



THE FORCE ON AIR

available from Italy

This is the script of the SW radio shows by Brian Daley, copied in English by Italian SW fans. The 250 page issue contains the text in both English and Italian.

Color cover. Inner art: 13 pictures by Sara Ferluga. Transcriptions and translations by Doris Bosa, Fiorenzo Delle Rupi and Giulia Garbin.

Overseas shipping: 30 dollars. Make money orders payable to:

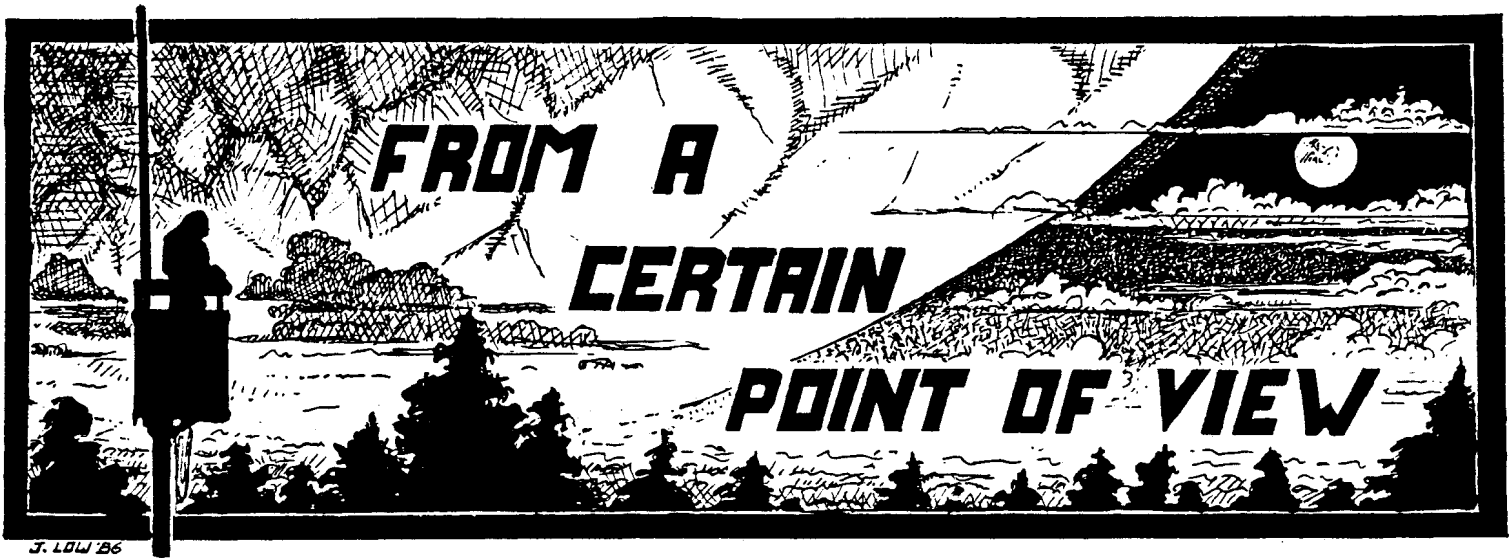
Fiorenzo Delle Rupi

via XX Settembre 96

06100 Perugia

Italy

This is a fan publication.



Z. P. Florian
6214 Waterway
Falls Church, VA 22044

December 6, 1990

Hi, there! I could not agree more with Cheree about coming up with unusual stories and "what if" ideas. I challenge all writers to explore the following possibilities:

1. What if Luke does not take his saber into the tree? (Fiorenzo's idea)
2. What if Luke gets home (in ANH) in time?
3. What if Vader gets there first to the weather vane?
4. What if Han does not get the shields down in time?
5. What if Luke obeys Yoda and does not go to Bespin? When and how would he learn then who Daddy really was?
6. What if Chewie manages to choke Lando to death in the hallway?
7. What if Uncle Owen really gets Artoo's memory erased?
8. Why was Vader so surprised that Kenobi left no corpse?
9. Why did no one ever know Vader's real name? Was it such a big secret at court?
10. Why did it take six months to start rescuing Han (aside from Luke agonizing about his fate)?
11. Why was Yoda on Dagobah and Kenobi on Tatooine instead of out there where the action was?
12. Why would Kenobi target Vader and not the Emperor? What's the use of Luke killing Vader?

I don't think that it's true that no one has picked up Pat and Jacqueline's gauntlet. I am sure I did, but it takes a few years for the new stories to get into the zines. Zine editors, with a few exceptions, aren't too encouraging to writers. Many of them do not answer queries and do not acknowledge material sent to them. (I am not talking about Cheree or Lisa!) I'd love to get even a rejection slip, or something like "I hated your stuff, besides XY had a better one on the same idea two years ago." Writers desperately need feedback, even harsh criticism! I have sent stuff to almost every zine in SW, and seven of them never even bothered to answer! I wonder if other writers have the same problem. If yes, let's team up and do something with those leftover stories! Let's make a new zine, guys! I can type and do camera-ready pages, if someone is able to handle the printing. ((Ed: Bravo!! Yes!! A zine doesn't have to be a phonebook sized megazine with color covers and sixteen foldouts! If you can type, xerox and staple, you can do a zine! Let's get humming out there!))

I had great pleasure reading all those bright and interesting letters in the last SE. I think the language question was well explored! I loved the idea of Jabba using 3PO as a status symbol. But with 6 million forms of communications, one would really need it!

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Thanks for the totally undeserved compliment! And the excellent ideas on the "what if" stories. The Emperor sent the guards away because he did not want any court gossip started on how he turned Luke to the Dark Side.

Ming Wathne: I do want a summer resort on

Hoth, but I am no sucker! I wanna see the floor plans first!

Sarah Cohen: Fine idea about Yoda speaking an older dialect. I am sure, too, that Jedi can pick up language faster, by mental connections.

Maggie Nowakowska: Okay, so you think Vader is sexy because he is sooo powerful? Bah! He is sexy because he is a loner, a sensitive soul imprisoned in a black armor; a poor sick baby who needs life support; an intelligent, thinking man among a bunch of military idiots; a farsighted politician, who really wants to get rid of the wicked Emperor and make this Galaxy a kinder, gentler place, and besides, he is such a good father! So there. Seriously, on Anakin's background, what if he were the seventh son of a Lord Skywalker and had to join the military because the wealth went to the firstborn? Many a young aristocrat made such a choice. This would explain his rank, as well as his job as a pilot and a warrior. I am sure the Larses were no relations of Vader nor of Kenobi. IMO, Owen Lars was, at best, the gardener at the Jedi Academy and took in the baby at his wife's insistence.

