

books, much like the "Scoundrel's Luck" I mentioned before. You should be able to get them at most big bookstores or try a used book store.

The role of the Other? Perhaps if Luke failed, then her training would begin or Yoda used her as "bait" knowing Luke would succeed and thus give him incentive to overcome Vader and yet throw off the Dark Side.

Tim: Re: Han encased horizontally vs. vertically. Han couldn't raise his hands above his head when he went into the chamber because of the manacles around his upper arms (which melted at the time). Do you mean the fact that his legs didn't buckle? It may have been too quick for that or once out of sight, the platform may have shifted horizontally.

Star Tech also has the SW calendars as well as an IJ3. Their address is: PO Box 456, Dunlap, TN 37327. ((Ed: A word of warning about this company. It has been charged by British Blake's 7 zine publishers that they produce and sell pirated zines. I'd check into their business practices before I gave them my business.))

Cheree: Whole heartedly agree with you on a Special Life Achievement Award for Mary Jean Holmes. She does a fantastic job!

Catherine C.: The day ROTJ opened, I was going to see it that night but a friend of my sister's saw it earlier that day and then called her. She called me later and asked if I wanted to know something. I said no but she told me L&L were brother and sister before I could take the phone away from my ear. She knew I wasn't pleased before we hung up. So that's what I knew going in.

Just a few little things before I go: I found a cross universe story called "Force Factor Nine" in TRANSWARP SECOND EDITION available from Bill Hupe. It's a SW and ST:NG story. Really pretty good.

Also highly recommend Mary Jean's BURNT OFFERINGS. It's an Indy story. So Good!!

Glad to see the Hubble Telescope finally got launched. That's all for now. Til next issue of SE, fly casual. North to Alaska!



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Cheree: I do hope you and your family will be feeling well soon. SE is a central part of our little corner of SW fandom, but it fills me with some guilt and anxiety that it may play a part in your illness by adding stress and pressure to your life. I don't mind that much when SE is late, just as long as it comes out, and if it comes down to you or SE, you come first, understand? ((Ed: Thanks, Tim. I think we're all hale and hearty again. SE, the zines and fandom had nothing to do with my various illnesses last year. Those all stemmed purely from physical maladies and it was just a matter of (a) diagnosing the root causes and (b) giving myself time to recover. I feel better now than I have in years. I appreciate your concern, but rest assured that SE and the fandom are my escape from the stress of everyday life! I wouldn't give them up for the world!))

Regarding this "Ewok" trial that you have several clippings about, I can't say that this Preston guy has no reason to file a suit (coming up with the same name is a bit suspicious), but Lucas would have to be a complete idiot to read unsolicited material. Jenny Rothschild isn't the only teenager to have sent in "suggestions" for future SW movies. I also sent in a letter or two to George, none of them answered, with several requests, such as using a redwood forest for a planet backdrop. I also may have suggested giving Luke a sister, if for no other reason, than to add another woman to the cast, and I wanted Luke to teach Leia about the Force. Anybody think I should go and sue Lucas?

Z. P. Florian: Do we really have any reason to expect Han, or even his mother or father, to be in the first trilogy? Maybe a cameo. This is not to say I wouldn't want to see Han or his parents, it's just that I'm not sure they would really have much to do with the vital events.

Pat Nussman: Before TESB the word was that George was going to do twelve movies, not just nine. The second movie must have taken a lot of the ambition out of him. So what we got was a highly condensed version of "The Rescue of Han Solo" jammed in front of ROTJ.

The challenge of the first trilogy will not only be to tell us what we already know in such

a way as to seem fresh, but to change how we look at the middle trilogy without violating it and perhaps to set up the last trilogy.

The RPG books have been approved by Lucas. What this means is that most of the things that we are not likely to see again (space slugs, Cloud City, Joe Scroid), the RPG people can make up almost whatever they want about them. More sensitive subjects are either off limits or treated vaguely.

Any society that uses electronic transfer exclusively would be vulnerable to electronic theft and electronic terrorism. I wonder how good a pick-pocket R2 is?

Marti Schuller: Actually, I had always thought of Han, Luke and Leia as being a fire sign trinity—Aries, Sagittarius and Leo, respectively. But if Luke and Leia are twins, then that blows that out of the water, doesn't it?

Debbie Kittle: I suspect that Mary Urhausen may be right that George will use unknowns for all the first trilogy roles. Most name actors would probably drive up the costs of the movies. And there are so many different ways these "urnet" characters could go; Kirstie Alley and Karen Allen are not very much alike, but either one of them could do a marvelous job portraying Han's mom. I almost suggested Henry Thomas for a young Han, but I still see him as he was in E.T. and CLOAK & DAGGER, and he's much too old by now.

Trust me, rent BATMAN. It is a good movie, really. You are not the only one who thinks Batman needs a Robin. DC went to great lengths to pair him with another Robin after they killed the second one in a stupid promotional stunt. Batman needs him. Have you read Frank Miller's THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS? Carrie Kelley, the last Robin (4th?) is a central force in that epic. Bruce Wayne goes from constantly thinking about what would be a "good death" to "this will be a good life", and Carrie is very much a part of that.

Cheryl Pryor: I'll be getting my second VCR some time after MediaWest, so soon I'll be making some of those fannish videos that have been slow-cooking in my brain for years. I don't think there is enough of Leia, even in three movies, to pull it off, but I may try "Sail Away Sweet Sister" by Queen. I always think of her when I hear that song. Or how about "Father to Son" also by Queen? Anyway, as soon as I get #2 VCR, I may ask for help in

augmenting my video collection, when I start making music videos, and would be willing to help out in the same way. Example—clips of vehicles to use in "I'm in Love with my Car."

