STAR The unauthorized and unobbicial look at the Force behind star Wars, Episode 1

Administration Uncertain of Movie's Effects on Campus

BY TED ANDERSEN Staff Writer

Using the Force as their guide, UCSB administrators are currently assessing the impact the May 19 opening of "The Phantom Menace" will have on the campus community.

With the possibilities of dropping attendance and ri-

I am concerned with people using lightsabers at parties

> - Yonie Harris dean of students

tualistic exhibition still uncertain, several administrators have yet to make formal plans to allow for this American cultural event, but insist that anything is possible.

According to College of Letters and Science Administrative Assistant Kathy Jenquin, the Force's pull may have already come between students and their classes.

"I've read articles that the people are lining up but I'm not sure if we have a larger or smaller proportion of people

who are going to go," she

Jenquin admitted no knowledge of administration's advanced class doorlocking or campusperimeter security planning for the 18th or 19th, but did hint at the possibility when she said, "Maybe they're keeping it a secret from me."

Though widespread anticipation over Episode One has reached a pinnacle, Dean of Students and admitted "Star Wars" fanatic Yonie Harris said she has yet to see a reason for UCSB to panic. However, Harris did maintain that if a situation arose, corresponding action would have to be taken.

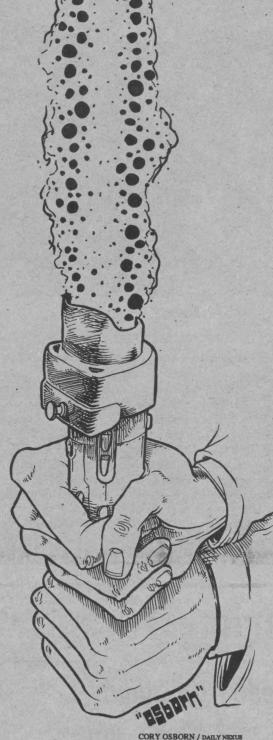
"To tell you the truth, I haven't felt a disturbance in the Force. Nor have I received telepathic messages from Obi-Wan Kenobi," she said. "As soon as I get instructions I will take it upon me to call all the Jedi together and have a meeting."

Harris noted problematic local implications the screening could have on student festivities.

"I am concerned with people using lightsabers at parties in I.V.," she said.

The box office opening of such a profound American

See FORCE, p.4B

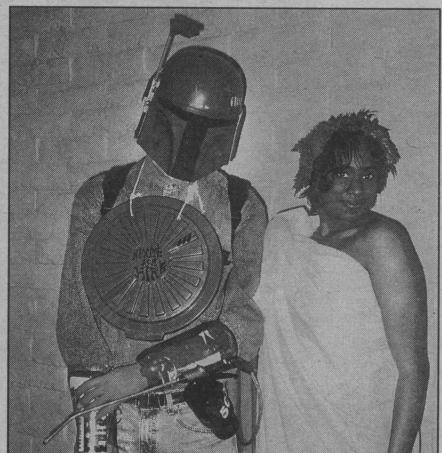


Pitching their fort outside the Arlington Theater at 7 p.m. Monday, these two fans were the genesis of the "Star

MARC VALLES

Early Wednesday morning I saw 16 years of anticipation stretch along courtyards, alleyways and city blocks. Overnight, a village of 800 had sprung up at the Arlington Theater, settling in a line of lawn chairs, sleeping bags, couches and tents, a line running from the box office to halfway down Chapala, a line of the faithful, the hopeful and the desperate.

See JEDI, p.4B



ELIZABETH WERHANE / DAILY NEXUS

Daily Nexus Editor in Chief Kerri Webb soaks up the spotlight with bounty hunter Boba Fett. Webb, along with copy reader Kelly Stephens, lost her "Star Wars" virginity Thursday night after watching "Return of the Jedi." Both Nexites, who had never seen any of the episodes before, viewed the entire trilogy in less than a week.