Matthew Whitney: Jabba knows about Jedi, because he was fighting the Jedi way back when. He says to Luke, "I was killing your kind when being a Jedi still meant something." IMO, Vader helped defeat the Jedi by hiring the immune Huttese slugs to "hunt down and kill" the Knights.

Tim Blaes: Sure, I'll tell the kids that drug dealers work for Jabba! Like Han, their favorite smuggler?

Marti Schuller: What filmmaking error? The manacles melted because they were made of carbonite, same as the "coffin". (But what happened to the vest Han was not wearing, except for the split second he said "I know"?)

I hope your troubles are over. I sent you all the vibes I could.

Pat Nussman: Hear ye! Hear ye! I want to know all about the Alliance's budget, supplies and such. I want to read stories about different characters. For example, one of my favorite stories is Karen Osman's, about a cloned trooper who really likes his nice boss, Darth Vader. Do not hide SW stories in your drawers. Between you and me, we might have enough stuff to fill a whole zine. What do you

say?

Tina Bentrup: Welcome to the real world! Write more! Ask questions! We need new voices! Turn to Ming's library to get tons of zines!

Catherine Churko: Thanks for the compliment on the Han sketch. Yeah, Luke does have high suffering value. And yes, this world is very imperfect. I work in DC, live in Virginia, and get large doses of it.

Well, this is it for now. Clear skies to all of you!

CARBON FREEZE

Debbie Kittle
11521 Idlewood Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906

December 31, 1990

Well, here it is the last day of 1990 and this year has certainly flown by. I got a very nice belated Xmas present—4 inches of lovely white snow! A nice finish for the year except for the 60° temps two days later.

Anyone collecting the Indy plates? They're up to #5 and I find them very well done.

Z.P.: Good question re carbon freezing Luke. There would be no guarantees that Luke would've survived the process as Han did. It seemed to me that it would be risky with any person it might have been used with depending on health, strength, species, etc.

Vader might have wanted to keep Luke on "ice" for himself and then train him in private when he felt the time was right. The Emperor could've foreseen Luke's growth in strength and control and wished him contained until he was ready or until he had destroyed the rebellion. Putting Luke in binders was risky. DV didn't know how strong Luke was—never underestimate your opponent—though it seemed he did not think he had much by the surprise he showed. Escape was possible in binders and under guard, whereas carbon freeze was not (if one stayed in the chamber long enough) and DV wanted to be sure there was no chance of getting away though carbon freeze could've had disastrous

results on Luke's life and destiny.

Fiorenzo: Welcome to the pages of SE and it's never an "invasion" but an invitation.

I don't see Palpatine as the old evil, strunken man in the first trilogy. I agree—who would want someone like that to head the Empire? He would've been not so repulsive, maybe a nice-looking older man with a glint in his eyes that only hinted at what he had in store for his enemies and the Republic. I believe he did grow old and twisted due to the Dark Side.

The Emperor sent the Royal Guards out because he didn't want to inhibit Luke's moves. If he thought that they might gang up on him if things got out of hand, who knows how long he might have waited to strike?

I know Leia would've done anything to rescue Han. Even though it was pretty disgusting being Jabba's girl, she knew (or at least Luke did) that it was only for a short time.

Speaking of that particular time in ROTJ, why didn't Luke tell 3PO about the plan? He obviously explained it in complete detail to R2. Was he afraid 3PO would spill his "guts"? Complain too much, too loudly or for a long time even if he told the droid everything would be all right in the end? I think time was of the essence and "convincing" 3PO to do it would've taken forever.

I couldn't resist that challenge to check out ANH and you're right. That trooper does smack his head but good and one of the others (it's hard to tell since you can't see their lips move) says, "See to him." I think it might be the leader and does he have eyes in the back of his head because he didn't even turn around?

And watching the first movie again reminded me of something that bugged me ever since I saw it. 3PO (I think it's pick on 3PO day) obviously knew Princess Leia since he tells R2 in the beginning that they'll be no hope of escape for her this time. Yet, when Luke accidentally sees part of her hologram to OWK, 3PO hasn't the slightest idea who she is. He may not be able to recognize her but he should've been able to voice print or something. Did he really not know who she was or was he protecting her? He obviously didn't see the whole message as he had shut down prior to R2 showing it.

Sarah: You and I agree pretty much on the

language issue though you went into it in more detail, which I liked. That would make a good novel!

Maggie: Those thoughts of yours hold more than water. I found them quite fascinating and well put.

Tim: I still haven't caught BATMAN yet but am still trying. I enjoy the FLASH on TV. The special effects are great and the plots aren't too bad.

Marti: The carbonite didn't affect Han's clothes just the same as some acids/metals react with some things and not others. I like to wear sterling silver and, if left out in the air without being worn, it will react to the sulfur in the air and start to tarnish, yet that doesn't happen with gold. It's the only thing I could come up with to explain it and I hope it got across. I've been out of a chemistry class for 5+ years so I'm a little rusty. So, essentially, the carbonite "absorbed" the metal manacles and left his synthetic or plant fiber clothes alone.

We know what we would've seen if the carbonite had affected his clothes or should I say what we wouldn't have seen. The whole scene would be cut, we being told by L & L that they were glad Han was recovering after the rescue.

I think the 3rd trilogy should deal with the establishment of the new Republic and a major upheaval/catastrophe whether it's a new threat or fighting some Imp groupies or even history repeating itself and "they" try to stop it before it's too late.

I'd like to add a point re Leia and "the garbage". Her tone in ANH is very different than in TESB. I agree with you, Marti, in that she was referring to all of them/Rebels, yet in ANH she sounds condescending in regards to the Falcon: "You came in THAT?! You're braver than I thought."

She and Han had probably flown on several missions so she perhaps respected the ship and perhaps said it to tease him, to lighten the mood though he didn't rise to the bait.

My thoughts and well wishes to your family and hope that at this time they are well. I know how you feel about your father. Mine died of cancer 6 years ago (he was only 45) and now my 87 year old grandmother has it, too, in some of her lymph nodes, as well as a heart condition, but she refuses chemo. She's feeling

much better now that they removed a cancerous growth and is on heart medication and wants to enjoy what is left of her life and not be laid up in a hospital bed and be sick for a month.

Patricia: Please plead and beg your friends to send their stories in about created/minor characters. Sure, I love to read about the Big 3 but am interested in everyone's imagination in the SW universe. The handful of stories dealing with minors are well done.

I think a majority of the Rebels didn't mind that H, L and C got medals—their joint effort blew up the DS. This was a time for celebration and what better way than to bestow honor and gratitude for striking a blow to the Empire. I'm sure there were some grumbles. You can never please everyone.

