

FEATURES

Star Wars, Phantom Menace: The Saga Begins...And Ends For Me

By Katie Galley
editorial page editor

Last semester, starting in early April, I started thinking about the new Star Wars movie, Episode One, The Phantom Menace. I was looking forward to seeing it, how could you not be? But the release date was still far away. And there were final exams to deal with. However, by the first week of May it was ALL that I thought about.

The weeks before it was released were very painful for me. I lived and breathed Star Wars, day and night. I would ask people that came into where I worked if they would be seeing Star Wars. Those that said "Yes" were cheered, those that answered "No", were served with a scowl. I searched the department stores for

Star Wars merchandise. I played game upon game of Star Wars Monopoly. I visited Star Wars website after Star Wars website, looking for the trailer to appease my obsession. May 19 could not come fast enough for me.

Then I heard about ALL the people that were dying to see Star Wars, just like me...and I got worried. I worried that I would not be able to get in to see the first showing of it...apparently people planned on getting in line very early, possibly days before to get their tickets. Well, there was NO way that I was not going to get in the theater for the first showing. I called the movie theater in my town and found out that there was a midnight showing for the night before the actual movie was to be released. Score! I had found my way in.

About 2 a.m., the day before the special midnight showing, me and a carload of my friends got together and gathered our sleeping bags, made some sandwiches and bought some pop. We then threw it all in my car and raced down to the theater so we could be the first in line for tickets for the special screening. Remember, this is a whole 48 hours before the actual release date...we were convinced that people would already be down at the theater and beating us out for tickets. So down to the theater we raced...

Have you ever gone to a movie theater in a small town at 2 a.m.? If you have you know what we found when we got there. If you haven't, let me tell you what we found...nothing. There was nothing, or more specifically, nobody there. So, I guess my town wasn't as Star

Wars crazy as I had originally thought, but all I knew was that we were there for the duration.

After alternating between sleeping, eating and running across the street to Giant Eagle for bathroom breaks for 6 hours, other people finally started showing up at 8am. At first we were all leery of each other, trying to make sure that no one jumped ahead of you, or no one spared anyone in line. But soon, everyone realized that we were there for the same reason and the camaraderie began. We were all die-hard Star Wars fans! So 27 games of Star Wars Monopoly, 15 bathroom breaks, 3 large pizzas and 9 hours later, the tickets were dispersed and we were to go home and come back at 11pm.

The wait for 11pm was tedious and drawn out, but it did come. And my carload of people was the first in

line. We were the first people in our town to see Star Wars, The Phantom Menace!

The first hour of the movie flew by and we were all introduced to the new characters that will be with us for two more Star Wars movies. As I had with the previous Star Wars movies, I found myself cheering for the good guys and booing for the bad guys. Order in the Empire was restored for the meantime. The theater lights came back up and we were ushered out, and after the initial awe of the movie was over, I began to think.

I really didn't like it as much as I had the original Star Wars. I didn't like the high-tech world that these characters lived in. And in one case, (Jar-Jar Binks), I hated the characters themselves. And why did they kill Darth Maul in the first part of

the trilogy?! My happy, little Star Wars bubble was completely popped. I am sad to say it, and after all that hype in the beginning of the article...Star Wars the Phantom Menace, was a disappointment. No one was more distraught over this than me. I had waited, and anticipated for this hyped up media event, and it was overrated.

I initially tried to deny my dislike for the movie, I even went to see it again. I still bought some of the toys and I even own a Queen Amidala T-shirt. However, nothing is sadder than a disappointed Star Wars freak. George Lucas has 3 years to redeem himself with me. Even though I hated the first part of the trilogy, I will be in attendance for the second and third parts, if only to be part of a pop culture sensation. But George, if you are reading this, Kill Jar-Jar, PLEASE!



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Advice Etc.

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19). Giving advice can backfire, only give what is asked for!

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Fighting with a roommate can cause tension this week, but will pass when cooler heads prevail!

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Getting yourself organized this week will pay off in the long run!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). The pressure of school can seem overwhelming, step back and put it all in perspective.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Your study skills will pay off this week on a pop quiz!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Friends will be pressuring you to party, but don't neglect your classes for it.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Dobbins holds the start of a romance for you, so don't be late for dinner!

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Now is the time for you to take advantage of all that Erie has to offer!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This is the perfect week for you to get a job, and your parents will love you for it!

