

COMING DISTRACTIONS

by Christian Finnegan

If you're a *Star Wars* fan like me, you probably get this question all the time (from those who don't really get that *Star Wars* is more than a movie): "The uninspired nary ask, what's the big deal with these movies? They simply fail to recognize what these films truly are: insightful character studies of everyday life. In fact, every character resembles someone you may know or remember from high school."

Tragic Loner Remember that moody kid from your neighborhood, who liked to fry insects with a magnifying glass and make smoke bombs with his chemistry set? You thought he was kidding with his whole "some day people are going to know my name" thing. But then years later, you turn on the TV and see him being led away in cuffs after the police discover severed heads in his refrigerator. Boy, if only there had been some warning signs, right?

Homecoming Queen Anidala was that beautiful rich girl who had the world handed to her on a platter—Daddy's little girl. Of course, what Daddy didn't know was that while he thought his angel was at field hockey practice, she was actually behind the bowling alley with "Stevie," the bad-boy delinquent who always played hooky.

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Upperclassman When you were a freshman, there was probably some ultra-cool senior who scored you your first beer and took you to all the best parties. Problem is, a few years later this dude was still showing up at the parties and people began asking, "Um, didn't that guy graduate like three years ago? What the heck is he doing here?" The guy never seemed quite as cool after that.

Cool Dude You never really knew anything about this kid, other than the fact that he was extremely "cool" and that befriending him might make you cool by association. In fact, you'd sometimes try to get some mileage out of telling girls that he was one of your "best buds." Well, no, it's not like the two of you actually hung out, but he *did* sit next to you in algebra, so that's got to count for something, right? Thank you, alphabetical order!

Hall Monitor He was the class dork, the kid everyone picked on. You felt so bad, you decided to start hanging out with him. But after a few afternoons spent watching *Dr. Who* re-runs and having the finer points of *Dungeons & Dragons* explained to you, you came to a horrible realization: Wow, this kid really is annoying. You spent the rest of high school avoiding his phone calls. (Addendum: You felt a wave of panic when you recently received an out-of-the-blue email inviting you to be his friendster. How did he get your email address?)