

'Star Wars'... Something to cheer about

By W. S. SHERMAN
I admit it. I cheered during "Star Wars". For the first time that I can remember since I passed the age of consent, I cheered during a movie. It was a huge release of all of the pressures, the tensions, the hassles of modern life to escape into a fantasy so real yet so unattached from reality that for a little over two hours, I didn't care what President Carter's welfare plan was or how many vice-chancellors Texas A&M ended up with. I honestly didn't care.

Movie Review


The Twentieth Century Fox science-fiction movie now showing at Manor East 3 is just good entertainment. No message. No morals outside of the old good versus evil line. Just fun. It is science-fiction and it is fantasy. The location is science fiction with the story set in a galaxy "a long time ago and far away". It is fantasy in that it is good against evil with the classic fight (in this case, a space battle) at the end. The fight scene is when I started cheering. The story revolves around a civil war between heroic rebel forces and evil Imperial forces. The Imperial forces have developed their ultimate weapon. The DEATH STAR, a huge space station capable of destroying an entire planet in one fell stroke. Like Skywalker, the hero,

enters the plot when two androids carrying plans for the DEATH STAR to rebel forces are bought by his uncle to be used as farm laborers. Luke and the androids then find Obewan Kenobe, a hermit who along with Luke's father was a Jedi Knight, good and righteous protectors of the Republic that the Imperial forces overthrew. Luke becomes fascinated by a chance for adventure and is then angered into action when Imperial forces destroy his uncle in an attempt to capture the two androids. From there the adventure, the fantastic space and fight scenes and a general feeling of being entertained drive the movie onward. The final rebel attack on the DEATH STAR will put anybody on the edge of their seats, cheering and hoping. The movie was produced by George Lucas, the producer of "American Graffiti", and shows Lucas's desire to entertain and not preach to an audience. Lucas and company have probably secured all of the technical Oscars for this year with the movie's wizardry and animation. The special effects do not overshadow entertaining performances by the actors, including the two androids. Lucas incorporates cliches from World War II, pirate and boy-chases-girl movies. The movie has some of the funniest bits and most camp dialogue I've seen in a long time. All in all, "Star Wars" is an entertaining movie that is a welcome escape from reality. I could never cheer at reality.

Local students use economics in a kit

By the end of this school session, students at Bryan High School and A&M Consolidated High School may be surprising a number of people with the way they understand the enterprise system far better than many adults do. The reason is "Economics for Young Americans," a kit being distributed to their school from the Gulf Oil Foundation in cooperation with the local business community. For some time, Gulf and others across the country, have felt the need for more teaching of basic economics in secondary schools. The kit includes film strips, scripts, 16 lesson plans, ditto sheets, and teachers' guides written by teaching professionals. The program, developed by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and endorsed by the State Board of Education, covers such subjects as money, profits, productivity, and ecology.

"Economics for Young Americans" is designed to clear up a great number of misunderstandings about the way the enterprise system works. An example is productivity. Many confuse the word with working harder or doing a job for less pay when it actually means working smarter. Students in a New York school learned this quite dramatically while studying the problems in the productivity section of the kit. Their teacher chose his top students for the assignment. He gave one a pocket calculator while the others used just mind and hands. The result startled them. The class expected the calculator-equipped student to work three problems to their one. He solved all ten! From this "Economics for Young Americans" session, they acquired an understanding of what the right tools can mean to increased productivity. Also interesting was a "before and after" survey in Knoxville, Tennessee. Here students' opinions were surveyed in identical tests that were given before and after they had participated in the "Economics for Young Americans" program. After understanding more what productivity really is, the students replied, "increased productivity" to a multiple choice question of "What do you think is the surest way to raise a country's standard of living?"