Cheryl: I still haven't gotten any other dolls but congrats on the Obi-Wan purchase. I've only gotten a few more glasses and a few tiny figures at the large flea market. What I was planning on doing with the saber and pipe cleaner was put a very small hole in the center and shove one end in with some glue and let dry. I still haven't done it yet. I've got to find the time to do that. Let me know if it works for you.

Catherine: Living 30 minutes away from D.C. is not a very comforting thought. I go there as infrequently as possible—usually twice a year. Once to the Zoo and the other to go to my Expo Vet. tech meetings (they always hold it in one of the posh hotels smack in the middle of the city). It makes me uneasy.

Yes, as you read, my trip North was fantastic. Unfortunately, no aurora borealis since I went in June and the sun didn't really set. I found that very fantastic and it didn't bother me at all.

Our 1st stop was Anchorage and they were having a heat wave and shattering temps. Of course they were; I had arrived. It was very warm, 70-75°. So, for all you warm weather-ophiles, go to Alaska in June or July.

There were some places that were wonderfully cold, like Glacier Bay in Prince William Sound. It was in the low 30's, so those large glaciers and icebergs wouldn't melt. I saw no evidence of the oil spill that happened. The wildlife was abundant—bald eagles, terns, harbor seals, moose and, while at Denali Park, I

saw caribou, Dall sheep and grizzly bears—2 of which were quite close. Mt. McKinley did appear, but not very clearly.

I want to return some September when it's cold and to see the Northern Lights.

And speaking of Alaska, the first article in SE#27, "Raising Luke Skywalker", came from Alaska Airlines Magazine. Who got that? ((Ed: That one came from Maggie Nowakowska.)) Someone else hit the 49th state? I didn't fly on that airline or I'd have gotten that myself since it was in the correct month.

Now for a few comments:

The day I left Anchorage for home, across the street from my hotel room and later that day was going to be a convention with guest of honor Walter Koenig. That would've been a nice ending to the trip.

Well, I just saw a few weeks ago Wesley's last episode on ST:TNG. He's finally leaving. I must say I'm going to miss him. He's grown up and matured—much better than episode #1. This whole season has been good. We met Worf's parents and O'Brien gets a first name.

Something else that came to mind while watching ANH—if Han had shot out the controls to the bridge instead of Luke, how mad do you think Leia would've been? Probably very.

Here's wishing everyone a great New Year in 1991 and hoping there'll be some news on the SW films. Fly Casual!

LUKE'S FANTASIES

Chris Graham
12062 West Edinger
Space 8
Santa Ana, CA 92704-3820

January 16, 1991

Grumble, grumble... I should've renewed my subscription earlier, as I know I missed some good discussion, not to mention all notice of WOOKIEE COMMODE #7! That'll teach me!

Cheree: How about my story in which it is revealed that Han is a renegade Jedi and Chewie

is his mother; Jabba is Chewie's older brother; Lando is a distant Skywalker cousin; Ben is Anakin's dad and Mon Mothma is his mom, Yoda his grandpa, and C3PO and R2D2 are Palpatine's parents? Luke's six children, by the way (all daughters) are named: Benette, Yodi, Darthina, Ana Kin, Chewilla, and R2. No?

Did anyone else notice that in the article "Raising Luke Skywalker" (page 4) Han, once thought to be of Corellian origin, is now clearly shown to be Scandinavian — Hans Solo (not the first time I've seen this; see Lucasfilm F.C. #11, mug ad). His partner is, of course, "Chewy", a new brand of Wookiee candy.

Fiorenzo: I'd guess the Emperor sent the Royal guard out of the throne room to show Luke he is not a big enough threat to bother keeping his guards in the room.

Also, how far does "canon" extend for SW? Movies? Novels? Comics? Radio? Cartoons? TV specials? RPG? Opinions, anyone?

Ooo...Palpatine "growing" twisted from the Dark Side—what a neat idea! That brings up the question, was the Emperor turned from the Light Side, or was he always Dark? If he was turned, who turned him? And if not, can people/creatures be born Dark Side users (or Light, for that matter)?

Lisa: I may be the only one, but I agree that Leia is calling the Falcon garbage, and Han just doesn't catch it.

Maggie: Pic'n'Save had the Lucasfilm calendar for \$1.98; nice, isn't it?

If Ben had told Luke the truth about his father, would Luke have wanted to become a Jedi still?

I think Luke would want to kill Vader in order to keep his fantasy. With Vader dead, his image could live; Vader is an unpleasant reminder that Luke's fantasies are unfounded. He doesn't want to kill him because he needs to turn him, or there is no help for himself — as in the tree, where he kills Vader/Luke; he knows there is the Vader potential for the Dark Side within himself and he has to see his father overcome it. In the end, he does kill Vader and saves his father. (Vader dies because of Anakin's love for his son; Anakin is killed by the Emperor.)

Matthew: What are the "Ents of SW"? Also, I have a (cop-out) solution to Leia's senatorial election at a young age: what if Alderaan

have short (say 40-50 years) lifespans, so that Leia is actually middle-aged for her people?

All: I had believed that Obi-Wan was Kenobi's title, but if that's true, why was he called "General" in the Clone Wars? If he had led a Jedi group ("J Troop"), he would have used his Jedi title. Of course, he didn't necessarily lead Jedi, but it's food for thought.

Pat: I'd like to read your novels, too! I prefer a character I recognize in a story, but by no means does it have to be one of the "Big Three". I'm interested in the stories of "minor" characters like Wedge, Mon Mothma, etc., too.~

Lisa: Not only did I find out beforehand that Leia was Luke's sister, but when I actually saw ROTJ the first time, it was a nightmare experience. I stood in line for two hours outside in the rain, and 30 minutes into the movie, the power went out in the city, and we had to sit in the dark for 30 more minutes while the theater people decided whether or not to give out rain checks. During this time, a CREEP hit on me and tried to hold my hand, so I let the Dark Side flow and stuck my elbow in his chest. My friends and I then moved to the front row and watched the rest of the movie at the most surreal angle imaginable. It turned out to be my favorite in spite of it all, however!

Ming: Yes, Thank you for reopening the Corellian Archives! I didn't "discover" fanzines until 1988, so I'm enjoying catching up!

Catherine: Santa Ana is not a rich district and it makes me think that I would be afraid to go anywhere near the Mos Eisley cantina! Though if I knew Han were going to be there, I could probably find the courage!

Tina: ARGH. I can't read the words on Vader's panel, either, but my guess is they say "Lord Darthie in a can" or, perhaps, "Hunk Force-user inside". (!)

