

TV PREVIEW

***Centura Family Patterson*, Channel Four, 6.30 pm, Monday**

The film *Star Wars* has been around for decades and has a cult following. People watch it and re-watch it with all its last-century sci-fi gadgetry, gimmicks and intergalactic battles. By today's standards, last-century's space costumes are basic and naive.

There is now an animated version of *Star Wars* called *Centura Family Patterson* and its latest episode should really upset the dedicated *Star Wars* fans. Just being reduced to a kids' cartoon spoof might be enough to have them sending letters of protest to the TV channel.

In this zany episode Luke Skywalker is a naive, bumbling assistant to an inventor, who just happens to be working on an improved computerised version of a light sabre. Why fight with light sabres when they already have atomic particle neutraliser guns? Only Professor Klink knows the answer to that.

The original *Star Wars*' Princess Leia becomes big sister Whipette in the Patterson family. She gets a scam email telling her to invest in land on the galaxy of Zeta X.

Her father, looking much like a very sinister Darth Vader, is a real estate agent. He cannot resist an investment opportunity and never takes his sunnies off!

Even if viewers have little knowledge of the original *Star Wars*, this is still fun. The story moves along at a rapid pace. There aren't too many blasts from rockets and ray guns. And the reputation and tactics of real estate agents and used car (flying saucer) dealers gets a hammering.

There is more in this for adults than kids but the kids will still love the old Good versus Evil storyline. No prizes for guessing who comes out on top.

The seven o'clock sitcom that follows is bland by comparison.

Rated G ★★★★★

James Green