

# Profiles

Sandi Jones  
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Sandi Jones, 38, single, mother of a ten-year-old son, Executive Assistant in family's trade book bindery, and have lived in the Chicago area most of my life. I am also an original doll artist and work in porcelain. My latest endeavors are Han and Luke and they should be done in a month or so. My main interests are SW, drawing, writing letters, writing fanfic, reading sf and historical romances, and watching Bears football on TV. My main goal right now is to get my doll business off the ground so I can semi-retire from the family business (they'll never let me completely go since I'm the one who does all the estimating). I'm also taking the plunge and will be publishing my own SW minizine, A CLOSE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, in early '86. I'm very happy to have found a group of individuals who do not think I'm a little off center because I spend hours writing an 11 page LoC discussing a "supposed" kiddy movie, or use my talents to draw and write about SW.

Bev Clark  
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Bev Clark is 32 (33 in January), lives in Seattle, and is a writer in the advanced computer technology division of a major aerospace company. Her fannish activities have included editing SKYWALKER (1977 to 1984); writing occasional fiction and articles and rather more frequent LoCs; attending media and SF conventions; and working on cons. She's been reading SF for 24 years. She discovered SF, ST and fantasy fandom in three glorious months in 1973 and has been involved in the first two ever since. Bev is a Canadian by birth who moved to SoCal in 1964 and made her way north via Santa Cruz, California; Silicon Valley; and Eugene, Oregon, not necessarily in that order. She stopped for a degree in English literature (minor: Latin and Medieval studies) from the University of California at Santa Cruz and an M.L.S. from the University of Oregon. She shares her house (well, condo) with a small, usually mellow dog and much of her life with the First Terran Jedi Enclave. Other activities include a children's literature apa, gardening, reading, movies, some traditional music, and playing native guide to visiting friends and family. Intellectual interests are almost everything, but especially human evolution and anthropology; contemporary physics and cosmology; "sociology of science" (for lack of a better term); mythology and religion; English etymology and language; children's literature; and English culture and history. Her opinions on most of these subjects tend to be strong, as anyone who has read her LoCs to SE knows. ((Ed's note: These are Bev's own words, not mine!))



# Editor's Desk

Chris Callahan mentioned in a letter to me that she had found a fairly recent photo of Sara Campbell, taken at ConStellation, and had passed it along to Sara's parents. Her parents wrote back, thanking her and said that they were putting together an album of recent photos of Sara. Chris suggested to me that perhaps other friends of Sara's might have photos that her parents would appreciate having, but said that those people should write to Mr. and Mrs. Campbell first and ask.

Some other sad news: It was reported in DATA-ZINE that long time STAR TREK fans Toni Cardinal-Price and M. L. "Steve" Barnes have both died recently, Toni in an automobile accident and Steve by her own hand. This is terribly distressing news for all those who knew these two ladies either by their works or as friends. I don't have anymore information concerning this. Does anyone out there know any more?

On a happier note, I recently received a notice from my video store announcing that RETURN OF THE JEDI will be released on videotape in February 1986! I've also heard, from less official sources, that INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM may be out on tape in February. Something to look forward to. Get your orders in early!

And, on another happy note: On October 26, 1985, Martie Benedict was married to Zack O'Brien in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I haven't talked to Martie officially, but Sherry Magee told me that she would be going by Martie Benedict-O'Brien from now on. Her new address is in the change of address column. We wish Martie and Zack the very best!

Also, congratulations to Carolyn Gollidge who has just sold her first pro novel, NO ESCAPE, to CLCB Press. Way to go, Carolyn! We'll be looking forward to it!

The majority of you will have noticed by now that there is a number on your address label. I've neglected to explain this in the past few issues but was hoping that it was a familiar-enough procedure that most of you would understand it. Just to make sure, that number is the issue that your subscription expires. I'll continue to send out renewal notices if I don't hear from you by the following issue, but it will save me stamps and time if you would take a quick glance at the address label and remind yourself that your subscription is running out.

Finally, this issue is dedicated to a special friend and companion, my old German Shepherd dog, Spaak. He would have been 13 in January, but the infirmities of old age had caught up with him and we didn't want him to suffer through another winter. It was a hard decision to say goodbye to him, but, in the end, we decided that it was the kindest thing. He wasn't a champion or even registered, but he was a loyal, loving friend. Even after I married and moved away, leaving him at home with my parents, he always greeted me with a happy bark and wagging tail. He taught me the intelligence and devotion inherent in his breed, to the extent that I have never since wanted any other dog except a German Shepherd. Our two shepherds, Thor and Cruiser, live up to that promise. But Spaak was special. He was the first. And he will be missed.

# Consumer Corner

Equal space will be  
offered for replies.

From:

Ann Wortham  
1402 Allison Avenue  
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I contributed to ONLY TREK #2, a zine published by Katherine Scarritt and Mary Lowe of Houston, TX, approximately two years ago. My contribution was accepted and in the time between then and now, I have attempted to keep in contact with the editors by sending them inquiries, etc. I never received any reply from them other than the initial acceptance. In July of 1985, ONLY TREK #2 finally saw print, although I was unaware of it. I saw the zine at MoreEastly Con, complete with my contribution, so I wrote the editors asking for my contributor's copy. They never replied. I reconfirmed their address with an acquaintance of theirs, wrote again, and still received no reply. At a recent convention in Tampa, I again saw ONLY TREK #2 on sale. I highly object to this zine being sold with my work in it when the editors not only deny me my contributor's copy, but they can't even be bothered to answer my inquiries. I advise people to be wary of purchasing it through the mail.

## notices

From: Thekla Kurth, 851 N. Pheasantbrook Cir.,  
Centerville, UT 84014

Thekla Kurth and Nancy Baker are getting together a group for serious, mature discussion of Harrison Ford, i.e., career, films past and future. If you are interested in conversing about HF in a round robin discussion group format, SASE the above address, for rules and particulars. Thank you.

From: Tim Blaes, Route 6, Box 294,  
Hendersonville, NC 28739

I regret to announce that I am no longer officially involved with VERTIGO. Time and distance between me and Susan Kimzey prevent proper communication, and I am of no use to the zine without communication between me and the editor. The fanzine itself, however, is still "go", and still needs contributions. They hope to have it out by next MediaWest or before, and, if not, all contributions will be returned.

# Lucas isn't resting on his laurels

By Jay Boyar  
Orlando Sentinel

Star Wars update: George Lucas seems to get more work done when he's on vacation than a lot of people do when they're working full time.

Lucas is best known as the director of the first Star Wars movie (1977) and the executive producer of the second two films in the trilogy, The Empire Strikes Back (1980) and Return of the Jedi (1983). After the release of Return of the Jedi, Lucas was said to be exhausted and looking forward to a long rest.

But the filmmaker seems to have his own definition of resting. Since 1983, Lucas has served as an executive producer of Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom and has been designing several rides for Walt Disney World and Disneyland. He is also the executive producer of Captain Jack, a 12-minute 3-D movie to be shown at the Disney parks next year.

"I'm not as intense as I was when I was doing Star Wars," Lucas said, but at the same time I'm not retired or anything. I'm doing a lot of projects, but they're more controllable."

Another project on Lucas' agenda is the continuation of his Star Wars series. He said that plans call for two additional trilogies, bringing to nine the grand total of Star Wars movies.

The second three movies, Lucas' next Star Wars project, will describe events that preceded the existing trilogy. (The third trilogy will be set after the three films already released.) At the time Return of the Jedi opened, the next Star Wars installment was expected to be ready by 1988. Lucas now believes it will take longer to get the film produced, though just how long he could not say.

Lucas said the second trilogy will feature many of the same characters from the existing three movies, but that they will be about 40 years younger. In this second trilogy, we will see Darth Vader and Ben Kenobi as young Jedi knights. The characters will be played by different actors than they were in the existing Star Wars' trilogy, said Lucas.

And what about R2-D2 and C-3PO, the lovable droids who virtually stole the show in the Star Wars series? Surely we haven't seen the last of them.

"I really haven't decided yet," said Lucas.



*Hope Santa brings you what you want!*

*Merry Christmas*

*Chere (& Ian)*

## HELP

### Fighting migraines with The Force



*The Jedi strike back: With movie magic, boys master the art of relaxation.*

The cast: six boys, ages 10 to almost 13. They are all overachievers, described variously as "brightest," "head of class" and "best athlete."

The problem: All the boys suffer from migraine headaches that are not being helped by analgesics or other medication.

The scenario: Their doctor refers them to psychologists Ronald H. Rozensky and Joseph F. Pasternak for biofeedback training—a standard treatment when medication fails.

With a temperature-sensing device attached to their right index fingers, the boys are taught various relaxation techniques and are asked to raise the temperature of their hands. Feedback consists of tones and lights that change as the hand temperature rises. This hand-warming technique is based on the fact that when someone is anxious or stressed, blood flow to the hands is restricted, lowering their temperature.

The complication: At first, feedback doesn't work at all. Instead of relaxing and letting the temperature increase just happen, the boys see

handwarming as yet another goal to be conquered. They talk about "getting into the 90s" and "getting 100 percent"; they ask "what's the highest score." Even turning off the biofeedback equipment and asking the boys simply to relax doesn't work. As soon as the machine is turned back on, they try hard again, and their temperature stops rising.

In desperation, Rozensky and Pasternak remember earlier advice to make biofeedback imagery "concrete and interesting" to children. They invoke the image of Obi-Wan Kenobi, the Jedi Master in the *Star Wars* trilogy who taught Luke Skywalker how to use The Force. The boys are all familiar with the movies and with Kenobi's admonitions to relax and use inner strength to achieve goals. The researchers recall the instruction scenes for the boys and use some actual movie dialogue, together with other relaxation suggestions:

"Get on with your exercises."  
"Remember a Jedi can feel The Force flowing through him."  
"Stretch out with your feelings."

"You see, you can do it."

"Once the *Star Wars* scene was set," Rozensky and Pasternak report, "each of the six subjects immediately began handwarming and could successfully relax with little interference." Within three weeks in five cases and six weeks in the other, the boys had no migraines. Using the hand-warming/relaxation techniques at the first twinges, they headed off discomfort before it developed further. In follow-up examinations 2 to 24 months later, the boys reported no further headaches.

Why did The Force work so well? Rozensky and Pasternak mention three factors. First, treatment is most successful when it increases a patient's sense of self-efficacy or mastery (in this case Jedi mastery). Second, treatment is most successful when a patient believes in the therapist. In this case, they say, the therapist's "enthusiasm and trustworthiness... were enhanced by identification with The Force." Third, and most simply, "the familiar story simply might have been a relaxing image upon which these boys could concentrate."

Rozensky and Pasternak are at Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Ill. Their report appeared in *Clinical Biofeedback and Health* (Vol. 8, No. 1).

—Jack C. Horn

#### ART CREDITS:

Carol Peters -- 1, 8, 12, 43, 53  
Ronda Henderson -- 22, 33, 48, 61  
Danaline Bryant -- 40, 55  
Sandi Jones -- 63

Thanks to Laura Virgil and Linda Deneroff who helped type this issue!



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Jacqueline Taero's attack cat,  
"Juliet" (above) sends her  
regards to Tim Blaes (right)



# From a Certain Point of View

Lin S. Ward  
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Well, #9 was even more provocative than #8--what an issue! All the articles were fascinating; gee, MWC made it to the News! Wow! I was shocked and saddened by Sara Campbell's passing. My prayers go with her friends and family.

