

MVT—your business
may depend on it

Traps in the \$10,000
gift tax break

How Wal-Mart
shares its pain

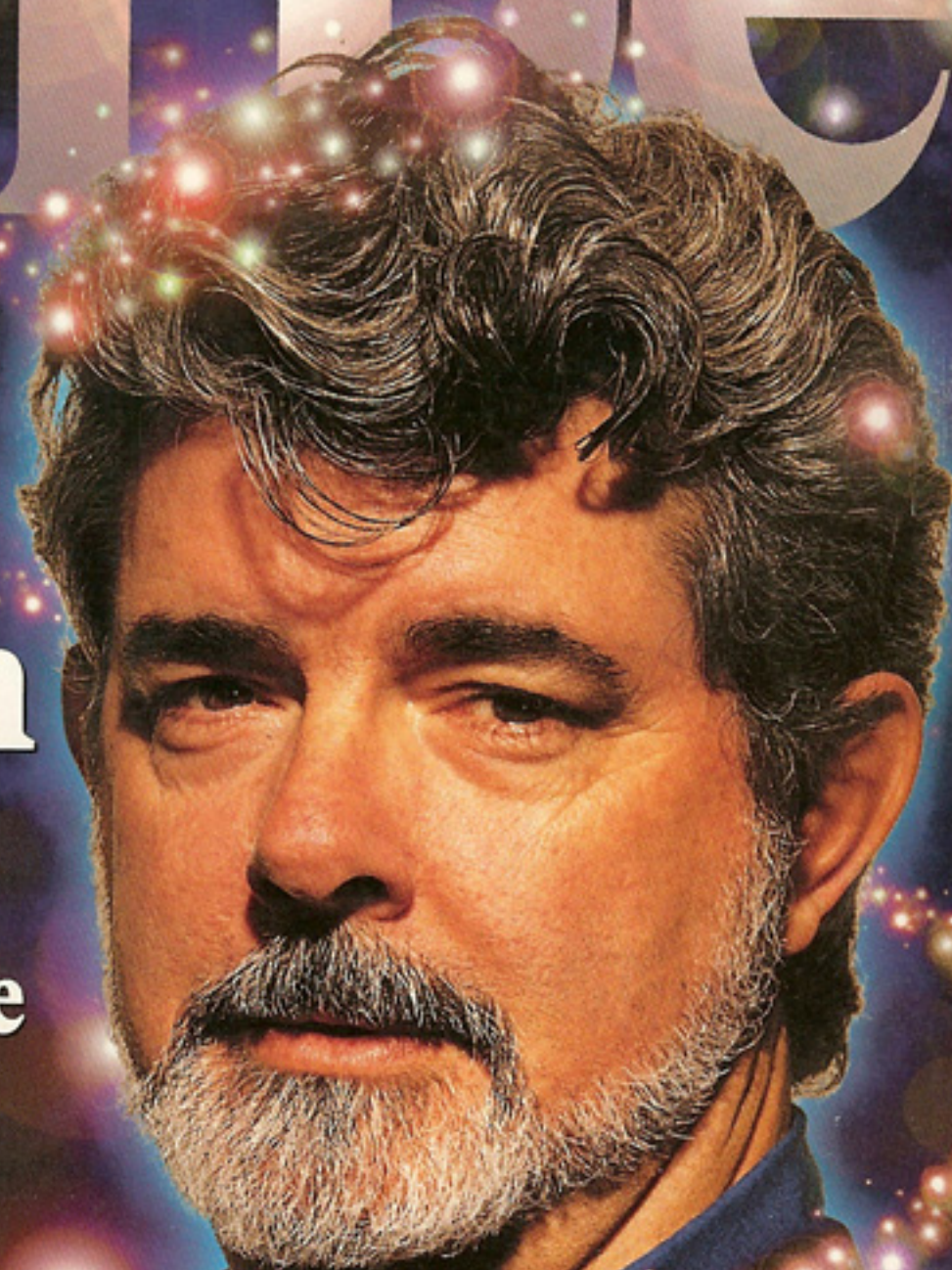
March 11, 1996

\$4.00 (Canada \$4.50)

Forbes

The Magician

George Lucas
is erasing the line
between fantasy
and reality



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Eagle or vulture?

