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WHY HAN SOLO DOES NOT (YOU SHOULD PARDON THE EXPRESSION) MEASURE UP

by Ellen Randolph

It has been bruited about in various quarters that somewhere in the Saga there lurks a Cosmic Chessmaster, a Ruler of the Game, someone exerting puppet-mastery over characters and events. But who might qualify for the role--and what are the qualifications?

Ruthlessness is an absolute necessity. Monsieur Roget presents some intriguing synonyms for "ruthless": merciless, pitiless, relentless, remorseless. I'd add arrogant as well, a total belief in The Cause and in anything done for its advancement. This string-jerker must also be a master manipulator, arranging lives and deaths to suit a game plan. This brings up the question of sacrifice: everybody else's. Other people must suffer as needed for the greater good of the galaxy as a whole. No affection, sentiment, honor, or anything else can be allowed to interfere. The Cosmic Chessmaster must watch sacrifices caused by his/her/its action or inaction; even if moved, this being must not give up the grand scheme for the sake of private emotion. And if unmoved, this entity is something of a monster. He/she/it plots to some uniquely perceived goal--though what that goal might be, we are not told. We have seen the action, but we don't yet know the ultimate outcome. In the immortal words of Lord Peter Wimsey, "When you know how, you know who"; presumably when the Saga is complete and we find out how all this was done the identity of the prime mover will become obvious. But until that time, we can only speculate.

It has been said with a good deal of conviction that Han Solo is the Cosmic Chessmaster. Interesting notion.

Ruthless, merciless, pitiless, remorseless. Arrogant. Manipulative. Willing to sacrifice others. Faithful to the dictates of a master plan. Killing when and where necessary. Let's take these in reverse order.

1. Han's kills are fascinating when one considers his motivations. He blasts Greedo in the cantina for very direct and personal reasons. The same is true of all his kills. The threat must be immediate: stormtroopers on the first Death Star;

TIE fighters pursuing the Falcon both during the escape from the Death Star and in the asteroid field, and the one tailing Luke in the trench sequence; Imp agents entering the Hoth hangar; soldiers on Endor. Han's kills are purely personal ones. He sees a direct threat, analyzes it, decides such persons shouldn't be inhabiting a nice galaxy like this one, and does himself and everyone else a favor. It's all summarized in his reaction to Vader on Bespin: he identifies, decides, and goes for his blaster. For Han, killing is an immediate gut reaction. There is nothing planned about it; he simply kills when it's necessary to do so.

It can be argued that he feels no mercy, pity, or remorse; but why should he? When he finds himself on the wrong end of a blaster, it's him or the other guy. Han isn't one to feel sorry he's alive.

2. Adherence to the Master Plan. Han himself quashes this notion very early on in that one-end-of-the-galaxy-to-the-other speech. He states categorically that nothing controls his destiny. Again, the point is arguable, for in the same film he tells Luke, "May the Force be with you." But is it too far out of line to suggest that this is his peace offering to Luke? It can also be said that if he indeed is the Chessmaster, the last thing he's going to do is admit it. But is Han capable of that much dissembling? Everything we know of him is direct, up front, cut-the-crap; complex a personality though he is, he says what he thinks and acts on his feelings. Is he really that good a liar?

3. Sacrificing others. Han is so far from being this kind of person it's laughable. He never sacrifices lives or feelings to serve himself or anything else. Quite the opposite, in fact: he demonstrates a rather wide streak of self-sacrifice. In his saner moments he terms the Death Star mission "suicide"--yet he goes to do what he can, even though he's morally certain his ass will end up as space dust. His words and actions in the carbon freeze sequence don't indicate a man willing to let others suffer in his place; he calms Chewie down before the Wookiee can get himself killed on his rampage. And while Han's words include "This can't

help me!". it's ultimately the fate of the princess that he uses to convince his old friend. This man knows he's going to suffer--and those two small words he gives Leia ("I know") reveal that it's her suffering that hurts him most. Not only is Han unwilling to see others suffer because of or instead of him, he actively loathes being used as the instrument of another's suffering. He only lights into Lando when he finds out Luke has been lured to Bespin by Vader with himself and Leia as bait. His speech to Jabba about paying triple makes a lot of people cringe--but listen to the reason for his desperation. This man is blind, sick, shaking, barely conscious, yet he's doing everything he can to fast-talk Leia out of this. These are not the acts of a man who gets his jollies out of sacrificing someone else on behalf of a master game plan.

4. Manipulative and arrogant. Han doesn't appreciate being used by Vader to trap Luke. Nowhere in the Saga does he jerk anybody's strings. In fact, quite often Han is the one who gets manipulated. Luke does very nicely with the "She's rich" line; Han shows himself vulnerable to Leia's maneuvering in Luke's sickroom on Hoth, when she plays him like a prize trout. The most Han ever does is tease--but not to get people to do as he wants. His "You think a princess and a guy like me...?" is to tweak Luke a bit, not to hurt or manipulate. Vader uses Han as part of the plot to get Luke to Bespin; Yoda can be said to be guilty of the same kind of manipulation in abstract. Leia tries to sell Han on staying with "You're a natural leader"; he's not buying. Direct himself, Han recognizes indirection instantly. What this man wants, he goes after; he never jockeys other people into position to get it for him. In fact, he's probably the only character in the Saga who never manipulates

anyone, especially not for personal or galactic gain.

As for arrogance...well, insufferable, smug, and conceited, yes. But nowhere in Han is the sheer arrogance that believes its way is the only way. One simply cannot see him as a dictator.

5. So we return to ruthlessness. After reviewing the evidence, it's hard to imagine Han as the merciless manipulator of lives, deaths, and destinies who fits the bill for this Cosmic Chessmaster. What Han tells Leia about himself is the literal truth. He is a nice man. Beneath that imperfect disguise is a man of caring, gentleness, loyalty, self-sacrifice, humor, honesty, and even nobility.

These are words that describe Luke, too. But with a difference. Luke is ruthless. Rather than make this doomed attempt to find the puppet master in Han Solo, consider Luke Skywalker.

Sacrifice others for the sake of the greater good, the master plan? You betcha. Just how long does he hesitate before going to Han and Leia on Bespin, after Yoda has warned him about the larger game being played?

Manipulate others into doing what he wants them to? Just watch him maneuvering Han into rescuing the princess, or telling Leia she's the only hope for the Alliance if he doesn't make it back. And arrogance--he draws his lightsaber on Vader, of all people: "You'll find I'm full of surprises." Insolent little twit.

Ruthless? Here's this kid straight off the farm who climbs into a ship he's never flown before in his life (arrogance again) and proceeds to destroy a battle station the size of a small moon--with an appropriate casualty list. This isn't looking down the snout of a blaster aimed at him. This is blow-

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As of December 31, 1987, no more orders for circulating copies of SW fanzines will be taken by the SWzine Lending Library. Thank you for your interest and support throughout the past year!

The First Terran Enclave

(A final report on the operation and donation of the SWzine Lending Library will be available in a future issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. Or, send a SASE to The First Terran Enclave / 2330 Federal Ave. East / Seattle, WA 98102 for a copy of the report in the spring of 1988.)

ing up countless people. We never see a shred of remorse for what he's done; he believes in his own destiny, in the Force, in the larger plan. For these, all is permitted. And let's face it, folks: Han's body count isn't even in the same league with Luke's.

Merciless? Neither Yoda nor Ben says anything about killing Vader. It's Luke who comes up with the idea of his own father's death.

While I do not subscribe to the more outrageous interpretations of Luke's behavior in JEDI (we could all make an opposing case for everything brought up against him), I readily admit that this guy is ruthless, relentless, manipulative, and driven. I also think that while Han Solo is much nicer than he seems, Luke Skywalker is not as nice as he appears.

But neither do I propose Luke as Cosmic Chessmaster. He is himself manipulated far too often (though it could be said that this is great training for future string-pulling of his own). But even a superficial examination of the qualities and characteristics necessary for the position reveal Luke as a much more likely candidate than Han.

But Leia is the most likely of all.

Reaction to Leia has always been most curious. Plenty of fans loathe her. Some writers won't touch her character in their stories; others permit her a grudging walk-on. Some are furious that, due to JEDI's ending, it's necessary to pair her with Han--and a few have dismembered either their union or Leia herself to correct what is to them an untenable situation.

Why isn't the princess liked? She's pretty but not threateningly beautiful, even though she manages to look good in a gown and jewels, a buckskin dress, or practically nothing but purple scarves. She's capable, competent, a strong presence, and Force-gifted. Admired and sought after by two powerful and desirable men (three if you count Lando), she has a position of influence and is treated as an equal by the most important leaders of the Rebellion. She's a Senator, royalty (of a sort, depending which interpretation you favor), and in the immortal words of Luke Skywalker, "She's rich." She understands and practices the art of war very well, can handle a gun and presumably a starship (she's in Han's chair during the Bespin escape). She's entrusted with essential missions for the Rebels and is deeply dedicated to a noble cause. She survives Vader's torture quite well from the evidence. She's not afraid of much--indeed, there are few things she even considers threatening, so secure is she in her abilities and strengths. Even little animals like her, for god's sake! And she gets Han Solo.

What's not to like?

In the abstract, Leia is everything women want to be: powerful, gifted, good-looking, influential, rich, capable, courageous, strong; not only does the cute blond kid fall for her at first sight, but she gets the hunk Corellian. She's the only woman (other than Mon Mothma, whose character is undeveloped) in the whole damned 6+ hours of film! Why do so many fans dislike her? Leia has no flaws. None of the usual ones, anyway, none that appeal to us as 20th-century women. Though on the face of it, she really is almost everything we're supposed to want to be, it's sometimes simply impossible to identify with her.

Leia doesn't have to clean the house, feed the dog, change diapers (yet!), wash dishes, pay the phone bill. She doesn't worry about her weight (after the first movie, she doesn't need to). She

doesn't have to redo her lipstick or recomb her hair. She even looks nice when she cries. She is thoroughly loathesome for all the reasons we ought to find her wonderful. She has, in fact, only one real foible: she's a clothes horse.

(Honest. There's only the one teeny clue, but it's a goodie. One of Threepio's first lines in EMPIRE is something like, "I don't know how we're going to dry out all her clothes" (emphasis his). This is done so throwaway that nearly everyone misses it. But it opens up an entire aspect of Leia Organa that suddenly makes her very human: Shop Till You Drop!)