Cheree: Your comment about the Emperor's com bining with Vader to throw the Force out of balance is intriguing. There has to be some reason why Vader's fall was so different. I don't really understand how Darkside Jedi or Forceusers would work, but it seems plausible that there would be more than one way to believe in/use the Force, just as we have many different religions that celebrate one God.

Sally Syrjala: Most interesting idea about the natural pull on the Force, and the necessity of conscious effort for a Force user to channel it from its natural state of being. I can see how an experienced user might be able to detect changes in the currents that someone else is causing. I wonder how this idea would fit in with statements like, "The Force is strong in him." That makes it sound as if a person's natural state is to flow in and of the Force (more like your suggestion of Jedi as the channel for the Force), but if that were so, why would Ben and Yoda need to teach it to Luke? Guess I'm stuck here.

As usual, the symbolism you discovered in "Wormie" missed me by a mile. I really enjoyed these insights into the names, as well as the allusion to head, heart, hand = health. Is Leia the head in this example?

Sandi Jones: I, too, wonder whether Uncle Owen helped Luke "forget" his force abilities by scolding him whenever he used his Talent. Children supposedly learn more quickly and easily, and are most sensitive psychically. Yoda said Luke was too old to begin the training. I wonder if Jedi children were normally trained from the time they were toddlers to first recognize the natural flow of the Force within themselves, and then gradually, to manipulate it according to the code of ethics taught them by the Masters. I've read some fanfic that theorized that Vader fell because he didn't begin his training early enough. If this were a legitimate factor, it could explain part of Yoda's reluctance to try with Luke.

Liz Sharpe: Was fascinated by the myths you cited, particularly the reference to Cerberus and the netherworld. I think Luke learned (a) who his father was, (b) that although his father didn't hesitate to murder any number of other beings, he drew the line at murdering his son, (c) that his father wanted Luke to join him (which series of ideas may be what led Luke to decide there was still

good in his father), (d) the personal dangers yawning before him if he gave in to hate, anger, impatience, etc., as well as (e) the great potential for good that is lost to the galaxy when a Jedi falls. I believe Luke was intended to learn some thing, and Vader had some kind of express destiny after ANH, because it looks to me as if Vader should have died when Han blasted his ship in the trench. Vader was allowed by God, the Force, or the Way of Things, to survive for some purpose.

And if there is, then, a pattern to these events, I wonder what was wrong with the Old Republic and/or Jedi Way that required changing before a New Order of Knights and/or New Republic could be established?

One more thing, your story, "Command Performance" in SOUTHERN KNIGHTS was terrific! (Never fear, Ain't Worthit, aka Inforit Now, will hear from me soon!)

Michelle Malkin: Before I address some interesting ideas in your newest letter, I'd like to backtrack to last letter's question about the clones (don't know how I could have skipped over it before!). I think it's very important to determine what occurred in the Clone Wars, because that conflict may have set up the fall of the Jedi and the Old Republic. (I infer from the movies that the two went down together--I wonder if they did?) This is one scenario (yes, it comes straight out of our Civil War and WWII): After clones were created, the Old Republic split into two factions. The Old Guard and the Jedi believed in equal rights for clones, while the new fascists, Palpatine's followers, believed the clones should be slaves, completely controlled by their creators, bereft of personal freedom. In this scenario, Palpatine, of course, was a Hitler-type, who wanted absolute power, and decided to use the Clone Issue as a foothold. The two factions went to war over the clones, but the two sides were too evenly matched to settle the argument. An uneasy peace was negotiated. In the Senate, Palpatine's groups subtly continued to campaign against the clones, and their weirdo defenders, the Jedi, and set up the overthrow of the Old Republic, the purge of the Jedi, and the capitulation of the clones. The "old guard" who fought to defend the clones and resist oppression, went underground and formed the Rebellion. I wonder what happened to the clones? Was the formula won by the Empire? Imagine what atrocities would then be possible! Or, were the technique and wherewithal to make them lost in the war? Perhaps after the public relations smear against them, the Emperor didn't dare bring them back. Well, if this theory lacks sense, at least it's got gusto! (Also find Marlene Karkoska's idea about a fight over the technology of cloning to be quite credible.)

Re your comment to Sally Syrjala that Jedi elitism could have arisen because the Jedi selected

who would be allowed to "discover" their Force talent. Maybe this is one of the things that must change with the new Jedi. However, if when they were selecting beings, they were trying to minimize Darksiders, how would they guard against them if they tried to train everyone who had the ability to use the Force? Are you saying that a trained Force user is bound to be safer than an untrained one? Loved your ideas about Yoda and his people; how do their mistakes fit in with your ideas of training all people who have the Force? Maybe these questions about training were the kinds of things that could've caused rifts amongst the Jedi, and opened them to attack from the outside?

Yoda existing on another plane? Kind of like Brigadoon! That's great! Would this have been a skill unique to Yoda and/or his race, or could all Jedi do it? No, if the Jedi could've escaped in such a fashion, I'm sure they would have. Well, maybe they aren't all lost, after all...

Carolyn Gollidge: So nice to hear what's going on behind all those exciting stories you're writing! Really appreciated your ideas about what Han and Luke learned from each other; it kind of fits in with Sally's 4-H idea. Maybe it's also one reason that I prefer stories featuring all the principals from the movies. It hadn't occurred to me that all humans would seem impatient to Yoda, with their short life spans. I hope we have some traits that outweigh this (i.e., Starman's comments?). Liked your idea very much of Wormie's imminent metamorphosis. Absolutely agree about "no greater love hath a man than that he lay down his life for his friends." Appreciated your discussion on the power of love; please see my comments to Liz Sharpe about Luke's love for his father. At the least, it must have taken some very mature, deep philosophizing to reach the conclusion that Anakin could be redeemed!

Pat Easley: Hey, I reach all the time; it's called "brain storming." Loved your idea for Wormie. I don't know which LFL bios Elsie Bartok was referring to, but there are bios in the ANH and TESB program books, which can be purchased from Starpost, and other such places advertised in STAR LOG.

Tim Blaes: Leia as Empress! What? Luke's Tarot as the Hanged Man is fascinating. I think his reversal was away from hating Vader to craving for his redemption. I wonder if he and Vader communicated telepathically after Empire? A con featuring well-made amateur films would make a fun weekend!

Bev Clark: My recent viewings of ANH have revealed numerous incredulous/amused expressions on Obi-Wan's face, i.e., when Han mentions the "parsecs" record. How wickedly ironic if Han is subconsciously using the Force, and Obi Wan knows it.

Mary Urhausen: About males in fandom; I observe that men seem to get less support and more competition/ridicule from their friends than women do. For example, I've told my best friends about my fannish pursuits, and they give me SW stuff at holidays. On the other hand, one of the guys at the Rmd SF Society who's a ST/SW fan hasn't dared to "confess" to his best friends.

Mary Schmidt: Thanks for the information on Yoda--you're right! I didn't know Ford had so much control over the production of WITNESS, but it was a beautiful film in any case.

To answer other poll questions: I loved ROTJ, I admire GL, and I enjoyed the premiere of EWOKS AND DROIDIS. EWOKS was reminiscent of Walt Disney. But can they sustain this quality?

It's good to hear from all you new letterwriters! Keep it up! Clear skies!

## FIRST FORAY

Linda Kerry  
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September 9, 1985

This is my first foray into the wilds of SE. I have been a SW fan from day one, but was forced to gaffiate back in 1981 due to financial and personal crises--but I am back now, and jumping into fandom again with both feet!

A few general comments first:

I was surprised to see this raging controversy over Luke/Han supremacy! (Last controversial thing I knew about was the big flap with LFL about the "Slow Boat to Bespin" incident! Shows how long I've been out of it!) I think that the whole matter has gotten out of hand and escalated into pure silliness. It's like having two people declare, "I like hot fudge sundaes," and then all but come to blows over whether it is the hot fudge or the vanilla ice cream that "makes" the sundae! (Ah--you say, but who is the ice cream? I hear stirrings from the whipped cream and nuts factions, too...) But, seriously, folks, isn't enough enough? I am and always have been a fan of the trilogy--I like the characters and situations created by George Lucas. All the characters! It's the interplay of personalities and action that "makes" SW for me not exclusive devotion to just one of the characters. 'Nuff said.

Now, to completely change the subject. I came in on issue 7--could someone please explain what's going on with the Shelley Swan thing? It sounds as though the lady has a problem. (The answer doesn't have to be in the pages of SE; I'm sure that it has already been discussed here. I would love to correspond with other fen out there--I have practically given up hope on New England. It's a black hole as far as fandom is concerned! Please write!) ((Ed's note: the letter from Shelley Swan appeared in SE#6, which is still available as a back issue--as are SE #3 through #8, for \$2.00 each.))

Jenni Hennig: I want a lightsaber, too! I am really enjoying your series on the Jedi. More! More! Continuing your comparison of the Force (and I would like to add the Jedi as well...) and the "old religion"--there are some interesting parallels here. One of the basic tenets of the "old religion" is: Do as thou wilt an it harm none (i.e., do your own thing, but don't bother/infringe upon/hurt anybody while you're doing it.) That sounds like an admirable sentiment for a group that is the "guardians of peace and justice"--the Jedi, does it not? Other similarities: both the knowledge of the Force and the wisdom of the "old religion" seem to be handed down from one generation to the next. And both the Jedi and the adherents to the ways of the "old religion" have been hunted down almost to ex

inction, but there is the hope of renewal...

Liz Sharpe: I am somewhat of an Arthurian buff myself, and I completely agree with you that T. H. White is not the standard text of the Arthurian saga by which SW should be compared. However, it is the version that is probably best known by a good number of fans, due to the musical and the film CAMELOT which were both based on White's version of the mythos. (I personally prefer THE MISTS OF AVALON by Marion Zimmer Bradley and Mary Stewart's trilogy-plus-one.) The scene with Yoda telling Luke that he must "unlearn what he has learned", always reminds me of Merlin exhorting Arthur/Wart to think at the end of the film version of CAMELOT. ("Think, Arthur, think.")

Tim Blaes: Glad to hear that someone else liked ROMANCING THE STONE as much as I did! It was such a fun movie! I work in a bookstore and we just received the promo-packet for the novelization of the sequel, JEWEL OF THE NILE. The book, at least, will be out in December. Do you know when the movie is being released?

I've got a zillion more comments but I am afraid of running over the page limit...just a couple of other things...

Does anybody know where I can buy recordings of NPR's ANH and TESB? Lin Ward, you mentioned "Starstone"--who or what is that? Help!

I wouldn't mind seeing a zine with Darkside stories--as long as they are not all "fall" stories. I don't think it would be depressing...

Am looking forward to #10...until then...fly casual...

## FERTILE FIELDS FOR STORY IDEAS

Michelle Malkin  
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Adelandeyo, y'all! Issue #9 was fantastic! There is so much to comment on that this letter could easily run over into the next. First off, I have a heavy complaint to make to Jeanine Hennig Jenni, your article was way too short! C'mon, now. I've gotten to the point of expecting everything you write to be long, deep and detailed. More I says! One suggestion: a list of stories that show lightsabers being used in the ways you mentioned and/or for the reasons you mentioned (plus the zines they were in. This would be invaluable to new fen). Second, I really enjoyed Carolyn Colledge's transcription of the interview with Harrison. I could just imagine him making all those impish and blushing expressions. I remember how he stole the audience away from David Letterman on his show once. It was delightful. Thanks, Carolyn.

