the Clones"), and more than one will consider waiting till "Revenge" is released on DVD, but just like Mussolini, Lucas inspires his vast armies of followers with this dark and ominous missing link in the Star Wars chain.

This movie is essentially a standalone. If George Lucas had simply released this god-awful rather than the previous two inadequacies, the legions of Lucas/Vaderites would have absolutely no apprehension whatsoever although it would create a strange paradox in the space-time continuum.)

One of two moments in the film that this reporter could have done without was Grand Moff Tarkin's appearance near the end of the film in a cameo on the bridge of one of the Imperial ships as "Governor Tarkin," butayne Pygram just doesn't have the cheekbones of Peter Cushing.

The second, and infinitely more repulsive,

was a brief glimpse of the catalyst of the Republic's doom (Jar Jar Binks) appearing rather somber on screen for about one second ... one second too many if you've been trying to banish his awkward countenance from your think apparatus since Episode I.

With those my only complaints, "Revenge of the Sith" was virtually unblemished. In fact, it was so moving a story that I quite literally left the theater with a heavy heart and a racing pulse. The rest of my day was dismal, a point which I blame in some part on the depressing fall into corruption of not only Anakin Skywalker, but of the entire Republic.

While I am the only one on campus, to my knowledge, to have seen Lucas' Magnum Opus, I am not the only person on campus who has been anticipating the release of the final installment of the Star Wars saga.

"I'm really excited to see ['Revenge of the Sith']," said Clackamas student Justin Irvin. "I'm liking that they're going really in-depth. They give history and background on each character. It sounds great from reviews; it looks good from the trailers, but so did Episodes I and II."

His skepticism is echoed throughout the campus.

"The last two were plagued with problems," said another Clackamas student Joshua Butler. "I'm afraid it will be all about the action and will take away from what [Episodes] IV, V and VI accomplished with character development."

Fear leads to the dark side, Mr. Butler.

One of the most significant aspects of "Revenge" is the character development. Throughout the course of the movie, the audience really gets to know the character of Anakin; when (without giving too much away) he becomes seduced by the dark side, one can really connect with his plight. There

was actual acting, fer chrissakes!

One of the most common, and relevant concerns is the mood and rating of "Revenge." Episodes IV through VI all had a different mood than did Episodes I through III, but there is a perfectly legitimate purpose for this. The first three deal with the fall of a republic into darkness, while the later three confront the oppression of an empire.

Perhaps the most eager on campus to see "Revenge" is none other than computer lab assistant Ross Maurer (the first 'r' is silent). Maurer is an imperial guard with the 501st Legion of Storm Troopers. The 501st, also known as "Vader's Fist," are an elite group of Star Wars aficionados who dress themselves in home-made storm trooper garb and endure quotes such as "these aren't the droids you're looking for" while entertaining people in line to see Episode III.

So if you're waiting in line, at the midnight showing or otherwise, and you see an imperial guard (easily recognizable with their bright red regalia), don't try and use a Jedi mind trick or you're bound to hear, "Move along, move along."



## Mingo's work screened in Seattle

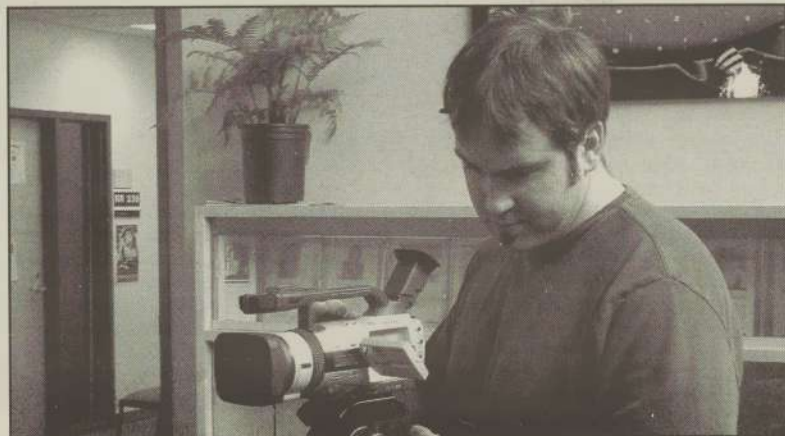
Ben Maras

News Editor

Two short films by Clackamas instructor Andy Mingo were shown at the 2005 Seattle Poetry festival last week, highlighting what Mingo calls "a new possibility for expressing meaning," which he will explore with students in a one-credit series of workshops, WR-259 Narrative and Photography.