Virgins "Force"d to Watch Trilogy

■ An Interview With Two "Star Wars" Neophytes

The first "Star Wars" movie, "Episode IV — A New Hope," was released in 1977. It was followed in 1980 by the sequel "Empire Strikes Back," and in 1983 the trilogy was completed with "Return of the Jedi." Interestingly enough, people exist who, even given the 16- to 22-year window of opportunity to bond with their generation and bear witness to icons of cultural significance, still have not seen these movies. We found two of these "Star Wars" virgins at our office: Daily Nexus editor in chief Kerri Webb (!) and copy

The two infidels acknowledged their lack of cultural sensitivity and agreed to be the subjects of our study. We interviewed both of them in an attempt to gauge what knowledge they had absorbed unintentionally while living in a "Star Wars" world for the past 22 years. The two innocents then subjected themselves to the three films, 378 minutes of "a

long time ago in a galaxy far, far away." They then returned to our open arms, newly enlightened, prodigal daughters now well-versed in the ways of the Force.

The Pre-"Star Wars" Interview

room beeped or made noises or moved.

When did you first figure out that you were missing something in your life, namely, having seen "Star Wars"

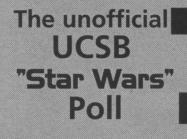
Kelly: I don't think I'm missing anything from my life, but people started asking and I started thinking about it when I heard about the new prequel. Also, I remember in high school there was this guy who had his whole room covered in "Star Wars" paraphernalia.

Kerri: I think it was when my boyfriend said, "Kerri, I don't think it's gonna work." No really though, it was when the whole re-release thing came out last year and the entire office made fun of me like I was from another land.

Do you think that people are blowing this new movie out of proportion?

Kelly: Majorly. I can't believe people are going down to L.A., and they're camping there already, right? And then there's freaks like my friend in high school ... everything in his

See CONVERTS, p.4B



Have you ever seen any of the "Star Wars" (SW) movies before? 86% — Yes

Which of the three did you enjoy the most?

14% — No

25% — "A New Hope" 29% — "Empire Strikes Back" 46% — "Return of the Jedi"

Do you consider yourself a "Fan"?

63% — Yes 37% — No

How many times have you seen SW movies, in your estimation?

10% — About once

43% — Several

23% — A lot

24% — Inestimable

Who is your favorite character?

29% — Han Solo

16% — Yoda,

10% — Luke

Skywalker

10% — Chewbacca

8% — Princess Leia

4% — Boba Fett

4% — Jabba the

Hutt

4% — Darth Vader

2% — R2-D2

2% — Lando

Calrissian

2% — Wedge **Antilles**

2% — Ewok (all) 2% — Salacious

Crumb

5% — Don't know

Which SW character have you dressed up as before?

14% — Luke

Skywalker

10% — Princess Leia

8% — Darth Vader

7% — Han Solo

7% — An Ewok



A-TWICE

Due to massive anthropological evidence, it doesn't take anybody with an IQ of a protozoan to figure out that civilization began in Africa. Ever since our dear beloved "Lucy" was discovered, many anthropologists have pieced the puzzles to humanity's beginning, concluding that civilization began due to gradual migration from the Nubian homeland.

That's right, y'all — before Western icons of greatness such as Charlemagne, Alexander the Great and Socrates graced the upper stratus of history books, vast amalgamate kingdoms and foundations were laid by African civilizations such as Egypt and Kemet. In the face of a historically supported hegemony of white supremacy, people all over the world have struggled to maintain their identity and cultural heritage.

All right, all right, some of you might be thinking, "Hey, what is it with A-twice and all this black shit he's talking about?" What I'm trying to get at is this: Why is Lando Calrissian the only brother in "Star Wars"? Did we all somehow become extinct due to some murderous agenda or epidemic? It is highly disheartening to know there is a frightening scarcity of melanin representation. It's almost as if the universe is solely inhabited by a collection of white folks from Agatha Christie mysteries, "M.A.S.H." and "Silver

So, where have all the black people disappeared to? Is it possible that non-

whites are placed on the intergalactic endangered-species list, similar to the killer whale or the manatee? If so, I wonder if there are planets exclusively reserved for the inhabitation of black people. You know, similar to wildlife preservation lands and safari parks that prohibit the poachings of zebras in Kenya. Yeah, that should work; after all, we must recall that in a world run by WHITE, IMPERIALISTIC, SLAVERY-ADVOCATING (note the enslavement of Wookies and alien dancing chicks), ALIEN-DISCRIMINATING MALES in the Empire, it is logical to assume that humanoids of color are targeted for extinction.