Digressions aside, there's something very endearing about Leia as far as I'm concerned. (Yes, I know what I did to her in A NEW CHALLENGE; so sue me. I did it for reasons I'll explain below.) What can be seen is her potential. She has and is many admirable, desirable things. But much of her is unrealized. Not hidden, but unused and unfulfilled. We know, for example, that she's passionate (any woman who gets within ten feet of Han and doesn't feel passionate has been dead for a week), but we never really get a hot-and-heavy love scene. Even the kisses she and Han exchange at the end of JEDI are strangely chaste. Her potential as a woman in love is as yet unrealized.

So, too, is her power as a Jedi. In fact, the two things she has that most of us really want--her Force-gifts and Han Solo--are the two areas in which we never see her at work, so to speak. Until she fulfills those aspects, and certain others, she is not yet everything she can be.

Which is why I did to her what I did to her. It was Leia's unrealized potential that frankly fascinated me after seeing JEDI. There's a whole number about how she had to lose everything--Han, her position as Senator, the respect and regard of the Alliance, the entire underpinnings of her life--before she could become what she was meant to be. But I won't bore you with that here. What we're investigating is the possibility of Leia as Cosmic Gamester.

1. Killing. Though Leia's approach is similar to Han's, there is a subtle difference. She kills in response to a direct threat, but in large part she relies on others to do her killing for her. Han and Luke perform this function during the escape from the Death Star. Luke takes care of the battle station itself--and one can easily extrapolate that this callow farmboy is in part going out there not just for the adventure and to defend Yavin, but because he wants to impress the princess, a fact she knows and uses. Leia kills quite efficiently on Bespin, Tatooine, and Endor; her kills are in direct response to threat (capture, thwarted escape, possible ruin of plans). But there's a certain coldness to the way she kills. It's very difficult to pin down. Look at the way Han charges off in the first Death Star, and compare it to Leia's calculated shots taken on Bespin. This may be a matter of interpretation--but in that scene she's lost her lover, her dear friend is about to get whalloped by Vader, and if she doesn't get the hell out of there she's going to have an inevitably awkward confrontation with the emperor. But the emotion is missing. The "Ahh, the hell with it!" bravado of Han or the "It's my destiny" dedication of Luke just aren't there. Something very chilly is going on inside her. Take a look at her eyes. The only time she almost loses it is when she watches Boba Fett's ship take off with Han inside. Instantly she's back in control, blasting away. But there's an odd

feeling that it's not done in anger or for revenge; it's simply necessary, so she does it.

2. The Master Plan. Leia, of all of them, believes in it from the first. It's her entire life. It's the focus of her dreams, her work, her devotion. The Rebellion is everything. And she brings all of her formidable talents to its service. But is it the Game? Who can say?

3. Sacrifice of others. Oh, boy. Just watch her. She has absolutely no doubt that she's worth the danger of that screwball escape plan. She alone knows what Artoo's carrying and where that information must go; she's a valuable commodity. She doesn't understand at all why Han won't sacrifice his time, talents, and life to the Rebellion. She understands perfectly why Luke sacrifices everything he is to that same Rebellion. She expects and demands dedication. True, she goes back for Luke on Bespin--but only after she's sure where he is. She knows he's in Cloud City, and she knows Vader's waiting for him--but she leaves him to his fate until she hears him cry out for her and can't ignore it. Most interesting.

It's also interesting to note that she's part of the rescue operation on Tatooine. But then, she's also capable of letting Luke go to face Vader, when he's told her flat out that there's a large chance he won't survive. She understands self-sacrifice. But she doesn't practice it.

4. Manipulative. Need I elaborate? Leia uses every weapon at her disposal to keep Han with her and the Rebellion. Among these are scorn ("Your friend is quite a mercenary!") shame ("I thought you had decided to stay! Han, we need you!"), and sex ("Well, I guess you don't know everything about women yet!"). She lures in poor Luke (who admittedly is perfectly willing to be lured) with a few judiciously distributed kisses. On Tatooine, she wants Han back and is willing to use anything and anybody to get him. She uses the innocent, primitive Ewoks in battle against the full technological might of the Empire. Leia knows very well how to manipulate.

Arrogance is evident in much of what Leia does. It's not just the regal hauteur that's part of every princess born to the role (look at Stephanie of

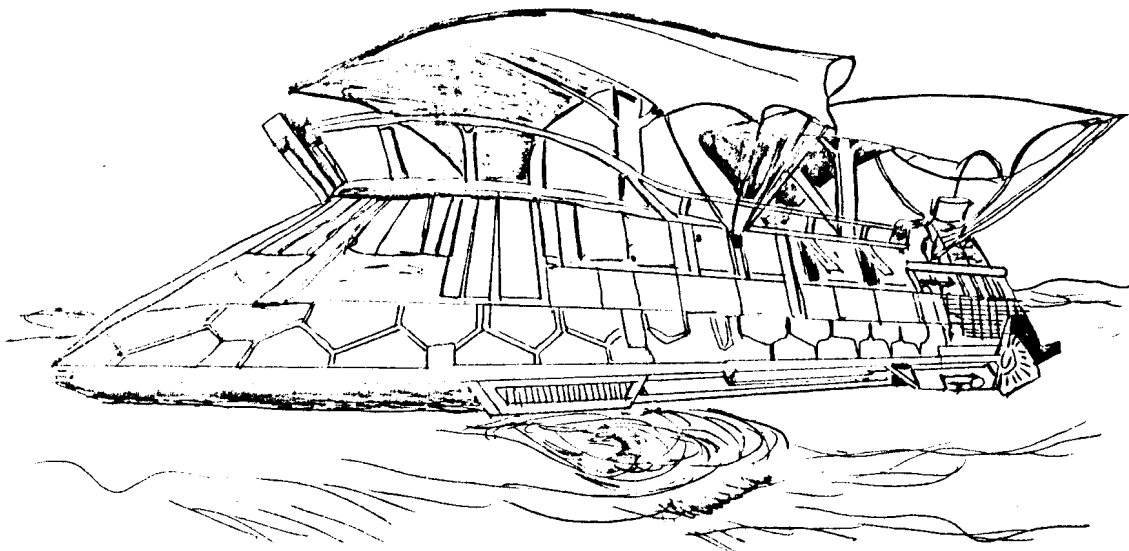
Monaco sometime; she does as she pleases and to hell with everyone else). Leia is absolute convinced she is right. Therein lies much of her power.

5. Ruthless, merciless, pitiless, remorseless. She shows no more regret than Han or Luke for who's killed or hurt. She does what has to be done. The only time she's ever completely vulnerable is when Alderaan dies; and even then we see her presumably only a short time later sleeping in her cell, responding to Luke's entry with a flippant remark about his height (especially snide coming from somebody who's five-foot-nothin!). By the time they reach Yavin, it's "We have no time for our sorrows, commander." On Endor, does she cry for Luke--or for herself? "I can't tell you!" would indicate the latter. She may feel for him, but her immediate concern is herself.

Leia's position within the Alliance also deserves mention in this context. She is powerful in her own right as a princess, an ex-Senator, and as the symbol of lost Alderaan. She has within her orbit a redoubtable pilot/smuggler and the Last of the Jedi. She is in a position to make happen what she wants to happen. She's Force-gifted, strong-willed, and influential in Rebel councils. She's a person to be reckoned with. And indeed, many writers have seen her as the first President of the New Republic or in an equivalent position within whatever government replaces the Empire.

But... The Grand Gamester? The Cosmic Chessmaster? The Great Manipulator? I don't believe it of Leia anymore than you do. But she makes a better candidate for it than Han Solo.

All of this is merely a parlor game, after all. But the thing about such games is that one must play fair. An idea presented is an idea that must be defended; a concept argued must be supported. I've tilted Leia's actions to put a certain interpretation on them for the purposes of this particular parlor game. We all do the same thing at times. But I have yet to be shown why Han (or Luke or Leia or Lando or Yoda or whomever) ought to be regarded as the puppet master of the STAR WARS universe. I don't think there is one--unless his name is George Lucas.



REVIEWING THE FLEET



J. LOW '86

THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL
(A Mythology Limited film, 1986)

Reviewed by Maggie Nowakowska

"There is a wonderful life force that comes through, the wit and charm when Joe speaks, that--as wonderful as the books are--don't capture the man."

--George Lucas on the occasion of the presentation to Joseph Campbell of the Medal of Honor of the National Arts Club, 1986

Joseph Campbell is best known to SW fans as the man who wrote HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES, one of the reference works George Lucas read when creating the STAR WARS saga. In THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL, Lucas admits that without Campbell's work to help him understand what he was trying to do, "I would probably still be writing STAR WARS."

THE HERO'S JOURNEY is only an hour long film, but by the end of it, I found myself wishing I could find some way, any way, to sit in on one of Campbell's classes. In a field where multitudes of names and varying relationships can overwhelm a student, Campbell's personable way of getting his information across was wonderful. This was a man with a sense of humor about himself and his material, a man who so affirmed life that, even just by watching a film, the viewer comes away feeling invigorated. Joseph Campbell died the first week of November, 1986, so my chance to enjoy one of his seminars is gone forever. Still, because of seeing this short film, whenever I go back to reread his material, I know I will hear as well as read what he has to say, and understand all the better for the experience.

The film combines biography with an exploration of the major themes in Campbell's works. The man's background is amazingly vital: he played in a jazz band in the 20's, was captain of the Columbia University track team (he became one of the fastest half-milers in the world), and even surfed in Hawaii with the best of the best long before California captured that culture. This man was no bookworm, lost in stories of worlds long gone before us. Through watching the historical Campbell interspersed with clips of Campbell at various seminars and discussion groups, the viewer comes to understand how alive this world's myths were to Campbell and how they became so to his students through Campbell's personality and teaching style.

Campbell's own spiritual development is explored to illustrate the connections of all humankind's

myths with one another. There is extensive discussion on Christianity vis-a-vis the Eastern religions in the film, followed by the presentation of what is, according to Campbell, the major question that faces the human race today: the establishment of a world myth, common to all, that will help us come to terms with our growing planet-wide community.