Jeannie Webster: I agree with you and the others who brought up the possibility of Nuremberg-type trials for the upper echelon of the Empire after the Alliance's final victory. Still, I don't think that the Emperor would survive to this point under any circumstances. He seems to be so eaten by evil

that whoever he once was (Palpatine or whoever) no longer exists. Unlike Vader, there is no former being or good to appeal to. In order for the Alliance to succeed, the Emperor had to be utterly destroyed, not just killed or die. If it's possible for the mind to continue after death, as in the cases of Ben Kenobi, Anakin and Yoda, might it not have been possible for the Emperor to mentally influence someone after he died a "normal" death, rather than having his atoms scattered hither, thither and yon in a reactor shaft? As far as Vader is concerned, we don't know that anyone but Luke, Leia and possibly Han and Chewie would even know he was alive if Anakin survived. (Hmmm, 'scuse me. Just jotted down a new story idea. That's one of the great things about letterzines; they are fertile fields for story ideas.)

Ronda Henderson: Loved your comment, "If you wrote a letter to fish, would you spend all your time trying to describe zebras?" in reference to why the Bible doesn't contain little green people from the planet Phftt. Unfortunately, as I've learned the hard way, humor doesn't work on True Believers. Also enjoyed your comment about Yoda being an irascible old goat. One of my favorite memories of ROTJ is of Yoda trying to hide under his blankets rather than tell Luke about his father. Serious scene, funny moment.

Lin Ward: I've wondered if Vader realized that Leia was Luke's sister, too. Since DV learned that Luke had a sister through telepathy, might he not also have picked up an image of her? I also liked your idea about public opinion turning against the Jedi during the Purge due to Imperial propaganda.

Sally "Sir Ella": Thank you for the information about your last name. My maternal grandfather's family name was Franz (Russian), but some clunk at Ellis Island decided to Anglicize it. So, my mother's maiden name was French!

Your comments on the differences between general sf and media fen make a lot of sense. It makes me wonder if general sf fen are as different from the mundanes as they like to think. Art only for money's sake strikes me as being very mundane. Art for art's sake seems more fannish to me. Many media fen don't want to go pro--they enjoy writing for themselves and for the pleasure of those who read what they write. Not that there is anything wrong in writing for money, but to look down on someone who doesn't do it for le grisbee sounds like phoney elitism. I wonder if some form of jealousy is involved in this media fen have plenty of zines to get their fiction published in. What, comparatively, do general sf fen have?

Sandi Jones: I've always been a Han fan first and foremost, but all the brouhaha of the last 3+ years has made me examine all three of the main SW characters more closely. Because of this, I like Han more than ever and my admiration for Luke and Leia has grown continuously over the years. Of course, all three characters have human flaws such as bad temper, stubbornness beyond need, uncertainties, self-centeredness, but this only makes them all the more human. Better yet, each has struggled to overcome these flaws, and each has gone a long way toward doing this. Luke used to whine; he doesn't anymore. Leia used to play Ice Princess to hide her feelings; she doesn't anymore. Han used to act the uninvolved, uncaring devil-may-care smugger; he doesn't anymore. It's been wonderful watching Han, Luke and Leia become fully developed people, and I love them for all their strengths and weaknesses.



Carolyn Gollidge: Your response to Mary Keever beautifully expressed my own feelings as well-- "...each being must express the good within themselves from the source of individuality which makes them unique: the soul. Anything else would be false and twisted. Any attempt to mold a person to your own idealized vision could only be a fatal mistake..." Lovely way to put it, and very true, too. In STARLOG #99, in a delightful Anthony Daniels interview, Daniels commented that some SW fans begin to lose perspective in their enthusiasm for the SW films. He says: "I've met people who, in my opinion--whatever it's worth--were a little too involved. I don't think you should be that involved in anything. Zealotry and extremism are bad in anything and that includes being an extremist about the movies." (emphasis original)

I agree with you, too, that Leia probably wouldn't run off with Han for life as a pirate, but it is a fun romantic idea and has been handled very well by Pat Nussman and Liz Sharpe.

Your point about Luke not being told about his father at an early age is well taken, and hopefully will stop some people from referring to Ben Kenobi as "oily" and "sneaky." Such knowledge could easily have angered and embittered him and turned him to the Dark Side before he was old enough to understand it, instead of letting him develop as he did. Ben had a damned good reason for not telling him (as did Owen Lars), and I wish I had thought of this myself.

A question: if stormtroopers are clones, what will become of them after the Alliance wins the war? They'd have probably been raised to know nothing but war. Who would set up a retraining program for them? Would they be considered human? What about mating and children? Okay, so it's more than "a" question. The others just sort of grew from the first.

In regards to Vader's use of or "enjoyment" of torture, you could very well be right. The times we've seen him use torture, there was always a reason for it--Ozzel as an example of incompetence, Antilles for information, Leia for information, Han to get Luke. He never seemed to unnecessarily drag out the torture (even with Ozzel) and, as you said, in Han's case, he left the room once it had begun (and he saw that it would have the desired effect). Before anyone holds up poor Captain Needa as an example, allow me to say that I don't believe that Vader did kill Needa. A dead man doesn't bend his knee when he is picked up from the floor. I think that Vader only "punished" Needa, which is why he got such a kick out of saying "Apology accepted, Captain Needa." He knew that Needa heard him! Needa's death would have served no purpose. Actually, his punishment didn't serve any purpose that I can see, either, but we do have to remember that Vader was having an off day.

Marlene Karkoska: What can I say? Your "Treatise on the Reasons for the Great Luke Controversy" says it all and better than I ever could have. I agree 100%. Also, your idea about the reason for the Clone Wars is interesting and fairly close to my own. If I ever write the first part of my series, you'll see the similarities and differences.

Lisa Thomas: We don't know that Anakin actually was a full Jedi when he fell and became Darth Vader. I think that Ben only referred to him as a young pupil of his, a good friend and pilot and a cunning warrior--no reference to his actually being a full Jedi. Why won't Lucas tell us these things?! (Come to think of it, Yoda did call Luke's father a "pow-

erful Jedi". Hmmmm)

Carole Regine: Hi, neighbor! Did you know that we live in the Midwest? I'll explain later. I guess you could call IG-88 a Dark Side droid, but it's kinda fun to imagine C3PO as one. I once started a Dark Side Chewie story, but it grossed me out so badly, I couldn't finish it. Even my evil imagination has its limits!

About Bail Organa, Secret Jedi--maybe there were other secret Jedi who didn't succeed as well as Bail did--at least Leia survived. Possibly some Jedi knew what was coming and tried, unsuccessfully, to prepare for it. Maybe the Jedi weren't as respectable as they had once been by the time Bail trained as a Jedi. I dunno. I'm a writer, not a fighter. (Hey, that rhymes! Maybe I'm a poet, too?)

Pat Easley: Many thanks for your nice words about KESSEL RUN. Aside from writing, I'm helping Bev Lorenstein type of PERFECT FUSION I (anymore volunteers? This is to be considered a very heavy hint, such as pretty please with either Harrison or Mark [your choice] on top.) (Another aside, PERFECT FUSION is going to be sold completely by preorder up to 200 copies. Almost 150 copies are presold already.) So, as you can see, I'm not totally out of the zine business yet.

Cindy Rodriguez: Older fen?!!! Arghhh!!! Ahem ...er...yes, m'dear, there is fandom after 35. And who in all hells said anything about growing up?! Hmph! Double hmph! And, bah humbug, too! Young whippersnapper...

Tim Blaes: Dorothea Madison Deborah Sampson Bastet Malkin Cat (better known as Dolley) sends her regards to her fur cousin, T'Poww.

Leia as Empress? With that kind of ruling power? I have a bad feeling about this, Tim. Why must the Empire be taken over, rather than overthrown and replaced by something hopefully better?

Maybe "virulent anti Han letters" in JW was going a bit overboard, but those were the days when Han was thought of by some as a redneck truck driver with the brains of a wombat, a sex drive that would kill 20 normal men, the ability to drink the entire population of Milwaukee under the table and a selfishness to rival the greediest financier. There was absolutely no proof of this, but some folks insisted on taking this for granted. And, while I've always felt that they were entitled to their opinion, I didn't like having that opinion forced on me anymore than I enjoy the same with similar degrading opinions of Luke now.

As to how powerful the Emperor was -I don't think his Force ability had diminished from earlier levels, but his mental condition was something else again. Emperor Brainburncase could have had all the esper talent in the universe, but without the common sense to use it or even the mental capability to use it, what good was it? This man seemed to be so eaten away by the evil he had adopted as his way of life, that whatever sense and intelligence he'd once had was all but gone. In fact, I'll bet that the reason he didn't see his own failure in reading the future was because his mind was incapable of accepting such a possibility. Also, Vader didn't kill the Emperor just by tossing him down a shaft, but by tossing him down a reactor shaft. A big difference, as I'm sure zillions of scattered Emperor atoms will agree.

Mary Urhausen: Having been in both general and media sf fandom, I can tell you for a fact that media fen have more fun. This isn't to say that general sf fen don't have fun, too, but, again com

paratively, there ain't no comparison! The elitist snobs in general sf fandom (who are probably just a small but obnoxious group) can sit on their high horses until their fannies turn blue, for all I care.

Mary Schmidt: Cheree gave the same answer I would have about why Luke had a mechanical hand if cloning parts exists in the SW universe.

I agree with you about the value of fanzines to beginning fannish writers. Other fan teach us not only to accept and make use of criticism, but willingly give us time to improve. I don't know of any pro editor, aside from the late John Campbell, who ever did that.

Jeanine Hennig: My favorite character in "1776" was Ben Franklin, perhaps because he is my favorite historical personage and was portrayed more accurately than the rest.

Aha! A genetic trait passed on through the many races of the Galaxy is what makes a Jedi. Okay, you can live now. Nyah! And please remember, although sticks and stones (and clubs) may break my bones, I'd really rather they didn't.

Maggie Nowakowska: Gods, Maggie, I hope you know by now that Philly is on the East Coast and not in the Midwest. I guess you could sort of say we're in the Mideast! You must know this because I just received a lovely letter from you and Susan asking me to join you at a con a couple of states south of me. (I'm really sorry that I can't make it. Hope you'll be at MediaWest\*Con next year.)

You're right about a lot of my memories of the anti-Han feelings of yore coming not just from letterzines but from personal letters and conversation, as well. I'll have to check over my copies of ALDERAAN to make sure I'm not allowing my memories of the earliest SW days to be skewed by current events, too. That would be going back way before JUNDLAND WASTES!

Barbara Izzo: In reference to your comments to Sandra Necchi, my first wish was simply to tell you to scratch that tingly spot between your shoulder blades. But, I will say more, because your comments are more than a not so veiled personal attack on Sandra's personal integrity and sincerity but on any fan who dares to make a mistake and have the courage to admit it. Are you saying that you think Sandra is a liar? If so, then please come right out and say so. And if so, why? Since you don't know Sandra at all, outside of letterzines (I asked her), how dare you impugn the sincerity of a stranger? In future, I suggest that you examine the purity of your own motives before you attack the sincerity of others.

Jeannie Webster: (Hmmm, didn't I just see that name somewhere?) Discussions about the Jedi can go on forever; there is so much we'll never know about them and so much we can all imagine. Are Jedi simply highly trained espers? Are untrained Jedi unable to tap the Force? Was Luke's esper and/or Jedi ability blocked when he was a child for his own protection? Do Jedi all have the same or varied abilities? Are some espers natural talents while others have to have their talent/s brought out?

