



Illustration by Anna Avelison The Clackamas Print

Student ponders technological growth

By Isaac Soper
Arts & Culture Editor

We live in an age that the only limit to our invention seems to be our imagination. What was science fiction 50 years ago is just science today. Hell, what was science fiction five years ago is realized today. Although I foresee socioeconomic collapse before the invention of time travel, string theory shows that we are well on our way.

I was born in 1989. The first time I used a computer, I was in grade school (Apple II, a color similar to my pasty white legs with a beautiful 5 1/4" floppy disk and a green screen with neon green text). The first video game I can remember playing was "Super Mario Bros./Duck Hunt" dual cartridge on the Nintendo Entertainment System. It was a place where typing skills paid off much faster than my D'Nealian cursive writing skills, which are about as good today as they were in third grade. In fact, I was told that I would use cursive for the rest of my life, I guess they lied to me about that and who "discovered America."

The Internet has been both helpful and detrimental to our society. We've gone from having to read something in

a book, to looking it up on Yahoo, to Wikipedia. A sliding scale from credible to what Wikipedia was five years ago — no sources and open to all for editing. Information that was once kept in books, on records, in file cabinets, in mailboxes, in movie theaters and 20-sided dice has been digitized, compressed and formatted to our hard drives, to make our lives easier and more organized; sleeker, sexier and smaller. Every bell and whistle has been replaced with an ultrabright LED and a floppy drive playing the "Imperial March."

What is the benefit to this "digital age" we are born into? Sure, we have instant access to information via the Internet, the ability to communicate with someone thousands of miles away through various mediums and the ability to download anything ever digitally created for free, I mean for 99 cents via iTunes, what does it matter? These technological advances take away the reason for us to leave the comfort of our own homes, let alone our couches. I can watch a movie instantly on Netflix, download a video game on Steam and get everything else I need via Google Shopping. Goodbye cruel world, hello computer.

I remember being 15 without a cell phone, while all of my friends had them. I thought that it was so stupid, an

unnecessary thing to carry around with you, because if you really needed to make a phone call, you could use a payphone or by God, wait until you get home. A few days ago I misplaced my cell phone; it felt like the end of the world to me. I was worried that my friends would assume that I was either an asshole or dead, since I don't use Twitter and I'm rarely on Facebook.

For years now, we've had access to cell phones that include other programs so that we don't have to wear cargo pants and an army jacket with a hundred pockets to lug around my rotary dial phone, a calculator and a few board games or a Sega Genesis. This may all be very convenient, but dare I ask, what happens when it all gets taken away? What if the SOPA internet censorship law passes and free information becomes a thing of the past? If we are put into a "digital dark age," in which we'll only be able to access what seems acceptable to a government standard? What happens if that massive solar flare occurs and all of the electronics on earth are fried? I don't think that we'll all die because of our addiction to our iPhones but then again, as C-3P0 commented about R2-D2, I have been known to make mistakes ... from time to time.



Courtesy of Lucas Film

Red Tails flies out of history

By James Duncan
Design Editor

Despite what I was expecting, as it was produced by George Lucas, and his last few films were just okay at best, "Red Tails," was good. I was surprised by the depth of the characters and gripping story.

"Red Tails" stars a number of excellent actors including Nate Parker, Terrence Howard, Cuba Gooding Jr., David Oyelowo and Tristan Wilds. Their brilliant performances bring to life the characters on the screen and though there are a few moments where the acting gets a little thick, they can easily be forgiven.

"Red Tails" was able to capture me almost immediately with explosions and the beauty of World War II aircraft, moving on to take us through the struggles and triumphs of the Tuskegee Airmen, who were the first group of African American pilots to serve in the US Army Air Forces. The program was meant to be a failure from the beginning but because the brass set the bar so high for applicants, they only got the best of the best. By the end of the war the Tuskegee Airmen became one of

the most highly decorated groups in the US Army Air Forces. They were even responsible for the first surrender because of only aerial attack!

The story follows a group of the Tuskegee Airmen through their lives in the war. Marty 'Easy' Julian (Parker) and Joe 'Lightning' Little (Oyelowo) are the main focus of the movie, while all the characters play a major role in the overall look and feel; they face their victories, losses and the death of friends, but that is only part of what makes "Red Tails" so good. There is also a heaping serving of WWII dog fighting action, complete with an evil Nazi bad guy and flak!

"Red Tails" holds you all the way through. While some moments are less amazing than others and some of the story feels a little contrived in parts, overall this movie keeps the viewer involved by balancing the "chaka chaka" of machine guns and the voices of the characters, finding that balance of action and drama that makes a good WWII movie. There are awe inspiring, edge-of-your-seat moments. You will find that when the pilots meet the inevitable end of most WWII pilot, you care. By the end of Red Tails I cried.

Trails End Saloon
1320 Main St. Oregon City 503-656-3031

Blues Jam
on Wednesdays & Sundays

Blues Therapy
with Rae Gordon
Thursdays

NW Blues Bands
Friday & Saturdays

Full Service Blues Bar and Grill

Voted Oregon's Best Blues Venue
By Cascade Blues Association