Z.P.: If you assume that carbon freezing would keep Luke's Force-presence from the Emperor, then you must, I believe, also assume that the Force can't reach him (if it can't go out, it can't come in), and this brings up another question: could Luke reach Han through carbon freeze? Furthermore, I like to think that Darth would feel "powerless" over the carbon frozen Luke if he could not feel his

presence in the Force. You must also assume that the Emperor could feel Luke in the Force, but I had thought one had to "know" (a vague term, I realize) a Force-user to recognize his particular presence in the Force; in other words, even if the Emperor could feel "presences" in the Force, he couldn't necessarily tell which belonged to whom. Also, if he can feel Luke, why couldn't he feel Yoda, and why couldn't Darth feel Ben before the Death Star? (Darth strikes me as the type to seek revenge if he knows where he can find it, but that's another issue altogether). Now, of course, I've just asked more questions instead of answering yours!

Z.P., et al: On the language question, with space travel as common/easy as it was, a common language would have been a necessity. A well-educated organic would learn his native language as well as the standard. This is the case both politically and historically on our planet, after all. As for the individual characters, Han and Chewie would understand a number of trade pidgins, which is also how Owen Lars communicated with the Jawas. These, of course, would not be learned in school, but through necessity.

Leia had the luxury of a translator droid and more than likely there were many such droids present at Senate meetings to clarify the intricacies and subtleties of political talk for those Senators less fluent in Standard. Still, Leia would have learned a variety of languages to ingratiate herself with political allies and potential allies in her travels as a Senator, but not necessarily to a degree of fluency, as that was what C3PO and his counterparts were for.

Translators, too, as Debbie mentions, are "power" both symbolically and practically; they give the "translatee" time to think of responses and cover up any less-prestigious accent or embarrassing grammar problems. Jabba was both showing off his riches and maintaining his status. (Technically, by the way, "translators" work with written material and "interpreters" with spoken.)

Yoda's speech is probably a mix between his race's native language and Standard, as he likely as not learned Standard later in life and used its vocabulary in syntactical patterns from his native language. Is Standard as old

as Yoda? If so, then perhaps, as Sarah suggests, "Yodaspeak" is an early form of Standard that changed at a different rate than galactically, as it was kept within an isolated area, Dagobah—as is the case of Appalachian English. But then, is Dagobah Yoda's native planet, and if so, where is the rest of his race? Also, it is my belief that Yoda speaks to Luke, Ben, and other students in his native language (not Standard), as he gets more familiar with them, but that's my own fantasy.

Kenobi, Vader and other Force adepts also have the advantage of some form of telepathy over and above their learning. As Cheryl mentions, Luke needs his translator panel to understand R2 less as his Force abilities grow!

As for the Ewoks, 3PO says they speak a "primitive dialect", but a dialect of WHAT? Standard? If so, then Standard was a naturally occurring language and not an Esperanto-like man-made language. And is it my imagination, or do the Ewoks say "Jo Mama" and, of 3PO, "Dat guy's wise"? (ha ha) Finally, (!), if Standard is not an artificial language, then where and whom did it come from?

One last frivolous note: I was watching "Jeeves and Wooster" on MASTERPIECE THEATER and Steven Fry came up with a term I propose could someday replace "hurt/comfort": "bruise/mendie". And now I sneak quietly away...

Follow your bliss...

REAL LIFE

Jacqueline Taero
Somewhere in
Northern California

December 4, 1990

As those of you who know me can attest, I am not in the habit of writing to letterzines. However, "the time has come, the walrus said..."

Last issue the subject of Real Life crime was introduced, which will serve as well as any for the first point I want to make. Why should such discussions begin and end in the Real

World? Since the primary purpose of SE is to discuss the SW universe, why can't we use such topics as vehicles for comparison? Yes, things are bad in New York City, and in Dallas, and in San Francisco and Los Angeles—hell, anywhere you want to name. Things must also have been rough in Mos Eisley if we're to take Kenobi's word for it...although we see precious little evidence of his claim. Mos Eisley looks relatively clean and well-ordered, and I didn't spot any muggers lurking in doorways or in the act of attacking anyone in ANH. The only evidence we have to back Kenobi's claim is the troublemaker in the cantina who baits Luke. (One troublemaker constitutes the worst hive or scum and villainy in the galaxy?? Did I miss something????) So, what is the crime situation in the SW universe, anyway? Did the Empire gain a lot of its power by promising to instill law and order? It's been known to get a lot of politicians into office in this universe.

[Momentary digression: For that matter, where have all the Imperials gone? No, I'm not talking about Vader fans—I'm talking about Imperials. Believe it or not, kids, SW fandom once had a contingent of fans who genuinely saw nothing wrong with the way the Empire did things. It made for some lively discussions. End of digression.]

Real Life is source material. To my mind, if SW fandom is to survive, a Real Life discussion should serve as a jumping off point. So, why aren't we applying Real Life scenarios to the SW universe? Back in the Age of Dinosaurs (note: imagery stolen from others, but it's too apt not to use it), SW fandom used to have a healthy supply of people who would immediately jump onto a given idea and expand it six different ways. And I don't see that happening any longer.

As long as I'm on my soapbox...back when the brontosaurus roamed the earth, I remember new fans churning out prodigious amounts of fanfic almost as soon as they got home from their first viewing of ANH (or whichever film got them hooked). I see a lot of names in SE that weren't there five or ten years ago, but there has been no corresponding influx of new writing, new viewpoints, new ideas. And zines? In the ancient time (a more civilized age?), it seemed that the second thing a new fan did

was start a new zine. Not all were quality products, needless to say, but they existed. Have the newer fans no inclination to take that route—or is it that entry into an established fandom (with "established rules" and so forth, half of which aren't worth the hot air they're spoken with) is simply too intimidating?

The cry I always hear is that it costs an arm and a leg to produce a zine these days. True—but, in relative terms, and keeping inflation in mind, it was hardly any less expensive 'way back when. Everything costs more these days than it did ten years ago, not just zine production. And many people are better off financially these days than they were in the ANH days. So, I don't think that's the answer, or at least not the whole answer.

I wonder if part of it is the "production values" syndrome...the few surviving zines are high-quality products (arrived at through long practice along with trial and error), and fandom has become intolerant of zines which don't measure up to the existing standard. If that's part of the reason, then we probably have no one to blame but ourselves for the scarcity of the product—the old thing about the road to hell being paved with good intentions. The existing zines deserve the praise they get for appearance, etc.—it's the visible result of hard work on the part of the editor. But perhaps we've managed to give the impression that nothing less is acceptable, that any editor not capable of such quality work will be tarred and feathered.