Matthew Whitney: It turns out that I had one of Jody Lyn Nye's Pern books. DRAGONFIRE is a "Crossroads Adventure", sort of a cross between a choose-your-own-adventure type book and a roll playing game where you toss dice to resolve problems. Now, if I could only find DRAGONHARPER. I have GET OFF THE UNICORN, and have you seen the comic adaption of "The Smallest Dragonboy" in THE BANK STREET BOOK OF FANTASY?

Actually, Cheree, the information I would have most liked regarding the '90 SW calendar would have been the name of the publisher and the ISBN code. Then I might have gotten the local Walden's to special order it. ((Ed: Okay, it's published by Cedco Publishing Company, 2955 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael, CA 94901, ISBN # 1-55912-054-1. Write to them for a complete catalog.))

Before anybody says anything, I know it's "memes" and not "meems".

Mary Urhausen: I could almost buy the wampa-spit theory, except that Luke's feet seemed too deeply embedded in the ice of the ceiling for me to believe it just licked his boots. Wampa spit would have to be about as viscous as petroleum jelly.

Ming Wathne: What makes you think TREK zines are less "underground" than SW zines? I still meet avid ST fen who have never even imagined such a thing as a zine and others who know about them but have never found the contacts needed to find them.

Catherine Churko: I would define "Space Opera" as "people zipping around in faster-than-light spaceships and interfacing with alien societies, most of whom are kind enough to speak English." By this criteria, both ST and SW are space operas but they are not very much alike, in style or theme. I can't see how something could be space opera without being SF.

The latest word is that Lucas will wait until '97 to release the first trilogy. Seven bloody damn years! If I have to wait that long, he had better do them all at once and release them six months or so apart! At this rate, we will be lucky to see the last trilogy before 2010!

Anybody have a line on what those three new

SW novels from Bantam are?

Hope to see most of you at MediaWest this year.

Live long and thanks for all the fish—

STRUNG ALONG

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May 5, 1990

New SW in 1991? The official word in STARLOG is (of course) "No." Lisa Cowan of the Official Lucasfilm Fan Club also related that to me—she said Lucas has three or so more projects he wants to finish before he'll think about more SW. As STARLOG #154 reminded us, Lucas said at the SW con in 1987 that he'd begin work on the first trilogy "before the end of the decade", but apparently he didn't mean the '80's.

I'm not going to say that I think George "owes" that fans anything else in the way of more SW movies—it is, after all, a free country. One thing he does owe us is a little honesty, which appears to be in short supply. I am not an imately cynical person, but I am beginning to feel more than a little used and strung along. I don't think I'm the only one who feels this way, either. I'm tired of vague, empty references to "getting around to it one of these days." This new official answer of "I probably will [start thinking about more SW] in the next five or six years" would only seem to confirm my suspicions—Lucas just doesn't want to make anymore SW films. He isn't interested. He is interested in keeping fan interest up, though—so he's stringing us along. I am really beginning to think we won't ever see another SW film.

In any case, I'm with Matthew Whitney—I'll believe it when I'm standing in line on opening day.

On to other things... Re Melanie's inquiry about first trilogy actors, I'd pick Michelle Pfeiffer. Cheryl Pryor's mention of Linda

Hamilton is on-target, too. Either of them would do well as Luke's mother. I'm afraid I'm not up on current movie stars enough to make any other choices.

Take care!

MEDIA VS. LIT

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May 12, 1990

First, a newsflash courtesy of Creation Cons: BEAUTY & THE BEAST is to be rerun, including the 3 unaired CBS episodes on the Family Channel beginning in September. Two episodes per week either on Fridays or Mondays. After that year on FC, it will be available for syndication on local channels.

Several LoCers sympathized/empathized with my experience of indoctrination to the long-running media vs. literary factions at World-Con. Maggie N. raised a good analogy of how to understand how the "old guard" literary fans feel, "like holding a SW con and being 'invaded' by B7 fans." Maybe we media folk feel WC is something like a constitutional right. Life, liberty and the pursuit of programming time? But like Lucas and his lawsuits over the name "Star Wars" vs. SDI, things have gotten out of hand, and media fans will be a part of SF fandom for all time, IMO. Mary U.'s idea of a "And yes—we read, too!!" t-shirt is priceless. I attended the Lunacon Catherine Churko mentioned in SE#25. My reason for going was entirely to see GoH Katherine Kurtz. Getting off an elevator, a fan read on my badge my home town and said, Oh, you must go to Boskone" (a literary con for the New England SF Assoc., held in recent years in Springfield). I proudly announced I did not as I'm primarily a media fan and, as Boskone is geared toward the literary side of SF, I'm not interested. (Sole exception, early '83 to see Howard Kazanjian and the Pre-ROTJ slide show.) I think I stunned the fan. Imagine—a media fan who'd actually read books and was attending their literary

(primarily it seemed) con. There goes the neighborhood.

Maggie N.: In your essay, "Meeting Darkness on the Path," you made a very valid observation about Lando's hero status. I've always thought of him on a lower plane than those heroes we met in ANH. There also may be a feeling of he's not one of the originals (note emphasis) so he cannot be as important, too.

