By Jodi Cantor

The Student Entertainment Council (SEC) has already been hard at work only a few weeks into the semester. On Saturday, Sept. 11, SEC hosted a nearly sold out concert starring the band Something Corporate in the Cavalla Room.

The concert is the first of two during the school year, said SEC’s special events chair, senior Adam Zengel. In the past, SEC has hosted just one concert of larger scale in April, but this past June SEC decided it would adjust the format to please a wider variety of students. Always trying to think up new ways to entertain Rider’s campus, thought of a new plan to entertain the maximum amount of people, said Zengel.

“We are constantly trying to think outside of the box for new programs,” he said. “So with planning and mixing old ideas with new ones, the organization decided to change the format of the concerts here at Rider.”

Now, according to Zengel, instead of one large concert at the end of the year in the Alumni Gym, which could house up to 1,400 people, SEC will host two medium sized concerts. In this case, concerts will be held in the Cavalla room, which can only hold up to 1,100 people.

The budget has been split to accommodate two concerts, he said. The Something Corporate show was the first. The second will be held sometime in April. It is yet to be decided which artist will be featured.

“We didn’t want local bands or small bands,” Zengel said. “We still wanted a nationally touring event.”

Janier Anna Badurina attended the concert and she said she pleased with the new plan and is a huge Something Corporate fan.

“Because it’s a band that not many people know, there have been less of a turnout,” she said. “Janier Kristen Gore also attended the concert.

“In the past it was either hit or miss with the big one,” she said. “If you didn’t like the choice you were given you would ask ‘Well is this what we get this year?’”

Gore said she favors the reinvention of the SEC concerts for other reasons as well. Although she was skeptical of the new concert location, she admitted that the gym was rather impersonal.

“In the Cavalla room it seemed like the band could pay more attention to the audience,” she said. “You could feel everyone’s energy—it was much more intimate.”

The Student Entertainment Council plans for two concerts instead of one

Bands New Direction (left) and In Spite Of (right) opened for the event.

At last, the dark side learns the power of DVD

By Vincent Civitillo

Growing up I never saw Star Wars. There was Star Wars and Star Trek and I couldn’t tell the difference between the Millennium Falcon and the Starship Enterprise if there was $100 on the line.

There was so much of it out there with the movies and TV shows that I had no idea where to jump in. But when a friend told me that, at least with Star Wars, it came down to just seeing three films, I decided to give it a chance. I’ve been hooked ever since.

Whether you’re a fan or not, if you’ve enjoyed cinema over the past 30 years, a simple respect should come at least from one undeniable fact: Star Wars changed the way movies were made, forever. Name your favorite film and it’s likely that George Lucas’ space epic paved the way for it. Industrial Light and Magic, Hollywood’s leading special effects company, was founded by Lucas to helm the visuals on Star Wars. Skywalker Sound was started to add the film’s audio mix and THX quality-assurance certification, which just about every DVD today has, came about years later when the trilogy was restored for its 20th anniversary re-issue.

After the release of comparatively embarrassing prequels and pointless revisions to his masterpieces over the last few years, Lucas strikes back with the first-ever DVD release of A New Hope, The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi.

The trilogy begins in medias res as an evil empire is at war with a rebel alliance. When the rebel princess is captured by the sinister Darth Vader, she sends a distress message across the stars, which is accidentally intercepted by Luke Skywalker, a farm boy dying for a little adventure. Skywalker seeks out retired Jedi Knight Obi-Wan Kenobi and space-pirate Han Solo, who help him on his quest to save the princess and become a Jedi like his father.

Empire picks up a few years later with, Forsaken without the help of his mentor Kenobi, Luke receives a vision instructing him to seek out Yoda, a mysterious Jedi Master who can apparently complete his training. Complicating matters for the adventurer is the plight his friends fall into when Darth Vader’s obsession with Luke forces him to make a choice that could drive him further into the evil Emperor’s grasp.

As the trilogy concludes, Vader’s obsession with turning Luke over to the dark-side of the Force comes down to the ultimate battle of good versus evil. Meanwhile, the rebels plan an attack on the Empire that, if successful, could restore peace to the galaxy.

Although, with its captivating adventure story, A New Hope was a strong opening act, Empire stood out as the heart of the series. In Empire, more interesting characters are introduced and further depth is given to the ones we already know. A more unpredictable plot is established and the finale, where the rebels, in every conceivable way, lose both surprises and satisfies without the need for a conclusion marred with a “To Be Continued” tagline.

While the fantastical dual finale makes up for it, Jedi needlessly drags where it shouldn’t. It has great potential, but turns out to be the weakest installment by concentrating too fully on tying up loose ends and appealing to younger audiences with a whole tribe of fuzzy teddy bear Ewoks.

The original Star Wars trilogy has arrived on DVD for the first time, but brings a few surprises with it.

Photo copyright Lucasfilm Ltd.

For the DVD set, the trilogy is packed with supplements and has been given a high definition-based face-lift that comes off as an unbelievable improvement. But, because the presentation both looks and sounds immaculate, whether or not fans wind up buying the set will be purely dependant on whether they can tolerate the further revisions Lucas has made.

The alterations range in acceptability from barely noticeable (improved light Saber effects and removed matte lines) to annoying (the replacement of the hologram Emperor in Empire with actor Ian Mcdiarmid and the over-dubbing of Boba Fett’s voice with that of Episode IX’s Temuera Morrison) to unacceptable (altered dialog in the “What is thy bidding?” scene and the digital inclusion of Hayden Christensen to the final ghost sequence of Jedi).

Perhaps new editions will be released down the line that alter the films again and again until they collapse like Michael Jackson’s nose, at last convincing Lucas that the Star Wars trilogy as people fell in love with it years ago, was fine. Until then, this is the best the films have ever looked and sounded, and for that, casual fans should be more than pleased.