We must also ponder the reason for Lando's existence. We see the sole black man in the universe being a gambler, a womanizer and a sellout to THE MAN. Why is the black man always portrayed as the hustler whose ability to make a living solely lies in the domain of illegitimacy? Take note of Lando's administrative activities in Cloud City, made possible only through gambling. He even lost the Millennium Falcon to Han Solo (a white man),

due to a blunder during a game.

Also, as depicted by Lando's womanizing behavior with Leia, why the perpetuation of the stereotype that all black men hungrily lust after white women? This is not unlike the activities portrayed to be typically associated with black people, as witnessed in "House Party 2," Iceberg Slim books, Master P album covers and Nas Escobar videos.

Also, what becomes frighteningly crucial is Lando's initial relations with the Empire, which can be characterized as a gigantic allegory for ... THE

Clear-minded or Cloudy ... The Ethics of Movie-going

DAVID DOWNS

My first recollections of "Star Wars" date from when I was about six years old. My dad would a week, and I had a guaranteed spot on the couch. He would pop in the tape around 9 p.m. and my mom never bothered to tell me to go to bed because I would always fall asleep within the first 30

It was a simpler time, and I miss having a drawer full of clothes I never had to think about washing and someone to make sure I ate well. "Star Wars" will always be part of that simpler time, but now, on the cusp of a new "Star Wars" installment, some moral issues have arisen.

"No way. That's just sacrilege. 'Star Wars' is pure," said one drug enthusiast in response to whether or not he will be attending "The Phantom Menace" under the influence.

"Pot? Screw pot! I'm really de-bating on whether or not I should nosh some 'shrooms before I go," responded another

It is a well-documented fact

that, for some people, some mo-

being twisted on drugs. The critically unacclaimed "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" is a great drug movie, as are "The Doors,"
"A Clockwork Orange" and
"The Lost Highway." Many rent "Jedi" or "Empire" at least classic movies are fodder for drug enthusiasts, and it is not rare t stumble upon a bunch of stoners half-gazing at "Fantasia," "Alice In Wonderland" or "The Wizard of Oz."

But will the "Star Wars" prequel be a drug movie? I posed this question to several people with varying degrees of recreational drug use and listened intently to their sometimes rambling, incoherent babbling ...

"It would be such a waste to get totally tore back and then just sit there and zone out through the most anticipated movie ever," said one junior music

"This is the holy of holies as far as movies go. I want to go in there with a clear head so I can appreciate the whole thing," added a sophomore anthropology major. "Which is not to say that I won't get high right afterward, but ...

Of the drug users I spoke to, the majority felt the "purity" and "innocence" of "Star Wars" warrants a drug-free viewing — at vies are just more enjoyable while least for the first time, anyway.



For people our age, most memories recall a time when imagination was still the most viable mode of entertainment, and words like "20-sack," "tripping balls," "mean bubonic chronic" had yet to be introduced into the vocabulary.

Regardless of how nostalgic and pure "Star Wars" is, some people are bound to go twisted on drugs. The druggies I spoke with offered these few words of advice:

"I wouldn't go drunk, that would just be lame. If I did go stoned though, would bring lots of money for popcorn and stuff, or maybe go to a gas station and load up on candy. I just wouldn't want to have to worry about munchies when Samuel L. Jackson is kicking fierce Jedi ass."

One acid connoisseur warned against tripping in a galaxy far, far

I, personally, would stay far away

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MAN!!! (For my ebonic-deficient brethren, THE MAN is a collective identity for white, male, rich and racist individuals in administrative positions of government.) We see Lando, who sells out his homie to Darth Vader, undergo a typical phase for many black fictional characters — the sellout-Uncle-Tom-motherfucker stage. Although his action can be justified by the dilemma he encounters that forces him to choose between his city or his friend, Lando's characterization is not atypical in the American

The stigma of race relations is also prevalent in the ranks of the Empire as well. First off, I believe it is needless for me to point out that the Emperor, a shriveled white man who reigns with an iron fist from a throne, is based on the oppression of colored people. If the above mentioned were not the case, then why would the Empire solely consist of white, British, accent-having males? I don't suppose that their ethnic-recruitment program was effective enough, as they must've concentrated their efforts on affluent white kids of posh upbringing.

It is also no coincidence that the stormtroopers don WHITE uniforms, all of them sounding like WHITE Marines and football-watching jocks as they communicate with each other. A careful listen to the dialogue will reveal proof that the stormtroopers do not include brothers in the rank.

