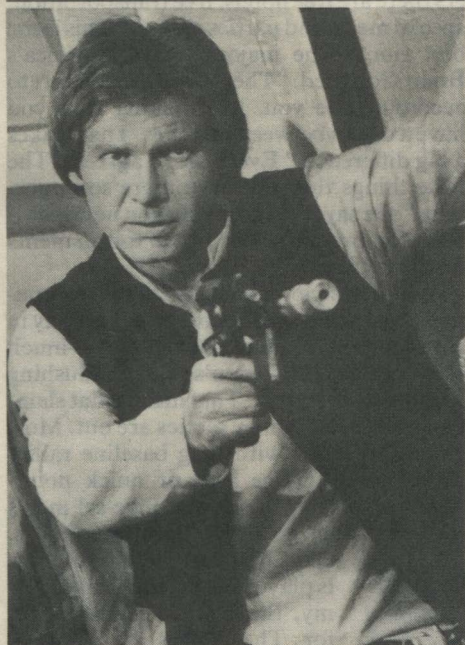
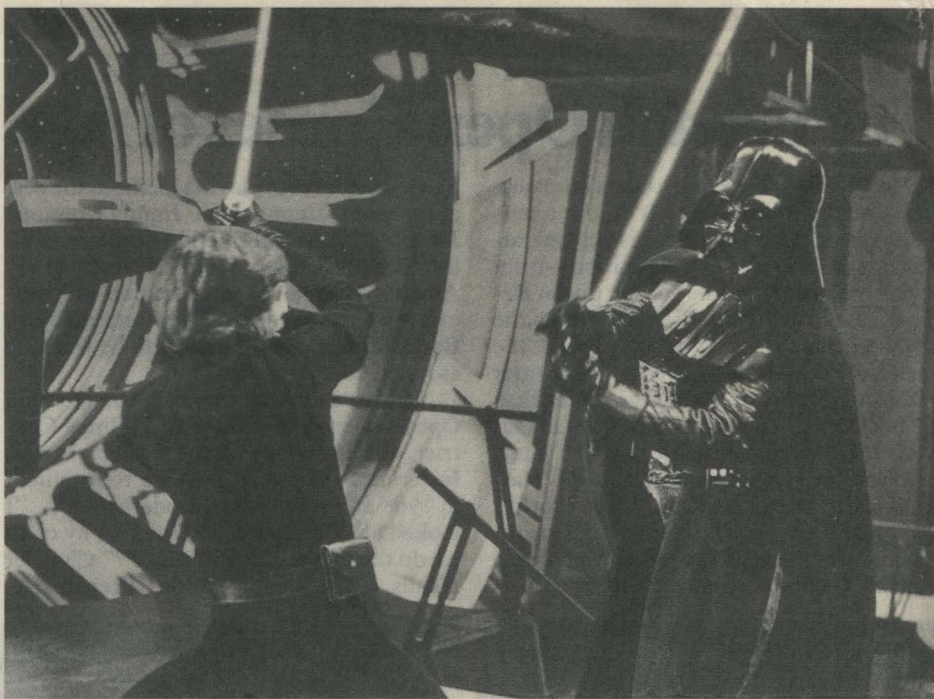




Ralph Nelson Jr.



Albert Clarke

Han Solo in the Imperial Bunker on the Moon of Endor, Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader battle it out: The Lucas empire strikes back

How the Force Conquers All

The first "Star Wars" came out of left hyperspace, a sleeper science-fiction movie that turned George Lucas into a household world. Six years and a trilogy later, it has acquired an aura of magical innocence. It was the cheapest of Lucas's Empire movies to make, the lightest on its feet, the most ingenuous in its gee-whiz-ardry. It was the destiny of "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980), the cliffhanger in the middle, to be the most inconclusive. But it had greater visual sweep, more thematic ambitions and a graver tone. Comparatively speaking, it was almost elegant. And *Return of the Jedi*, which brings this remarkable movie saga to its avidly awaited

conclusion? Well, at \$32.5 million it is certainly the most expensive of the three. With more special effects per minute than its predecessors, it's definitely the busiest. Also the most battle-ridden, the most cartoony, and let's just spit it right out—the most disappointing. For this veteran of the Wars, "Return of the Jedi" is an experience that ultimately takes more energy than it gives.

A teen-age metabolism may react differently. There's no doubt that "Jedi" gives you your money's worth; it's so packed with wonders you may feel like an oversat child who's just been presented with the entire inventory of F.A.O. Schwarz for his birthday. Lucas and fellow screenwriter

Lawrence Kasdan pick up the story on Tatooine, the desert planet where Luke Skywalker's adventures began.

As you recall, Han Solo (Harrison Ford) was last seen in a state of carbonite freeze. Still frozen, he is now a wall hanging in the clammy, "Casablanca"-like caves of the gangster pasha Jabba the Hutt, a gigantic, hookah-smoking, froglike villain. Jabba's headquarters are like a dark and slimy rerun of the famous cantina scene in "Star Wars." Here the assorted scum of the galaxy are assembled, from pig-faced guards to albino elephant men to one mammothly disgusting monster stashed away in the dungeon. In various disguises, Luke (Mark Hamill), Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher), Lando Calrissian (Billy Dee Williams), R2-D2, C-3PO and Chewbacca appear to free Han from

C-3PO meets Chewbacca and Princess Leia, cuddly Ewoks: The beasties look like they're already on their way to the toy stores

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