The two films, "Chronology of Water" and "Beatings," were screened in the Richard Hugo House in Seattle, Washington as part of Warren Etheredge's Video Poetry Film Festival. Both were originally short stories by Mingo's wife, Lidia Buknavitch, which were adapted to the film medium as a form of visual poetry.

"We had to figure out exactly what would these stories look like," Mingo said. "What we ended up doing, though, we had to select key sections ... and boil it down to some very potent lines of dialogue that would then fit with the overall music and image in the story. It's a condensed version of fiction, and it ends up sounding more like poetry."



MINGO

A surprise faced Mingo when he arrived at the festival; after sending out a new DVD, another of his films was screened, "Silence in 60 Seconds," and is available for viewing at [www.chiasmmedia.com/product.htm](http://www.chiasmmedia.com/product.htm). The piece is an ancient Japanese haiku, with text floating on various images to portray the message Mingo wanted.

"I put it in with a lot of contemporary war footage that was furthermore complicated by the introduction of old soviet era footage to make it suggest empires," Mingo said.

One of the reasons that Mingo is putting on the classes for students is the future which he sees in the film medium. He does not believe it will ever replace more traditional medi-

ums, as others have predicted. He claims that they are too different to replace each other.

"There's a power in [film] by presenting what you mean to represent through images. The power really exists through the passive nature of the viewer to film," Mingo said. "When you read, you can critically stop at any time and it actually takes a lot of brainwork to comprehend it. If you're viewing something on a big screen, you're just a passive recipient and it washes over you; you're more into the actual experience."

The classes occur this Saturday and next Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. and 10 a.m. to 2:20 p.m., respectfully. Registration is still open until the first day of the class.

## ASG election results in new leadership, low turnout

Ben Maras

News Editor

The Friday election results for Associated Student Government revealed an unusually low voter turnout—less than 0.4 percent of all enrolled students—but those who voted elected Kristen Madden as President, and Tiffany Williamson as Vice President. When adjusted to only include full-time students, the numbers indicated a higher percentage of approximately 2.1 percent voter turnout.

Out of the 9,441 students enrolled as of the middle of spring term (approx 1,600 full-time students) only 33 votes were received for president, and 34 received for vice president.

Although a small turnout is not out of the ordinary, staff speculate that a number of factors could have led to it.

"When there's not a lot of conflict, people are comfortable with the status quo," said Advisor/Recruitment Specialist Mike Caudle. "I think that [it's] a good sign that there's not a lot of conflict on campus."

Another possibility is the lack of competition in the races, possibly due to students changing their minds and dropping out of the race, which is what led to the unopposed candidates this year.

Had there been no drop-outs, there would have been another candidate running for each position. Caudle points out that historically, lack of choice has led to lack of motivation by the voter population.

Department Chair of Student Leadership and Outreach Mindy Brown attributes the low turnout to the lack of competition, as well as the decreased visibility of the election due to the implementation of online voting. Brown says that in the past, in which voting booths were set up, the turnout was better, but she still remains optimistic about the race.

"Overall I'm very pleased that the group got their publicity out and followed through," Brown said.

Not all of the votes who were cast were for valid candidates either—vice presidential candidate Williamson received 18 percent of the presidential vote due to write in (compared to Madden's 72 percent of presidential vote), and presidential candidate Madden received 12 percent of the vice presidential vote, compared to Williamson's 73 percent.

Also receiving write-ins were ASG member Nick Verducci, Jedi Knight Luke Skywalker, and Corellian smuggler and pilot Han Solo, all of which received 3 percent of the total vote each.