One can extrapolate a complex love-and-hate relationship with the Empire and black people. Despite its function as a white humanoid supremacist group, one must note the Empire's admiration for the color black. One name: Darth Vader. Here's another name: James Earl Jones, the voice of the universe's most menacing evil. Therefore, we can see a white supremacist organization run by Darth Vader, a black man, who is feared and revered by his white underlings.

It is also no coincidence that the stormtroopers don WHITE uniforms, all of them sounding like WHITE marines and football-watching jocks as they communicate with each

However, we mustn't immediately entertain the notion of supreme black empowerment, as we see the typical dichotomy of THE MAN (the Emperor) ruling over the puppetlike black servant. Yeah, yeah, Darth Vader doesn't LOOK black; therefore, he must be an albino. However, you may ask, "If Darth Vader is black, then how can he father Luke?" Once again the answer is simple, as I can refer to a Public Enemy lyric: "White woman, white man = white baby/ white woman, black man = black baby."

Don't front nor feign astonishment, because you know it's true—Luke is probably black as well. However, "Star Wars" becomes problematic as the film fails in revealing these truths, suggesting a sense of shame the Empire feels being under the leadership of (gasp!) a black man.

As the opening of "Episode I" approaches, I must implore every fan to ask themselves: "What vision do I have for the world?" Ponder whether or not we desire a future in space if it means: 1) there exist only two black people in the universe, 2) a minority's destiny of being blown up in one's ship and 3) having a threesome with Admiral Akbar and Chewbacca. Besides, white people in the movie such as Princess Leia are cultural invaders; how else would you explain her braided "bun" hair, obviously originated by Asians or black women? We, as people, must realize that as long as "Star Wars" continues its current structure, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream will never be

A-Twice can be found at the Mos Eisley Cantina on Tatooine during Happy



would from psychedelics. From what the hough, trailers look like, you won't need drugs r pop- to have great visuals. It might be better a gas to save them for after the show. This I just movie looks like it's going to be really about intense, and there's a chance your kson is brain couldn't handle two hours of aliens and explosions and stuff. Bevarned sides, that Darth Maul guy totally ar, far creeps me out."

A sophomore business economics r away major commented on the possible financial problems with hard

"As far as coke and stuff like that goes, I wouldn't worry about those people too much. They probably spent all their money on drugs so I really doubt they can afford to go see 'Star Wars,'" he said with a knowing grin. "And honestly, who goes and sees 'Star Wars' with a head full of coke? That's just a depraved waste of time."

And there you have it, straight from the sources themselves. "Star Wars" + drugs = not worth the time. See the movie as Lucas made it and appreciate it for what it is. In the words of one junior philosophy major:

"This hit of acid or that bong load, they come and go. But 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, with screaming fans, and the lights dimming, and after waiting this long — I want to remember every nuance of it.

"OK, was that a good enough answer? Now give me my pipe back before I have to hurt you," he said.

David Downs wishes he was at Happy Hour at the Mos Eisley Cantina on Tatooine, but he's not 21 years



Test Your Skills

1. What was Luke's two-word response when Leia complained that Han didn't care about anyone?

2. What color is the uniform of a TIE fighter

3. Who destroyed the first Imperial scout walker on Endor?

4. Who provoked Han into snapping, "Shut him up or shut him down"?

5. What creature is the typical meal for a wampa?

6. What color is the planet Yavin as seen from

7. What rebel leader announced, "Many Bothans died to bring us this information"? 8. How many systems did the enraged cantina patron claim to have a death sentence in? 9. What was Yoda's approximate age at

10. Who's the only person the emperor refers to as a friend?

> 10. Darth Vader 5. The tauntaun 006 6 4. C-3PO 3. Сћемрасса 8. Twelve 7. Mon Mothma 2. Black 1. "I care." 6. Red

2% — Boba Fett 2% — Yoda 2% — C-3PO 8% — Multiple roles 40% - Never did What's the most overused line? 47% — "May the Force be with you." 18% — "No. I am your father." 16% — "Use the Force, Luke." 2% — "Your thoughts betray you." 2% — "Give yourself to the Dark Side." 2% — "I'd just as soon kiss a Wookiee." 2% — "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ... " 2% — "I've got a bad feeling about this." 9% — Don't know

> Do you plan on seeing the prequel, "The Phantom Menace"? 90% — Yes 10% — No

If Yes, How many times? 48% — Once 21% — A few 18% — A lot 13% — Depends on quality

By the way, of the 14% who had never seen any of the movies, half planned on seeing the prequel and half didn't.