Fandom is very good at conveying that impression, perhaps without intending to do so. As an example, I'll offer my own experience: When I first got into fandom (circa 1978), I learned very quickly that one either had to write (1) straight action-adventure or (2) the complete, textured universe of a THOUSAND WORLDS saga (which is beyond the reach of most neos, and frankly even beyond some experienced writers). Nothing else seemed to be permitted—at the very least, anything else ran the risk of being chopped into very small pieces of bantha feed in the locs. And that's not what I write. I write human relationships with a dash of politics and a dollop of warfare. Not acceptable at all.

I was also taught, very early on, that created characters of the female variety would

automatically be dismissed as (1) alter ego, (2) Mary Sue, or (3) both. Well, I use a lot of created characters, some of whom are female. I do not write alter ego characters...my characters are considerably more interesting than I am and the majority of them have personalities which are, by and large, vastly different from my own. And all of them are in some way flawed, because most of them are human beings, and I've never yet seen a perfect one in this life—so I don't consider that they fall into the Mary Sue category. But everywhere I looked, I constantly saw female created characters being derided. Now, admittedly, some such may well have deserved the scorn and ridicule—but it seemed to be applied with little discrimination. And I never have been willing to expose my characters, my writing, or my tender ego to that sort of abuse.

The upshot of it is that I have a bookcase shelf full of original novels which I write for my own amusement and those few friends (two—count 'em) who have any interest in what I produce. Most of them these days feature minor film characters and original characters, because I've grown bored to tears with writing Han, Luke and Leia.

At one point, I jokingly suggested to Pat Nussman that perhaps there should be a lending library for original manuscripts that only a handful of people would want to read, and even went so far as to figure out the technical details of how it would work if there were such a thing. We kicked the idea around for about ten minutes and then mercilessly killed it, conceding that it would be an exercise in futility.

The quibbles that some expressed on the subject of original characters—that they'd be willing to read such only if they were "well-written"—cause me a jaundiced amusement. Should not all fanfic be well written? None of us are Tolstoy or Shakespeare...but why should there be one set of standards for canon characters (anything's good enough) and another (the writing must be superlative) for created characters?

I'm perfectly willing to admit that some created characters are just plain dull...but then, so are many of the current portrayals of the canon characters. But doesn't anyone remember the memorable created characters

fandom has seen? Am I the only one who recalls Cori Beckett with fondness? And I remember a marvelous story in an old issue of PEGASUS which I believe was called "Darktamer"...and, from time to time, there have been others, even Mary Whatevers with redeeming qualities. Am I the only one who remembers?

It seems to me that, once, there was a greater tolerance of and enthusiasm for alternate universes, too, just as there was once a (marginally) greater tolerance for original characters. Something happened after the third film...it was almost as though, the Saga being "complete", anything which deviated from canon became less acceptable. Which I find very odd, since all fanfic is, by its very definition, alternate to one degree or another.

Most of our "old names" have gone on to other fandoms, greener pastures, etc. Perhaps they simply ran out of ideas (although that seems unlikely, considering the level of talent), perhaps they fell victim to the "closed circle" mindset of ROTJ, or perhaps they just grew impatient with the increasingly narrow scope of the fannish perception of the SW universe. Whatever the reason(s), they're gone and the new fans don't seem to be picking up the slack. For myself, although I'll dip a toe or two into other waters, SW has been and always will be my emotional home as a writer. I don't want to leave, however tenuous my welcome is. But neither will I expose myself to having my bones picked over by people who don't want to read what I write. So, partially owing to the length of most of my fiction but mainly owing to well-founded trepidation, the bulk of my work is and will undoubtedly remain unpublished. For myself, an audience is necessarily secondary; I write because it's what I do and what I am.

There's one last point I would like to make, and that concerns the fact that we are now in the position, unfortunately, of seeing a major war unfold in front of our eyes. The print and electronic media have provided us with seemingly endless coverage of the men, women and children left at home to worry about a family member sent into the war zone. So what about that in the SW universe? What about the families of those who have gone off to fight for the rebels? How do they feel? Or divided families, some members of which are

pro-Empire while the others favor the Alliance cause? Not an unlikely scenario, after all; the rebellion has many aspects of a galactic civil war. What about supply lines for the Alliance? Han Solo can't single-handedly bring enough supplies in the Falcon to keep them in business--and what of the network that would be necessary to support such shipments? Who are the people who keep it going, and what risks are they required to take? What is the role of the droids in the SWian espionage? What are the internal politics of the Alliance? Look at the diversity of opinion concerning the current Real World conflict--and the difficulties in keeping a contentious coalition together. Can things really be so much different in the SW universe?

There are any number of such topics which, for the most part, can only be addressed in the context of minor or created characters. By rejecting such characters out of hand, the possibilities for fanfic are drastically reduced.

Little wonder we weary dinosaurs are ready to head for the tar pits.

The late Ted Sturgeon was fond of a phrase that is more than appropriate here: "Ask the next question." So, children, what is the next question--and why the hell isn't anyone asking it?

If none of the foregoing has rattled any cages, then consider this: Cheree has already issued a desperate plea for something new and different for the next issue of TREMOR. How much longer do you think she's going to be willing to continue typing up the same tired old debates and discussions that frequently have nothing to do with SW in the pages of SE?

Think about it.



Marti Schuller
415 S. E. Annette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

January 15, 1991

I'm sure I share everyone's concerns for the safety and speedy return of our troops serving in the Persian Gulf. To any SE reader who has loved ones there, I offer my support and prayers for peace.

I'd also like to offer my apologies for the whiny, self-indulgent nature of my last letter. SE is a forum for discussion of our mutually loved SW saga, a place for sharing our enjoyment and our views. For stepping beyond those bounds, I apologize and forthwith promise to bear in mind why we participate in SE. Thanks for your tolerance. Now, to the last issue's contents.

The article "Raising Luke Skywalker" by Richard Detrano was very good. I really enjoyed reading it.

To address your opening editorial, Cheree, I have to admit that I'd enjoy reading more light-hearted adventure stories in SW fandom myself. However, having found myself in this situation, I know that there are newcomers to the world of fandom all the time. Many are unaware of or unable to afford back issues of older zines or letterzines and are therefore ignorant to the fact that certain storylines have been done ad nauseum. To the neophyte, his or her idea is as fresh as dew because the odds are they've not had the opportunity to explore it with other fans. While I'd like to see more fun and frivolity injected into future stories, I also feel we could deprive ourselves of some unique, interesting concepts if we narrow our focus too much, as editors or readers. It's my opinion that it isn't the repetitions of plots that's causing the passing of SW fan fiction, but the natural turning of a fandom on the edge. I understand other fandoms have experienced similar trials. Some fans are fickle and will move on to other pursuits once they've sated their own appetites, like wandering homeless vampires. Others are more loyal and stubborn, digging in for the long haul, patiently waiting for their chance to bloom again. As for the doom and gloom of many recent stories, I wonder if they don't reflect

our times and attitudes more than that of the SW universe or as precursors to SW fandom's demise. It's hard to feel impotent. At least in the fan world of fiction, an author can exercise some measure of control while exorcising daily demons. Basically, I guess what I'm saying is that I'll second your call for more gaiety and relaxed fun, but not to the exclusion of well-written stories, no matter how many times the subject's been tackled before.

