

It All Began (AGAIN) Here

Twenty years ago, a resurgence of Star Wars began not on the big screen but on the printed page. Back in 1991, the franchise itself was in danger of becoming obsolete and forgotten. It had been 8 years since *Return of the Jedi* (long before the Special Editions and bloody prequels came along). Enter Lucasfilm Publishing who got the ball rolling and eventually leading to [Timothy Zahn](#) penning a three volume series chronicling the further adventures of Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, and all the rest following the events of the final film.

Yesterday, I finally received my copy of the 20th Anniversary edition of said novel: *Heir to the Empire*. It has been sometime since I have checked the novel out from the library.

The book itself is gorgeous featuring a silver-colored dustcover with the New Republic emblem prominently displayed.

Underneath the cover is a rendering of the original cover.

Inside in the introductory remarks, the author and his editor provide insight into the story behind the new trilogy.

Something new in the meat of the book is annotations by Zahn providing insight into the development of characters and events. Names of friends, acquaintances, and contest winners became a part of the Expanded Universe! I have not yet begun to read the story itself but was captivated by the anecdotes including some flack from fans the author took for introducing such "Earthly" items as hot chocolate into the SW universe.

Also a well-known Trek term was given some highlight but was quickly defended.

I must say that I am throughly enjoying the book and I haven't even started it yet!

Ok... ok... should I or shouldn't I comment on the OTHER big Star Wars event that happened yesterday. All right I will. For the first time, the entire cinematic saga (Episodes I-VI) are

available on Blu-Ray. Personally, I have no problem with the release itself. I just grow weary of George Lucas changing the movies for each new release. I accepted the Special Edition releases of the original films prior to the much-inferior (IMHO) prequels. Now it seems that he adds pointless bits every 10 years or so. I agree with those who state that they are his movies and can do what he likes with them but do not like the "inclusion for the sake of inclusion." Aliens being included via the wonder of CGI that were not there before. And the most awful inclusion of all:

School For Bullies

I think it would be rather difficult to be the only male cheerleader in a relatively small school system. However, even after being bullied to the extend that he received a broken arm for his pains, Findlay, Ohio sixth-grader Tyler Wilson has no plans to give up on it. His trials have met with national press as he and his mother were featured on Good Morning America this morning. He has also received phone calls and visits from male college cheerleaders. And although Tyler has stated that he has been threatened with another broken arm, he has no intention of sitting on the side lines.

GOOD FOR HIM! YOU GO DUDE!

As I learned long ago: Find something you are good at and do it the best that you can. Wise words... wonder who came up with that.

Not the GMA clip, but you get the gist of it. One thing the clip does not mention. After Tyler got home with the broken arm, he told his mother that he tripped over a curb and landed on his arm. Just like a sixth-grade boy.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct.. 15 Yard Penalty

After Saturday's OSU/OU football game, I saw on a friends fb account that the OSUMB's halftime performance was less than outstanding... full of Looney Tunes, Flintstones, and other cartoon themes. However, I wonder if the Bobcat alumnus thought the following was so extraordinary:

Apparently, the heinous display by Rufus Bobcat upon the unsuspecting Brutus was premeditated. The no-goodnick tried out for the role of mascot a year ago with the ultimate goal of tackling the Buckeye. He has since been summarily banned from all Ohio University affiliated athletic functions. The funny thing is, the miscreant no longer attends the Athens, Ohio college. He now attends nearby Hocking College. OU has issued an apology to the Buckeyes.

In every way but personally, the shenanigans were for naught as the Bucks handed the Bobcats a 43-7 thrashing. They should have tackled the player with the ball instead of the mascot. Kind of funny especially after the games outcome. A streaker running across the field was even more shocking and hilarious.

And They Still Managed To Lose

Happy Earth Day a day (or two at his point) late! Did anyone happen to see this remarkable play begun by a little-known third baseman in the top of the 6th inning against the Oakland A's? The first time such a feat was accomplished by the team since 1968 when one of the greats was involved. The bad news is that the Yanks still lost. The good news is... it did not matter, they still took the series! There was even some squabbling between A-Rod and the pitcher for the A's. Something about how the Yankee made his way back to first base after a play... I dunno.

But check out the historic play... even though the A's came out on top in the end.

We Are The World 25 For Haiti

Some different lyrics, different styles thrown in but the basic concept remains the same.

What do you think?