As a SW fan, I was delighted to see that the actual tracking of Campbell's interpretation of the Hero's Journey is done to selected scenes from SW: A NEW HOPE. Immediately following Luke's journey through myth, Campbell discusses the potential domination of humankind by technology, recalling the legend of Faust and the temptation represented by Mephistopheles; this reference indirectly includes RETURN OF THE JEDI since Campbell cited the application of Faust' quandry to the problem of Vader in other discussions of the SW Saga.(1)

I thought two points made in the film would be especially interesting for SE readers, considering some of the more heated discussions that have occurred in these pages and those of other SW letter-zines. First is Campbell's argument with the statement that "myth is a lie", insisting rather that myth is a metaphor for how life is to be lived. Second is the fact that Campbell taught at Sarah Lawrence College for 35 years. "I was," Campbell says regarding the latter, "by my female students, forced to consider the material from the point of view of a woman. And that point of view had to do with what does the material mean to life? What does it mean to me?"(2)

If you get a chance to see THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL, I recommend it highly. Check your nearby university theaters. If you can't find the film, transcripts are available from Mythology Ltd./8585 El Pasea Grade/La Jolla, CA 92037. SASE for mailing prices (at the theater, they sell for \$5.00), or call (619) 454-6512. For those SE readers already familiar with Joseph Campbell's work, be advised that Mythology Ltd. will be offering 5 different video tapes of Campbell's lectures; the order form is included with the transcript of THE HERO'S JOURNEY.

(1) THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW, Dec. 18, 1983.

(2) THE HERO'S JOURNEY: THE WORLD OF JOSEPH CAMPBELL, transcript.

Joseph Campbell's other books include, the MASKS OF GOD series; MYTHS TO LIVE BY; THE MYTHIC IMAGE; Volume One of the HISTORICAL ATLAS OF WORLD MYTHOLOGY: THE WAY OF ALL ANIMAL POWERS (Volume Two: THE WAY OF THE SEEDED EARTH was in production at the time of Campbell's death); THE INNER REACHES OF OUTER SPACE: METAPHOR AS MYTH AND AS RELIGION.

NOTES

From:

Ann Wortham
1402 Allison Avenue
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

The following people paid deposits for SOUTHERN RIGHTS #3 but have not responded to flyers sent to them advising the zine is ready: Y. Bell, Mary Ann Bohling, Randi Cowan, Ginny Mila, Susan Rotellini, and Kay E. Wolf. If anyone knows their current address, please get in touch with either them or me. Thanks.

From:

Kate Birkel
2326 S. 12th St.
Omaha, NE 68108

No, I have not fallen off the edge of the galaxy and taken KHAEL with me in spite of the extremely long silence. My humblest apologies to all my wonderful contributors and the individuals who have CASEd.

At the risk of sounding self-pitying and maudlin, the problem is a long-standing depression. Thanks to the intervention of a dear friend who happens to be a psychiatric RN and another friend who happens to be a psychiatrist and has been treating me on the "good buddy" discount, I am slowly, but surely, pulling up from the depths. I also managed to misplace the pasted-up masters of the zine when I moved my work area from one room to another one in my house about two months ago and just discovered the file today. Please, again accept my deepest apologies. I am finally beginning to feel like a human being again, and plan to finish up on KHAEL after the Christmas holidays. Thank you, everyone, for your patience and forbearance.

ART CREDITS:

Judith Low -- mastheads
Carol Peters -- 4, 18

LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS

Please note that Mazeltough Press' address has changed. It is now:

Mazeltough Press
c/o Cynthia Levine
1212 East Howell #6
Seattle, WA 98122

They would also like it known that GUARDIAN #4 is now out-of-print, despite the ad in Mos Eisley Marketplace.

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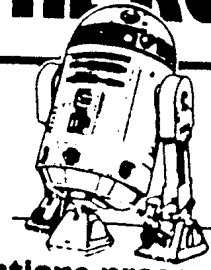
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(Above) June Edwards and
Angela-Marie Varesano

(Right) Maggie Nowakowska



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Those Were the Days in Tatooine and Moscow



Echoing down the corridors of time and space: Star Wars ten years on.

AS TIME WARPS BY

This was going to be a weird one. I've pulled into a parking space and here, to my left, is a car with not one but a dozen little figures on the dashboard. I peer in, expecting to find Jesus and perhaps all twelve Apostles. Nope. Obi-Wan Kenobi, Yoda, R2D2, and several minor *Star Wars* deities. The owner of the car behind me doesn't hide his obsessions either: a Yoda hat on the rear dash, a "Magician on Board" sticker on the bumper. These were the kind of people who, driving through a narrow space, imagine themselves wooshing through the Death Star. What is going on here? The tenth anniversary celebration of *Star Wars* at the L.A. Stouffer Concourse Hotel.

Star Wars has embedded itself deeply into American film history (the second most popular film of all time), the economy (the *Star Wars* trilogy, through various merchandizing channels, has generated \$4 billion in sales), and world affairs (to its makers' regret, it has been permanently associated with the Strategic Defense Initiative). And after seeing an advance screening of the film in '77, I bought 20th Century-Fox stock. Six months later, I made enough on that deal to cover the down payment on a house. Thanks, George.

Of course, I was lucky. I invested in the completed product. Studios don't have that luxury when deciding what gets made. In the mid-Seventies both Universal and United Artists turned down the *Star Wars* script. Fox *did* have an idea what they had but were still myopic: they

judged that the film would not have a chance against *MacArthur*, *Exorcist II*, and *A Bridge Too Far*.

The 1987 Memorial Weekend celebration, however, may have proven, once and for all, that in Hollywood nearsightedness may be endemic. Fox considered reviving *Star Wars* in major cities for a one-day-only, May 25 tenth anniversary screening. Yet the studio decided against the idea; according to *L.A. Times* journalist Pat Broeske, Fox figured that *Star Wars* has played itself out on TV, cable, and cassette.

Perhaps. But if the Fox executives had visited the Stouffer Hotel, they would have had some serious second thoughts. Nine thousand people showed up. One of them was George Lucas.

Reclusive, he rarely visits these sorts of things. I can see why. The lobby bar

“Will I go ahead with another Star Wars film? Not for a while. I first have to do at least one more Indiana Jones and seven more Howard the Ducks.”

brimmed with Imperial Storm Troopers, Princess Leias, and one very tattered wookiee; just a bit more smoke and scum and it might as well have been the *Star Wars* cantina (incongruously, in the midst of it all, an evening-gowned hotel pianist played “The Way We Were”). In a corner Paul Marco, the cop from *Plan Nine from Outer Space*, signed autographs (celebrityhood comes easily in such gatherings). Upstairs, vendors sold Darth Vader head banks, Jedi underwear, and seven-year-old calendars. The real stuff was in a heavily guarded holy of holies: R2D2, X-wing fighters, *Raiders’ Ark of the Covenant* itself. About the only booth everyone ignored was one that proclaimed “Register Here for a Lake Tahoe Vacation.” If it had been Tatooine, they’d have been mobbed.

A amusing, bizarre, a bit sad, this *Star Wars* gathering was troubling. The line between fans and fanatics is a fine one, the distinction between cult and culture not always clear. How healthy can a fixation-driven event be? What one vendor told me didn’t exactly help: “If Lucas announces, this afternoon, that there’d be no more *Star Wars* movies, these people would be devastated. Their lives would become empty, meaningless. If someone asked them to commit suicide, they would.”

An exaggeration, perhaps. I saw no proselytizing, no contentiousness, no dogmatic defensiveness—all essential ingredients for Kool-Aid cults. And despite the awesome, well-coordinated forces of marketing that have shaped the whole *Star Wars* phenomenon, the resulting behavior structure seemed riff-like: everybody pursued private variations on the *Star Wars* truth. Trekkies and Hobbit-lovers mingled freely with Imperial Storm Troopers and Jedi Masters. (Show me an event where Moonies mingle with Jehovah’s Witnesses, or Hare Krishnas with the Rajneeshis.) In a true cult, structures are so hidebound, authoritarian, and blind that even trivial variations are considered vulgar.

There also seems to be a white bread nerdiness to *Star Wars* devotees—for the most part these are the types who win science fairs, not football games. Cast off from the social mainstream, often lonely,

they find at such gatherings that, with their pretend-myths and trivia obsessions, they’re not quite as alone as they thought.

The best place to explore hardcore Star-Warism was the line that formed hours in advance to see Lucas’ appearance. At the very front were some New Jersey fans who came just for this. “There’s something mysterious about George Lucas,” said Daniello Rose. “I think it’s because he was shy, just like me. Yet somebody like him just went out and did it.”

“Same with me,” interjected Tony Confessore. “He inspired me. At eight years old I saw *Star Wars* and decided that making films is what I wanted to do. If George Lucas could do it, so could I.”

It occurs to me that not one person at the convention was costumed as Luke Skywalker, but a lot of them looked like *George Lucas*: small, pale, awkward dreamers. There was a weird, new spin to this: *Star Wars* mania has turned into *nostalgia*. Here were teenagers who remembered Lucas’ saga as a childhood bedtime story, men and women in their twenties and thirties, who are already looking back. It’s really no different than Yuppies at a 20-year high school reunion who list all the characters from *Howdy Doody*. It even has something in common with the Fifties’ nostalgia, which Lucas helped unleash with *American Graffiti* (funny how everyone forgets that).

Let’s also not discount the primordial power of *Star Wars* itself. I’m not the first to note Joseph Cambell’s influence on the saga’s mythological geography; its archetypal elements can touch deeply. But again, even the passionate *Star Wars* fan doesn’t take its mythology all that seriously.

So why did I feel uneasy about all this? Maybe it’s the costumes. Rosemary Wymer, an especially intense attendee, told me: “Costumes represent an ability to create a whole new self.” Michael Montez added: “Costumes are sensory, visual things, just like these films.” Mary Rupert, garbed in some sort of indeterminate black costume, deflated it all: “It’s just fun, like Halloween.”

In the hotel coffee shop, a serious-looking young man was obviously eavesdropping on our conversation. “Sorry, but I can’t help hearing what you’re saying. My name’s Ken Dawson,” he said. He’d just

finished a two-year army stint and decided to drop by Los Angeles for this event on his way home. He had collected some very precise theories about cults and fans. “Science-fiction magazines talk about this stuff all the time,” he said. “There’s the ‘Fandom-Is-a-Way-of-Life’ school and the larger ‘Fandom-Is-a-Goddamn-Hobby’ group. They’re even labeled routinely by their initials: FIAWOL’ers and FIAGH’ers.” (I felt pretty ignorant. There I was lumping all these fans into a homogeneous cult, unaware that detailed epistemological treatises and codifications have long ago appeared in the likes of *Starlog*, which is co-sponsoring this event.)