Z. P. Florian: Okay, I'll grant that Vader is one of the most intriguing characters I've run across. I also feel he may have chosen evil as a means to serve his end, but having made the choice I see him as more of an amoral being than an immoral one. Having suppressed his humanity to the point of non-existence, he would simply be driven to succeed without guilt or pleasure. There'd be no need to ignore feelings that he didn't have.

I have to comment on "Missing". You said you disagreed with the torture. I'm curious as to why. The Luke Treena wrote of may not be the Luke you look for, but surely you'll admit that he was in character for the age he was and the lack of experience he had at that time? We all have favorite facets to our heroes, but that shouldn't prevent us from allowing others their freedom to explore so long as they don't totally alter the character of the original.

Why did Vader want to carbon freeze Luke? Good question. I don't feel the process would have caused Luke's Force-presence to vanish entirely, but perhaps it would have reduced it to minimal essence. Maybe Vader was simply looking for a way to capture his son with the least chance of harming him physically. When he failed, Vader was forced to battle with Luke. Perhaps he was fearful of accidentally killing Luke if sufficiently provoked? I'll be anxious to read other speculations on this, but it's an interesting point.

Debbie Kittle: So glad you enjoyed Treena's story. I know it means a lot to her and your appreciation will be gratefully received. I'll also keep my eyes open for "Jedi Honor". Thanks for the tip.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Welcome, welcome. So glad you decided to join in the fun, but why did you think writing sooner would be an "invasion"? Best of luck with your zine, too.

Palpatine--your favorite character? That's a first for me. No one I've met has chosen him. Regarding your question as to how he'll be portrayed in the first trilogy (if there ever is one), I'd like to see him basically the same, perhaps a little less bent and wrinkled, but still physically corrupted. I do believe his appearance is caused by his use of the Dark Side. I lean toward the idea that tapping all that power for vile purposes would exact a toll on the user.

Kiefer Sutherland might make a good Obi-Wan. I'd never considered him when casting my imaginary players, but since reading your suggestion, I find myself picturing him easily in the role of younger Kenobi.

I love the question you raised over Luke not taking weapons into the tree-cave. I have no answers, but I adore the question. I'll eagerly look forward to others' responses on this one. As for the Emperor sending his guards from the room, no doubt that was due to his egotism and extreme self-confidence. They were merely show, anyway. Palpatine could certainly protect himself without them. Re Luke "talking Leia into her part of Han's rescue of Jabba's," do you suppose for one second anyone could have kept her from being directly involved? Not likely.

Ming Wathne: I didn't mean that I don't care for new characters in SW stories at all. What I meant is that without at least one of the main figures involved, most fans will pass the story or read it after everything else. Some new characters are quite interesting on their own and can stand alone once they've been used enough with the main figure(s), but rarely as a first or second story.

Thanks for your endorsement on my sentiments over children. No summer resorts on Hoth for this gal.

I also like your reply to Maggie on Han's growth. This is the Han I like.

Maggie Nowakowska: Hmm, explaining Vader's sex appeal isn't something I feel qualified to do since I am first and foremost a Luke fan, but knowing a few diehard Vader fans, I'll try. I've been told by those who seem drawn to the villainous sort, Vader being only one of many, that those who find them sexy are usually referring to everything but physical attraction. There seems to be the general feeling

that villains are more complex, intricate, deep characters. Power is definitely a come-on for some, but I agree with you that the quest for that kind of power indicates an inability to achieve a two-way relationship. However, villain-lovers seem to feel they could either delve beneath the villain's lust for power or share in it to the point of gaining the villain's admiration and eventual joining of their spirits. Others admire the single-minded determination of the villain. Maybe they lack that quality in themselves yet desire it and think by association they could benefit from watching a master at work, never intending to be quite as ruthless in their own application. What other people find sexy often turns the stomach of another. "To each his own" as the old lady said before she kissed the bull, to quote my granny.

Matthew Whitney: Unfortunately, I've never been able to attend more than one con a year, so deciding on a WorldCon vs. others would not be a problem. However, WorldCon has become a moot issue for me for this year. There's no way, short of winning the state lottery or one of those magazine mega-bucks contests, that I can afford it. But I will remember your advice and maybe one day I will get the chance to go.

Tim Blaes: See my answer to Matthew. Yes, I have caught many episodes of "The Flash" and it's a better show than I'd expected, which doubtlessly means it will be cancelled ASAP.

Cheryl Pryor: I certainly hope your suggestion that SE subscribers plan a get-together at MWC comes true. Though I can't be there this year, I'd love to get in on such a gathering one day.

Hey, whoa! Did I say I saw Vader as a sex god? Strand me on Tatooine! I understand how others can see him as sort of sexy or compelling, but that's a long way from worshipping his cape-draped, booted feet. Well-rounded (esp. around the head--I couldn't resist), yes--because Veronica Wilson pried open my resisting eyes. I have tacked a Vader story, though. I co-wrote it with that same Vader-lover, Veronica. It'll be out in the next WC and I am anxious to see how the Dark Lord's fans react to it.

Natasha Mohr: Congrats on your stance on recycling. In Cheree's response to you, she mentioned using paper sacks at the grocery.

Our local stores are now all offering nickel rebates for every bag you bring back and reuse. While I've found I can only use a sack about three or four times before it tears, that's still quite a savings for both my purse and the environment. The torn bags I save to cut and use as postal package wrapping paper. They're usually thicker than the brown paper sold for this purpose and a lot cheaper. ((Ed: I've done that for years, long before anyone ever heard of recycling, Marti. I have also used paper grocery bags in my kitchen waste basket instead of plastic garbage bags--my mom has done that as far back as I can remember--plus I use the paper bags to sack up newspapers for recycling. This way, you double the recycling--the newspapers and the bags. Several of our local grocery chains are now selling large, heavy cloth shopping bags to dispense with the disposable bags as much as possible. Also new on the Dallas recycling scene, the largest dry cleaning chain here has just announced that they are taking those wire clothes hangers that seem to multiply in everyone's closets. They'll donate a penny for every recycled hanger towards the cost of planting trees. The first tree they're planning is a giant living Christmas tree in front of Dallas City Hall. By the way, the Dallas Parks Department has a program each year for recycling Christmas trees--they run the trees through chipper/shredders and turn them into mulch, which is used as landscape material in the various parks in town.))

