

STAR WARS

By Reg P. Wydeven
May 28, 2005

Most people who know me are aware that I'm a bit of a *Star Wars* enthusiast. Well, enthusiast might be an understatement – total *Star Wars* geek is probably more accurate. While my geek-ness does not rise to the level of me dressing up as a *Star Wars* character to attend the last installment of the saga, *Revenge of the Sith*, I'm still enough of a dork that I had to see it opening night.

When I was five years old, my parents took me to see the original *Star Wars*. When Darth Vader stepped into that gleaming white spaceship in his contrasting black armor and began picking up people by the throat and tossing them around all the while making cool breathing noises, I was hooked. My buddies and I heard he had to wear that armor because he was badly burned by lava after a fight with Obi-Wan Kenobi.

Twenty-eight years later, we finally got to see that fateful battle on the big screen. We also got to see how Anakin Skywalker transformed from an innocent, upstanding Jedi to a power-hungry, evil Sith Lord. The story that unfolded in *Revenge of the Sith* was definitely worth the wait.

In 1977, Obi-Wan Kenobi explained that for over 1,000 generations, the Jedi Knights were the defenders of peace and justice throughout the galaxy. Being the hardcore *Star Wars* geek that I am, I figured that because they also defended peace and justice, attorneys were the equivalent to Jedi Knights in this universe, only they carried briefcases instead of lightsabers.

Ronald S. Miller is hardcore attorney in an entirely different context, and like Anakin Skywalker, he began as a defender of peach and justice but also turned to the Dark Side. By day, Miller is a criminal defense attorney practicing in Los Angeles. By night, Miller stars in adult films under the name Don Hollywood. Miller's wife, a former accountant, is also a porn star.

The 56-year-old Miller has appeared in over 90 films in the past seven years and makes it a policy to inform his clients about his moonlighting gig before they hire him. Ethics experts and the California Bar Association concede that while his second career is unorthodox, it doesn't violate any rules prohibiting such activity for lawyers.

Though Miller may not be breaking any ethical rules, he should be aware that President Bush's administration is making a concentrated effort to crack down on the adult film industry.

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales recently signed final rules establishing detailed procedures for inspecting the records of producers of pornography to ensure children aren't being used as performers in either films or photographs.

Porn producers must keep detailed records verifying the identity and age of each individual depicted. Violators will be subject to prison terms of up to 5 years for the first offense and up to 10 years for subsequent offenses.

Gonzales is also enforcing federal obscenity statutes. Since 2001, the U.S. Justice Department's child exploitation and obscenity section has convicted 40 people and businesses of obscenity charges and 20 additional indictments are pending. In contrast, during Clinton's eight-year administration, only 4 people were prosecuted. Though he will meet resistance from First Amendment backers, Gonzales is expected to create a special unit within the Justice Department to focus on adult obscenity cases.

When asked why he became a porn star, Ron Miller explained, "I want to experience everything, try everything." Now that the Bush administration is cracking down on the porn industry, Miller should have listened to Master Yoda when he said, "Adventure. Excitement. A Jedi craves not these things."

This article originally appeared in the Appleton Post-Crescent newspaper and is reprinted with the permission of Gannett Co., Inc. © 2005 McCarty Curry Wydeven Peeters & Haak, LLP. All rights reserved.