Your comment about a lot of writers trying to turn Han into Luke is a very true one. Not only is his hair golden, but he is a Jedi as well! Like you, I enjoy some stories about Han as a Jedi (he's an esper in my universe), but that doesn't mean that this is how I see him in the movies. There is a very thin line between wishful fantacizing and True Believing. It's all too easy to cross that line when a fan's hopes for her favorite character

have been dashed (as Marlene Karkoska so brilliantly points out) and that fan lets her anger take over. It's a lot more fun and a lot more peaceful to simply patch up that kind of disappointment by writing the story the way you want to satisfy yourself. Or simply make it up in your own mind, if you don't write. But remember that this is the way that you want it, not Uncle George.

That's it for now, Cheree. Pardon me while I remove my eyeballs and dip them in Murine. Until SE#10, green forests, bright water, peace and long life, and fly free!

## AUSSIECON

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September 24, 1985

I was shocked and sorry to get the news about Sara Campbell. I'd corresponded with her a little and met her only once, at ConStellation, where she impressed me with her incredible vitality and enthusiasm. She'll be missed.

On to more pleasant subjects.

The movie triple bill (INDIANA JONES/THE NATURAL/FIRESTARTER) is great! Where was this little gem, anyway? ((Ed's note: Someone told me last summer that they had seen it on a marquee, but I can't remember who or where.))

Apropos of Jeannie Webster's note on the SW triple bill at LA-Aussiecon [Worldcon, Melbourne, Australia] had programming in three hotels: major programming and hucksters room in the Southern Cross, fan programming and art show in the Victoria, a block and a half away, and media programming in the Sheraton about 2 blocks the other direction from the Victoria. In other words, if you wanted to attend media programming, you often had to forgo something in one of the other hotels because of the distance to be covered if you left, say, the Southern Cross as soon as one item was over to get to a media item scheduled for the next hour, you'd be lucky to have half the media item, and vice versa (also the weather was typical early spring in Melbourne, i.e. chilly and drizzly; not enticing for a fan who was fighting a cold from the beginning of the con!). In defense of the Hugo presentation at Aussiecon, I must say that it was interesting and fun in spite of glitches with the slide presentation (maybe in a couple of cases BECAUSE of the glitches!); the MC kept his remarks to a minimum, and nobody made long acceptance speeches. And, as far as I was concerned, most of the awards went to the right nominees (I wouldn't have cried if GHOST-BUSTERS had beat out 2010--have to admit I really had a hard time deciding which to put in 1st place on my ballot!). One complaint I heard was that the Hugos were given on Saturday and the masquerade held Sunday instead of vice versa a lot of people wouldn't be able to stay as long as Sunday night, apparently, or would have to be leaving so early on

Monday that either being in or attending the masquerade would mean unacceptable loss of sleep. Since we were staying till Monday evening, it was academic for my husband and me.

While I'm on Aussiecon, here are a couple of items concerning films discussed in these pages. There was a panel on DUNE which included Frank Herbert with "right of reply", according to the pocket program. After Elizabeth Hull (Pohl) and Ed Bryant essentially took the film apart as a travesty on the book, Herbert said he had no essential disagreement with what had already been said and that he'd had very little real input into the film. AND, he fought the rainstorm at the end--but what did he know? He only wrote the novel. After seeing the rushes, he wanted to do two films, to be shown as a double bill. Considering that the total film shot was 4 hours, 50 minutes, it could have been done and been truer to the book. The possibility of a miniseries using lost footage is probably close to nil, because of the expense of recutting and rescore (also apparently a copyright problem with music for rescoring). Herbert has nothing to do with whether a miniseries will ever be made. While he did not like what had been done to Paul's character in the rewriting and editing, he approved of McLachlan's performance, given what he had to work with. Also (after Hall said it might have worked better with some characters combined, like Halleck, Idaho and Hawat), Herbert said he'd suggested combining Halleck and Idaho as representative of loyal follower of the Atreides, and he'd wanted to cut the scene with the Baton and his teenage victim.

Another panel, on films in general, had Maureen Garrett, Ed Bryant and Paul Sammon (sp?) formerly of CINEFANTASTIQUE, and Paul "Dr. Antifan" Stephens on the merits of filmic sf. It got into a few side issues, including a discussion of BLADE RUNNER. And to settle a burning question: Deckard IS a replicant, according to Sammon. There was a scene cut from the final film, a dream he has of chasing a unicorn through a forest, and ends up with the unicorn beheaded and obviously a robot. The little foil unicorns are a reference to the dream. Also, the original ending was the elevator door closing; preview audiences didn't like the ambiguity and lack of happy ending, so the ending as released was added.

OK, on to the previous issue of SE.

Ronda Henderson: You're absolutely right. WHY does ROTJ have to be moral? What matters is fidelity to the characters as they develop, and that includes the possibility of changes that may or may not be acceptable to some viewers.

Lin Ward: I like your idea that Leia was possibly leading only one small section of the Alliance, and the ideas that go with it. Has anybody published any fiction with this as the basis? (Aside from not being able to read everything, I can't remember most of what I HAVE read by now!) Also agree with you about Yoda and Ben in their keeping information from Luke. They CAN'T see everything in the present or future. As for Vader being the only corrupt Jedi, I personally think it would be more realistic--not to mention dramatically interesting--if the problem was widespread among them. (The Utopian in me likes the incorruptibility idea, too, but with fiction I do prefer realism anyway!)

Liz Sharpe: Thanks for the tidbit from Norse mythology. I do enjoy seeing that sort of thing, whether in books or in films!

Carole Regine: Agree with you that ROTJ wasn't the story I'd've told, but it was someone else's

story to tell, and I enjoyed it. That's what alternate universes are for--telling the story the way we want it to go.

Pat Easley: I agree with you about the droids. However intelligent, etc., they are, they're still machines.

Tim Blaes: I don't think any of the women who discuss the male/female ratios in various fandoms are bothered by the ratios. It's just a very interesting sociological and possibly psychological subject. And fen are nothing if not congenital discussers of anything even remotely interesting! Do like your analogy of a Rubic's Cube for the SW saga--a "fixed" one! As for naming a daughter Modesty--I don't think you could get away with it. For one thing, as soon as she was old enough to get it, she'd probably disown you (or worse!).

Susan Henderson: I do like your Imperial Articles of Faith! (And me a good Corellian scummer, too!)

Bev Clark: Though I like your idea that the Emperor wasn't a Jedi but a "wild card" they couldn't guard against, I still think Vader wasn't the only one who fell. Maybe the Emperor used Vader to accelerate a process already begun on a very minor scale?

Mary Schmidt: Re the sf fanzines you've seen--aside from the newszines like LOCUS and SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE, a lot of zines are small-circulation productions, often used as a way for people to keep in touch over long distances in lieu of regular meeting opportunities. And many zines are the primary fanac for their producers/readers--there's a subgroup even at cons of zine fandom that seems to be interested primarily in zines rather than in even reading sf. They don't get the notice that media fen do because this kind of zine fandom has been around almost from the beginning, and they don't EVER make themselves noticeable by wearing media oriented costumes. As for publishing fiction in fanzines, I think it's great as a training ground for those who really do have talent that needs to be developed; and for those of us who either don't have the necessary talent to write really well or who simply aren't interested in pro publishing, the media zines are idea for outlets for what creativity we do possess. Besides, they're fun. And Force knows everybody needs a chance at some egoboo occasionally!

Final comment: BACK TO THE FUTURE is absolutely delightful! I was 10 going on 11 in 1955, and while you couldn't pay me to go back to the 50's myself, the on-screen version was great to visit. Fine acting all around (best "mad scientist" I ever hope to see!) and Michael J. Fox has the makings of a truly fine comedian I could even believe in Marty McFly as a real person. Overall, it's definitely a "feel-good" film, which is a lot more than I can say for a lot of "comedy" these days.



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September 26, 1985

First off, a big hello to all of you, for this is my first LOC to SE, and may I express my thanks for all the enjoyable hours I've spent reading your ideas. Letterzines are definitely a stimulant, and highly addictive, too, but are one of the few beneficial "drugs" around. More thanks must go to Mickey Malkin for her zine KESSEL RUN #4, which got me back into zines. I got it about a year or so ago, and it was only the third I'd ever bought. Now I have a shelf full, and if I can ever get some free time, I'll get caught up in reading them, too. But, when the time is there--they are treasures! Thanks, Mickey (and Janet Madden, for recommending it to me. Thanks, Janet!).

SE#9 was the best issue yet. The tone was overwhelmingly positive; not a harsh or abrasive letter in the bunch. All I read were interesting new topics, good defenses of opinions in peaceful manners, and loads of thought-provoking ideas. Am I ever glad I subscribed! Another reason I so liked #9 was that I found myself agreeing so much with what others were saying. It is nice to hear different views, but to share the same views has its enjoyment, too.

Annie Wortham: Let me share my praise for your account of seeing HARRIGAN 'N HART (in #8). Wonderful piece. I saw the play in Chester, CT, and agree with you on how great it was. Also, I did get to meet Mark after the performances I attended, and may I say that it did nothing but add to my already high opinion of him. Luke has always been my favorite character (though like so many others, that does not mean it is at the expense of the others. I am a SW fan--meaning every bit of the entire Saga.), and I've thoroughly enjoyed Mark's other screen work, as well as his performance as Mozart in AMADEUS. Without a doubt, for his work alone, he is my favorite actor, but on top of that he is a fine gentleman who cares strongly for his fans. In my book, the actor is just as much of a hero to me as the character he plays.

Cindy Rodriguez: Your comment about Harrison Ford looking like Corey Hart reminded me of another of his look-alikes. Has anyone seen John Fogerty (formerly of CCR) in his "Rock & Roll Girls" video? The similarity to Harrison (especially from ANH) is almost too close.

Re Media vs. SF fandom: This topic has me scratching my head. There is such a "rivalry"? Glad I never knew it or I'd be a traitor twice over. I am (obviously) a media fan (mainly SW, but also heavily into ST), but have always considered myself a devout SF fan as well. Though I am not familiar with SF fandom/fan fiction per se, I feel very uncomfortable if I don't have a book by Clarke, Asimov, or Heinlein close by (to name the big three). So, why the rivalry? I see no reason why we all, as Bev Clark said in her LOC, cannot accept each other's likes/dislikes. Let's hope this is all coming from an isolated few.

Re George Lucas: Cheers for all who defended him last ish, and extra ovations for those who call themselves Luke fans to show Marcia Brin she does not know enough of us. Personally, I have never met a SW fan who proclaimed to hate Lucas. Sure, some have (as, again, Bev Clark said) not been crazy about the merchandising and such, but that has lit-

tle bearing on their views of the content of the films. Personally, I have only admiration and respect for GL, and feel very grateful for what he has given us. (My having to pay for the privilege of seeing a SW films means little to me. The joy I receive is even greater.)

That's all on these male heroes of mine for the moment. Did anyone see THE MAN WITH ONE RED SHOE? Carrie Fisher may have had only a supporting role, but WOW did she ever look fantastic! I saw it two extra times just because of her figure. (Hey, if you ladies can go wild about the men in SW, I can do the same about the woman!)