In Melody Corbett's essay, "The Other Chemistry", I've no debate that Leia is "The Other" who completes Han's personality, as he completes hers, nor do I disagree with the interpretation of the colors and symbolism involved, but was that Leia's only role as the Other? In TESB, Kenobi seemed to be speaking of the BIG picture when he said, "That boy is our last hope." He was looking for a hope for freedom in the galaxy and, when Yoda claimed there was another, I doubt he was talking about a two person love story. But perhaps that is partially what he meant. Not just that Leia was the only hope to complete Han's personality but that they'd live happily ever after. No, there may have been more. Together Han and Leia would be perfect, but also, due to her parentage, Leia would carry the Jedi gene (if there is one), and their children would be the hope of the galaxy, if Luke had failed. Yoda does see the picture in a larger sense than anyone else, so whether freedom is restored in this generation or the next, it matters little. He could think that way.

Re: "Obi-Wan" a title? Leia uses the title "general" in the holo-message. Are they both titles, like Admiral Lord Nelson? If Obi-Wan is not a title but a name, with Ben his cover, how could Leia know it to use aboard DS1? Bail could have told her OWK was hiding out on Tatooine under the name Ben, though. I've written fiction where OW is a name, so I guess that puts me on the side who hope it's a name. Either way, it sounds wonderful when spoken. Hold it a second! In ANH, Kenobi said, "Obi-Wan Kenobi...Obi-Wan... Now that's a name I've not heard in a long time, a long time..."

Re: Actors for a future film: B7 fan that I am, I'd enjoy seeing Paul Darrow as an Imperial or evil senator. Joanne Whalley-Kilmer as Ma Skywalker? And Derek Jacobi as anyone (just saw him as the "Chorus" in Branagh's HENRY V—glorious film!!), perhaps as a younger OWK?

Debbie Kittle: Thanks for the word on McCaffrey's ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN and for a place to look for all those "Girl Who Heard Dragons" stories. She really should do a Pern short story volume.

Carolyn Golledge: Jody Lyn Nye's DRAGON-LOVERS' GUIDE TO PERN is still in some bookstores or perhaps at cons, in addition to being offered by the Science Fiction Book Club.

Melanie Guttierrez: In Han's choosing the assignment of leader of the ground strike team on Endor, I see him making a heroic commitment to the Alliance. The strike team was the key to the success of that battle, and very much a do or die-in-the-attempt mission. The space battle could not commence against DS2 until that shield was down. If the team had failed and the fleet arrived to find DS2 still protected, they still had retreat as an option. The strike team could not pull out so easily. I applaud Han's commitment to choose the more dangerous mission. True, his reknown was as a space jockey, so it's valid to wonder if his talents are being wasted. I think not. The space battle was a terrific dog fight among hundreds of ships and pilots; would one pilot more or less matter, even a Han Solo? I've argued Luke contributed by keeping Vader and his "bat-winged" TIE out of the fracas. IMO, that was a valuable psychological advantage for the rebels. With Han and the Falcon, he may not have been there, but the distinctive ship was. But, I doubt the trained, robot-like (?) discipline of the Imperial pilots would have been influenced by the absence of a ship as infamous as the Falcon. After all, they're merely rebel scum. Now, was Han a suitable leader for the strike team? I'd say so. He seemed to be highly valued as a rebel, even before becoming an official member. I feel the members of the fleet stayed to fight the Imp fleet even with the shield up because of who their trust had been placed in: Han, Leia, Luke... If any other group had been down there, would Ackbar have really pulled out? And Lando's qualifications to lead the fighter assault? He was the original Falcon owner and, if the throwaway line about the battle of Tanaab is to be believed, I've no complaints.

Catherine Churko: Pre-ROTJ I did read the CINEFANTASTIQUE plot revealing article, but totally disregarded it. No way, I thought, could a magazine get so detailed a plot synopsis, nor would they "spoil" things for fans by

revealing everything. (I later heard rumors that the magazine had awful relations with Lucas, thus any chance to undermine his efforts was fair game. Needless to say, I've not bought an issue since.) But, as for that article, so much did I disbelieve its validity that I'd just about blanked it from my memory by the opening of the film, so that ROTJ did surprise me. SOOO many rumors had been kicked about by 5/25/83 that they were all jumbled together, so I cleared everything from my mind and went in open to the film. A friend, however, did get and read the comic adaption a week or two prior to the opening. I skimmed up to the Rancor fight, but no farther. Succumbing to temptation, though, I did have him tell me if any of the central three human heroes died. I needed to know. For TESB, we had been stunned by the soundtrack booklet's revelation that Han ended up in limbo. It was a blessing, for a friend who's a Han fan to the core would have hunted down and shot George unless he went back and finished the film, if he'd not had those few days to prepare himself.

Is SW science fiction or space opera? I don't mind classifications such as "space opera" or "hard sf" or whatever, as long as it's not done in a negative sense (and that is the most important point). Putting labels on things often helps to understand what they are. SW, ST, and 2001 are all examples of SF, but none are in the same vein nor can they be compared evenly. Apples and oranges. SF is a broad category, with many subgroups. By one's vision of what is good SF, SW will fail miserably, but it's great space opera. In media vs. book SF, there also do I not really mind a distinction, always on the underlying thought that these classifications are not done to put something down. I don't mind being known as a media fan, as long as people don't exclude the fact that I am also a book fan. Media and book fandoms are not mutually exclusive, and just as media has subgroups, so do books. As an example, Piers Anthony and J.R.R. Tolkien are not the same sort of fantasy writing.