When I went to check out the Lucas appearance, thousands were waiting. They were chanting his name—“Give me a G! Give me a E!”—as if it was a basketball game. The lights dimmed, John Williams’ familiar fanfare trumpeted through the ballroom. R2D2 and C3PO clanged out onto the stage. C3PO, in Anthony Daniel’s Oxfordian voice, whined, “Where am I? Los Angeles! Now I’m really worried.” Then came Darth Vader, who greeted the group with, “What *scum!* . . . My kind of people.”

The assembly roared when their true superstar trundled out. Lucas seemed bemused, a bit uncomfortable, with a cocky, crooked little smile. I tried to fathom what he was thinking. Forget it. There’s a highly effective psychological force field surrounding this guy, though every now and then I glimpsed his ambivalence about the mania.

“It’s great what *Star Wars* was . . . is . . . will be.” The crowd went nuts at “will be.” “Will I go ahead with another *Star Wars* film? Not for a while. I first have to do at least one more Indiana Jones film and seven more *Howard the Ducks*.”

Lucas seemed amused by the tack into trivia that the questions took. One person asked about a specific onscreen blooper in *Star Wars*. “There are a lot more mistakes in *Star Wars* than that,” teased Lucas. You could sense a ripple through the audience as devotees imagined a concordance of minor flubs.

Lucas’ compact little answers revealed little. Did he ever offer a *Star Wars* episode to Steven Spielberg to direct? “Yes, but he’s reluctant. He knows how much

work it would be." Off to the side, unrecognized by the crowd, Irwin Kirchner, *The Empire Strikes Back's* director, nodded. What kind of film course would Lucas recommend over others? "Writing." Why did he opt for producing over directing? "It's the difference between a 60-hour work week and a 20-hour work week." What excites him now? "*Willows*, which Ron Howard is directing for us. This is our chance to prove that a pure, successful fantasy film is possible." What is his personal philosophy? He winces for a second. "Enjoy life and love people."

Simple enough. But George Lucas is a reluctant messiah. Even if he had charis-

ma, he wouldn't use it. Veneration makes him uncomfortable. Kowtowing irritates him. Most of all, this private, prudent man managed to keep *Star Wars* mania in its place. He's not L. Ron Hubbard, after all. There will be no May-The-Force-Be-With-You-ology, ever. As Lucas once sensibly described the *Star Wars* phenomenon, "It just has to do with people happening to like dumb movies."

A decade ago, escapist movies seemed to be what we needed. Today they're what we need to escape. *Star Wars*, for now, is best left in the past, venerated from afar.

—MARC MANCINI

Los Angeles Times

Film Director Richard Marquand Dies at Age 49

British film director Richard Marquand, whose box-office hits included "Jagged Edge" and "Return of the Jedi," died Friday morning in a hospital outside London. He was 49.

The hospital did not release the cause of death, but the British domestic news agency, Press Association, said the director had suffered a stroke last Sunday.

At the time of his death, Marquand had been awaiting the autumn release of his "Hearts of

Fire." It is a musical drama starring Bob Dylan, who portrays a legendary musician who for a decade has been a self-exiled gentleman farmer in rural Pennsylvania.

As director of "Return of the Jedi," the third "Star Wars" movie, George Lucas picked Marquand from a long list of those vying for the job. At the time he was selected, Marquand had just two feature films to his credit and no science-fiction experience.

"I never really inquired why

Lucas wanted me," Marquand said in an interview with *The Times* in 1981. "I suppose he was looking for a younger-generation film maker who could work quickly and didn't have an ego problem. You can't be an *auteur* when you direct a 'Star Wars.' You have to be able to work very closely with Lucas."

Marquand's other film credits include the "Eye of the Needle" and "Until September."

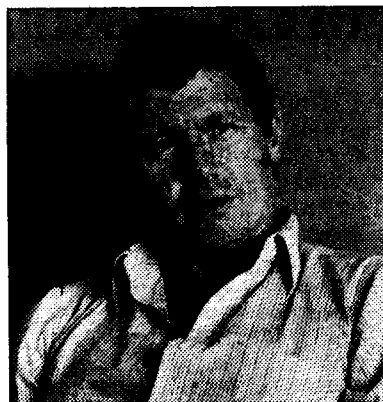
Before films, Marquand worked in the television industry. He di-

rected "The Birth of the Beatles" and the "Search for the Nile," which won an Emmy in 1972.

Marquand, son of former British Health Minister Hilary Marquand, was born in Cardiff, Wales, and was educated at King's College, Cambridge, where he studied modern languages.

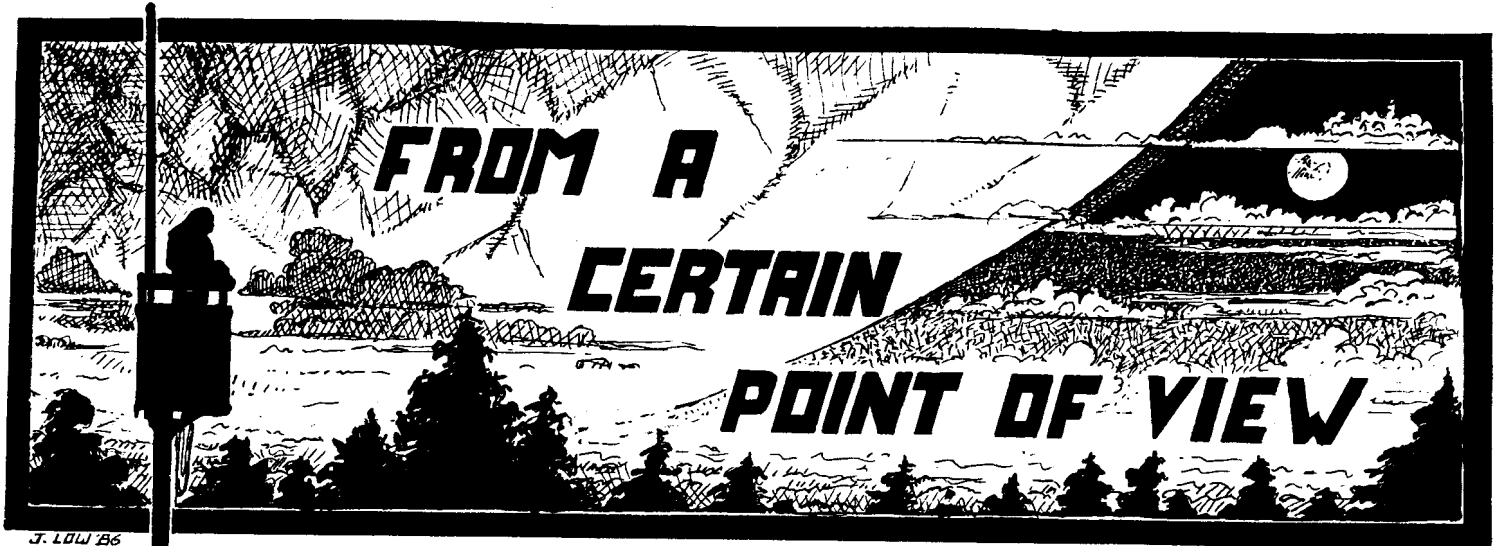
He entered the Royal Air Force and was stationed briefly in Hong Kong, where he later took a job as a newscaster. After returning to Britain, Marquand directed several television documentaries for the British Broadcasting Corp.

Marquand was married twice and had four children.



Los Angeles Times

Richard Marquand



Marti Schuller
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Lee's Summit, MO 64063

September 9, 1987

I received my welcome copy of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE #16 not long ago and want to get this off to you as soon as possible. I thoroughly enjoyed my first experience with a letterzine and compliment you on your fine publication as well as your well-deserved Fan Q Award. As a novice to the art of letterzine writing, I trust your readers will bear with me in this initial effort.

Congratulations to you and your husband on the birth of your beautiful baby girl. She is a real sweetheart and, as mother to two boys of my own, I advise you to cherish your time with her. It will go by faster than you can now imagine. Best of wishes to you all. I am sorry you had such a difficult time getting her here, though.

I was also concerned to read of your mugging. You were indeed very lucky that you were not more seriously injured. I have, unfortunately, had some small experience with the criminal element of our society and I share your anger and frustration.

Now, on to more pleasant subjects. I enjoyed Sandi Jones' account of MediaWest*Con very much. I wish I could have had the opportunity to go, especially since a certain Corellian could manage it all the way from the Outback. But, as Satchel Paige once said, never look back. Sandi's hilarious reporting has motivated me at long last and I have vowed to attend next year's con if I must crawl there on bloody knees.

I am taking my cue for writing this from the format of the copy I have. I hope this is correct. If not, please advise me and I'll change my style accordingly. Thanks. ((Ed: You're doing just fine. There's no set way to write, just as long as you write!))

Matthew Whitney: Your idea for a story concerning Han's cynicism towards the Force is interesting, even if it has all ready been treated similarly. I, for one, dislike Han having any real talents for use of the Force and found great enjoyment in Mary Jean Holmes' story, "Fire of the Mind" that dealt with this issue to my satisfaction. I highly recommend it to you.

Melanie Rawn: Remember, I'm new. Congratulations on the publication of your fantasy trilogy! I checked with my local bookstore, however, and was unable to find any copies. Do you, perhaps write under a pseudonym? If so, pray tell, what? I would

love to support fellow SW fans who succeed in making it as professionals, but I need more information, apparently.

I loved your vivid description of the 10th anniversary con. The beer commercial routine in the ballroom sounded fabulously funny.

I could not agree with you more on the spending our government does for worthwhile projects like the Jet Propulsion Lab rather than on more weaponry. Why do we need more, so we can kill each other ten times over instead of five? Rambo mentality!

I loved the bumper sticker quote, too.

Barbara Gardner: Please accept my sincerest sympathy in the loss of your mother. There are no words to help, but time will ease your emptiness. I know from personal experience.

I found your comments on having read LORD OF THE RINGS because of the recommendations of others in SE to be very enlightening. I had thought that a letterzine remained very close to its original source of existence, in SE's case, STAR WARS. The fact that other books and films could be discussed and used to broaden our knowledge (not to mention understanding of the true worth of SW) is a delightful surprise to me. (Well, I admitted I was new to this type of zine, didn't I?) Along that same vein, I would like to know if you've ever read any of the DRAGONLANCE books, or if any other readers have, for that matter? These are my personal favorites and I strongly encourage you and others to experience them. Especially if you like the anti-hero type, as I surmise you do by the references in your letter to the Dark Lord. Another good series is THE BELGARIAD, which now has a new series starting titled THE MALLOREAN. All are terrific fantasy/sword and sorcery reading.

