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# 'Wizards' is refreshing science fantasy

**By MARK PENNY**  
Popular interest is rising in the area of science fiction movies. Producers have recognized this and are presenting more films of this genre for the public's entertainment (and for an easier way to make a dollar). 20th Century-Fox and Paramount have both made a major investment in upcoming science fiction releases. Fox is presenting "Star Wars" this summer while

Paramount is waiting until December to release "Star Trek." Animated films are also making a comeback. The old Disney films and "Winnie the Pooh" series are almost running rampant.

Taking what 20th Century-Fox hopes to be the best of these two areas, they have released an animated science fantasy film, "Wizards."

The tale winds around the story of twin brothers, both wizards, who are total opposites in their beliefs and personalities.

Avatar is a wise and benevolent magician who rules Montagar, a land of fairies and elves. Blackwolf has turned his subjects of goblins and mutants into an army that seeks to extend his evil influence outside the land of Scorch.

All of this takes place on an earth that has been destroyed by a holocaust. Technology is outlawed in this new world.

When Blackwolf resurrects the old technology to equip his armies

and assassins, Avatar and a small band of friends begin a quest to destroy the source of Blackwolf's new power.

Summing it up in one sentence: "Wizards" is about the never ending

**Movie Review**

battle between good (magic) and evil (technology).

Ralph Bakshi, who wrote, produced and directed the film, is the film cartoonist who created "underground" animated films such as "Coonskin," "Heavy Traffic" and "Fritz the Cat." He is presently working on an adaptation of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

This is a very refreshing film. The animation is a welcomed change of pace from the usual celoid products found on a movie screen.

The film's major battle sequence involves taking the negatives of war scenes from "regular films," and developing them on high-contrast

black and white film. From there the animators hand-tinted the prints to make monsters out of the soldiers. But the horns added to the World War II helmets get a little monotonous.

War movie fans are sure to recall parts of "Battle of the Bulge," "Patton" and "Zulu." This part of the film becomes distracting if you make a game of being the one who can identify the most film clips.

Much of the detailed artwork, Blackwolf's castle for example, was not drawn by the film's animators. Some of the work came from Fantasy and Tolkien calendars.

"Wizards" reminds us again how Hitler's oratorical abilities could put the backbone in his soldiers and fear in the hearts of his enemies. The source of Blackwolf's new power is Nazi propaganda films.

The ending is also food for thought — Blackwolf's death occurs in the least suspected way.

The one item that displeased me most was the appearance and disappearance of props throughout the film. This is to be expected in an animated film, where several artists work on the drawings.

It is excusable for small rocks and shrubs not to be consistent

throughout the scenes. I was pleasantly surprised with the way the mistakes were kept to a minimum.

The larger articles are the ones that the animators forgot to keep with. Swords and scabbards appear as needed.

Weehawk, an elf traveling with Avatar, will draw his sword to fight some great battle, during the middle of which his scabbard will disappear. Once the foe is vanquished he sheathes his weapon in a scabbard that the animator suddenly remembers to draw in.

At one point in the film Weehawk receives a shoulder wound that bleeds for awhile and later goes away. I don't blame the animators for healing it because of the trouble it could have caused in trying to remember exactly where to draw the cut.

Only, why does it reappear several minutes later... bleeding again... on the other arm.

The other annoying error is the existence of two mountain kingdoms. If the characters are going to have titles, let's keep them straight.

Despite these difficulties the film should be seen and enjoyed by everyone. The science fiction animation fans should welcome the attempt to explore their favorite medium in a new fashion.

A caution to parents of small children: The battle scenes are very graphic and the PG rating should be followed.

## TV special on A&M to be shown Sunday

KBTX-3 will present a half-hour special on Texas A&M University at 3:30 p.m. Sunday. It will include rebroadcast of a television show produced by KDFW in Dallas and previously telecast over a large portion of the state.

"The KDFW telecast produced so much favorable comment through North, Central and East Texas that we wanted to give our viewers the opportunity to see the program," Harry Gillam, KBTX station manager, said.

In addition to the KDFW video tape, Gillam said the program will include interviews by KBTX news director Martin Sebastian with Dr.

Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties at A&M; Robert Havery, 1977-78 student body president and currently cadet commander of the Corps of Cadets, and Randy Matson, associate executive director of the Association of Former Students.

The KDFW production, prompted by Texas A&M's centennial observance, provides an overview of the university and emphasizes students, school spirit and academic programs. Included are interviews with many students who were asked for their observations on such topics as "Aggie Spirit" and the quality of the education they are receiving at A&M.

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Summer students may dine on the board plan during the first session of summer school at Texas A&M University. Each board student may dine three meals each day except Sunday evening if the seven day plan is elected, and three meals each day, Monday through Friday, if the five day plan is preferred. Each meal is served in the Commons.

Fees for each session are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

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**APPLICATIONS FOR POSITIONS ON THE SUMMER PROGRAMMING COUNCIL OF THE MSC COUNCIL AND DIRECTORATE ARE BEING ACCEPTED THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27. FOR AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFORMATION, COME BY THE SPO — ROOM 216 IN THE MSC.**

### NEXT SUNDAY

## T.J.N. Mothers Day Arts & Crafts Show

75% of all items displayed will be priced at \$10 or under

11 a.m. — 6 p.m. Sunday May 1  
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Some of the Exhibitors Include

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| BARBARA ANDERSON<br>macrame<br>Garland, Texas            | LYNN DUSEK<br>oils<br>Houston, Texas                             | RICHARD KORCZYNSKI<br>photography<br>Victoria, Texas               | LINDA PICKEN<br>pen & ink<br>Houston, Texas                            |
| RA'ANAN AVNI<br>jewelry<br>Austin, Texas                 | MRS. ALEC FLOWERS<br>crafts<br>Dallas, Texas                     | A. W. KUEHM<br>decoupage<br>San Antonio, Texas                     | RENEE SARGENT<br>rub-outs<br>Houston, Texas                            |
| BILLIE BILLINGTON<br>oils<br>Bryan, Texas                | IRIS FRANKIE<br>woodcrafts<br>Smithville, Texas                  | MARILYN KRAUSE<br>dried flower art.<br>San Antonio, Texas          | HERSCHEL & ERMA SMITH<br>antique barbed wire pict.<br>Spicewood, Texas |
| BOB BLUMBURG<br>jewelry<br>Houston, Texas                | GOLDEN CRAFTS<br>framed butterfly pict.<br>Corpus Christi, Texas | PATTI LAWRENCE<br>crafts<br>Wichita Falls, Texas                   | MARY LOU TAYLOR<br>crafts<br>Wichita Falls, Texas                      |
| LYNN BRAXELTON<br>piled media<br>Waco, Texas             | NANCY HERNAN<br>oils<br>Houston, Texas                           | DENA LUSBY<br>nature in glass<br>La Marque, Texas                  | DORIS ULLRICH<br>acrylic florals<br>Brenham, Texas                     |
| NANCY BOECKER<br>acrylics<br>Brenham, Texas              | WAYNE HOLSTER<br>string art<br>Fort Worth, Texas                 | PATTI MAGERS<br>oils<br>Corpus Christi, Texas                      | PAKALIA WALKER<br>oils<br>Houston, Texas                               |
| JIM & SHARON COOK<br>wooden mirrors<br>Austin, Texas     | DON JORDAN<br>oils<br>Garland, Texas                             | WENDELL MOSELEY<br>acrylics & watercolors<br>Universal City, Texas | BILL WASHINGTON<br>wildlife prints<br>Denton, Texas                    |
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