If someone asked me to recommend a SF film, would I pick SW or 2001? Both are favorites and get my highest recommendation, but what type of film does that person want to see? Maybe they were hoping for something like LOGAN'S RUN? Classifications would help. I do have trouble when there's talk of the Best SF... My response is, "What type?" And if

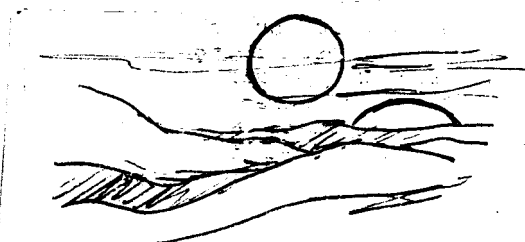
someone jumps on SW as being poor SF and merely space opera...that's negative classification. (I used to get a hassle from members of a ST fan club I belonged to because I rated SW higher than ST. "SW is awful SF..." I just tuned them out. They couldn't see the forest but for the trees.)

Friends and I had a debate whether the new film THE HANDMAIDEN'S TALE is SF or not. I say it is. Has anyone seen it? (Well worth two hours' time!)

Just a second ago, I said SW may not be good SF by the definition of some, but is great space opera. Can great space opera be great SF, and if not, why not? In my book, for a film (or piece of written fiction) to be great SF, the film would have to take great care with the science being dealt with. SW does not use its science seriously. The films have serious aspects on how they depict the struggle between good and evil, as well as issues of morality, loyalty, character development, and the many layers of mythology and symbolism. But the science involved is an after-thought. GL was telling a story first, and that it was set in a SF medium was secondary. Beyond the broad definition of SF as a genre, I feel there is a stricter definition that holds SF as the fiction about science, how it's changing us, how it's affecting us, etc. There are big arguments about the exact definition, and I won't go into that here. I don't feel SW is being sold short by labelling it a space opera. That's a very descriptive term and helps to avoid arguing about its use of science. SW is a space opera in the same manner that John Ford's westerns were horse operas.

Has anyone seen Mark Hamill's film SLIP-STREAM on video? We rented it just recently. Unanimous agreement that the actors and characters were fascinating. Also, we all loved the look of the film. But two of the three (myself included) found the script to be too vague and confusing on some points, while the third watcher liked the ambiguity, feeling it added suspense. I guess the individual has to be the judge of that. It was terrific seeing Mark again, doing good work, as always.

Til next issue, walk the skies...



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May 14, 1990

Happy Spring to all! Thank Creation it's finally here! I was getting positively miserable even up til mid-April because we had a slew of overcast days/cooler weather and mucho unleaved trees. Not only do I get a touch of light deprivation but leaf deprivation. It wasn't until Earth Day when I got into Central Park and saw all the big trees really getting their flushes of bright green that I began to feel that beginning power of spring energy! Five months is a long time to be without the bright greens (no slight meant to my fellow conifers...they are beautiful in their own ways).

Those fen in the perennially warm and green areas of the planet can hopefully sympathize. As for those who want more snow and cold, well, they're looking for managers and staff at the new cross-country ski lodge on Hoth (heh heh). And with the advent of more unusual activities on the fringes of the ?? normal fluctuations in the weather, people are paying some more attention to the elements, the seasons, and man-made injections into the biosphere. I hope none of you out there have had any real bad experiences this past quarter, weatherwise. And hope all of you are well.

I'd like to relate a triple header of experiences that occurred within a week that, at least in my mind and I hope at least some of yours, echo some of the subtle themes either in SW or that in some ways propelled SW to be made. It would be pretty high odds that any other fellow fen got to all three in my area just because of the specific invitation needed for one—so it is my pleasure to tell you about these wonderful events.

It gives me a rush to hear about women who are working in fields still badly lopsided in gender representations. I got the chance to hear a lecture by Dr. Sylvia Earle, a marine scientist and one of the world's top divers. She has led 50+ underwater expeditions and has been involved both as explorer and designer/developer/manufacturer with innovative underwater equipment including some of the submersibles. A LIFE magazine articles nicknamed her "Her Royal Deepness."

She wove a picture of deep sea diving and submersibles history. Slowly, I felt the great pressures of the ocean roll over me and, like in space, carrying my own atmosphere and moving nearly weightless in the mind-shifting motions of three dimensional movement. She exhorted the audience to get to know the inhabitants of the deep other than "on a plate, with a slice of lemon." That each fish and water mammal has a personality. When we get to know that, then understanding and appreciation come. And with those, the possibility of appropriate actions to preserve and heal the oceans (and ultimately ourselves).

Her agents told me how she had swum in a school of fish where each one who passed her made eye contact with her. Another story she told them was how she sat motionless as a big shrimp approached her and, with its long feelers, gingerly tapped and traced the outlines and surfaces of her face mask. "Alien encounters" indeed in the world beneath the sea. Would that we only had that much patience with each other and all the beings of our home planet. Just maybe then we wouldn't treat those who might be "out there" to just shotguns or scalpels. And Dr. Earle was also eagerly awaiting an associate of hers, Kathleen Sullivan's latest adventure into space to launch the Hubble Telescope.

The third gift I got (related here secondly) was one a lot of you might be able to check out if you keep your eyes open for it over the next 2+ years. (Hey, you've already waited 7 years for a new SW movie—this is a piece of cake.) The Smithsonian has a new travelling exhibit—Astronaut Photography 1965-1975. Oh, my, the pictures are big (?12 x 15+ inches) or are smaller multishot panoramics (unexpected by moi and magical). Of course, the subject matter is rivetting—the Earth from different orbital attitudes, the astronauts floating above it and their spacecrafts, the whole earth floating above the moon, moonscapes, etc. Some familiar and some not-so-familiar photos.