The next topic I've got comments on is The Emperor's taunting of Luke in ROTJ. There is one interpretation of this "mistake" I've not read. True, as it turned out Palpatine hurt his own cause in taunting Luke to go over to the Dark Side, but I feel it was necessary and that it was not a "mistake" at all. Palpatine did not want to make Luke simply a Darksider, but rather a Darksider who would serve him. By his taunts, he was trying to make Luke turn in a way that when he joined the Dark, he would bow to Palpatine as his master. If Luke had turned without the Emperor exerting this pressure on him, he may have come out as a rival Darksider, not a servant. The same argument could be applied to Vader's mistakes with Luke on Bespin. They both tried to turn Luke to the Dark so that Luke would serve them once he had joined them. Seen this way, their tauntings/mistakes were not errors as much as they were failures (because of Luke's inner strength, I'd argue).

Several LOCers in last ish (and others) have touched on what Yoda meant when he stated "once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny." I, again, have an idea I've not seen, in addition to all the wonderful ones you've shared. I interpret it literally. It seemed (I thought) that Yoda felt that it was impossible to overcome the Dark Side (a belief shared by Obi Wan, too). Perhaps no Jedi who had ever fallen had ever been able to "return" to the Light. That would be a convincing precedent to make Yoda and Ben feel as they did; that it was hopeless to try to convert DV. Just like the old cliché, everything is impossible until you do it. If so and DV did become the first "returning Jedi", then Yoda and Ben did not lie to Luke, at least on this account. They were merely wrong.

To Carole Regine: On whether Yoda and Ben should have told Luke about Darth being his father? I feel they were waiting for Luke to further his training before telling him. Carolyn Gollidge put forth some convincing arguments on this in her LOC. The knowledge of Vader being his father was held from him to allow him to grow into an "innocent, trusting adult." When Luke decided to leave and face Vader before his training was complete, he threw the monkey wrench into their plan. They would have told him when he reached the proper point in his training, but he left before reaching that point.

It would have been disastrous to tell Luke about Vader before he left for Bespin. He was not a fully trained Jedi and was not ready for Vader. That is not the time to destroy the image he has held of his father, the figure who he has looked up to for his entire life. That would have accomplished nothing but raising serious doubts about his own self as he went in. Obi-Wan was trying to give him the best edge he could so that Luke would have at least a fighting chance against a superior opponent.

You are right, Carole, that they should have known Vader would use that knowledge against Luke. I feel, however, that they did realize this; that they included that knowledge in their decision not to tell Luke; and that their gamble worked. Step back for a second and look at what Vader accomplished by informing Luke he was his father. Not for a second did Luke ever feel drawn to join Vader because of that relationship; in fact, he reacted with revulsion. To Luke, Vader in that instant became not only the slayer of his mentor and the betrayer of the Jedi--but the destroyer of his father. Luke had never known his father, but had always nurtured a strong, heroic image of him. That image had been raised even higher by Ben when he told how his father had been not just someone who'd gotten off the barren, sand heap of Tatooine, but a "Guardian of Peace and Justice in the Old Republic." How much Luke hated Vader for "betraying and murdering" his father (as far as Luke knew) could not have been that deeply for Luke had never known him. (He hated DV a lot more for "killing" Obi-Wan, for Kenobi had just assumed that father-figure role in Luke's eyes.) To Luke, his "father" had been the image of a hero, a Jedi, in his mind. When Vader then shattered this dream, it was as if he'd murdered his father again, but this time even the fantasy was gone. There was nothing that would have made Luke join Vader after that. So, using the knowledge that they were father and son hurt Vader more than it helped him (which was not at all). I feel Ben and Yoda had anticipated all this, how Luke would react to the news if it came from Vader, and were confident that he would not be drawn to the Dark Side because of it.

Re droid rights: This is a fascinating topic that deserves to be discussed (though I hope we all--myself included--do not get too "loud" arguing our positions/opinions). I'd first like to direct everyone's attention to Isaac Asimov's "The Bicentennial Man". The subject of the novella is exactly what many have been debating: the question of a robot's rights and his quest to obtain his own freedom. A must read for anyone really into this topic (and for anyone who loves great SF!). I do not feel Luke acted wrongly toward 3PO. He did what he had to do on Tatooine to save Han and insure everyone's escape ("Don't forget the droids!"), and he had always treated both droids with consideration, care, and friendship; but I do not feel droids are sentient beings who possess "souls." Luke treats them very well, but not as equals because they are not equal. They are mechanical devices with no more "soul" than the desk lamp by which I am typing this LoC. (If you ask how I define what a "soul" is, I would respond that I will tell you as soon as you tell me how many angels can dance on the tip of a lightsaber? There is no way to define "soul" in this reality. We can meet in the next world and hash that one out, though. How are Thursday after noons for you?) (Thanks to whoever it was who came up with the lightsaber line.)

Marcia Brin: You say when the issue of droid rights and whether Luke mistreated 3PO comes up, we get "into the realm of superior/inferior people." (If I am reading you right.) Do you consider 3PO a person? Does he have a soul? Are his emotions real or programmed? Can he die? (If the last is "no" and if he does have a soul, then is he a god?) If he is, then, a person, did Han and Leia attempt murder by shutting him down aboard the Falcon in TESB? They did not have to turn him back on, nor could 3PO do it himself (or he'd have done so). Or,

is he simply an extremely intelligent and endearing mechanism? I found Bev Clark's thoughts on this very well put. Thanks again, Bev.

The last comments I'd like to make on Marcia's LoC (for this ish) pertain to the "hidden dialogue". I've sent a LoC in to SCOUNDREL on this, but in case any of SE's readers do not get that zine as well, here are my comments on the topic. I cannot say they are not there, for it is impossible to prove a negative hypothesis. However, I have seen ROTJ exactly 50 times and have never heard them, and we had some EXCELLENT prints. (Sorry you did not, during the rerelease, Tim. We had the film on and off for two months last spring. A couple of theaters had poor prints, but most had great ones. And believe me, I did a LOT of sampling.) That is 50 times, and not once have I heard your "hidden dialogue", and I do not scream during that scene! I barely breathe, but I DO listen. Until I do hear these lines, I shall choose to believe they are not there. I am not going to debate their content either, for I have not heard the evidence. (Using your own example, Marcia, if I were a nuclear physicist and had never seen a neutron, I would debate its existence. I am not a nuclear physicist, though. I am--or at least I consider myself to be--a SW expert, discussing SW. So far, you are the only one to admit to hearing these lines. That does not convince me.) ((Ed's note: A friend and I, listening very hard, did hear a voice say "Father" just as Vader seized the Emperor but agreed that it was Luke's voice, not Han's. We also heard, as Luke pulled Vader back from the brink, Vader wheeze out what could be construed as "Haaaaan", pronounced as Lando does it, but agreed there that it was simply Vader's wracked breathing. However, we never, through several intensive viewings and listenings, heard Han's voice (or anybody's voice) say, "Father, save him.")) I will, however, debate their importance, or rather the importance of anything presented in the films in such a manner as you described. If they are "hidden" so well that they can be heard "better if you are not in the same room as the film" (your emphasis), what good are they? That sounds very much like the only people who will hear these lines are ones who refuse to watch what is on the screen and leave the room. That is not how you view a movie. My opinion is that you are misinterpreting background sound effects into nonexistent dialogue. These other people you claim have heard it, did you tell them what to listen for? If so, I would doubt their hearing also. If you are told something is there when the thing you are listening is not clear, you are biased and prone to create whatever it is you are supposed to hear in your mind. (Who would I believe? People I know personally or my own hearing or an official statement from LFL.)

I enjoyed Mary Schmidt's letter very much. I agree that the Pietts and Veers of the Empire deserve a place in the New Republic. (I am a big fan of Piett and was saddened by his death. He seemed like a very efficient officer, though I don't consider myself an "Imperial fan".) As for whether all stormtroopers are clones and are conditioned, I would disagree. The two we heard talking in ANH as Obi-Wan turned off the tractor beam seemed to have independent thought and personalities, from what little we did hear. This scene strikes my brother, a U.S. Army vet, as very real, and compares to when our military goes on alert. None of the troops ever know what is going down till after it has all blown over, unless they are personally involved.

Your theory, Mary, could hold for many of the stormtroopers, but there are probably a good number of "regular" enlistees, too.

One last topic before I sign off is Luke's "thanking" of Han at the end of ROTJ. Like Pat Easley, I do not see it either. It seemed they just smiled and nodded to each other (kind of "it's finally over--we did it!"), but no words passed. It struck me as very reminiscent of their "good-bye" on Hoth. No words were necessary there either.

Well, that is all for me this ish. Thank you again, Cheree, and for accepting my story, "Dawn on the Forst Moon" for A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #3. I am a new fan author and my first story just appeared in Jenni Hennig's SHOOTING STAR #2 (thanks, Jenni, and sorry again about the mix-up concerning the story to appear in FAR REALMS #8). If anyone has any comments on either of those or future pieces, I would greatly appreciate hearing from you. For now, May the Force be with You!

## WHAT DOES BNF MEAN?

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October 2, 1985

First, I want to say that I agree with Ye Ed on two main points in her editorial. #1 If you want more SW articles instead of actor-oriented, write 'em before you criticize SE! #2--On the Walk of Fame star for Ford, so, you don't want to contribute, so what? You don't have to. And, before anyone bristles up, I didn't. But that doesn't give me the right to put down those who did. If they wanted to, that was their business. And no one can make me believe Harrison Ford would let them put one in if he truly was against it.

I must compliment Martynn on her Indiana Jones portrait. Cheree, thanks for printing this article on cons. It was interesting to read a mundane's point of view. But, I have to yell about the second paragraph of this article on page 7. I get so tired of heavy people putdowns. If that had been a poke against any race, or against the handicapped, or so on, the author would've found herself in a lot of hot water. So, why do people keep getting away with cruelty disguised as "jokes" about people who are overweight? Sorry, pet peeve got ahold of me!

I got quite a laugh out of the little excerpt at the bottom of page 7. That describes how silly people can get when they believe an actor is the reincarnation of a fave character. So, it's fun to discuss ideas like how two different movies can be tied together, but hey, it's all in our fantasies! An actor is an actor, and most of the time is not even a deep fan of sf, ST, SW or whatever the movie is about. There are exceptions, like the young actor who played Paul in DUNE. ((Ed's note: The people questioning Harrison Ford about the similarities between WITNESS and BLADERUNNER were reporters interviewing him at the Cannes Film Festival.))

Jeannie Webster: Well, what a way to get noticed! You won the "1st Letter Award" and the "Under-the-Wire Award" all in one ish! Now, everyone else will be trying the same thing (fun, huh, Cheree? Was that a moan I heard?)

I agree that Anakin/Darth would wish to die and not face the hatred and pain he'd face from the Alliance. And I am one of those who wanted him to live instead. I love the alternate stories that have him join Luke. But, from a realistic point of view, it was easier for him and the Alliance for him to pass on. I'd love it if in the last trilogy, Anakin came back to help and give advice a la Kenobi.

I enjoyed your article, reading about cons is the next best thing to being there!

Lin Ward: On your question of why Ben, instead of Yoda, trained Vader, Ben himself says in ROTJ, "I took it upon myself to train him [Anakin]. I thought I could be as good a teacher as Yoda. I was wrong." Perhaps if Ben had sent Anakin to Yoda, as he did Luke, Anakin wouldn't have become Vader.