Carolyn Golledge: It was so wonderful to talk to you on the phone during your visit to our beloved country! I only wish I could have been with you at MediaWest, too. Thank you for your mention in your last letter. I hope by now you are fully recovered from your stay here and feeling much better. I miss your great and wise guidance on how to write a believable Han Solo, mate. Take care.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your comments on Vader and his knowledge, or lack of knowledge, concerning his offspring are well put. (I presume this topic's been going on some time, but being the neophyte, allow me my ignorance, please.) I would like to offer my humble 'point of view'. I have always felt that Vader did not know of his wife's pregnancy due to his self-interest at the time, being the same time as his slow beginning seduction by Palpatine. A friend of mine, Veronica Wilson, felt

that Palpatine could have learned who Luke was after the first Death Star was destroyed and made the connection, withholding the knowledge from Vader until it suited him and served his purpose. I like this idea as it sounds typical of Palpatine to me and proves his means of controlling Vader. I also personally feel that Yoda was surprised to learn that Vader knew of his relationship to Luke and agree with you as to his reaction had he not been dying. I feel Skywalker was perhaps a not too uncommon name, you see.

I LOVE the proposed story/zine labels, although some would require a combination of 3 or 4 labels. Still, they're great and should go with each story in all zines, effective immediately.

Sandi Jones: I would like to second your call for some comments on fan fiction. Feedback is every author's sustenance, oxygen, nourishment, etc. and lately a lot of new SW writers, like me, are barely getting enough to survive. Please, let us know we are being read, even if we aren't agreed with or even liked! I think SE could be an ideal place for such feedback as well as lively follow-up discussions on each author's ideas.

As an afterword, I'd like to comment on the anonymous letter about the film SPACEBALLS. I agree totally with Cheree that the letter's author needs help from true SW fans who will lead him/her into the light. While I found the film itself to be a big disappointment (it could've been sooo good), it certainly was not offensive. C'mon, people, let's reach out to our fellows and make sure they know reality from our common fun and games. Dreams are wonderful but life must be lived, no matter how difficult. That's why fandom's so great! We can be "crazy" with each other, band together against the "isolated lonelies" and still help each other see our fantasies for what they are--good wholesome fun. Agree?

Well, that's it. Did I fail miserably in my first effort? I hope not. I really look forward to becoming an active participant in the future. Until next time, may the Force be with us, always!

STAR WARS PLATES

Lin S. Ward
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September 13, 1987

It's great to hear again from SE, and get such a bonanza of pictures and articles in addition to the letters!

Little Katy is such a doll--thank you for the pictures! I'm looking forward to regular progress reports! Sorry the delivery was so harrowing--what an experience!

It was great to relive MWC through Sandi's article and the photos--can't wait for next year! I'm glad the Jedi was able to show a thing or two to the Corellian! Carolyn's poster is terrific! Don't know how I missed it, so glad someone got a shot of it.

Particularly enjoyed the cartoons from SKYWALKER, which reminded me so much of the skywalks in my home town, especially when I noted that it is, indeed, my hometown (Des Moines)!

Wonderful news that you're going to resume the zines. CHOICE PARTS and TREMOR were excellent, and I'm eager to read the new issues next year!

Sally Syrjala: Thoroughly enjoyed your essay on the peace statement made in STAR WARS. Loved your reference to "mental special effects"--I saw a few starbursts when I read these paragraphs!

Mary Keever: I subbed to the SW plates and so far my favorite is easily the Han Solo, which won pride of place in my living room, within easy view of my favorite reading chair. The Leia plate just came, and it's very good if you don't look at her too-fat, jutting lower lip. Can't believe that the next plate is of Imperial walkers, I mean, \$30 for that! It's a lovely picture of the walkers, but I wouldn't pay 30 cents for it under normal circumstances. Yet, I want to stay in the series in case they come up with a great Luke plate. Has anyone blown themselves to one of the expensive frames, and if so, how does it look? I've just got the little plastic ones.

Matthew: In C. J. Cherryh's books, the clones are all trained with learning tapes, so their thought processes are very strictly controlled. This mind control, which can be practiced on anyone, is even more frightening than the ability to create whatever kind of being you want at will. Ahem, I've got a reading closet like that, too.

Melanie Rawn: Wow, congratulations on selling your trilogy! Be sure to tell us when to start watching for it! I never did find your romance novel--which publisher and pen name did you use? How can I get a copy?

Thanks for quoting the D.V. repartee at the SW con. Wish I'd been there, except that I had a priceless great time at MWC!

Tim "Wrong Way" Blaes: Is your MWC tape the official one they were advertising? I sent a SASE for info, but haven't heard anything on it. The "Repo Man" skit was WONDERFUL! Anybody know where it'll be published? I didn't get a copy of the script for the (Fan Q Winning!) "Search for Spock" skit and deeply regret it; it was also super.

Haven't I read that zine fantasy in a Heinlein novel? *grin*

Barbara Gardner: I'm so sorry to hear about your mother!

I got into sf/f fiction the same way you did! Boy, was I surprised to find out that many of my favorite writers have their own fandoms, with apas, fan clubs, round robins, zines, the works! You know what they say! "Once you turn to The Fandom Side, forever will it dominate your destiny"! Take care!

Carolyn Gollledge: Forty hours of travel? Will you ever walk again??? What an awful/funny story about your sprained shoulder and the Han poster! Dani surely was on your wavelength! It was so much fun to meet you at the con--thank you for introducing yourself! Hope you can come again soon--we'll surely be thinking of you!

Sharon Saye: All your questions about the Jedi and Darksiders are fascinating. I wish George would tackle the first trilogy to explain these things, if nothing else. Of course, if the past is anything to go by, we'd be just as confused as we are now! I haven't been able to account for Vader's Fall from the facts as we know them--surely every person is tempted to misuse power? So, maybe struggling

against the Dark Side isn't the unusual part, maybe whatever the Jedi did to handle people who "fell", failed with Vader? Maybe people who normally fell to the Dark Side were so ill-equipped to handle it that they destroyed themselves? Were eaten up by exposure to Dark Side elements? Maybe a Dark Sider of the Emperor's strength was unusual? Maybe it was a combination of the right people at the right time--a disaffected Jedi, a Darksider with lots of powerful connections, and a weakening political/defense structure in the galaxy?

Maggie N.: I agree that it was entirely reasonable for Obi-Wan and Yoda to expect Vader to regard Luke as a rival, even if he were turned to the Dark. If Vader had wanted to recruit one or more, er, assistants, over the years, what's stopped him? It's possible that his offer to Luke on the gantry was just another ploy, even then, to best him. It's possible from the events of the movies to believe that Vader never had plans for Luke, although I recall now that it was his idea in TESB to turn Luke rather than kill him. I wonder why the Emperor didn't think of it first? Maybe it's much, much more rare to successfully turn someone than I'd expect?

Loved your zine code symbols!

B. J. Evans: I'd really like to see an in-depth character study on Yoda. He does seem to take everything much more in stride than Ben does; he never appears too startled or at a loss, the only times he seems terribly aroused are when he's annoyed during his training of Luke. He also got very upset when Luke cut off his training--maybe he foresaw the possibility that Luke might try to convert his father, and would need stronger skills for that task and/or for facing failure of that task, than he would to kill Vader. Well, I guess it's obvious that Luke would have a big psychological battle no matter what the circumstances.

Bev Clark: Loved your ideas about departed Jedi choosing who to talk to and when. Wish they'd talk to me!

Sandi Jones: The Luke doll is terrific! What a roommate! Good analysis of Palpatine's use of power. I can see a gullible Anakin getting sucked into such a morass.

Cheree: Well, the story of WILLOW sounds very intriguing, whether it turns out to be SW or not. I'm almost afraid to speculate now, because I got SO excited before the SW con, expecting the Announcement.

((Ed: Well, the speculation turned out to be just that. WILLOW is not SW1. I met Terry Erdman, who now works for Lucasfilm, at StarCon in Denver in September, where he had presentations for WILLOW and answered some definite questions about SW. According to Terry, the first trilogy will be done "sometime this decade", although Terry admitted he didn't know if that meant before 1990 or before 1997. But the best news of all is that the script for SW1 is in the works! WILLOW is being directed by Ron Howard and looks to be a superbly done fantasy film with a story-line vaguely reminiscent of LABYRINTH. This is the first film that George has worked hands-on since RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK and it shows in the production. It will premiere on (what else?) May 25, 1988. INDY III is supposed to go into production in January or February and, after that? Dare we hope--STAR WARS I???)

Catherine Churko: Hi! Liked your comment that forms of violence are "manifestations of a broken connection in a person being able to feel their own humanity and therefore others'." I, too, am con-

fused as to why Obi-Wan didn't sense Anakin's shift toward the Dark. In DRAGON'S TEETH, Carol Hines-Stroede suggests that he was starting to feel dissatisfied, then got kidnapped and brainwashed by the Emperor, while Obi-Wan was distracted with fighting the downfall of the Republic. The idea that Anakin was away when he "took the plunge" makes more sense than that he stayed right under Obi-Wan's nose during his conversion.

Pat Easley: I agree, when Mark wants to look cold, those silver-blue eyes can look terrifyingly chill. I read that his first few roles were of amoral juvenile delinquents, in fact. Brrr! Is your bus going to MWC via Richmond? (ha ha)

All, take care!

FIRST LETTER

Debbie Kittle
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Silver Spring, MD 20906

September 18, 1987

Hello, everyone. This is my first letter to SE so here goes nothing (or everything):

I'd like to address one point that was brought up in the early issues of SE. (My first SE was #15 but I read the back issues.) Along around #5 and #6, there was a discussion about Han in ROTJ and his attempt to open the back door. Someone stated they thought Han was blind (I never bought that) or he was still suffering the effects of carbon freezing (much more plausible). A thought that has stayed with me is that it wasn't Han's fault (yes, I know he has faults, he's not perfect), but the Emperor's.

Palpatine was expecting the attack on the shield generator so, as a precaution, he had the schematics changed. Han sounded pretty confident when he thought he had opened the door. As I said, just a thought and now on to the current letters...