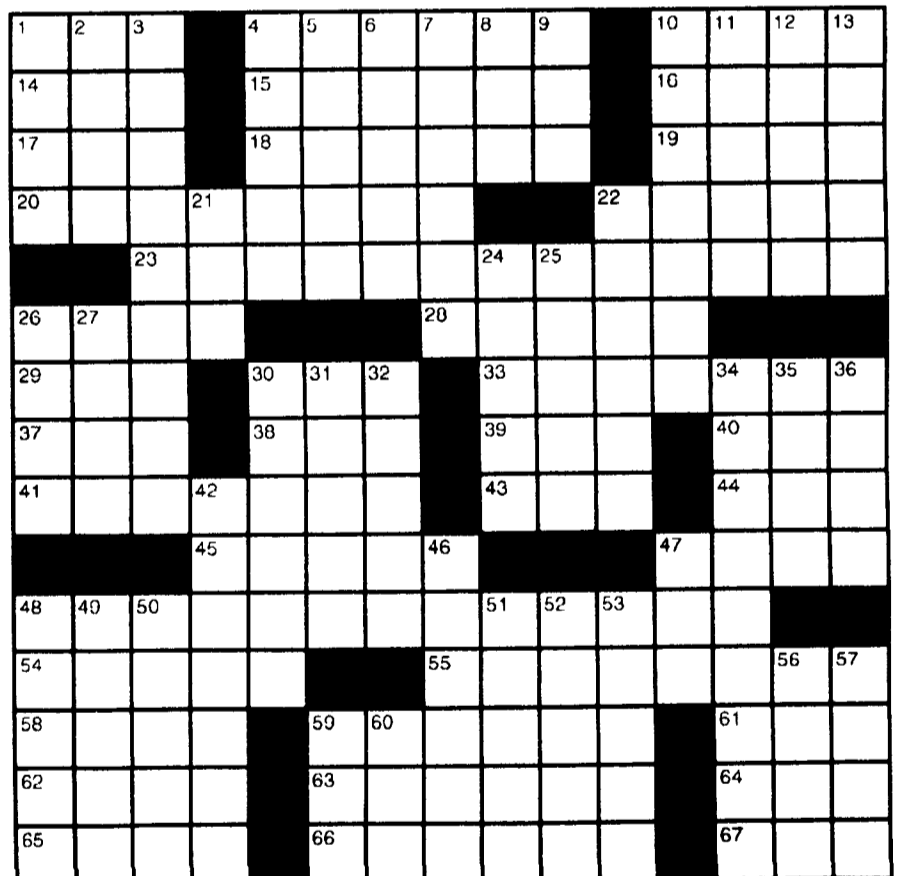
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Try leaving your dorm room for once, romance could be just outside!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb 18). Watch your money this week. It will go faster than you think!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You'll be even smarter than usual this week, so take advantage of it and study!

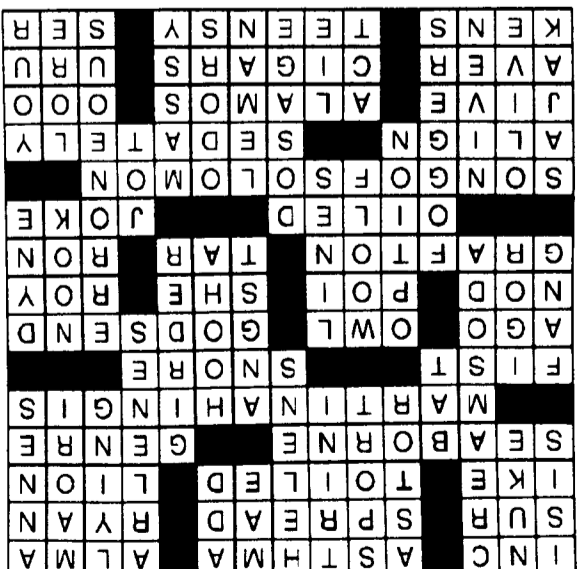


- ACROSS**
1 Business abbr.
4 Chronic respiratory disease
10 __ mater
14 Big __, CA
15 Distribute widely
16 Meg or Irene
17 I Like __ ('50s slogan)
18 Worked hard
19 One of a pride
20 Carried on ocean waves
22 Art school
23 '97 Wimbledon winner
26 Closed hand
28 Sleep soundly?
29 In the past
30 Barn nester
33 Unexpected benefit
37 Concur soundlessly
38 Hawaiian dish
39 That girl
40 Rogers or Acuff
41 Mystery writer Sue
43 Black goo
44 "Apollo 13" director Howard
45 Lubricated
47 Bit of humor
48 Old Testament book
54 True up
55 In a dignified manner
58 Nonsense
59 Los __, NM
61 Tic-tac-toe win
62 Declare
63 Cuban export
64 S. American nation
65 Berry and Norton
66 Wee
67 Sun. homily
- DOWN**
1 Sister of Osiris
2 Use a microwave?
3 Kind of pop



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- 4 Actress Mary
5 Active pastime
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12 Native New Zealander
13 Bancroft and Meara
21 Winged mammal
22 Bridge support
24 Feeling of anxiety
25 Disturbance
26 Hollow tooth
27 Borodin opera, "Prince __"
30 Choice
31 Writer Virginia
32 Queues
34 Mistaken
35 Alcove
36 Unit of force
42 Some insect repellents



- 46 Prescription info
47 Iota
48 Game-show host Pat
49 Martini garnish
50 "Separate Tables" star
51 Geneva's lake
52 Aromas
53 Weighty
56 Traditional tales
57 "This Is __ Life"
59 Perform
60 Abandon truth

by Bongo the three legged monkey