Can you tell me where to get the tapes of the ANH and TESB radio shows you mentioned?

Sandi Jones: I, too, have wondered why it would be so hard for someone to acknowledge my LoC, especially when I put a SASE in for that purpose, so I'll know they received my letter, or zine 'tribs, or whatever. Especially when I send 'tribs to a zine and never get even a polite, "Sorry, but it's not us". Most do answer, though, so I guess I'll ignore the others.

I also agree with you on Han's famous, "I know". I've tried to imagine him saying, "I love you, too" or "Me, too" which I think would be worse, 'cause that sounds like he's saying he loves himself!

I also want to say, along with your comments on Luke and Han, that each and every character in the Saga is important and plays their part. Where would the story have gone if one was removed? Such as Tarkin, or Jabba, even the Sarlacc or Rancor. They all have their role, but only one ties them all together, and that is Luke, for it's his story being told.

Last, I want to ask why anyone should feel intimidated by a BNF? I mean, we're all fans here, right? It took me awhile to figure out what BNF meant, anyway. Big Nosed Fan? Be Nice to Ford? Be No Fool? (Sorry, got carried away.)

Liz Sharpe: Liked your comments for those who love to back their arguments with sweeping generalities. Well said! I also agree Tarkin was a delicious villain. Too bad he was blown up.

Michelle Malkin: I loved WITNESS and especially the country scenes and the farmhouse. The shots of the fields of flowing grain were the type I call "soul feeders". They filled me with a sense of peace.

Carolyn Colledge: You're absolutely right! I never even thought of Han's humorous scenes as degrading to him! I enjoyed them totally for the tension relievers they were.

Martene Karkoska: I was reminded of my experience with American History in school. I was a "military brat" and went to 23 schools in 12 years. I had to take American History in both the North (New Hampshire) and the South (Arkansas). In the North, I was taught that the North was totally right, in the South (yep, you guessed it) that the South was wronged and abused, and the North was composed of dictators and tyrants. An interesting point to consider when reading stories from the Empire's point of view, or the Rebels.

Your reasons for "the Luke/Han Controversy" are excellent and ring true to me!

I also say good guys can wear black (and they look great, too!)

Lisa Thomas: Perhaps the Emperor wasn't so desperate to turn Luke because, if Luke died, he still had a "pet Jedi" in Vader. When Anakin was turned, maybe Palpatine had no other to fill his place if Anakin hadn't turned.

The only humor I found in Han's "I know" line was to think, "Oh, that's so typical of a male who tried to hide his emotions!" It is a sad sort of humor, where you want to snicker and cry at the same time.

Carole Regine: I'll cast another vote for an all-Darkside zine! (So, Cheree, I'll really be looking forward to TIF#3's Darkside section!)

Pat Easley: I agree with your remarks on division in fandom. Phooey is right!

Luke with some Dark flavor is more intriguing.

Tim Blaes: First, your title for "Blue Jedi" is great! The Grateful Dead, it is!

As for Vader chopping up the Emperor, I'm afraid he'd have to have jumped down the shaft to retrieve his saber first, as it went floating away with his departed hand. I don't think he felt like showing off that much just then!

Here's a cross-universe for you: Samantha Stevens marries Darth Vader. Can't you see Vader with Endora for a mother-in-law? I bet she'd call him Barf Later! (ooooh, that's bad).

And...James Bond and James Kirk. "I'm Bond, James Bond." "I'm Kirk, Admiral Kirk!" (snicker)

Sally Smith: Yes, yes, yes, without consumer-fen, there would be no zines! And without editors who encourage new contributors, fandom would just be one little circle of friends, keeping everyone else out of "their" club. Thanks to all of you editors, artists, writers who've gone out of your way to encourage us new kids on the block; you are truly appreciated!

Susan Henderson: Thank you for your Articles of Faith for a True Imp. Too bad the Church of Ford and Cathedral of Luke devotees don't have your sense of humor. I've got nothing against having a favorite character or Side, but being too serious without any humorous relief is...well, boring!

Lynne Kennedy, Lori Thompson, Jenny Lyn Catanzarro: I will just say this--your letter was totally tacky. There's nothing wrong with stating your opinions on Mark Hamill or whatever, but to go for another fan's throat just because you disagreed with something they wrote is a shame.

Mary Urhausen: I agree, why should George Lucas foot the bill for ROTJ on NPR? You stated my feelings on encouraging new contributors very well. And, the Under-the Wire Award is good, but will probably be taken over by the Alpha and Omega Award (both first and last LoC's in same ish!). I also appreciated your open-minded, tolerant statement, "...well come opposing viewpoints--no matter how stupid, ignorant and uninformed they may be." That says it all!

Mary Schmidt: Perhaps a lot of women are attracted to fandom by an actor, but I wasn't. The relationships in the SW saga attracted me and Darth Vader attracted me. Since our favorite Dark Lord is a composite of voice, actors, and stuntmen, I can't pick one actor to idolize.

Jeanine Hennig: First, I must apologize for my terrible error of asking Ann Worthington for lip quiver lessons. As our kind Ed has pointed out, you are the Official Lip Quiverer of SE. So, how much do

you charge for lessons? And you did get in before Ann this time; she's not here in this ish! (#9)

I enjoy your "Private Life..." articles; please go on and on and on, as much as you please!

Maggie Nowakowska: Thanks for explaining the Duncans and their zine for us new kids. I had no idea what all the comments on them were about.

Here's a song I always associated with someone who would be in the Grey Side of the Force, by Captain and Tennile. The chorus: "You are sunshine, you are shadow, you are morning, you are night; you are hard times, you are good times, you are darkness, you are light." Title: "The Way That I Want to Touch You."

Gulp, this is getting too long. "Hi" to all those I didn't have room to write to this time round. From a Vulcan/Deltan Jedi Bene Gesserit Martian, Allelu Tena Logically!

## BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAMS

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October 2, 1985

After the Post Awful finally forwarded my copy of SE#9, I settled myself in for a good read. I warned my son that I would be reading SE so he wouldn't be scared by the blood curdling screams that came from my room. Fortunately, he was at school when I read those few letters that drove me up the wall. Last night, as I was finishing up reading SE, he asked me to scream anyway since he couldn't imagine my reading it so calmly. So, now that I have had some time to digest the letters, I feel somewhat capable of doing my own LoC. First, I want to thank all of you who wrote to me in response to my request for private correspondence. By now, I am sure we have exchanged many interesting letters. I would also like to invite anyone else who cares to write to do so. I love getting letters!

Before I get into replying to last issue's LoCs, I have a few ideas I'd like to present for possible discussion.

There has been a lot of speculation as to the nature of the Force and if there is a separate good side and bad side. To me, the Force is a neutral and an analogy would be to fire. Fire in and of itself is neither good, nor bad, it is the use to which it is put that makes it a thing of benefit or harm. Fire is used to cook our food, warm our shelter, provide us with power, or give us light in the dark. It can be used for destructive purposes when it consumes our home or burns us. Yet, a person trained in the ways of fire can use it for a destructive yet beneficial purpose, such as when a fire department takes an old building and burns it as a way of giving firemen a chance to combat a fire in a controlled environment. To me, this is what a Jedi does in the use of the Force by balancing the volatile nature of the Force with reason and good judgment. It is when the equilibrium is



out of balance that one has problems. To me, that is what went wrong with the galaxy in the saga. The Emperor created an imbalance in the use of the Force and it takes Luke and his father to "...restore order to the galaxy," as Vader said. Another idea that has been rumbling around in the back of my mind lately is what type of agreement did Ben and Owen strike when Owen agreed to raise Luke. To me, a feasible compromise would have been one in which Ben stayed away from Luke except for occasional contact to make sure that Luke was okay. There may have been a proviso that, if Luke was ever needed, he would be told the truth of his heritage. Also, there may have been some agreed upon time at which Luke would be told of his father, perhaps at age 21. I believe that when Luke questioned Ben about his father, it gave Ben an opening and he took the opportunity to give Luke the lightsaber and peak his curiosity. Then, after the message from Leia was revealed, perhaps Ben felt that he was freed from his agreement and could take Luke to begin his exposure to his destiny. My feeling has always been that Ben planned to tell Luke of his sister and father once they reached Alderaan and there would be time and support for Luke to accept the truth. Ben had no way to know that he was about to die and thought he had time to tell Luke the truth.

Another part of this agreement might have been that Luke would be kept on Tatooine for as long as possible, which would explain Owen's putting up constant road blocks to Luke's attending the Academy. It would not do for Luke to attend the Academy, excel at piloting, and have that talent come to Vader or the Emperor's attention. I would hate to think of what might happen if Luke met his father at that stage in his life.

Now, on to some comments on last issue's LoCs:

Ronda Henderson: Hi! I totally agree with you that it is fun to take a look at alternate views of characters in the saga. Just because we might take a look at a Dark Luke or a humorous Vader does not mean that we believe that is the way they are or will turn out to be. That's one thing I like about fan fiction. I believe it is the proper place for much of the speculation that we do about what came before and what will come after the middle trilogy. No, I am not saying that we should not speculate in the pages of letterzines, but that we must all accept it as just that, speculation and not hard, cold facts.

Lin Ward: In response to your question, I would say that Ben chose to train Anakin on his own out of his own overconfidence. We see Ben in the current movies as a wisened old man, but we know little of what he was like as a young man except for words out of his own mouth. In his conversation with Yoda regarding Luke, he admits to having been reckless when he first came to Yoda. He also admits to Luke that he was wrong to have taken on Anakin as a pupil. Ben in his new found grandeur of being a Jedi may have thought that he knew as much as Yoda and could take on the instruction of Anakin. It is clear from Yoda's comment about Anakin that he considered him to be a very powerful Jedi, perhaps a cut above the rest.

I believe that Yoda was one who handled only special training, at this point in his life. He clearly states that he keeps his own counsel as to the individuals that he takes on to train.

My own opinion is that Vader did know that Leia was Luke's sister. It seems to me that the knowledge of Leia being his sister is too fresh in Luke's mind to allow him only to think of her as his sis-

ter. It would seem to be that he would think of "Leia, my sister" as opposed to just "my sister." As I said, this is just my opinion.

Carolyn Colledge: First of all, I don't think that the Han/Luke debate will ever settle down. There are just too many strong feelings on each side of the issue. I, for one, do not want to see the debate end but would like to see it grow to examine the characteristics of each individual and discuss their possible motivations for their actions. I do not care for the "my hero is better than your hero" arguments, though I may have been guilty of this in a past letter of mine to SCOUN-DREL. I feel as though there is a great deal to be learned by looking at the actions and interactions of the two main heroes.

You also asked what caused Luke to change so dramatically from the end of TESB to the beginning of ROTJ. I believe that it is relatively accepted that Luke spent some time on Tatooine before the rescue of Han. He had an opportunity to reflect as he spent time at Obi-Wan's home and constructed his new lightsaber. I think that the incident on Bespin was a real turning point in Luke's life and he must have done a great deal of soul-searching to change into the confident, self-assured man that he is at the beginning of ROTJ. It was through this growth in both his personality and powers that must have allowed him to reach into Vader's heart and find the small spark of good that still remained. Perhaps this close brush with death by Luke correlates to Lucas' own accident and spiritual change.

In regards to your comments about the Clone Wars, my first impression was that it was a war against clones. My idea is that there was someone creating clones and attempting to take over the galaxy by using them as the Ultimate Soldier. Perhaps there was some form of breeding program similar to Bene Gesserit's to create a superior being.