But even beyond the mesmerizing aspects of the subjects was the insightful commentary both by the curators on the artistic and technical approaches of the astronauts, many who were already amateur photographers and the history of photography in space, the astronauts themselves on their choices and how they felt about shooting such incredible experiences.

One of the most startling things we learn

is that photography was practically an after thought by NASA in their space program—"an astronaut could take a camera if he liked." If these men had not pushed for serious time on their flights, had not been moved to take their equipment up there, we might have had little if any of the near-mythological-iconic images we now have of moon and Earth. These images have played such a sublime influence on millions and especially in relation to the last of my adventures.

I had the privilege to be invited to a special Earth Day ceremony sponsored by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) at the UN's Great Assembly Hall. There were speeches by various UN officials (one particularly sharp/eloquent one by Mr. Noel Brown), an excellent video "Only One Earth", and musical performance.

But that biggest thrill was the introduction of 42 astronauts and cosmonauts of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) on stage, along with some of the subsequent speeches made by selected members. To be standing in the same room with these people (the one woman—Mary Cleave—got the biggest round of applause) who have been our eyes and ears, hearts and minds "out there" was such an honor. They represent 18 of the 20 nations who have flown in space. And then surprise beyond that was a special live transmission from the space station MIR with 2 cosmonauts. There they were (!) sort of tethered, yet slightly bobbing around in their zero grav room. They spoke of the beauty of Earth and the sobering sights of pollution or its effects so vast it could be seen by them up there.

The ASE (estab. 1985) is made up of those "whose spaceflight experience has engendered in them a profound awe and reverence of the Earth...precious, whole and interdependent nature of life on our planet." They believe space is for all people and developments should be undertaken in a true, international cooperation. Their development list/aims pointedly leaves out the military. They know throwing more weapons/military support systems into space won't solve anything. They have gained a much vaster vision. And those who harbour perhaps a jaundiced view of their aims, well, remember many of these people have had military training and they had to develop to a high degree their rational/logical powers. But the space experience has catalyzed other areas and

views with their minds ("We went to the moon as technicians; we returned as humanitarians" — Edgar Mitchell). If these folks can change, then, hey... And if cooperation, hope, the power of belief, respect for life are not some of the sublime themes (as well as fairly obvious) of SW, then... I think the Jedi would have liked these folks.

Now, on to direct SW matters...

I can't believe I'm going to launch another highly opinionated blurb but having just gotten the MWC Fan Q ballot as I was typing this...

All: Ah, jeeze, people, this year's SW representation into the Fan Q's is pretty pathetic! Just about as paltry as last year's. Unfortunately, Mary U's exhortation to nominate in #25 probably reached most fen after the nominating date was closed, but that's no excuse.

Other than people who might have been overwhelmed by some real tough times, more fen should have nominated. My winter held no tragedies (thank Life), but it was particularly an intense and introspective one and I still made time to nominate in 5 categories different SW things, even though I wasn't going to make it to MWC.

Maybe some people don't like the idea of awards/competition. But if you don't concentrate all your thoughts on the winners, per se, but celebrate and acknowledge fan efforts that pleased you just in the fact of nominating them, then you will have furthered SW's feelings of camaraderie. On the other hand, maybe there should be little "Sit On Your Butt Like A Hutt Laziness Medallions" given out. (Do I hear saber and blaster rattling here?) I'm certainly unhappy about not attending MWC this year (but so it goes). But at least I won't be embarrassed at the Fan Q's, either. It makes me sad. I'll get off the soapbox now.

On to happier considerations... Well, well, it certainly seems as if something's afoot! Perhaps George is trying to raise money for his production costs of \$1. Or just trying to raise interest/visibility before the new film? It was certainly a blast to see that Spectra ad! What will those novels actually be? Prequels, Solo/Calrissian adventure stories, or post-ROTJ tales? Any more scoops, folks?

I, at least, can substantiate the rumor that Marti heard about it. (I told her "spread the word"). Yes, I checked out by chance when I got to this SF/comic book store, the Marvel

comic projects forecast shipping info book. And, tah, dah! DARK EMPIRE is a 3 issue limited comic due out sometime this fall!

What was particularly delightful for me is the surprise that it is a post-ROTJ tale. Han and Leia get married. Luke trains Jedi. The Alliance is pushing toward the Galactic Core and encountering all manner of nefarious doings along the way.

Another very intriguing point is the author they've chosen—Rick Veitch. I only know a bit about current/past couple of years of comics but I got this guy's 6 issue limited series "The One" back in 1986 when I was looking into comic art other than SW. His tale was a funny, scathing, hopeful post-~~nuke~~ war political/meta-physical/super-heroes/regular persons romp. I think it was well received. It was eventually put in hardcover graphic novel style. So this guy has got a lot of tooth in him. It will be interesting to see how much he is made to rein it in. "The One" came out under Marvel's Epic line, a more adult line. And the Epic comic magazine, an anthology also had Veitch in it and managing editor was Jo Duffy, who did 25 issues or so of the last quarter plus of the SW comic run. I hope this could be as interesting as I think it could be. (Even if I found a lot of Epic's stuff to be too gory and violent—other stories were great and some had their gory moments, too, at times.) Tim, any input on Veitch?

I liked JD's plots with the SW comic and her characters. And, heck, anyone who could come up with characters that had an "excuse" to get their hands on luscious Luke got my vote. There appears to have been an interesting "dichotomy". See if any of you got this feeling.