Ming: I am also new to SW fandom. I only found out about zines through an ad in STARLOG for THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE and I've been hooked ever since though it's been slow. A friend and I tried our hand at writing and were successful at getting it published (thank you, Mary and Samia), though it took us awhile to get up enough courage to send it in. Hopefully next year I'll make it to MWC.

Mary Kever: Love those plates! I've gotten all 3 and am waiting on the fourth. I was extremely happy that Han was first, but am not a Church of Ford fan.

Anonymous: I consider myself a true fan of the SW universe. I love Han, Leia, Luke and all the other characters but I did go see SPACEBALLS. I really loved it, too. It was great. The movie was only a parody, nothing more. Since George isn't providing us with a new SW movies, I'll take what I can get and I say thank you, Mel Brooks.

I definitely agree with what you said about the anonymous writer, Cheree.

Carolyn: Glad you enjoyed your trip to the

USA. I love that poster!

I have a quick question to ask: Where and when can I get to read the sequel to "Form Reversal" that was printed in CIRCLE OF LIGHT #4? Since CoL is no longer published, I don't want to miss the sequel, for I really liked the story a lot.

Sharon: I've always thought that the Jedi were basically Lightsiders, teaching their pupils the dangers of the Dark and probably having few problems until Anakin showed up.

I feel Vader was definitely unexpected or the rest of the Jedi would've been prepared for the resulting massacre. Perhaps Luke's being shown in a constant state of conflict and Darkside potential is a foreshadowing of "like father, like son."

Maggie: Interesting PoV re paternal rivalry as well as Palpatine's view being colored by the Dark. Perhaps he saw what Yoda and Ben saw but interpreted it to his way of thinking.

Mon Mothma knowing A/DV are one and the same? I say yes to that since she's been there since the intrigue started.

Did MM know L & L were Anakin's kids? My feelings are heading in the affirmative direction but not 100%. Not enough concrete proof, of course.

I believe Yoda knew from the beginning (being a Jedi Master, after all). If he knew this, why didn't he know about the Purge? Maybe he did but knew that a new beginning would take place as well. "Always in motion is the future," but I think Yoda knew more than he was telling.

Darth didn't know about Luke. I think he had to do some investigating to find out about his son. When he did find out, he probably thought, "I had a son and didn't even know."

Poor Bail. I'm sure Ben told him something of what was going on and out of love (I feel he may have loved Mrs. Skywalker from afar) and honor, married her. Maybe Bail gave a statement stating that Mrs. S was widowed and wanted a father for her child. Who knows, perhaps the Alderaan don't have such tight scrutiny of their leaders/public figures as we do--as long as there was a rightful heir produced if succession was along bloodlines?

If MM knew about Mrs. S and Bail, she was probably powerful enough to find out what she needed to know re A/DV but kept it to herself to use if need be at the right time or not at all if she were good friends with Bail and/or Leia.

Did everyone involved know about the twins? No. Ben did and I think Yoda did from the start. Did Bail? Maybe yes. He was an important figure in the Alliance and could be trusted but then again, he might have been kept in the dark (no pun) in case of possible interrogation. Y and B couldn't afford any possible leaks.

What if Mrs. S never even knew she had twins? She could've been drugged (by Ben?) or unconscious while giving birth and when she woke up, there was only a baby girl. Ben would've taken Luke away immediately.

Endless possibilities. Come on, George, how about Episode 1?!

B. J.: I second your recommendation of "Marginal Error" by Mary Jean Holmes. It really is a good story.

Mary U.: Congrats on the Fan Q for WC#3.

Just a few quickies: Congrats to SE on its Fan Q and to Cheree on the birth of Katy.

Thanks to everyone who pointed out so many unknown aspects of the SW saga (example: Luke's look to Han as he says "...worm ridden..."). I just watched the trilogy in my home and was amazed at

how much I missed even after 30 viewings (or so, but who's counting?) of each movie.

Hopefully in November, I'll be heading to Star Tours. I can't wait!!

Another vote, though late, for Duncan Regehr to play Anakin Skywalker.

In SE#11, Linda Kerry was having trouble with the zine ECHO SEVEN, put out by Darla Doxstater. I have never received my zine from her and have written to both addresses two times with no response. Anyone heard anything new?

Lastly, I'd like to say that I like Luke a lot and might even lust after him a little especially when he wears his Jedi outfit; however, poor Han. It seems he's outnumbered. Let's have a lot more Han lust, ladies!!! You don't want to get Han mad, do you?!

T'l next time, fly the Millennium Falcon, the only way to smuggle.

NOT A "NEW" FAN

Melanie Guttierrez
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September 17, 1987

This, I suppose, is my first LoC. Although I have years of strong opinions on everything SW, it seems foolish to "jump into the fray" when I don't yet know the membership or the current "hot topics". (I would venture to guess that Luke, a/k/a S.S. Scurptious Skywalker, is a perennially hot topic, at least he is for me!)

Well, being a motormouth, one way conversations are a speciality; so I'll begin with an introduction.

I'm Melanie, blissfully single, an unorganized artist (not yet starving but close), sliding into my mid-thirties and HOPELESSLY in love with the SW universe. So many "old" SW fans have told me I'm a "new" fan, I have now accepted it as fact; although the last four years have seemed awfully long!

If anyone can believe it, I walked into a local cinema complex on May 29, 1983, with absolutely NO knowledge of ANYTHING SW. I sat there in the dark and watched JEDI "cold." The experience was mind-blasting...I went from paralysis to quivering lump of protoplasmic residue that cheered and cried as the final credits rolled through that magnificent music. Nothing has been the same since.

In that theater, I fell profoundly in love with most powerful concept ever placed on film.

Sure, I also fell in love with Luke (sigh), Han, Ben, the droids, the ships, and Yoda--but it was the idea behind SW that intrigued me then and enralls me now.

I didn't see ANH until it premiered on cable TV in 1984. True mania set in then, but it was another whole year until I stayed awake until 2am at a con to see TESB. Talk about a deprived life!! Then I joined the OSWFC, getting in, as it turned out, as it was winding down. I didn't know that, tho; I was just so thrilled to be in touch in some way.

Like everyone else, I bought merchandise, got a fantastic penpal, wrote letters to Maureen Garrett.

Try to remember what it felt like to get involved with the SW phenomenon for the first time... now imagine how it felt to learn I had discovered it too late! I knew NO ONE else who felt as I did; if it hadn't been for my penpal, Jan, the little light SW had kindled in me would have died for lack of fuel.

One would have to know how provincial New Orleans is to understand how I could know nothing of clubs, cons, fanzines or the vast network of fellow addicts that has existed all the while.

To amuse myself and preserve my sanity(?), I've been writing stories, filling in the Saga as I think it would have been and as I would like it to be. Has anyone else gotten so involved in their own version of "fill in the blanks" that you've hopelessly mixed it with the "real" version? Worse yet, you think yours is better?!?

Such was my state--still is, actually--and I would have continued in resigned isolation until STARLOG had the preposterous gall to pronounce SW fandom "dead". To say I resented the assumption that I no longer existed is putting it mildly. They dared to bury the Saga alive (although comatose) and have the temerity to call it death by neglect! Ours!?!?

When the steam died down (I still hiss at the derisive attitudes of most media/SF articles), I got busy writing.

I wrote Lisa Cowan first, she gave me my first Hamill fix. Then Sandy Durham and I began commiserating about the STARLOG article and now there is the SW Fan Alliance. It was Sandy's baby, but she let me feel included on something from the beginning for a change.

Since then, everyone I've been in contact with has been nothing short of fantastic... Barbara Gardner, she of the leather and heavy breathing fetish (thanks for liking "Exceptions", Barb); Lisa Cowan, thanks to whom I may one day overdose on Mark Hamill (but what a way to go!); Carolyn Frodsham, who has welcomed me into Sons and Daughters of the Force with patience and enthusiasm; Nacolle Parsons, a severe case of Hamill-itis, who writes 12 page letters and introduced me to the "trade" universe; Lisa Thomas, who answered a plea quickly and generously; and, of course, Cheree, whose gift of a sample copy of SE finally hooked me up to the SW life-support system.

I can never thank all of you enough. You reaffirmed my wavering faith in the human race as a species.

As I said, I have many definite theories of my own regarding the beginning, and the end, of the Saga. I think those should wait until my next LoC; then we'll all have a chance to agree or disagree with each other.

For now, it's enough for me to feel so blasted GOOD about finding you all! It's still hard to think of myself as a "new" fan, tho. It seemed like I was the only fan for such a long time... If being "new" is what feels so good, I hope the newness never wears off! CELEBRATE THE LOVE!!

Maggie Nowakowska
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October 14, 1987

What interesting clippings last issue! Now, can anyone please tell me how one gets a copy of the Campbell show, "The Hero's Journey"? Or source information so I can bug my local PBS station to carry it?

For your records, Cheree, that's me in the Mon Mothma picture you published last issue. And I'd like to thank Judith Grove for her lovely compliment on the costume. It was a fun outfit and very comfortable--I wonder if MM could get away with wearing as little under it as I did?

Reading the classifieds, I sure was glad to see a couple of new zines/issues proposed! Thank you, Cheree and Sandi Jones, for keeping the flame alive.

Mary Keever asks for comments on the SW plates. I've been very happy with their quality. The art is nicely done, with accurate representation (unlike the stiffness of the STrek plates, or the artificial cast to other plates I've seen), and the backgrounds that are nicely interpretive. The current plate of Imperial Walkers doesn't thrill me so much, but I have confidence that the artist will do a good job on them. I really liked Leia's plate, most probably because I was afraid they'd go for the cheesecake; the assertiveness in her pose is refreshing.

Lin Ward raises a good point by suggesting that a person who is undergoing a Dark Side temptation cannot be interfered with by extracorporeal entities. Makes sense from a student/teacher point of view since there comes a time in mundane education when the teacher must step aside and let the student sink or swim on her own, no matter the consequences. Anyone who's had to care for/raise a child is familiar with the phenomena: you simply can't do the really serious stuff for your charges.