Marlene Karkoska: I must thank you for the last few paragraphs of your letter. They sum up exactly how I feel about the Han/Luke debate but could never hope to express it as well as you have. I especially relate to the statements about fans becoming more pro Luke because of all the anti Luke sentiment. I came to SW fandom with more of a liking for Han but in the past six months have turned into an adamant Luke supporter. This is not to say that I do not like Han anymore; it is just that I have been challenged to take a good hard look at Luke and I find that the more I look, the more I find to like. An added advantage to all of this is that I have become a Mark Hamill fan. Mostly, though, I see a great deal more in Luke than I ever did before I learned of the great Han/Luke debate.

Lisa Thomas: You asked about the Emperor's giving up so quickly on Luke when he had reached Jedihood. In my opinion, Luke's statement that he would never turn to the Darkside was very explicit and perhaps the Emperor sensed that there was no hope of turning Luke and also the Emperor was clearly getting senile and perhaps didn't have the patience to go through the process of turning Luke. Also, he may have finally picked up on the fact that Vader planned to use Luke to overthrow him and decided that a known quantity was better than an unknown quantity.

Lynne, Lorie, Jenny Lyn: I very much enjoyed most of your comments about Mark, but found some of your comments very condescending, especially the comment on not being able to discuss the SW films with the same seriousness as a film of Francois Truffaut's. I say, to each his or her own, but



don't insult me because I happen to enjoy movies that you think are of a lesser class than other films.

Bev Clark: Whenever I read one of your letters, I always feel like saying, "That's what I meant to say!", it's just that I can't say it as well as you do. As you know, I have also failed the Moral Litmus Test. Oh, well, I guess we will just have to live with this failure, but I am certainly happy to be in such distinguished company.

I have only seen one episode of EWOKS, but thought it was quite good compared to some of the cartoons on Saturday morning. I especially like DROIDS and I'm very happy that Anthony Daniels is doing the voice of C3PO; it makes the show! I like the reference to the saga that they make and in STARLOG I read that we will also see Jabba and Boba Fett. Oh, what speculations that should lead to.

Mary Urhausen: Thank you for your encouraging words to neophyte zine contributors. As a newcomer to fandom, I was a bit hesitant to submit my work for fear that the "regulars" had things all sewn up and that there was no place for new blood. Well, after my first rejection and then having the same piece accepted by another editor, I was given heart and have submitted many other things (including the article that appears in this issue of SE, along with some of my drawings). I am also very happy to be having a story coming out in the next issue of TREMOR and hope to become a regular contributor and LoCer. I would encourage anyone out there who had a story, poem, drawing or article rumbling around in the back of their minds to take pen in hand, get it on paper, and submit it. Believe me, you don't have to be a trained writer or artist to submit something. I haven't written anything more exciting than a grocery list since college and find that I am able to produce something passable. I was an art major in college but haven't done much drawing in a few years and then when I got involved in fandom, I started drawing again and was amazed at what I was able to produce after a few weeks of getting back in the swing of things. I'm even sculpting again (OK, all of you who I correspond with, don't worry, I won't bore everyone with my talk of my Luke and Han sculpting).

Marcia Brin: I'd like to answer, from my pov, a question you asked Mickey about Luke. That is "...where on earth do we see any signs of a Dark Side struggle?" To me, Luke's struggle with the Darkside occurs in the throne room of the Emperor. It is there, when he learns of the Emperor's trap that he is tempted to use the Darkside to attack the Emperor. It is shown that he is using the Darkside when he retrieves his lightsaber from the Emperor using his black-gloved mechanical hand. It is at that point that Luke fights his battle with himself and his use of the Darkside powers. He clearly puts one foot on the Dark Path as he lets his anger and hate rule him in his attack on Vader, but then he pauses and will not attack, but defends himself. Then once again he retreats and vows not to fight until Vader probes his mind and goads him into fighting in defense of his sister. This is the moment, for me, when Luke is most vulnerable to the Darkside and, if Palpatine hadn't opened his mouth, perhaps Luke would have killed his father and then his fate would truly have been sealed. Instead, Palpatine (perhaps inspired by an unseen Force) pulls Luke back to reality and allows him to see what he is about to do and he takes a step back off the Dark path and makes his affirmation that he is a Jedi and will never be turned. After this

brush with the Darkside, I believe, as you so well stated, that "the price of freedom will be constant vigilance." I would like to imagine that Luke continues to wear the black glove as a constant reminder of the danger of the Darkside.

As for the problem of Anakin/Vader leaving the lightsaber for Luke, here is a small scenario: Anakin and Ben are sitting around a Jedi Enclave some 20 years or so before ANH and Anakin is examining his new lightsaber and discussing his forthcoming marriage. He looks at Ben and says, "Some day I hope to have a son to pass this onto when he's old enough to have it." Then, after Ben and Anakin's duel in which Anakin is presumed dead, Ben picks up the lightsaber as a remembrance of his lost friend. Therefore, the line "Your father wanted you to have this, when you were old enough." Ben did not lie to Luke but gave him the impression his father knew of his existence.

In your letter, Marcia, you once again give the impression that you believe Anakin and Vader are two separate people. This is one point I can honestly say I know is not true (at least not in GL's universe). In THE ART OF RETURN OF THE JEDI, there is the complete script and I also have a copy of the original script. In both cases, it states that in Vader/Anakin's death scene, he is referred to as Vader when the mask is on and then he is called Anakin when the mask is removed. The script says, "Darth Vader/Anakin Skywalker...Luke's father dies." It also states that Luke sets fire to the pyre and watches it as it consumes Darth Vader-Anakin Skywalker. I think that pretty much settles the matter of Vader/Anakin being the same person.

As someone who has apparently failed your Moral Litmus Test, I must take exception to your insinuation that I, too, would condone genocide, apartheid and slavery. Just because I believe droids are lesser than humans does not mean I am a racist, bigot or prejudiced. To put someone who disagrees with you on the subject of droid/human inferiority/superiority in the same class as Hitler is an insult and a degrading of a person's morality that is not called for in the pages of a letterzine. (My apologies to all other readers and the editor for such strong words but a statement of such broad range cannot go unanswered, though I am sure there are others who said it better than I have.) My priorities are very straight, Marcia, and human life is far more sacred to me than mechanical. Perhaps I am not as erudite as others in regards to the equality of droids to humans, but I don't feel as though I look at myself as a bigot because I see myself and others as superior to droids. In the fourth episode of DROIDS, C3PO is told that he is appreciated, to which he replies, "It is not necessary for a master to appreciate his droids, but we thank you for your appreciation." Clearly, C3PO knows his place and has been programmed to know it. Do not confuse this statement of mine with any prejudices you may think I have in the "real" world.

Bev Clark: I wish I could have said so well what you did in your statements about droids. I had often thought of the issue of voting rights for droids. Coming from outside the Chicago area, I have grown up with the old Chicago Voter Creed: "Vote early and vote often." I'd hate to think what some genius programmer could do with a billion or so droid votes across the galaxy!

Mary Schmidt: Regarding your statement about Luke never seriously considering any alternative to fighting Jabba, I disagree. Luke gave Jabba every opportunity to back out of his execution plans by

first trying to bargain with him, then showing his cleverness in destroying the Rancor, and finally as he was about to be pushed into the pit. Jabba was familiar with Jedi power and was overconfident in his own ability to destroy a Jedi. Luke is no dummy and therefore had a pretty good idea that things would come to a fight, but still tried to use negotiation before finally resorting to the use of weapons. Now, how about this for an alternate solution to the "should Luke or shouldn't he have told C3PO about the plans for the rescue of Han from Jabba?" question. Perhaps he did and C3PO is just acting like he doesn't know what is going on to throw Jabba off the track. Actually, I don't think this is what happened, but it is a possibility that has crossed my mind.

Tim Blaes: In response to your statement that the Emperor didn't sense Luke's presence on Endor, isn't it possible that it is because of Vader's emotional shielding that he doesn't sense Luke on Endor. I have often speculated that Vader is actually protecting Luke, be it consciously or subconsciously. The Emperor asks Vader if he is sure of his feelings are clear on the matter, to which Vader answers he is sure. This can mean that he is sure that he still has hopes of turning Luke into an ally in his plans to overthrow the Emperor. He would not have been lying when he said he was sure of his feelings. His feelings were never stated. Also, Tim, in answer to your question of why Vader didn't use his lightsaber to vivisection the Emperor, well, Vader didn't have his lightsaber at that point. It went over the edge into the shaft with his hand when Luke cut the hand off.

Jeanine Hennig: I believe that the baby boomer generation began in '46. I've always considered myself a baby boomer and that was the year I was born (ouch!). I just want to be included if I have to be one of the senior members of the generation.

Thanks for your comments on Yoda's attitude towards Luke. I've often been a little peeved at the mushroom and his handling of Luke. But, I guess considering his age and the urgency of the situation, we can excuse him, though I still think he is a cantankerous old goat.

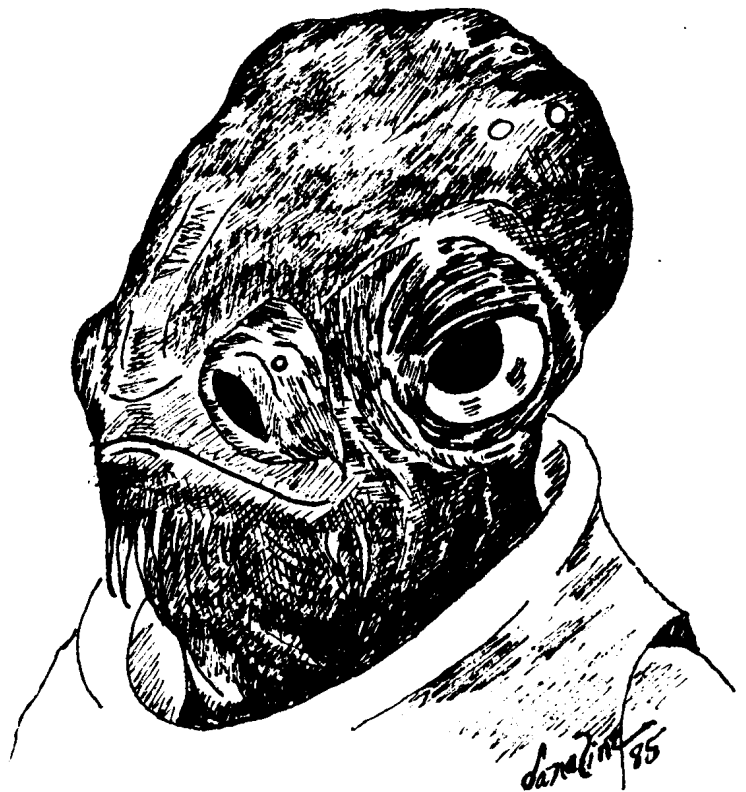
Maggie Nowakowska: Is there anything really wrong with combining information on SW and information on Mark, Harrison, or GL? I happen to like all of them and find it interesting to hear of other's experiences with these individuals. The same is true for occasional reference to other sf movies or even WITNESS. I guess since I am primarily a media fan and know no hardcore sf fans, I feel no need to justify my eclectic tastes. Just because I am a Mark Hamill fan doesn't mean I can't also ponder the mystical meanings of the saga.

As a newcomer to SW fandom, I appreciate your background information on the Duncans. It helps me to understand some of the references to them in past issues of letterzines I have read.

