



STAR WARS

No longer on the Dark Side

BY KATEY STOETZEL

Features Editor
index.featureseditor@gmail.com

This isn't Reel Talk, but real talk. The person you've been reading film reviews from this whole semester has never seen "Star Wars" — until last week. I'm not implying that just because I've never seen "Star Wars," I don't know anything about film and TV. But for some reason, any time I've told fellow film enthusiasts, members of Filmmaker's Club — of which I am president — coworkers, casual moviegoers, random people on the street, my neighbor and my dogs, they have a complete and total freak out. Multiple people have gone so far as to say they hate me because of what they call a complete gap in my film knowledge.

But as of last week, that gap has been half-way closed because I sat down and watched the original "Star Wars" trilogy with my family. We even had a new TV to watch it on. I made the decision to marathon the original series during Thanksgiving break so I could be caught up for the release of Episode VII Dec. 18. I'll continue my catch-up with the prequels during the few short days leading up to the release.

Why hadn't I ever seen "Star Wars" before now? Well, let's see. The original movies were released during the '70s and '80s, and I wasn't even alive then. For my generation, "Harry Potter" was a thing, and I was all about that thing. By the time I became engrossed in the pop culture world, the biggest secrets of "Star Wars" already had been spoiled for me. A lot of film critics I read referenced "Star Wars" plot details and character beats in their articles, so I knew some of those specifics — like how Luke goes on a pretty typical but fantastic hero's journey. "Star Wars" is such a part of our mainstream culture that in my head, I already felt like I had seen "Star Wars." To me, "Star Wars" was a modern-day Greek epic, and every other film out there should bow down to it,

especially the ones boldly exploring new worlds on a starship Enterprise.

And obviously, I enjoyed the movies. I'm not going to pretend I didn't just to be "that" person. They are vastly entertaining. Luke's hero journey is fascinating, and I appreciated how "The Empire Strikes Back" — my favorite of the three — slowed down enough amidst the action blockbuster-ness of the films to show us that journey. Luke's scenes with Yoda are what solidified these films as great to me, and were definitely the point during the story where I sat back and said, "OK, I get it. I understand now." Of course, the characters are also great. And oh boy, do those special effects still hold up today.

"From where I stand, however, the love for "Star Wars" seems pretty universal, and I can't help but be absolutely amazed by that."

But I'm probably just rehashing what people have been saying for years, I realize that. Again, late to the party. Before watching them, I'll admit I was kind of worried. Because of all the hype surrounding "Star Wars" — especially with the release of Episode VII looming on the horizon — I was worried they wouldn't live up to my expectations. And to a degree, they didn't. Now, before you shun me for all eternity, let me explain. Like I said, in my head, "Star Wars" was a complex story told through hours of screen time a la the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. And to be confronted with the fact

that each film is essentially an action blockbuster running about two hours long was a bit jarring. I mean, you've got to excuse my ignorance for a minute here. People refer to "Star Wars" as a space opera. Anytime I think of operas, I think long and boring, but epic. You see where I'm coming from?

Maybe I need to brush up on my opera knowledge, too. "Star Wars" certainly isn't long and boring, but I feel content in calling it epic, though not in the sense I was thinking it was — not epic, like "The Odyssey" but epic because "Star Wars" can hold society's attention for decades, and still create mass chaos among hardcore and casual fans alike.

My family tends to disagree when it comes to what movie we want to watch, but last weekend, we all sat down in the living room and watched "Star Wars." My sister even got roped into watching. She hadn't seen them either. After the first one was over, my sister grudgingly admitted she liked it, adding "I didn't want to get invested in another series, but here we are."

While switching the movies out from case to Blu-ray player, my dad and mom started reminiscing about when they first saw "Star Wars" in theaters. My mom remembered all the girls loved Luke, but she didn't understand that when Han Solo was in the film. My dad talked about how crazy long the lines were to get into the theater and how cool the "Star Wars" video games were when he played them at the arcade. The world was all about "Star Wars" back then, and it's about to be again.

