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**Star Wars prevails over Power**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — *Star Wars* fought off a challenge from the new Clint Eastwood thriller *Absolute Power* to retain its first-place grip on the box office with \$21.3 million in ticket sales, according to estimates Monday.

The 20-year-old space epic dropped only 12 percent in its third weekend while fending off competition from the openings of at least five major new films.

*Absolute Power* opened in second place with \$16.8 million. It stars Eastwood as a burglar who stumbles onto a murder involving the president.

*Dante's Peak* dropped to third with \$14.3 million following a record February opening last week. The four-day holiday weekend also was good for several critically

praised independent features. *The English Patient* and *Shine* both reaped the publicity of being nominated for best-picture Oscars.

The weekend take could push the re-release of *Star Wars* near the \$100 million mark. Last week the souped-up film's second debut helped it become the first movie to break the \$400 million domestic-gross mark.

The second part of the George Lucas space trilogy, *The Empire Strikes Back*, comes out Friday.

Chevy Chase's *Vegas Vacation* opened in fourth place with \$13.1 million in ticket sales, followed by *Fools Rush In*, another film seeking to capitalize on the popularity of NBC's *Friends*. The sitcom's Matthew Perry co-stars with Salma

Hayek in the romantic comedy, which received mixed reviews.

*That Darn Cat*, Disney's remake of a 1965 comedy, was sixth with \$6.5 million.

*Jerry Maguire*, nominated for an Academy Award for best picture, was in seventh place with \$5.3 million.

*The English Patient*, in eighth place, grossed \$5 million. Its per-screen average jumped 123 percent over the previous week on the strength of its Oscar publicity.

*Scream* was ninth with \$3.6 million. *Shine*, about the turbulent life of Australian pianist David Helfgott, was 10th with \$3.5 million. An Oscar nod helped boost its per-screen average jump 240 percent.

*Dangerous Ground*, a drama

set in South Africa that stars Ice Cube and actress Ellen Barkin, opened outside of the top 10 with \$2.7 million. *Wild Things* and *Touch* opened in single theater each and made the top 10.

Final weekend box office figures were to be released Tuesday.

The top 10 films at the box office from Friday through Monday:

1. *Star Wars*, \$21.3 million
2. *Absolute Power*, \$16.8 million
3. *Dante's Peak*, \$14.3 million
4. *Vegas Vacation*, \$13.1 million
5. *Fools Rush In*, \$13.0 million
6. *That Darn Cat*, \$6.5 million
7. *Jerry Maguire*, \$5.3 million
8. *The English Patient*, \$5 million
9. *Scream*, \$3.6 million
10. *Shine*, \$3.5 million

**► People in the News**

**Autographed script swiped from auction**

BOSTON (AP) — An autographed script of the last episode of "Cheers" was stolen from a charity auction where many of the guests wore party masks.

George Wendt, who played Norm on the NBC comedy, donated the script to the Handel & Haydn Society, a classical orchestra and chorus. It had been autographed by the entire "Cheers" cast.

The script was stolen Saturday night while a hotel security guard took a telephone call. It had received a high bid of \$1,000.

"It does appear that an outside person created an elaborate plan to come in and steal it after reading in the newspaper that we had the script," said Michael Jendrysik, the society's fund-raising director.

Many partygoers at the Four Seasons Hotel wore masks in keeping with the theme, Carnival in Venice. Security videotape is being studied.

Proceeds were to benefit 7,000 students in the Boston area.

**Prince Albert finds thrill in bobsledding**

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — Nothing like swishing down a narrow, icy track

at 90 mph, protected by little more than a metal can, to give Prince Albert a sense of fulfillment.

"Bobsledding has been an incredible adventure for me. I've learned so much in terms of my personal development," said the 38-year-old heir to the throne of Monaco. "When you are an athlete competing at a high level, you get to know yourself pretty well. In competing with others, you get to understand other people well, too."

The prince, who represented his nation on the bobsled team in the 1988 Winter Olympics, on Sunday tested the new bobsled-luge run recently opened at Utah's Winter Sports Park.

Albert also is an international competitor in sailing and equestrian, but his obligations to his tiny European principality will keep him from next year's Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan.

**Cop roles land actor a lifetime of work**

FREDERICK, Md. (AP) — If Yaphet Kotto has trouble believing he's not a policeman, this surely won't help.

The 59-year-old actor, who plays Lt. Al Giardello on NBC's Baltimore-based drama, *Homicide: Life on the Street*, was named honorary captain

at the Frederick Police Department's annual banquet Saturday.

Of the 47 movies in which Kotto has appeared, he has played a police officer 20 times, he said.