Regarding Yoda's "Do or do not" statement and "You must believe" statement, to me these were quotes right out of a PMA lecture by W. Clement Stone or a sermon by Robert Schuller. One must "believe" in one's dreams or goals to make them come true. Luke had to close his eyes and "visualize" what he wanted to happen.

Well, I guess I better put a cap on this; I could go on for hours, but I won't. Sorry, Cheree, for rambling on so long but there were just too many interesting points to comment on. Til next time...

Go with the Force.



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September 23, 1985

Editorial: (Barb) Your comments on the star fund and whether or not it should be done apply to me as well. I can't really see that it has done any harm. It's not the only way to show our liking for Harrison, but it's certainly a valid one. Likewise, I like to read what Ford and others are doing. Why not?

Ronda Henderson: (Pam) Hi, Ronda! Glad to know I interpreted my medical anthro classes correctly. I'll probably get creamed for this next statement but I believe the distinction that is made between fraternal and half-siblings is not only for the obvious genetic reason, but for future medical and legal ones as well.

Lin Ward: (Barb) I like your idea about why Leia wasn't in an official role in ROTJ. I always felt that she wanted to take time to search for Han and felt she couldn't give 100% to the Alliance, therefore temporarily abdicating her position. Your other observations are good also. Maybe Ben talked Yoda into letting him train Anakin, probably against Yoda's better judgment. Or maybe he did not tell Yoda, because he felt he could do it all himself. No, I don't think Vader identified Leia, at least

it didn't sound like he did.

Mind you, I'm not an expert on Russia, but I think you would see a resurgence of religion there, at least with regard to the Russian Orthodox Church. As to other groups, we really don't know how strong they are, as many of them are underground.

I would have my robot type my LoCs, and all my personal correspondence, and do the housework.

Sandi Jones: (Barb) Nice idea on "I know", but don't you think it would have been better for Leia to know Han loved her? I think she did know, without his having to say so. But I rather like your idea.

Michelle Malkin: (Barb) I thought Deckard and Rachael went to the Pacific Northwest, Washington or Oregon. It looked like everyone was leaving Earth that could, and that most, if not all, of the crud was confined to just a few places, other areas being just deserted. I think they were getting ready to leave Earth altogether.

Carolyn Colledge: (Pam) Yeah, go for it! And G'day to you, too!

(Barb) Hi, Barb Brayton here. You don't know me, but I know you through your stories and love them. Actually, it was me talking about Han's love for Leia (our letter came right after Barbara Tension's). But thank you for the compliment; I think you and I see him pretty much the same way.

Marlene Karkoska: (Barb) For a galaxy used to a Republican form of government, wouldn't Imperial rule be a step backward? Maybe it was supposed to be a constitutional monarchy, but was subverted by Palpatine.

(Cheree: Regarding your comments on the Civil War, you're referring to Radical Reconstruction, right? Lincoln planned something much milder, but was assassinated. After the Radical Republicans were turned out, there was another backlash against the Radicals and "Carpetbaggers". I think there were good and bad features of both periods. You might want to read a fascinating little book called IF THE SOUTH HAD WON THE CIVIL WAR.) ((Ed: That's exactly what I was talking about; a very sad period that left hard feelings that are still being felt.))

Hey, EMPIRE wasn't exactly a cakewalk for Han, you know? I mean, he almost froze to death, spent most of the film on the lam, then he got tortured, and then he got flash frozen! Bummer!

Carole Regine: Here are some of our thoughts on the ex-stormtroopers. There will probably be many places where they are not welcome, which is regrettable, but understandable. It's quite possible that if they are conscripts, they could simply go home, like so many Confederate soldiers after the Civil War. You are likely correct that many would not want their background to be known. With their experience, they might become mechanics, freighter pilots or mercenaries. Some of them might even end up back in the military. We see prejudice against them, but hopefully no wholesale persecutions. It's not hard to imagine a lot of men finding out the war is over, simply shedding their uniforms and blending back in, with no one the wiser; the farther out they were, the further removed from the action, the less trouble they will have.

If these people are also clones, that would present further problems, partly because feelings against them would run even deeper and extend back over a longer period of time. Also, they would have no homes to go to. We thought they might be used to explore and colonize previously uncharted regions, which would avoid possible problems in

settled areas. There might be places, such as Tatooine where they would be welcome as settlers.

There was an excellent story in WOOKIEE COMMODORE #2 which featured a stormtrooper who was befriended by Luke Skywalker. It turns out that he will eventually be sent home. We would hope to see this become the norm. It would be interesting to see stories based on what happens to some of the former soldiers.

Pat Easley: (Barb) You may add me to your list of people who loved JEDI without reservation. I also like your idea of how humor might enter "I know."

Tim Blaes: (Pam) I'm not certain, but didn't Vader's saber go with his artificial hand down that very same shaft when Luke pinned him down on the walkway? Like your Rubic's cube comparison.

(Barb) I don't necessarily mind if someone repeats an idea, as long as they do it well, perhaps a new twist to it. Romance, action/adventure, mystery, humor, horror--honestly, I've seen all those things in fan fiction.

Our prints of the Trilogy and of JEDI were excellent. Bad prints are bound to turn up from time to time.

I like your cat and the sign, too!

Susan Henderson: (Pam) Glad to see someone write their responses with a healthy dose of humor.

Mary Urhausen: (Barb) I agree with you about financing the JEDI radio show. Lucas is not obligated to do this, especially since the rights alone are worth a great deal.

Mary Schmidt: (Barb) I think the gift of the droids are just Luke's way of getting the droids (and his lightsaber) inside Jabba's palace. I think he had every intention of bargaining, but wanted to be prepared should this not work out. If Jabba had had any sense at all, he would have made a deal.

Remember: No matter where you go, there you are!

## HAIKU

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September 10, 1985

Why is it that, even in the influx of mail, it is difficult to achieve a balance? For days the mailbox has been wondering if it had forgotten to extend its welcome mat, as none were knocking at its door. Then the clumps of letters arrived all at once. This does make LoCing difficult at times!

To address your editorial on the star for Harrison Ford, I think that it is a fitting present for his fans to present to him. It is one way that exists for us to say "thank you" for all the enjoyment which he has given us. I know that I would not have been so taken with the characters of Han Solo, Indy Jones, John Book, Rick Deckard, David Halloran, Bob Falfa, Colonel Barnsby, Kenny Boyd

and the rest had someone of a lesser calibre been entrusted to bring them to life on the screen. Harrison has so infused a magic into their being which has transcended the two-dimensional reality of the screen. These "people" he has created have all the reality to them as do those we meet on the street everyday. It seems a star is a gift of magical quality and that only such a gift is appropriate for saying thank you for such magic having been given to our lives.

Too, we can find a basis in the Bible. Jesus said it was quite acceptable for us to anoint each other with oil every so often. It is one way of softening our lives and putting a bit of tenderness and appreciation in them. I have not donated to the project before, but have just written a check to put into the next outgoing mail. I find it a very fitting thank you note, something which will last for decades and let others see how much people have appreciated Mr. Ford's work and have all pitched in together to see the realization of this project.

From a discussion of human generated celestial symbols to those of an interstellar nature, I have found the following Haiku verse which makes me think of Vader's funeral pyre:

Here is the Dark tree  
Denuded now of leafage...  
But a million stars.

Shiki

It seems the pyre enabled Vader's essence to spark forth into the sky and join the rest of the firmament. I think the more you think about the SW films, the more you are able to enjoy the imagery which Lucas was able to impart to them. I don't think they are enjoyed half as much for such things as they should be.

The copy of the newspaper article was interesting. However, I wonder why reporters find the need to inflict jabs of rudeness into such things. The item which read, "This is a gathering of heavy weights... The Spandex people could sue for cruel and unusual punishment." It would be nice if articles like these could be written with less ridicule and a little more straight reporting. Did like the illustration they picked to use of Indy, though. Must admit that it is one of my favorite illustrations.

Sandi Jones brings up the point that Han and Luke are different and I think this is an important point. They are rather of a complement to each other. I tend to see Han as Jim Kirk and Luke has turned into somewhat of a Spock. It would be interesting to see if Jim Kirk fan are also Han fan and so on. I know I tend to identify with Solo and Kirk. Wonder if any others share this type of SW/ST transcendence. ((Ed's note: I also thought Kirk was a bit of a mundane; I was a gung ho Spock fan from the word "go".))

Michelle Malkin: Indeed, I do agree with you about the Force talent of all needing to be developed. It is as if a person were not allowed to be all they could be, but were forever denied a side of themselves. Then would come the question of why. Fear? Jealousy? Then, if the Jedi gave into such emotion, would they not have embarked upon the Dark Path? I think this is an interesting area for questioning. Maybe Deckard and Rachael headed for Canada because the air was clearer there than in industrial laden California. Could it have been that Canada had been evacuated? That the human

population was concentrated into specific areas and that all other lands were vacant? In the absence of human existence, maybe the landscape had been able to repair itself to a more liveable condition? Ah, is not speculation fun? It is one of the reasons that I am drawn to SF--speculative fiction. The mind is allowed free rein and that is a delicious state of being.

Carolyn Gollidge: On power matrixes and the Jedi. Could not the Jedi be like the Darkovans and the non-Jedi like the Terrans. Maybe the animosity and lack of understanding which existed between those two groups also existed between the Jedi and the non-Jedi. I have a question about Leia. Could it have been that she had to give up some of her power in the Rebellion for her to search for Han? Could this have been the reason why she was not "in" on the decision-making processes once she and her party made it back to the Rebel gathering place? She was completely surprised at Han's commission. I wonder if she had not had to make the "Messiah Choice" in her love for Han. Just as Han was willing to sacrifice his love for Leia by letting her go to Luke in ROTJ, maybe Leia had to make a sacrifice of her position in the Rebellion to search for Han. How could she do both? She seemed quite dedicated to the return of Han Solo.

Could she have been so active in both the planning of the Rebellion and the rescue of Han Solo? I think she decided that for once she had to follow her heart. She had lost so much and now Han was also at risk. I see her having set out after him as a most powerful statement of her love for him. It also spoke to me of the fact that she now viewed Han as the most important thing in her life and would do almost anything--give up almost anything to be with him. The question about Vader is a most intriguing one. It could indicate that he was not quite the non-feeling being that he is perceived to be. He does FEEL the Force, after all! It might mean that he saw Han as being more than the rest of the galaxy portrayed him as being. He might have sensed that Han was able to project emotions and that he was the best source to lure Luke into the trap. Ideas: Well, Luke did respond to that plea. Vader then responded to Luke's plea. It is possible that Vader knew what would happen and that Luke would not be able to resist the cries of anguish, anymore than Vader was able to fend them off in ROTJ. It is an intriguing question indeed. Am glad you brought it up!

Mary Schmidt: The reason I suggested Luke's title might be honorary was because how he seemed able to pick his own assignment in ROTJ--as if he had not been assigned to any other task beforehand. If he had a "real" rank, would this have been so? Too, what do we know of Kenobi's "generalship"? We only know he "fought" in the Clone Wars. We do not know how. All that has been left to individual speculation. This is one of the remarkable things about SW how it allows you to see things differently from different angles. No matter how much you have discussed it or think you know all the angles, there is ALWAYS something new to present itself to you. All is NOT what it seems.

Time dictates this must come to a close. Take care and will be looking forward to the discussion in the next issue. For now...PEACE.