LAST APRIL owner Dean Singleton shuttered the *Houston Post*, the town's number two paper, leaving the field to Hearst's *Houston Chronicle*. It's bad PR to gloat over a defeated rival, but the Hearst people haven't hidden their feeling of triumph. Last month news came out that a massive painting had gone up on the wall in *Chronicle* publisher Richard Johnson's conference room. It depicts a fierce bald eagle, Hearst's corporate symbol, about to tear apart a hapless hooded falcon. Get it? Hint: The *Chronicle's* code name for its long-term strategy to put the *Post* out of business was Operation Falcon.

Barefoot on the park

IF THE Time Warner/Turner Broadcasting merger goes through, Ted Turner and wife Jane Fonda may be spending more time in New York. They'll need a place to hang their toothbrushes. Just by chance Lady Fairfax, the widow of Australian publishing magnate Sir Warwick Fairfax, is



Manhattan's exclusive Pierre Hotel

Will the Turner/Fondas get its \$35 million penthouse?

dumping her 16-room triplex (12,000 square feet). It encompasses the top three floors of Manhattan's Pierre Hotel, facing Central Park at Fifth Avenue and 61st Street. Four corner terraces, facing north, south, east and west, provide 360-degree views. Asking price: \$35 million. Rumors are Jane wants it. The Hanoi Hilton it ain't.



New Jersey Nets in action

The ad revenues were a bonanza.

Continental divide

CONTINENTAL AIRLINES paid the New Jersey Sports Authority \$29 million to put its name on the Meadowlands Sports Complex on Jan. 4. Oops. Turns out the New Jersey

Second opinion

THE Securities & Exchange Commission is looking into complaints that Goldman, Sachs & Co. made math errors in a valuation it drew up for Wallace Computer Services last October. The business-forms maker used the Goldman analysis to reject a takeover bid from Moore Corp.

Shareholders were misled, according to New York arbitrage firm Wyser-Pratte, because Goldman mistakenly inflated Wallace's value by as much as 18%. Wyser-Pratte holds 2.7% of Wallace's stock. A federal judge relied on Goldman's analysis when he held that Wallace was better off independent.

Moore had overlooked the "mistakes," claims Wyser-Pratte. Goldman—which has been paid \$3.5 million in advisory fees—has no comment. Its flack sent FORBES a copy of a letter written to Wyser-Pratte stating, "We . . . stand by our analysis."

Nets basketball team, which plays there, owns the advertising rights to the Meadowlands. The Nets sued the following day. The Sports Authority recently forked over some \$9 million to the Nets to settle in time for the NCAA Final Four tournament in March.

Hedge fund or trust fund?



MARVIN BUSH and Christopher Brady have set up shop to offer a start-up fund-of-funds (a fund made up of smaller investments in hedge funds). Do the names sound familiar? They should. Marvin is George Bush's son, and Chris calls former U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady dad.

Do as I say, not . . .

AS IS WELL KNOWN, John O'Quinn, of breast implant litigation fame, was almost kicked off the bar in 1989 for using "accident runners" to solicit clients after plane crashes. Now that he's rotten rich, O'Quinn craves respectability. So he quietly donated a pile of his silicone-padded loot to get his name on the University of Houston's law library. The school is throwing a big bash in April to celebrate



Breast implant plaintiff's man John O'Quinn **Buying respectability.**

O'Quinn's \$4.5 million donation and the subsequent name change. Rumor around Houston is that the dean will be unveiling a 12-foot portrait of O'Quinn at the ceremony. What's next? The Jack Kevorkian School of Medicine?

Runaway train

FIFTEEN MONTHS AGO the chief executive of a mighty railroad announced—with great fanfare—that he was taking a four-to-six-week leave of absence to enter an alcoholic treatment center. He apparently didn't stay dry long. Four days before this past Christmas, the cops pulled him over on a drunken driving charge after observing him driving south in the northbound lane

of Route 563 in Pennsylvania in a white Ford Explorer bearing a "2 Crash" vanity plate. An affidavit filed by the arresting police officer said he was swerving to avoid oncoming traffic.

As a former transportation secretary, this same executive called for mandatory jail time for those arrested on DWI charges. Clearly not foreseeing his own fate.



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