Leia was generally portrayed as not at ease around the Zeltrons and especially when they were all hanging on Luke. Moral commentary or possible veiled opinion of George's parochialism (especially in reference to deliberately negating a love/romantic interest for Luke in the movie. It would "dilute his story" or something to that effect, I read). Or as a Jedi was George rehashing the old sex/spirituality rift that is present in a lot of faiths (especially in the fundamentalist wings of various religions) but not all. The Z's were only picked on by Leia. Mon Mothma and everyone else had no problem with them. They were never portrayed as evil/malicious or plain

unlikeable. I think there's something there. Wish I could meet JD and ask her about it.

Phooey, I knew I'd be left with little space for comment on #25.

Maggie: Fabulous questions in your lead article re Anakin's training/Ben's teaching. Stories to go with it, hey? (hee hee hee)

Pat: I think Carolyn's and Ripley's pieces do have elements of the "ordinary" in them and is a subtle part of their magic. Next ish for my comment on other characters in SW universe ...a yes and no.

Marti: Liked your pendulum theory re Yoda.

Debbie: I didn't quite get why the Star Tours in Florida was different.

Carolyn: G'day and welcome back! Hope you make it to MWC. Can't quite agree to your compassion equals vulnerability, but that's a tome to go.

Maggie, again: Insightful overview of SF con lit/media fen. Thanks!

Tim: Liked your QUANTUM LEAP questions.

Mary: They haul you off to the old spacer's home yet? Good luck with MWC! So short for now, but my prequel had a lot of strong women in it. And thanks for your enthusiastic words re my art. By the time this SE sees print, you'll have my new medium, slightly different style samples. Trying mightily to find a way to do more than one illo a year! (In 1988, I did 13.) Hopefully, I could do 2 illos each in 2 or 3 zines, again. Stars know when I'll be pro, but I intend to be here for a long time.

Z.P./Melanie G.: Will go through my mid-period zines and will find Luke stories for you. Z.P., oh yeah, that dragon and Luke's lucid mind...hmm mmm. At least, as a minority, we don't have such a long line, hey? (heh heh heh)

All: Re the xeroxing, I'd be flattered if anyone liked my art enough to xerox it. My "studio" wall's got a whole section of SW zine illos taped up.

Everyone have a real party at MWC. I'd love to hear your stories next SE.



Lisa Thomas
7606 Lady Street
Charleston Heights, SC 29420

May 8, 1990

I'm baaaaack!

Cheree: I can't believe your timing! I received issues #23-25 the day before I had to take a MAJOR English test covering MACBETH, THE WINTER'S TALE, MEASURE FOR MEASURE and OTHELLO. Talk about exercising will power and self-discipline! It took everything in me NOT to pick up that Shakespeare book! (ha!)

But seriously (take my Worf, please!), congratulations on 25 issues!

Sorry I missed all the controversy of the past issues, but I'll add my semi-belated declaration here: I, Lisa Thomas, hereby give all fans the permission to make themselves single, not for resale copies of any OOP issues of HIBERNATION SICKNESS for their own personal use. (Issues #1-8 are now officially OOP.)

I was just watching TESB the other night and I noticed something I had never noticed in all the 100+ times I'd watched it before. I must be REALLY dense because I used to think Leia was just completing Han's explanation of "then we'll just float away..." by saying "...with the rest of the garbage" to show she realized what his plan was. But then it hit me the other night that she was insulting the Falcon again! [Call me slow if you will, but actually Leia neither looks nor sounds as sarcastic as she did when dishing previous insults, and Han shows little reaction to the comment, so that's my excuse for missing it the first 100 times! (smile)]

So what is the significance of my realization on the rest of SW fandom, you ask? There is none, but I figured you folks would appreciate it more than the guys I work with.

I guess by now everyone has seen the latest issue of the Lucasfilm club newsletter. 1997? !!! I don't think I can wait ANOTHER seven years! I'm grateful that he is at last talking about doing SW again, but SEVEN YEARS...!

Marti Schuller: We Luke fans are still out here! It just seems that a lot of us have strayed from SW fandom of late. Anybody got any suggestions of good Luke stories from the last year or so? I need to get caught up on the zines!

Melanie Rawn: Hugo? HUGO?!? (mad, hys-

terical laughter...!)

Cheryl Pryor: "Sith happens"?! I love it!!

Catherine Churko: May 12, 1983: There I was, minding my own business, just flipping through the newspaper and there it was in 48 pt bold print: "LUKE AND LEIA - BROTHER AND SISTER!" I didn't even have to read the story to have part of the movie blown for me! I was very mad! I now work for that same newspaper and, from time to time, I still contemplate taking retaliatory measures! (heh heh heh) But, of course, I read the article, since the headline had already given away so much. It didn't reveal much more—just the obvious part that Han would be "thawed" plus it mentioned the Ewoks.

Hugo? HUGO?!? Stop! Stop! It's been eight months, granted, but I still can't get used to looking into our treeless backyard. Just where does one have to go in this country to avoid hurricanes, heat, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods and blizzards? Tell me and I'll book the next flight! ((Ed: *The bottom of Carlsbad Caverns, maybe???*))

One last note: Have you all seen the new Planters Peanuts commercial where the guy does his impression of Darth Vader eating Planters Peanuts? It is HYSTERICAL!! I must tape it! Til next time—clear skies!

WHAT IS CANON

Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

May 17, 1990

It's so nice when SE arrives on a Friday so I have the whole weekend to ponder and think about the zine as a whole, rather than having to grab glimpses on the letters between after-work classes and chores, or—heavens forbid!—sneak snippets while at work.