59 UCSB students were polled on campus for this survey.

Compiled by Matt **Hurst and Renee** Heyming

> May the Force Be With You!

Continued from p.1B

Kerri: Well, I don't think they're blowing it out of proportion. I mean, now that I've seen little excerpts here and there, it seems like it's some cultural icon.

Do you feel left out when people make "Star Wars" references in discussion?

Kelly: A little bit because I characters? don't know all of the characters when people make jokes or sounds.

Kerri: YES, me too! I have no clue what they're talking about, like they're speaking another language.

What are the main points, sayings, characters, etc. in "Star Wars" that you think you know about?

Kelly: C-3PO? I saw him at Disneyland at Star Tours in the line. And then in class the other day somebody made a weird noise. Who was that furry guy?

Chewbacca? Kelly: Yeah, like,

"Arrrrggghhh!"

Kerri: Yeah, I know those guys, but there's Princess Leia, too. Every girl should know Princess Leia. My mom did my hair in those bun things once. And I know that Darth Vader is James Earl Jones, and I thought it was cool that he's a black man. And that Darth Vader is Luke Skywalker's dad. Oh, the Ewoks, but I don't know where they fit in.

Do you think you'll like seeing it for the first time?

Kelly: I'm leaning towards no, but because everyone in the world is saying ... Well, the thing is I don't know how they could keep me interested for three movies.

Kerri: I totally think I'll like them. I think it will make a lot of things make sense. All will be right with the world.

The Post-"Star Wars" Interview

Well, non-virgins, what have you learned from the "Star Wars" trilogy?

Kelly: The Force is with

Kerri: I didn't realize how many parallels people draw out of this. There are strong correlations between this and many other stories. Luke and Leia remind me of Luke and Laura from "General Hospital," and Yoda reminds me of Mr. Miyagi, and the whole thing reminds me of "Star Trek."

Who were your favorite

Kelly: Jabba, but only in "Return." Because of his laugh. I was sad when he

Kerri: It's a tie between Chewie and R2.

Kelly: Chewie was so annoying. I hated his voice.

Kerri: Chewie was hot. Kerri, who was your least

Kerri: C-3PO. He's annoying. They should just kill him. C-3PO's weak. They should just melt him down and make jewelry out of him, like earrings.

How did you react to Darth Vader throughout the trilogy?

Kerri: I don't know. I kind of like Vader. He seems like a good guy who just made bad decisions.

Kelly: He got scarier in "Jedi" because he was more

play the race card, but that was weak. But I liked the Cantina and Jabba's palace because of the diversity there. Everyone's different and everyone's getting

Homie says the Force creates life. I think [homie] was Yoda.

-Kerri Webb

How did you react to Darth throwing the emperor over the railing and into the pit? Should be be redeemed?

Kelly: I was yelling for the emperor to stop attacking Luke or for Darth to jump in and stop it. I think he should be redeemed. That would all be in the nature of the Force. They would all want to love and forgive.

Kerri: Yeah, it was very paternal of him. But if his voice was James Earl Jones this whole time, that's just wrong though. I don't like how homie's black in real life, but then they substitute a white guy in. I don't like to

But they, like, blast each

Kerri: Well, you're not supposed to say that. They were under a lot of stress.

What did you think when you found out Luke and Leia were sister and brother?

Kelly: I had no idea, I was really surprised. But it explains a lot. I thought she was going to hook up with Luke instead of Han the whole time.

Kerri: That was weird; I don't like how she backed down. She should have stayed distant and mean. But then she was weak and got together with Han.

Do you love or hate the Ewoks?

Kelly and Kerri: The Ewoks were so cute! After seeing the trilogy, do

you plan on going to see "Episode I"? Kelly: I may see it, but I'm

not going to see it for a month. I still need to digest the first three. All I know is that it's a prequel. I don't know much of anything except the little boy's cute.

Kerri: I'm too tired. So, what do you think is the unifying message of the "Star Wars" trilogy?

Kelly: It just seemed pretty basic. Good vs. evil. And good always wins.

Kerri: It's cool and all, but it's confusing. What's 'the Force'? It was like a spirit, like a god. Homie says the Force creates life. I think it was Yoda.