"After awhile, you start to feel like you're becoming a policeman, and now I believe I am a policeman," Kotto said jokingly. "I suspect everyone I meet of committing a crime. Anyone who talks to me, I think they're lying."

Kotto's son is a San Diego police officer, and his uncle died in the line of duty with the New York City Police Department.

**Dr. Dre takes gangsta image to suburbs**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dr. Dre — a homeboy from the Valley?

The 31-year-old Grammy-winning rapper and record producer bought a house in the San Fernando Valley for \$3.25 million, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The 10-year-old Victorian is in a gated area of Chatsworth and has five bedrooms, a six-car garage, a pool and a tennis court. Don't like the guest apartment on the 7 1/2-acre property? There's always the tree house.

Last March, Dre, whose real name is Andre Young, left Death Row

Records, which he co-founded with Ice Cube and Suge Knight.

He has produced two of the selling gangsta rap albums of his solo album, *The Chronic*, sold 3.8 million copies, and Doggy Dogg's *Doggystyle*, which has sold more than 5 million.

**Willis developing more than film**

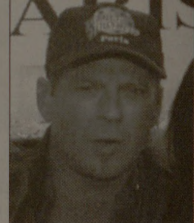
TWIN FALLS, Idaho (AP) — Willis is becoming a regular on the news of Commerce type.

Willis' Valley Entertainment

has joined the Twin Falls Area Chamber of Commerce as a member of the year-old group. "The year-end award ceremony in Twin Falls will be a great opportunity to support local businesses," he said. "I believe in the community and I want to be a part of it."

McElroy said Saturday in the news in Twin Falls, a city of 28,000.

The 41-year-old actor lives in Twin Falls and is the largest commercial estate developer in the state. His 100 miles east of Boise.



Willis

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ARTS 350: Arts and Civilization  
SOCI 205: Introduction to Sociology  
SOCI 230: Classical Social Theory  
ECON 320: Economic Development of Europe  
LBAR 332: Global Economic Issues

INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS  
in 358 Bizzell Hall West

Wednesday, February 19  
1:00 - 1:45 pm  
Thursday, February 20  
3:30 - 4:15 pm  
Friday, February 21  
3:15 - 4:00 pm

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**Public Funds For Private Education? The Voucher System**

Dr. David Erlandson - Professor of Education Administration

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 1997  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Place: MSC 201

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The TAMU Career Center Presents  
**Job Search Seminars**

|         |  |            |
|---------|--|------------|
| Feb. 18 | Co-op, Summer Jobs & Internships @ 5:30 p.m. | 601 Rudder |
| Feb. 19 | Career Center Orientation @ 5:00 p.m.        | 302 Rudder |
| Feb. 20 | The Company Visit @ 4:45 p.m.                | 292A MSC   |
| Feb. 25 | Salary Negotiation @ 4:30 p.m.               | 308 Rudder |
| Feb. 26 | Career Center Orientation @ 4:00 p.m.        | 308 Rudder |

**Employer Presentations**

Tuesday, Feb. 18  
Halliburton Services @ 6:30-8:00 p.m. 410 Rudder  
Texas Instruments Career Fair @ 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. 110 Koldus

Wednesday, Feb. 19  
ESI-Electro Scientific @ 5:30 p.m. 228 MSC  
North Star @ 5:30 p.m. 230 MSC  
North Star @ 5:30 p.m. 231 MSC  
Coastal Power @ 6:00 p.m. 308 Rudder  
Deere & Company @ 6:00 p.m. 402 Rudder  
TRW Space & Electronics @ 6:00 p.m. 404 Rudder  
ComEd Company @ 6:00 p.m. 502 Rudder  
Lutron Electronics @ 7:00 p.m. 510 Rudder  
Nabors Industries @ 5:30 p.m. 704 Rudder  
Texas Instruments Career Fair @ 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. 110 Koldus

Thursday, Feb. 20  
Howard Frazier Barker E. @ 8:00 p.m. 308 Rudder  
National Semiconductor @ 5:30 p.m. 401 Rudder  
Cambridge Tech @ 7:00 p.m. 402 Rudder  
Sabre Decision Tech @ 6:00 p.m. 404 Rudder  
Continuum/Computer Science @ 5:30 p.m. 410 Rudder  
Kimberly Clark @ 6:00 p.m. 308 Rudder  
Torrington @ 7:00 p.m. 507 Rudder  
Graybar @ 6:30 p.m. 707 Rudder

\*All dates and times are subject to change. See Career Center homepage <http://aggienet.tamu.edu/ccctr> for confirmation.