I lived through the "Harry Potter" craze. In fact, I was a part of that craze. But not everyone loves "Harry Potter." There are haters out there. From where I stand, however, the love for "Star Wars" seems pretty universal, and I can't help but be absolutely amazed by that. I'm glad I'm in the know now, and though the films weren't exactly what I was expecting, the hype didn't kill it at all because the cultural affect transcends the films. I'll see you guys Dec. 18th, lightsabers in hand.

Holiday event brings cheer

BY BRENTLY SNEAD

Staff Reporter

Kirkville already has begun decorating for the holidays and spreading cheer, and the Truman State Student Senate hopes to continue the trend.

The Student Union Building will be open to third- through fifth-graders to celebrate the holidays with college students for the first annual Holiday on Campus from 1-3 p.m. this Saturday.

Senior Parker Conover, external affairs committee chair, said elementary students who attend the event will be partnered up with Truman student volunteers. He said the teams can then participate in a variety of holiday activities. At the event, Conover said Truman students will give their third- fourth -or fifth-grader a gift which, for some kids, might be the only gift they receive during the holiday season.

"On a larger scale, we hope this event further communicates Truman's mission to foster positive relations with the community," Conover said. "Having a positive relationship with the community means not just interacting with those who can support our community, it means we also ought to engage those we might not have as much in common with."

Conover said Student Senate hopes to help low-income families that might have a hard time making ends meet this holiday season. Conover said while the children are the primary reason for the event, he also is hopeful it will create a positive relationship with the Kirkville community.

Junior Jacob Buxton, external affairs committee vice chair, said events like this are part of the reason he is a member of the external affairs committee. Buxton said he hopes it unites the students and town.

"I was raised to make sure you give back whenever you're celebrating Christmas, New Year's, Thanksgiving," Buxton said. "The idea there is to not be

selfish and to give back, and not only to your friends or family in gifts, but to help those who might need it a little more than you do."

Buxton said he thinks Truman students do not appreciate the Kirkville community enough, and this event gives them the opportunity to make a connection with Kirkville.

"Having a positive relationship with the community means not just interacting with those who can support our community, it means we also ought to engage."

-Parker Conover, external affairs committee chair

Buxton said he thinks this event will send a positive message to the community by showing that students care and want to reach out to the community.

"I think that the holiday spirit will also spread — the city is transforming and we want to participate in that," Buxton said.

Senior Nick Wehner, one of the Truman students who will be volunteering for Holiday on Campus, said he and his friend are looking forward to spending time with his assigned partner.

"We hope that we can not only give him the present he's asked for, but also a day of fun and friendship," Wehner said. "In return, we hope [he] can help us rediscover the childhood excitement we once had for the holidays."

INDEX Classifieds

Want to advertise with TMN? Contact us at
314-239-0899
advertising.trumanmedia@gmail.com

314 South Elson. It's newly remodeled summer of 2015. Brick house. One floor. Four bedrooms and office/storage room. Big living room. Two full bathrooms. Utility room with washer and dryer. All appliances included. It is within walking distance of Truman. Central air and heat. Has street side parking and parking lot off the alley. \$1,400.00 Or best offer.

WEspaces.net is now renting for the 2016-2017 year. WE have lofts, townhouse, duplexes multi-unit and single homes available. WE offer 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedroom units. All are walking distance to campus. Contem-

porary styles with hardwood floors, custom cabinets, washers and dryers, central heat and air and off street private parking. WE have maintenance staff on call 24/7/365. For more information or to set an appointment call 660-956-0969, visit our web site and WEspaces.net or come by or office at 111 North Main, Suite 106.

2BR 2BA townhouse with office/3rd BR one block from TSU. Remodeled with refinished hardwood floors. All appliances including stackable wd/dw and stainless steel fridge. Very nice. Available immediately or second semester. \$400. 319/530/7393.

BUCK BROS.

SUNNY SLOPE AUTO, LLC

NAPA Service Center

660-665-8464

710 W. Potter Avenue
at the Corner of Oteophathy & Potter Ave

serving the area for over 30 years

Complete Automotive Services
oil change, tire rotations, tune ups, check engine light, jump starts, & unlock locked car

Tell us you saw our ad in the Index and get 10% off on labor

www.buckbrothersauto.com