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Round 1: Friday, December 5  
5 p.m. - Arizona vs. Wisconsin  
7 p.m. - Texas A&M vs. Nicholls State

Round 2: Saturday, December 6  
7 p.m. - Round 1 Winners

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# COUCH POTATOES

**Star Wars: Clone Wars**  
7 p.m.  
Cartoon Network

**Arrested Development**  
8:30 p.m. Sundays  
FOX

For the past few weeks, science-fiction adventure fans have been caught up in a massive new show of minuscule proportions. "Star Wars: Clone Wars" may be the newest installment in the Star Wars saga, but fans are eating up these bite-size animated shorts detailing the wartime events that devastate the Star Wars universe between Episode II and Episode III. Directed by Genndy Tartakovsky, the ultra-talented creator of "Samurai Jack" and "Dexter's Laboratory," each installment in the miniseries packs an action-packed punch for its micro-size. Each episode runs less than 10 minutes in length.

"Firefly," "Family Guy," "Action." All these shows had two things in common: they were a fresh voice on network television offering up one of the best entertainment available. They were also cancelled by Fox just as they were hitting their stride. With Fox's notorious reputation for eating good shows that didn't meet their intimidating expectations, it is no surprise that "Arrested Development," arguably the best new sitcom this season, is in danger of being cancelled before viewers discover its brilliant premise and smart, clever humor. Likened to Wes Anderson's cinematic masterpiece "The Royal Tenenbaums," Fox's new Ron Howard-produced sitcom is pure joy to watch.

In the episodes that have aired, audiences have been reintroduced to the Jedi, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Anakin Skywalker, as they lead an army of clone troopers into a universe encompassing war. New dark Jedi and good Jedi have also been introduced in the short vignettes featuring the many battlefields of the Clone Wars. Interesting new characters include Kit Fisto, an amphibious warrior who packs a mean force blast and Asajj Ventress, a sinisterly violent vixen with ties to the Sith.

"Arrested Development" stars Jason Bateman star of the decidedly substandard "Teen Wolf" in a much welcomed return to public eye. Bateman plays nice guy Michael Bluth, son of a financially crooked entrepreneur. After his father is arrested in a government sting, Michael must save his family from bankruptcy. Especially poignant in a time in which white-collar crimes have dominated headlines, this topical but often clichéd plot is given a hilarious face lift thanks to the outstanding ensemble cast that includes the ever-hilarious David Cross as Tobias Fünke, Michael Bluth's live-in brother-in-law.

With no real room for exposition, the show quickly delves deep into action in adrenaline-pumping scenes of epic proportions. From an aquatic attack on giant cannons to a harrowing lightsaber duel between Kenobi and a hulking cyborg, each episode delivers a fair share of acting. The use of classic Star Wars fanfare intercut with breakneck editing keeps even the most attention deficit child in rapt attention.

With only a few episodes under its belt, "Arrested Development" has already seen more laugh-inducing plot twists than most of NBC's sitcoms will manage in their entire run. From Michael Bluth's son's unnatural fondness for his first cousin to Tobias' quest to become an actor, the spontaneous and unpredictable nature of the show is sidesplitting droll. Featuring a rich cast of eccentric family members, "Arrested Development" shows potential to be a show that will be continuously amusing.

While none of the actors from the cartoon's cinematic counterpart lend their voices to the characters, each main character's voice actor delivers an admirable impersonation of the legendary heroes. So uncanny are the imitations, one will not be able to differentiate between the whiny piercing voice of the animated Anakin Skywalker from Hayden Christensen.

One of the show's quirkiest aspects is its use of flashbacks to tell uproarious side-stories. When Michael Bluth's magician of a brother accidentally kills his newest pigeon purchase, he embarks on a mission to find a way to return the deceased bird to the pet store for full cash reimbursement.

While the prequel trilogy has not had the best critical reviews, the cartoon series forgoes all the stiff dialogue and stuffy exposition that George Lucas has crammed into his new movies and delivers an action-packed cartoon short that delivers in all counts. The show's initial 10 episodes are almost over, but they will live a long and prosperous life in reruns on the cartoon network along with mini-marathons of all the shorts put together. All the previously shown cartoons can also be accessed on Cartoon Network's Web site with decent quality and lightning-fast speed. The next 10 segments will be shown in May with a DVD release of the complete series sometime before the release of Episode III in 2005.

Fans of offbeat and original sitcoms should check out "Arrested Development" while they can. A refreshing break from the dull rehashes and unfunny shows that have plagued networks this season, "Arrested Development" is a winner in every sense. As networks begin the process of axing standard sitcoms, audiences unfortunately may have much longer to check this new show out.

-- Robert Saucedo

## Rap and R&B dominate Grammy

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York (AP) — Rap and R&B have been consistent chart-toppers for the last few years, but in 2003 they took over pop music — and the Grammy nominations on Thursday.

Eminem and "Hey Ya!" from OutKast. The brooding rock group Coldplay's song "Clocks" was the only exception.

The year's top-selling artist: rapper 50 Cent. Two of the year's biggest hits came from R&B singer Beyonce. In October, every spot on Billboard's top 10 singles chart was held by a rap or R&B artist.

And rap and R&B also dominated the album of the year category: Missy Elliott's "The Construction"; "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" by OutKast; and "Justified," from Timberlake, which had the former boy-band star reach into the top 10 for his first solo effort. The White Stripes' "Elephant" and "Fallen" from goth rockers Evanescence rounded out the category.

Grammy voters took notice, doling out six nominations each to Beyonce, Jay-Z, OutKast and Pharrell Williams.

However, 50 Cent's "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" which sold more than 6 million copies, was short of the major categories. It was nominated exclusively for rap awards, although 50 Cent himself was nominated for best new artist, along with Evanescence, R&B singer Heather Headley, the pop group Fountains of Wayne and Sean Paul.

"Hip-hop is at its most commercial point," Andre 3000 of the rap duo OutKast told The Associated Press. "It's pretty poppy, and it's popular this year."

Beyonce's nominations were no surprise — her solo debut apart from Destiny's Child, "Crazy in Love," has sold more than two million copies and made her a superstar. Jay-Z's "Black Album" & "The Black Album" was also a multiplatinum disc.

Four of the five nominees for record of the year fell into the rap or R&B category: Beyonce's "Crazy in Love," "Where Is The Love," by The Black Eyed Peas & Justin Timberlake, "Lose Yourself," by

OutKast's highly acclaimed "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" was mentioned as a Grammy nominee even before its release this fall.

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