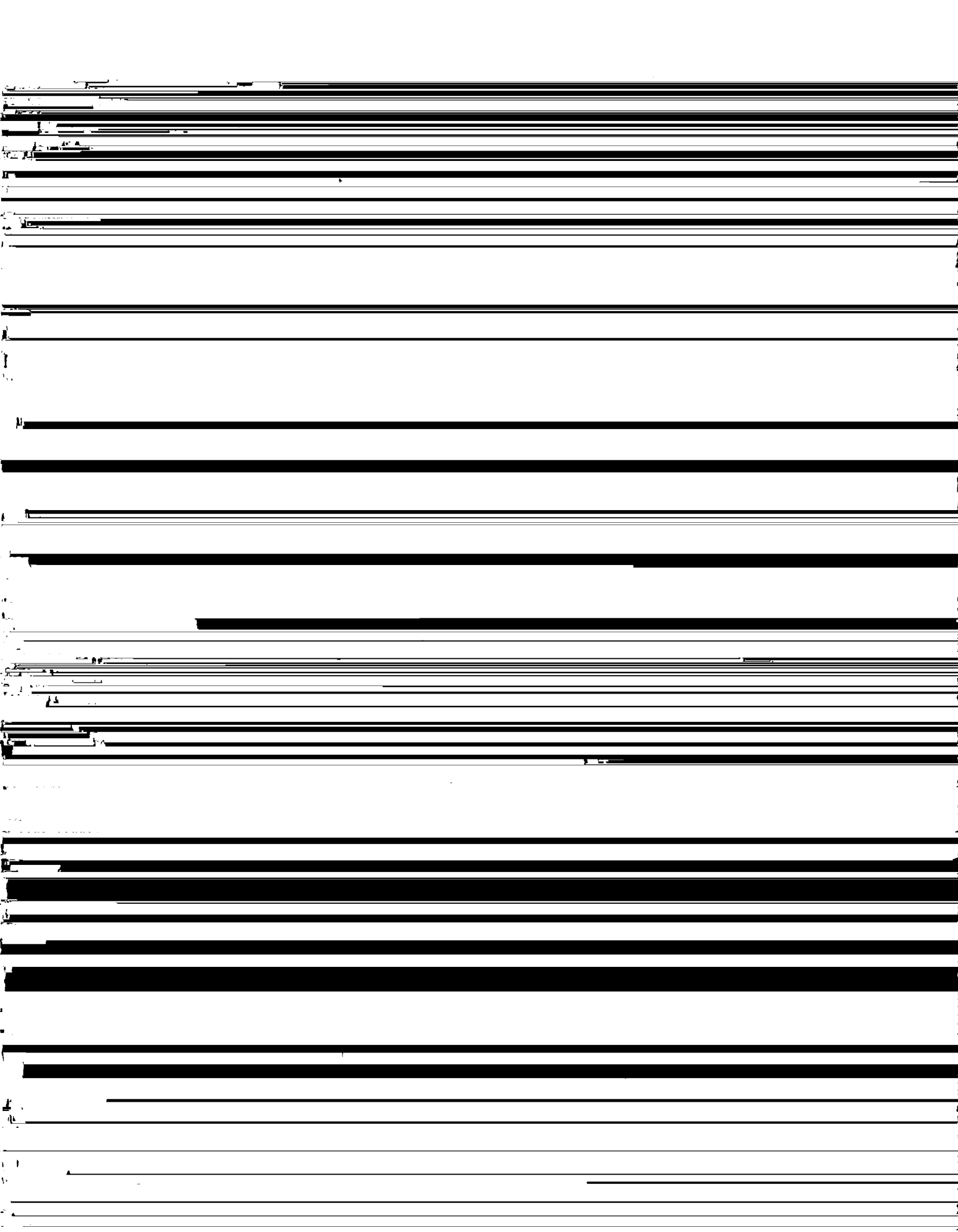
A fannish correspondent of mine has suggested that Kenobi's major problem with Anakin may be that Ben could not let go as a teacher; that perhaps Kenobi was so involved with Anakin, was so caught up in his identification with Skywalker that Anakin ended up breaking away from Ben so violently that he was ripe for the temptation Palpatine offered him (anything but Kenobi!).

Maybe, as Sandi Jones asked, it seems that everyone is after Vader specifically because Ben and Yoda do not feel they are capable of stopping Palpatine themselves (for whatever reason) and believe that by eliminating Vader, they stymie Palpatine's succession.

Catherine Churko: Hmmm. A neon East Coast "Enclave" sign. Did you ever find out what business that building houses? As for the Force as fact, not article of faith, yes, I meant in the prominent western Judeo/Christian culture. (I like some of the Native American names for the fundamental life force: orenda (Iroquois), wakanda (Dakota), manito (Algonquin), pokunt (Shoshone), coen (Athabasca). Although some people argue that these terms are not synonymous with ki or chi, there are certainly many cogent aspects to the various notions.)

Thinking along these lines, I wonder if the Alliance views generals the same way a war chief is viewed by Amerind tribal societies: not necessarily as someone who has climbed a heirarchical ladder, but as someone whom warriors will follow, someone of proven leadership who will step forward when needed with his band of soldiers and who will simply be





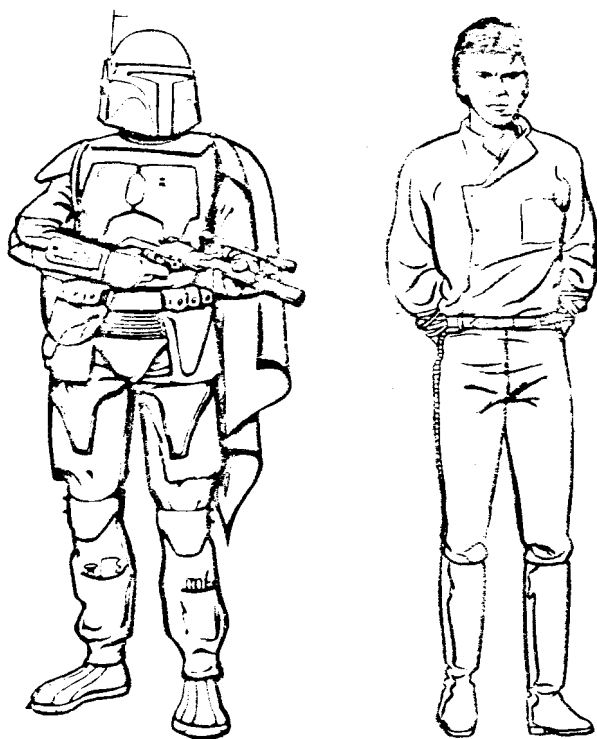
the younger Jedi to see the light (sic) and so, once he had Vader's talents in hand, he eliminated those whose beliefs were heretical to his.

The worlds of the Republic might have at first considered Palpatine and his followers simply as another space tribe whose problems were not theirs until it was too late, until they discovered that Palpatine's tribe believed in coming in and imposing his ideas on everyone, rather than following the common "live and let live" notion. The planets, like the Jedi, might have discovered their susceptibility too late. Likewise the general spacer population which was too long dependent on the Jedi who had grown out of them to take care of things. Perhaps those spacers were as decadent as the general populations, letting their children grow up thinking of the Jedi as merely esoteric ministers of their planets (since the Forceful reality of seat-of-the-pants piloting could be so ingrained that no one really considered it a wonderful talent anymore, as "it's natural so why make a fuss about it?" Hence, Han's comment about hokey religions despite his own abilities.

And, perhaps it's taken so long for the Alliance to gather its power because it had to establish the kind of cooperation necessary to fight Techno Law 'n' Order among planetary governments accustomed to letting someone else handle it, and because it had to do that while still maintaining the tribal PoV values. The genius of Mon Mothma and her fellow commanders was the ability to smell a rat when Palpatine first appeared, and the talent to be able to preserve their beliefs despite the temptation to fight fire with fire.

This is a bit of hodge-podge, I know, and a rewrite of recent Terran experiences with cultural imperialism, but it may have merit as a noneconomic way of interpreting the Republic/Imperial dichotomy.

Well, Cheree, that's all this time for me--only 4 pages! I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season, however it's celebrated. I'm looking forward to a new year's issues of SE and lots to talk about!



Ming Wathne
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Tomorrow, tomorrow, I'll write a LoC tomorrow. Well, that ought to be my theme. At least that seems to be it. I have been trying to get this off to you since the week after I received #16. That was three months ago, I think, but at last. First, thanks for the letter in the notes. That situation turned out to be extremely distasteful. It seems that the death notice was in reality a hoax. Ann Carver was a pen name. The whole thing was really a nasty business. I have since received the money back, but it has left a very bad taste.

Congratulations on the little one; they are really a joy (also at times a pain in the nether regions, but yours is too new for you to know about that).

Now to get out the boxing gloves.

Sally Syrjala: This generation is no more me than any other! The balance between caring about your brother (your brother's keeper) or being his jailer can be a very fine line. In the trilogy, I find it quite interesting as people claim how Han has changed, become caring, etc. It is utter nonsense. Han was always caring. He loved and cared for Chewie. He had to live in a situation which demanded a protective shell. You do not show vulnerability where it can be taken advantage of if you care to exist. Han did not change, his circumstances did!

Mary Keverer: Yahoo for the plates! Leia was also a beauty. Have to figure some way where the earthshakers won't knock them off the wall.

Lin S. Ward: The situation with Lucas is unfortunately a little too common. Somehow he doesn't understand the fans' position. At Cactus Con, we asked if he, Lucas, was no longer interested in his universe then he could at least choose a good author to do some books. The audience was very enthusiastic, but the moderator was less than overjoyed.

A little fun aside on the trilogy. It was shown at the Con. A local theater was used. The audience just about came apart when EMPIRE was shown. It was a Spanish-subtitled version. Aside from the occasional snicker about the translation, the introduction was in Spanish. It was being read aloud by some of the audience and exactly translated by others, dual stereo language. The editing was also interesting. They had added a small clip where Lando goes out to rescue Luke and the sound track of Han's screams was deleted. Interesting.

Matthew Whitney: A little more cogitation on Clones. We now know that drugs, alcohol, smoking, medications, etc., etc., have an effect on the embryo. If you start out with basic material and change the developing fetal environment, what would be the result? In all probability, not even an exact look-alike, since absolutely duplicating in a vat the exact situation in vitro would be astronomically unlikely.

Also, like your idea about Han's parentage--come on, some of you authors--that's a good idea.

Melanie Rawn: I had a dichotomy of feeling about the SW Con in Los Angeles, but walking into an elevator and coming nose to nose with Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew) without his suit is overwhelming. That man is big!

Tim Blaes: Well, as Ye Ed says, being ripped off--most fans have been at one time or another. Not being a completely civilized person, I have a tendency to go after the culprits with an ax, and I

have a very long memory when it comes to such things.