Last question: Are you an R2-D2 person or a C-3PO person?

Kelly: C-3PO. Kerri: C-3PO's weak.

— Interviews by Renee Heyming and Marc Valles



FORCE

Continued from p.1B

tradition is something UCSB's Film Studies Dept. takes very seriously, according to Chair Constance Penley. According to Penley, the department has ties with "The Phantom Menace" through UCSB alumnus Sandra Joy Lee, who is now George Lucas' chief of Industrial Light and Magic Archives.

"In Winter Quarter we had this wonderful event that filled Campbell Hall. [Lee] treated the audience with some firepower and some explosions that were going to be used in 'The Phantom Menace,' " she said. "Just because one of our students got plucked from the USC film archives by George Lucas, we got a little preview."

Penley, another admitted "Star Wars" junkie, said the Film Studies Dept. will have a special way of dealing with this epic opening.
"We are all gathering on

Goleta Beach and it involves quite a few homemade rituals ... just some of those we have devised in the Film Studies Dept. But we will do it discretely ... very discretely," she said.

Though sophomore film studies major Jackie Barber said she had no habitual class-missing tendencies, she asserted that waiting in line downtown at the Arlington Theater for her May 19, 7:45 p.m. tickets was worth missing her History 4C section last Wednesday.

"It's only one day out of the year, it won't affect [those who wait in line]. It's a good reason to miss class," she said.

Barber emphasized the importance of this opening among film students at UCSB, citing her recognition of a number of fellow Gauchos waiting in line this week as an example.

"I think this is a movie that anyone will miss class for — it's phenomenal," she said. "It's one of those movies that all film studies majors wish they could create."



Continued from p.1B

The numbers kept on climbing with the sun. Nearly a thousand people had come by dawn.

"Star Wars" cometh.

"The Phantom Menace" is our generation's Woodstock, except that we've known it's coming all this time and more people are going to be there. Awestruck in the dark rolling theaters of the Republic.

And for two hours — or four, or 12, or time immeasurable, depending on how often we go back - we'll be young again. All of us, kids, teenagers, adults, united in a gasp of childlike silence in between the 20th Century Fox drum roll and The

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away ...

Walking around the Arlington's Jedi village, you could see the faithful clustered around each other in sleep, chatting through fatigue and the early morning, dueling with lightsabers in the parking lot.

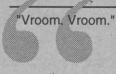
It was surreal, and for a moment you could imagine a totally peaceful fan culture. Folks were setting off small firecrackers in the parking lot, and security came, but word of their approach shot along the line faster than a blaster bolt. By the time they arrived, the Rebels were gone.

Then, naturally, bad things happened. Sleeping fans were dorked. The media arrived in droves, sending a disturbance through the crowd.

But in the end, it didn't matter. Looking along the predawn, slumping line of devotees, you could remember that

something could draw us all together, in this age of division and apathy — a story, a new one, that was and will really be about all the old stories we've told ourselves all along. Good and evil. Heroism. Temptation, corruption and redemption.

That is why "Star Wars" matters. It gives so many of us a story and characters we can care about, binding us together with a common experience, and not just a sensation.



- Valles's self-made lightsaber sound effects

That is why, excuse the corniness of it all, it ain't just a collection of movies. This is why we spend time talking and writing about it. The issues it raises, however Hollywood or romantic or mystical, keep that tiny spark of belief alive in many of us godless, hopelessly secular youth. If we can give a damn about the fall and salvation of Darth Vader, we can keep caring about Kosovo, China, even I.V. If this sounds

childlike, it is. So is the idea that life is fair, that each of us can make a difference, and that, in the end, there's a difference between right and wrong. Necessary fictions that keep us human, and, more importantly, alive.

So on the 19th, may the Force be with us, each and every

Marc Valles is only partially taking everything too seriously when he isn't playing with his lightsaber.

Daily Menace Staff

Jedi Knights:

Darth Valles Princess Renee Ted Skywalker Obi-Barb Kenobi

Staff Wookiees: Chewie Anderson Boba Traeger

Space Pirates: R-Twice-D-Twice C-Downs-PO

Stormtrooper: Matt Solo

Special Thanks to the Rebel Forces: Kerri (Fisher) Webb, Kelly (Ewok) Stephens, Amanda (the resistance) Green, Tybie (Mon Mothma) Kirtman and Paul from the Millennium Falcon