(Three weeks later—of course, it's nice to be able to continue writing one's return letter immediately after as well, which certainly hasn't happened this time. One more week til deadline...feh.)

(Blast! Between OT for an 80 page book that had to be built in 4 hours, and 1 body in a 3-body shop out on vacation, that deadline slipped by! I'm scanning this quickly, printing and sending and hoping there aren't any major goofs in it!)

Cheree: Enclosed is my contribution to Let's Cast the Next Movie. I found this picture of Ed Albert a la Anakin Skywalker in a recent STARLOG and immediately said, "Aha, another Anakin candidate! That Albert is capable of switching between light and dark presentations at the drop of a hat (witness his portrayal of Elliot Burch on B&B) adds to his suitability as the elder Skywalker.



Loved the Earth Day/Endor deforestation cartoon!

On TV recently, I heard an interesting comment that might suggest one reason why Lucas has held off doing SW1, 2 and 3 for so long. During a Canadian interview program, John Le

Carre' referred to how Alec Guinness, with his exquisite presentation of George Smiley, had "taken Smiley away" from Le Carre'. The writer had originally planned to produce a number of George Smiley stories (sort of Smiley Goes to Town, he joked). However, ever since Guinness' portrayal of Smiley, which endowed the character with special aspects unique to Guinness, Le Carre' and Smiley "have not been on speaking terms". Perhaps one day Le Carre' will be able to get past Guinness' interpretation—but, he says, not yet.

Likewise, maybe Lucas has had to let all the intensity over the Saga lessen before he could write more in the SW universe; maybe he has needed time to feel like it is his universe again (a feeling which, wherever you fall on the "now it belongs to the world" debate, still is necessary for the person doing the inventing).

Well, let's see, did I insert my foot into my recent letters in SE? Sure looks like it. To Matthew Whitney, you're right. I was a bit sloppy with my "other" citations in SE#24. I should have put brackets around [to overthrow the Emperor].

As for who is the other, for me, the comment that only a "fully trained Jedi" will defeat Palpatine is the key dialogue in this series of scenes, not the "another Skywalker" discussion. The closest I have come to associating Yoda's hope with a person is Anakin, who is the one who ultimately defeats Palpatine, not Leia. That also ties in with what the title RETURN OF THE JEDI has come to mean to me, which is: the return of Anakin Skywalker. Not that I have any trouble with votes for Organa, since I can see a legitimate argument for that interpretation of TESB/ROTJ dialogue and plot; my problem was with the idea that Leia = hope is SW canon.

In fact, after all these years, I have come to the conclusion that hardly anything at all can be considered SW canon. Fans can't seem to agree on what anything means, save acknowledging that the movies exist. I'm not being entirely facetious here. We can quote exact words all we want, but if we can't agree on their implication, let alone their application to the plot, conversation is reduced to "Well, this is how I believe it goes..."

For example, I still shake my head everytime I read how someone feels that the Han of ROTJ is poorly portrayed as a loser, a buffoon,

etc. Perfectly legitimate reading of the movie, but 180 degrees out from mine interpretation of the same lines and scenes. The Han I saw was wonderfully matured, able to laugh at himself at last, capable of stepping back from what he wanted if Leia wanted something/someone else—which certainly was different from the role of greedy mercenary I saw him playing in ANH. In other words, for me, he had become an adult man instead of a just grown male who still clung to adolescent fantasies. (And Force knows there are people who energetically oppose the punk impression I have of the ANH Han—hi, Ming!).

Did we all really see the same movie(s)? Sure, there have always been differences of opinion about a character in a show or story, but—well, I guess that's one reason why fanish discussion has moved away from discussion of what happened, i.e., the "adventure" of SW, and has slipped onto more theory and exploration of the philosophy behind SW.

(In the same vein, I'll vote with Pat Nussman on the idea that the role-playing game, the various SW books, are secondary material. We have enough to sort out in what was and wasn't present/said on screen. I certainly enjoy discussing the merits of the secondary material, but if we can't accept the idea that Han smuggles spice because it isn't said explicitly on screen, then we can't accept secondary definitions of, say, Bespin. Which also means that my reference to Palpatine a few paragraphs back has to be accepted as secondary, no matter who—damn, I can't remember who, I think it was Frank Marshall at a Norwescon back in early '83—identified the Emperor we see on screen as Palpatine.)

Still referring to Pat's letter, I know I like seeing the characters in stories doing ordinary things. Eating breakfast. Getting a haircut. Trying to figure out where they left their chits for the commissary... As for whether people will read about created characters, I certainly enjoy reading such stories when the new character isn't just an imitation L/L/H/DV; I am partial also to tales about the ordinary workers of the Alliance. However, I have had TW readers miss vital plot points because they skipped through the story to read only those parts with L/L/H/DV in them; also, I've heard complaints about too much emphasis on created characters in my stories, which probably criticizes my storytelling ability

more than revealing audience preference.

Back to Matthew—re: the suitability of teenage/young adult rulers and their reasons for being in such positions of power, I'll argue that the technical level of a society is irrelevant to the complexity of its rule. All societies are complex on a human level; the cities of 8,000 BC were large, successful entities that took the same human finesse to keep working as any society does today. The need for praise, for a sense of accomplishment, and for recognized social standing have always motivated social behavior, just as the tools of leaders have always been the ability/charisma to provide for those human needs.

(If anything, it might be easier to rule when large numbers of the populace are overwhelmed with information and technical demands made upon them.)

