

Community Comment – January 4th, 2016

By Jon Sapper

Star Wars and Creativity

I saw the new Star Wars movie last week. I'm not a sci-fi kind of guy and for complete transparency, this was my first Star Wars movie. I know, I may be one of the few people on earth.....or outer space who hasn't seen a Star Wars movie. Was it all I expected it to be?..... I don't know since I really didn't have many expectations other than wanting to see something that had already earned over \$250 million dollars the first weekend.

It was a little difficult to track or should I say it would have been much easier to track if I had seen the previous ones. It was clear I was new to this Star Wars thing when after the movie driving home I asked my wife, "What was the name again of that character.....Okefenokee?" She laughed out loud, replying, "Okefenokee is the name of a swamp in Georgia. You mean Obi-wan Kenobe?" I said, "I was kinda close ." They must have mentioned that name in the movie when I was sleeping. Yes, I did fall asleep, but only for a little while. As soon as the jet spaceships started blasting the enemy out of the sky or rather space, I was tuned in. That was cool. I was leaning one way, then leaning the other as the jets dodged enemy spaceships.

There was a plot with a hero and heroine, a dark side and the bright side, sci-fi cops and robbers chase scenes and light saber hand-to-hand battle between folks representing good and evil. There was even a solemn family sub-plot trying to get their lost and wayward son back. All of this was cloaked in galactic speed-of-light sci-fi that did make it hard to sleep.

After reflecting on all this space fiction interspersed with real human emotion scenes, I wondered, how much fiction is this really? One hundred years ago the thought of a spacecraft taking man to the moon and back would have been lunatic thinking. The thought of giving someone an artificial heart and keeping them alive would have been crazy. Looking at your wrist and being able to talk to someone while watching them would only have been possible for Dick Tracy. Yet, each of these things have happened.

In recently playing with my four-year old grandson, he was flying his pirate ship around the room. Someone said, "Ships can't fly, Kolton." He said, "Mine can."

When Kolton is my age, he might be able to go salmon fishing by flying his boat from his home to the ocean, troll for a few hours, then fly back home. If we adults would please stop telling kids that ships can't fly and instead encourage them to figure out how they can, we might be surprised how soon ships will be able to fly.

Creativity, innovation and the entrepreneurial spirit can engage kids. Frankly, there's nothing more important.

This has been Jon Sapper for Community Comment.