Judith Yuenger: Hurray for people like you! I don't know about others, but your appreciative thanks to SW editors, artists and writers warmed my heart. Even if you've never read any of my stuff, I know how good it feels to have someone like your efforts, especially if it's been some time since you published a particular piece. Like others I know, I tend to forget that some of my stories from years ago are being read for the first time now.

I really hope you are able to manage the awards problem successfully. While I've recently come to realize that perhaps awards aren't necessary, I cannot honestly deny the joy of being up for one. There are so many truly gifted people involved in SW fandom that seldom get half the recognition they deserve. LoCs are wonderful feedback, but tend to slight artists, editors and all the others "behind-

the-scenes". My only suggestion is that if you do attempt this monumental task, try to publicize it as widely as possible. One idea would be to get all SW fanzines and letterzines to print a single-page in their issues that explained the award, the rules of nomination and a ballot. Only then will you truly get a sufficient amount of actual reader input. How you could then narrow the nomination or select a winner is another point, unless you just select whatever or whomever receives the most votes. (Would three votes for the same story make a valid winner, though?) As I said, a monumental task. One I can't recommend anyone undertake, but one I nevertheless applaud you for considering.

A final word of welcome! to Tina Bentrup and I must close. The deadline for getting this in is rapidly approaching and I'll not test the postal service more than I have to.

Keep the Force. Peace!

ZINE READER

Judith Yuenger
901 Meadowcrest Road
LaGrange Park, IL 60525

January 21, 1991

This is going to be a real short letter this time as I just returned home from spending three weeks at the barn because, my friends, Mom was in the hospital and we will probably be leaving shortly to go to Florida, so if I don't do this now, it won't get done.

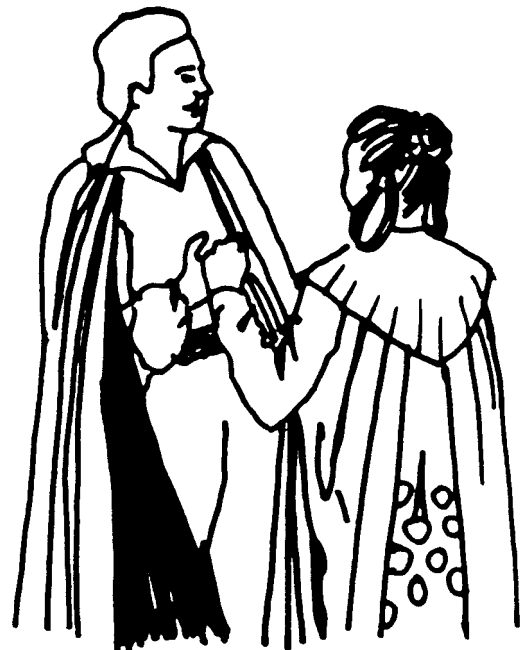
As a short-time SW fan, there is no dearth of SW zines for me because I am reading all the zines now instead of when they were printed way back when. However, when I checked lists of new zines, they are few and far between. Is SW fanfic dying as Cheree says because the storylines have become so repetitive? I would say that is part of the problem but certainly

not all of it.

Yes, I certainly would like to read some new storylines—a whole bunch was put forward by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero and I am sure that there are hundreds that they didn't even think of. Why aren't the writers writing new stuff? I don't know. I can't even write the repetitive stuff, let alone anything new. Guess that's for the writers to answer. I suspect that die-hard SW fans will read the repetitive stuff if it's the only thing available. Newer fans wouldn't notice the repetitive stuff as much because they haven't been reading it for years. Yes, we need new stuff to waft a breath of fresh air into the fandom. But will it revive fandom to greater heights (as far as newer readers, I doubt it)? That will only happen if Lucas puts out another episode of SW and it would be nice if when that happens, that there are some fresh stories available.

Would I read stories about characters that are secondary or created—a whole-hearted YES. There are several authors who have created characters in their universes that I have come to know and enjoy. Granted, in most of the stories, they are wives, sisters, brothers, husbands, children or some relation to the main characters but they are the main focus of the story and not the main characters. I would love to learn more about them—or any other new character that comes long for that matter.

As Cheree says, "This is a great universe and we've got the whole thing as our playground!" Let's play in it!



Maggie Nowakowska
2330 Federal Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98101

Judith Yuenger's thanks for the fannish pictures reminds me of many attempts to introduce fans to each other long distance, and how nice it was to read about other fans while those attempts lasted. Maybe, Cheree, it's time to reintroduce the idea of fannish bios (SE circa 1985), this time with pictures. There are lots of fans who don't get to cons very often, if at all, as well as some of us who have been around so long old pictures don't apply anymore. Maybe once a year (when they resubscribe?), LoCers could send in pics and bios for an SE yearbook. Do you have access to a scanner that's better than xerox, Cheree? Could be interesting.

((Ed: Excellent idea, Maggie. To enlighten those readers who haven't been with SE from the beginning... Back for the first couple of years that SE was published, we ran a fan bio column to let us all get to know one another a little better. People voluntarily sent in a thumbnail biographical sketch, about a paragraph long, telling name, age, background, interests outside of fandom, education, family, etc. I didn't formally end it; it just sort of petered out. But I'm more than willing to revive it if anyone's interested. As for photos, it costs a bit more to run photos since they have to be screened by my printer, but I have run plenty of pix in the past and will continue to do so. I've run the past two issues off at Kinko's myself since I'm still pretty deeply in hock to the printer for TREMOR #5, but, sure, I'll run 'em if you guys want to send 'em.))

Matthew Whitney's question about Jabba's knowledge of Jedi mind tricks is a good one. How old is Jabba, and does his comment imply previous personal experience with the Jedi? (It takes more than strong arm tactics to corner a John Gotti right here; it probably takes more than strong-mind tactics to trap a Jabba out there.) We have very few references to the status of the Jedi before the Empire, most of which are from sources with a point to make, such as Kenobi and Tarkin. Did keeping peace in the galaxy include foiling space pirates and gangsters?

As for Palpatine, I found a reference to him by name on the first page of STAR WARS, the book (1977).

Debbie Kittle asked about SLIPSTREAM. We finally saw it a few weeks ago and I agree with Tim Blaes that the story was one looking for a plotline and some decent exposition. It also seemed as if the actors had a different perception of what the movie was about than did the director. And whoever decided that the bush-pilot was the main focus of the story was way off; there's scruffy a la Han, and then there's sleezy. The conflict between the droid and the bounty hunter seemed much more central to us. By the by, Hamill looks terrific in a beard and the hair-styling given him in that movie. His timing is excellent, as usual, and his reading a lot more believable than the lead man's, which is especially notable since MH is cast so strongly against type in this role.