Cheree: I agree wholeheartedly with your words to Anonymous. Such a pity that the difference between the real world and fantasy should become so blurred.

Pam LaVasseur: Who knows who Leia's mother is; as for that matter, maybe all Princess from Alderaan were adopted just to get new blood in the Royalty. Leia apparently knew she was adopted or at least had another mother, as she said she remembered her.

Barb Brayton: The Vader/Luke situation is always somewhat ambiguous. In only one instance is there a reference to Luke killing Vader, and then Luke says it. At all other times, the reference is made to Luke facing Vader.

Carolyn Golledge: I am still jealous about your meeting all those wonderful people at MediaWest--sigh--well, at least, I got a chance to chat with you.

Sharon Saye: The Lucas Outline for SW is fascinating, therefore, authors are always redoing them. But remember Yoda's "Always in motion is the future." What other alternatives might have occurred if Han had not made it through the blast doors? Vader had managed to pick Luke off the weather vane. Jabba had defrosted Han (no, he didn't kill him. Not after paying such a big bounty.). Using Yoda's words, one could in reality build many alternatives.

Maggie Nowakowska: Hi--Well, come and stay in Santa Barbara on your way to LA--supposedly smog-free--quick to Disneyland--spend the day and quick trip back to Santa Barbara. Simple!

Yeah. Just what did surprise Old Mossback? If Vader did not know about Luke, how did he find out?

Loved your labels--but think you should add another special one to designate Carolyn Golledge's and Pat D'Orazio's stories. Title: "Tossing Han off Cliffs."

B. J. Evans: Han made such lovely bait. It worked once, why not again? So, Boba Fett in Jabba's court.

Bev Clark: Many are approaching or are middle aged...um...interesting, very interesting. When does one reach that point?

Mickey Malkin: Indoctrinating the orphans would still be less expensive than brainwashing. Brainwashing would almost have to be done on an individual basis in order to hold. Adults are simply not as susceptible to mind manipulation as is sometimes suspected, and the possibility of a mind becoming unwashed at a critical moment would be too dangerous. So, I still opt for educating the orphans.

Now, as for the graphic treatment of Han in the SHOWCASE zines...well, some don't like slash, some don't like brutality. I can deal with either, as long as the story is well done; and, since I could enjoy either, I guess you could say I get a kick out of it.

Barbara Gardner: What is this HIBERNATION SICKNESS thing? And are you the one responsible for sending the earthshaker when I was in the john? That was not very nice!

Mary Urhausen: I understand your trouble about addresses. I try for both envelope and letter and an occasional phone number is a help. Also understand about extra postage and reasonable length of time for an answer, but what has me grinding my teeth is when I send a request for info, or updating including a SASE, and never get an answer. Three or four words even on the same letter would be welcome. Otherwise, I am left wondering, did the let-

ter get through? Did the recipient die? Please, just "been sick," "family problems," "printer late" --just anything, please!

Sandi Jones: Feedback--how can I give you feedback when only the author's name is listed? The round robin to editor, back to author to find out if it is okay to give out the info, and then if you are lucky, you finally get it. Also, on some LoCs, only names are given--feedback is not so easy.

Catherine Churko: Hey! A new almost Zine Fan. Only been doing it 3-1/2 years for friends. Well, welcome; now some of us almost New people can get together and grouse about everything we have missed. You, of course, have the advantage since you live in an area where there are other zine fans; not so this person. Nevertheless, hey! Isn't it fun?

Pat Easley: Now, Pat, I did say what Ben and Yoda did was not nice. Also, I said they seemed to have no choice. If they had told Luke, would he have done up against Vader? Especially a very young man who had idolized his father. That would have been taking a chance on tossing Luke right into his father's lap and two Dark Lords they did not need. They had to take the gamble that Luke would never find out, or if he did, he would be able to handle it. Like I said, not nice but understandable. Now, as for zine reviews! A really great idea and, like you, I know what I like so I am mentioning a couple of great older stories. If you have not read them, find a copy of MOS EISLEY TRIBUNE #2 and read Ellen Blair's "Metamorpheus". It'll give you the shivers. And, if you like new characters, read Chris Noel's "A House in Flames" in LEGION OF LIGHT #2. These are both great stories.

Well, I did finally finish this thing--so until next time. Peace in the Force to all.

ECCENTRIC PEOPLE

Dr. Mary Urhausen
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October 17, 1987

It was such a thrill to receive a SOUTHERN ENCLAVE again!! The Fan Q was much deserved; congratulations! (We Fan Q recipients have to stick together, after all!) It was a lot of fun to see the photos from MediaWest*Con; I wish there was some way all of SE's readers could come to this con--it is that great. Of course, we might kind of over-run the Hilton... Also enjoyed Sandi's humorous article about her experiences. She seems to have discovered the mysterious MediaWest*Con Time Warp; once you step into the con, "real time" stands still, and the entire weekend just seems to fly by. Here's looking forward to another great MWC in 1988!

I also loved the second on Katy; what a sweetie! I guess this excuses you from coming to MediaWest, Cheree! (Just don't get the idea to do this every year!)

My main comments this issue concern this article I just ripped out of my current (Sept.-Oct. issue of FILM COMMENT. Kind of sobering, eh? I think it's extremely interesting, not from the standpoint

of information about George Lucas, or the future of the STAR WARS films, or even the future of SW fandom, but from the standpoint of a non-SW fan's perception of SW fans. We don't come off looking too good, do we? In fact, this guy makes us sound like a bunch of nuts! Of course, we all know there are a lot of...eccentric people in fandom, SW and other; but I don't think most of us like to consider ourselves crazy, or out of touch with reality. Personally, I like to consider myself someone with a fairly...loose grip on reality! But a grip, nonetheless! Just as television and newspaper reporters who converge on WorldCons always pick the absolutely weirdest fans to interview and photograph (the almost classical Vulcan ears with the Dr. Who scarf, or the 250 lb. woman in the chain mail bikini), this author seems to have slid headlong into a wall of rather bizarre SW fans, and--perhaps feeling a mild concussion coming on--never probed any further... Too bad; I think there were some extremely bright, realistic, and articulate SW fans at that convention (I know several people who went who fill that bill nicely), and he never met or talked to them. An article like this makes one understand why poor George Lucas usually feels like running screaming from SW fans.

Just a few quick comments: Thanks again to everyone who voted for THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE 3 for Best SW Zine in this year's Fan Q. We are very proud of our zine, and are so happy to find that others appreciate our effort. The real credit goes to our contributors; the zine is theirs, as well, and so is this Fan Q!

Maggie Nowakowska: Hey, done anything butt-headed lately?? (Or was the "impenetrable Spock" your last and finest effort??) I love your logos for fan fiction! Especially the slash and hurt/comfort ones.

And for everyone who has been wondering what kind of doctor I am: a damned good one! ((Ed: I'll spill the beans--Mary is a veterinarian.))

See y'all next time!

SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL

Melanie Rawn
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October 5, 1987

Yes, I felt it--"them", actually. It's 12:10 on Sunday night/Monday morning and even as I write this we had another aftershock.

I've lived in Southern California all my life and never been 4 miles from the epicenter of an earthquake before. The Thursday morning wake-up call at 7:42 felt as if a giant hand had picked up the apartment building and shaken it like a child's toy box. To put it another way, imagine the Star Tours ride without the seat belt--standing up (after I got knocked out of bed and scrambled up off the floor, that is).

During the initial shake, my refrigerator and most of the other furniture waltzed at least a half-

foot, nearly everything came down off the walls, the computer monitor came with 1-1/2 inches of total disaster, and there was broken china and glass everywhere. The earth has been hiccupping ever since, with a real goodie Sunday morning at 3:59 a.m. A local store is holding an earthquake sale: 6.1% off in honor of the magnitude of the original tremblor. Yahoo. Only in L.A.

The king and queen of Spain were here for the first one and somebody suggested that we ought to ask them if it's too late to give California back.

Nahhh...I love this place and I'd never live anywhere else (although, for a while there, even Texas was looking pretty good--sorry, Jenni!). ((Ed: Hey, I'm a native Texan and I resemble that remark!)) The rest of the country gets hurricanes, tornados, torrential rain, minus 7000 windchill, and/or 96 feet of snow every year. So I get tossed out of bed and have to go stand in a doorway once every 15 or so years. Big deal.

(This is called Classic Southern California Denial Syndrome. I listen to Mozart and try to think of other things...)

Anyway, your infant is adorable. Of course, we want updates and pictures. Don't be silly.

The blurb about mine own infants on p. 13 was lovely, and thank you much. But wherever it came from got the titles wrong--not that the real titles are all that much better. I'm seriously awful at thinking up names for things. They're tentatively called "Dragonlord", "Dragon Prince" and "Dragon-son." Catchy, huh? I hope the editor comes up with something better. Haven't heard from her in a while, but at least she hasn't asked for the money back.

Yet.

Pam LaVasseur: Technically, the official title is HRH The Duchess of York because Andrew was given a separate title on the day of the marriage (cf Princess Michael of Kent, wife of the present duke's younger brother, who has no title of his own). Sarah Ferguson became an HRH when she married an HRH, but bestowing that distinction is at the discretion of the sovereign. The Duchess of Windsor was never granted the HRH. The Lady Diana Spencer, who had her own courtesy title before her marriage, became (are you ready?) HRH The Princess of Wales, Countess of Chester, Duchess of Cornwall and Rothesay, Countess of Carrick, and Baroness of Renfrew, according to the order of Charles' titles. But her own name won't enter into it until and unless she becomes Her Majesty Queen Diana. "Unless" because, if Charles never becomes king, then as his widow, she will be HRH The Dowager Princess of Wales, not HM The Queen Mother because she will never have been a queen.

As far as the kidlets are concerned, the heir's wife will be Princess William of Wales until daddy becomes king, when he'll probably get Prince of Wales all to himself--but that's another discretion-of-the-sovereign, as is Prince Consort. Little brother's bride will be Princess Henry of Wales, unless daddy gives him one of the royal dukedoms (Kent, Clarence, Gloucester, Sussex, and Cambridge are some others).

Anyway, the York title takes precedence because it's a royal dukedom (cf all Victoria's scandalous uncles). Actually, QEII's kids are princely because Philip is himself a Prince of the United Kingdom. It has nothing to do with the mother at all. Princess Anne's children are commoners because she married a commoner; the only reason Princess Margaret's have titles is because QEII made Anthony Armstrong-