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Briscoe announces million-dollar program

AUSTIN — Energy expertise will be made available to Texans in such a manner that agricultural advice has been traditionally offered throughout the state. Gov. Dolph Briscoe said Monday in announcing a \$1.1 million federal grant to establish the program. Texas headed a list of 10 states selected by the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) to establish experimental programs to provide citizens with assistance and information on a wide range of energy-related topics, Governor Briscoe said. A&M will manage and operate the program for the Governor's Energy Advisory Council. The program also will involve the University of Houston and University of Texas campuses at San Antonio, Arlington and El Paso, along with two other parts of the Texas A&M University System — Prairie View A&M University and the Texas Ag-

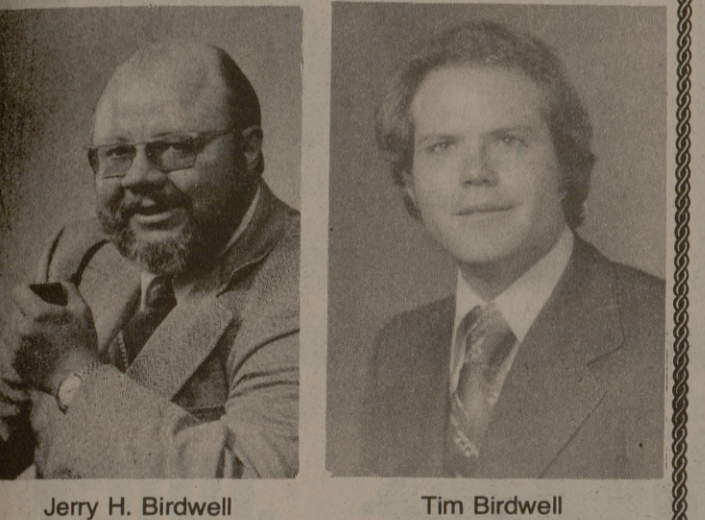
ricultural Extension Service. Target audiences for the energy service will be urban and rural homeowners, home builders, home buyers, savings and loan officers, real estate agents and appraisers, small manufacturers, small businesses, public institutions, city governments, hospitals, architects and engineers. The program to make the energy advice available will be patterned after the concept of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, which has long maintained a system of county agents throughout the state. More recently Texas A&M applied the same technique in making available marine-related information along the Gulf Coast through its Sea Grant Program. Dr. Stephen Riter of Texas A&M's Center for Energy and Mineral Resources (CEMR) will direct the new energy extension program scheduled to begin operations Nov. 1.

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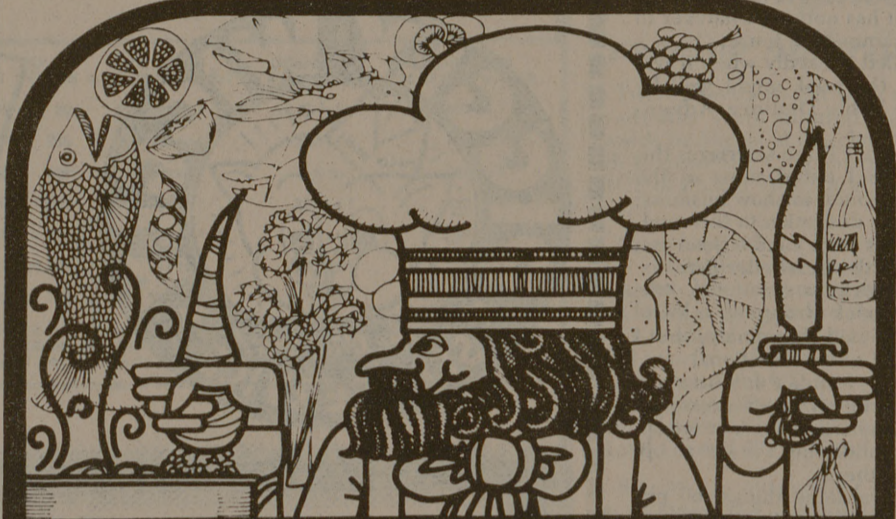
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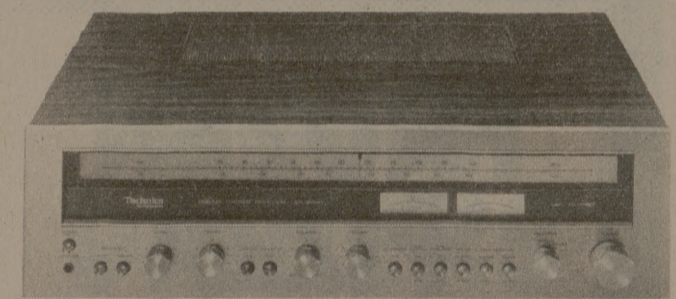
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