Of course, this in no way takes away from the tragedy of the [luge competition](#) which remains under investigation by Olympic officials. Human error was pronounced initially, but upon reading the statement and seeing video much more should have been in place to allow for the athletes' safety.

12 Days Of Christmas

Since we are in the third day of the twelve, I would like to share with you my favorite song and video of the season. I think it was around last year, but it really got exposure this year.

Since the good doctor made mention of the two songs here is Josh Groban singing Petit Papa Noel from his glorious Holiday CD, Noel.

and... Vive la Vent

Muppets Here, Too

I have always loved this holiday special although it has not been aired for years. I just found the entire special listed on [youtube](#). Here is my favorite piece. Happy Holidays!

Week The Third

Ok... former director and current fellow cast member, this is for you (I expect a comment, btw ☐) Tonight began the third week of rehearsals and there was A LOT GOING ON! We have posters to distribute and I grabbed enough to paste all over E-town. We were all informed that Hicks-TV (or is it HIX=TV?) is going to be by tomorrow night to film a piece on the show. My aforementioned former director/current fellow cast member mentioned that this was her least favorite part of her directorial debut? I thought my debut on the news was a blast. Even Travis said it was very humorous as I threw the interviewer for a whirl. Here is a [link](#), Beth... just for you (you can have something to watch as well as read). I must also commend our director in his continued efforts to step into multiple roles for missing cast members... male and female alike.

As for rehearsal, it is coming along quite nicely (which is subjective... I don't think nice is a good way to describe Mr. Potter). Apparently, my evilness is improving but he said I need to slow down a bit... which I have heard before. Well... as soon as my goon decides to show himself, it will be easier to make my entrances and exits. But even going through the scenes, I am developing even more ideas and with just under a month to go...

Oh, yes. On the way to my car following rehearsal, I was flashed by said cast member and she had her young son with her as well... SHAME ON YOU! I AM SHOCKED! ☐

Some Added Spring In His Step

Sometime ago, I blogged about the famous and infamous celebrities who have gone through the seemingly revolving casting door of the musical [Chicago](#). Well, you can add one more: sleaze television king Jerry Springer. This month, the lawyer-turned Cincinnati mayor-turned talk show host-turned Dancing with the Stars (yes?) contestant wrapped his six week stint on the London West End as ethically elastic lawyer Billy Flynn. I suppose the acting would not be a far stretch from his days as a real lawyer and questionable politician. He is well known for his flamboyant, quick talking, flim flam personality. However, singing? Never had the pleasure of hearing him so I can't judge (let me see if he has made the you tube rounds). Here he is performing ["All I Care About"](#) at a performance of selected songs at a Leicester Square park. You just have to forward past the opening "All That Jazz." Personally, I would rather watch the first number but that is not what this post is about.

Well at least he and David Hasselhoff have something else in common. Jer-eee was the host of America's Got Talent and the Hoff is one of the judges. And as some will recall, the Burger King aficionado played the roles of Jekyll and Hyde on Broadway. Wonder if ol' Dave is going to put on the tux. Springer says that he is going to be joining the Broadway cast until he returns to the Windy City for the talk show. However, the producers of the New York show have no knowledge of this.

MY First Time

A comment on [Taylhis'](#) blog gave me inspiration for post fodder. My first time riding a coaster took place when I was 10. My family spent a day at Cedar Point with my uncle, aunt, and two cousins. I liked riding rides and had been on several smaller coasters. I remember the Beastie at Kings Island (still there, Lis?). I took my cousin Stacy to ride the Jr. Gemini. However this year, I was too TALL to ride the smaller version. Seeing this, my Uncle Bob challenged me to ride the REAL thing with him. Why not? The line for the double train, much like The Racer, was not long so I did not have to wait a great deal. I still remember having my eyes shut tight after we made the turn and approached the first hill. From what I understand, I also held onto my co-riders hand and squeezed it a little bit too hard. But what a rush! Red and blue racers going up and down hills and then the split at the end when the cars tilt to the side and finally return home. There may be bigger, faster, longer coasters (you can see the [Magnum XL 200](#) which is 20 years old this summer... NO WAY! dwarfing the classic) but the good old [Gemini](#) is still one of my favorites. That day in 1983, I discovered that I was growing up because I was no longer small enough to go on any of the kiddie rides. No more Kid Arthur's Court for me. But I can ALWAYS ride the Cedar Downs racing horses.