I'm reminded of a situation here at work when an editor, 22, was dismissed as "being so young" by a publisher in her thirties when that editor called her on misuse of publishing standards. Now, the ability to edit to standards had nothing to do with age; the ability to read, compare and notice incompatibles is what it takes. The same can be said about the genius for leadership. Although inheritance can place a person in a position of power, only leadership ability gives that person a reputation that lives through history. Alexander did not acquire the title "the Great" because his father, Philip, was a successful warrior.

Marti Schuller: Yep, May 15 is Taurus, but the rest of my 'scope is heavy in Libra and Gemini save one other Taurus and a lunar Saggie/Capri cusp.

Debbit Kittle: That Kenobi adopted Ben as a precaution makes sense. Yet, if Uncle Owen is indeed Kenobi's brother as the secondary material has it, I find Owen's precautions the better of the two. Obi-Wan Kenobi into Ben Kenobi doesn't hide as well as Own-lars Kenobi into Owen Lars.

Melanie Guttierrez: Oh, it's a varied world indeed. As you might guess from what I said to Matthew, I found that scene where Han is willing to let Leia go to Luke was a wonderful compliment to the man. Just for another perspective, I always thought it was a mark of Han's truly good and honorable nature that he was willing to drop his claim to Organa's affection if he thought Leia truly loved another more than himself. If you love someone, you

want what is best for/will please that person. There clearly was a connection between Luke and Leia that Han didn't know about and which he could justifiably think was erotic, especially considering Luke's early reactions to her and that hospital scene in TESB. Loving Leia, he was able to see the love she held for Luke and, IMO, being older than L&L, he probably understood that laying a claim on someone whose heart yearns elsewhere is a battle already lost. Oh, well. If we all thought the same, it would be a mighty dull world. Looking forward to reading your thoughts on Dark/Light theories!

In the Dark/Light vein, I found a neat Oliver Goldsmith quote Kenobi could have used in argument with a Yoda who was uneasy with Anakin's training, that father whom Luke is so like with his "much anger": "We must touch his weaknesses with a delicate hand," I can hear Kenobi saying. "There are some faults so nearly allied to excellence that we can scarce weed out the fault without eradicating the virtue."

Tim Blaes: Well, I asked for extras of the SW calendar at our local Cinema Books store, where I bought ours, but they had sold out. The owner says they came in really late, really few in number and went quickly.

Has anyone who knows a second language well seen the SW films translated into that lan-

guage? I'm taking Italian in preparation for a trip next spring, (Hi, Gian!) and it occurred to me that I would dearly love to know if and when the formal and informal address was used in other language presentations. Seems to me such usage could make a world of difference in how a character and relationships are perceived by the audience. An English example I think of is when Yoda is dying and Luke switches from calling him "Master" to using Yoda, which at least for me, changes the emphasis of Skywalker's comments and says something important about how Luke perceives the subject (sort of an implication of "let's talk man to man here" declaration).

I'll close with another reference book recommendation for writing alien cultures: *Do's and Taboos Around the World, a Guide to International Behavior*, 2nd Edition, ISBN: 0-87502-241-3, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. I found this book years ago in the library and it's out in paperback now. Aside from being a fun read as it advises business travellers on language use and customs around the world, it's a great mind-jogger as it outlines the extreme differences in cultures right here on earth.

Well, it's May 17 and I'm late. I'll dig up an envelope, stamp it and send this on. Happy Solstice to everyone!

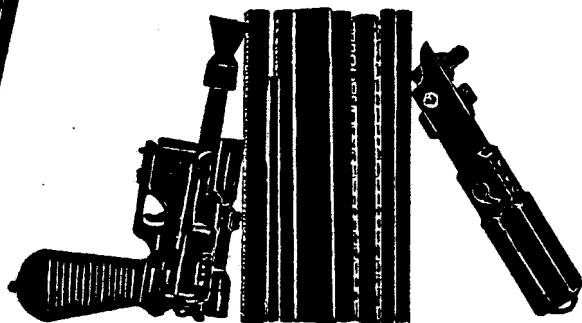
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FLIP OF A COIN. The zine dedicated to the characters portrayed by Harrison Ford is ready with issue #13. Offset printed and perfect bound (288 pages), the selections include: "The Last Retirement" by Barbara Anderson. Deckard is in a desperate struggle to survive and obtain credentials for he and Rachel to travel off-world. He strikes a deal with an underworld contact...but his payment requires retiring one more "skin job." "Interruptions" by Catherine Anson. The rebels and the Ewoks are celebrating the triumphant Battle on Endor, but all Han has on his mind is spending some time alone with Leia for his own kind of celebration. Unfortunately, the entire universe seems to be plotting against him. "Winter Witness" by Cypher. In the urban wilderness, John Book and Martin Riggs are right at home. But when they and two dangerous prisoners are stranded in the wilds of Alaska in the middle of the winter, the big city cops find their street smarts are useless—and if the killers don't get them, nature just might. "They Shoot Banthas, Don't They?" by Cypher. A seemingly innocuous contest turns into a dance of death for Han and Nova as their partners Chewbacca and Phloth the fungus race to the rescue. "R & R" by Phyllis Milby. En route to Hawaii for some much needed rest and relaxation, Kenny Boyd inadvertently boards the wrong plane and lands in Australia instead. What begins as a disaster turns into a soul-searching stay in the Land Down Under when Kenny is "adopted" by a young retarded man, Tim Melville, and his family. "Castellon" by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero. Han and Luke have rescued Leia from Vader's grasp but the three of them must now destroy the Emperor—and must seek additional training from Yoda