And, Tim, I've also found myself missing B&B a lot more than I thought I would. Aside from the story and characters, I dearly miss the production values. I valued MAX HEADROOM for the same, as I do TWIN PEAKS. It is so wonderful to watch a show that isn't predictable.

You know, working through boxes of old SW articles, reviews and such, I came upon some quotes from years and years ago that were fascinating in light of the topics fans still discuss years and years later. I don't know if anyone else will find this as interesting as I did, but I thought I'd send along the following tidbits:

Re: Lando's role in SW, from ROLLING STONE interview with Billy Dee Williams, July 24, 1980:

"The introduction of Lando is a good one. I talked to George when SW came out and I was very candid. I said, 'Look, there is Darth Vader, the dark, black fear, and there's Alec Guinness playing the white knight, Ben Obi-Wan Kenobi. Here we go again, perpetuating the same old stuff.'

"And now, by having Lando, we're gonna have to put aside the old point of view. Now, we're talking about symbols--darkness as adverse to clarity. Black, white, red, we're all included in the human dilemma."

Re: The Other, from ROLLING STONE interview with George Lucas, June 12, 1980:

Q. In the movie [TESB], Ben says Luke is the last hope and Yoda says no, there is another.

A. Yes. (smiling) There is another, and has been for a long time. You have to remember, we're starting in the middle of this story. There are 6 hours worth of events before SW, and in those 6 hours, the 'other' becomes apparent, and after the 3rd film [ROTJ], the 'other' becomes apparent quite a bit."

I was surprised to note that already in a 1980 NEW YORK TIMES article (May 18), Lucas refers to the third movie, calling it the "Return of the Jedi", which seems to support later claims that "Revenge of the Jedi" always was a red herring. And, in the same article, I was glad to finally find the "mothers" quote: while talking about the fairy tale basis for the Saga, Lucas says, "Darth Vader is the bad father; Ben Kenobi is the good father. The good and bad mothers are still to come."

Re: Leia, from FANTASTIC FILMS interview with Carrie Fisher, October, 1980:

"[Leia is] unlike any other woman, I think. She's not contemporary, so you don't play it like that. She's a mythological heroine, really...very independent, very self-reliant, powerful. I don't know about liberated; it's not an issue up there."

And, from ROLLING STONE interview with Carrie Fisher, July/August 1983:

"You can play Leia a capable, independent, sensible, a soldier, a fighter, a woman in control...you can get through all the female prejudice if you have her travel in time, if you add a magical quality, if you're dealing in fairy-tale terms."

Another thing that I noticed about Leia in the old notices is that although she is called Princess Leia nearly all of the time, she is also almost always described as a Senator (ROLLING STONE), a Commander, a Chief Rebel, leader of the rebellion (TIME), in other words, a doer—not just as someone to be rescued. Fans may not write about Leia in many "doer" roles, but I can't say that the general impression of Leia's role was passive in the two huge boxes of magazines and newspapers I read through.

And remember, the discussion about Leia's weight that came up a few years ago? Here's

a reviewer who liked the ANH Leia just as she was: "Carrie Fisher is adorable with her big, clean, spunky features and her great figure, which is the very embodiment of the friendly, voluptuousness we all remember in girls like Buck Rogers' Wilma, Flash Gordon's Dale, and Mandrake the Magician's Princess Narda." (Jack Kroll, NEWSWEEK, May 30, 1977). Yeah, the language is not politically correct, but at least here's a guy without an anorexic standard of beauty.

If anyone else has old quotes we should remember, I for one would love to read them. It's so easy to get caught up in fannish "facts" and beliefs about what happened. And I know I've lost some material. I would dearly love to still have a very early interview with Ford wherein he talks about his impression of Han at the end of ANH. I remember that the gist of it was that Han had been irrevocably changed by meeting Luke and Leia; he also speculated about what would have happened to Solo if he hadn't met the kids. But, I can't quote directly because the article walked away with some friends and never came back.

Before I forget, I have got to pass along a great new phrase. Susan and I were watching the PBS series, JEEVES & WOOSTER, when, in filmed cast bits afterwards, Steven Fry (BLACKADDER 2) began giving Hugh Laurie (BLACKADDER 3) a hard time, praising him then criticizing him. Finally, Laurie felt compelled to explain Fry's behavior to the interviewer, describing how Fry was a great man who can hurt you then heal you. Fry raised an eyebrow at that, asking if that mean he was a "great bruisey-mendy thing." Susan and I both sat up straight and knew we had just heard a great tongue-in-cheek phrase for hurt/comfort stories. You could even rank such stories like this: (1) Get Stories (serious mayhem); (2) Hurt/Comfort (mayhem of various intensities with intent to bandage and buss); and now (3) Bruisey/Mendy (I'll leave this definition to others!).

Pat Nussman: The way PDJames reacted to that actor playing her character is fascinating; as you said, just another example of diverse reactions.

Pat, let me echo Cheree's wish to see those manuscripts you discussed! Your Rieeken has always been a very interesting character. Although those of us who are primarily interested

in the SW universe are not so many, we do exist! As for garnering the interest of those readers primarily interested in the core characters, I find easier to comment (as a writer) on the Jedi/Sith/Empire, or to see the core characters (as a reader) in a new light, from the viewpoint of a few steps away. After all, Luke, Leia, Han and Darth/Anakin are liable to be a blind about their own motivations as any of us are (or, as prejudiced about the person they are immediately involved with). The commentary of other characters can be far more enlightening.

Other reasons for working with non-core characters pop up in Pat's political questions. From the beginning, fans have struggled with the puzzles of Republican/Imperial history, noting that in many ways, familiar assumptions often do not easily apply. Since the core characters are heavy-duty activists (none of our favorites are exactly quiet philosophers!), reflections on and explanations of these differences more easily come to rest in the realm of non-core personae.

As an example: Han and Lando take the ranks given and go out and do what has to be done; if any hassles arise, I can more readily imagine Han responding with, "Hey, it's your army; I'm just doing a job, so will you get out of my face and let me do it?" than with any defensive exposition on rank structure. If a writer is going to posit a universe wherein such leadership rank can be a temporary honor, allowing talent outside normal hierarchies to take singular responsibility, then the explanation of such rules rests more logically within the realm of the commanders who offered that rank to the Falcon's two captains. To tie all this in with another subject Pat suggested, maybe the ranks given Han and Lando reflect the way Jedi interacted with Fleet in the Olde Days. OWK was called a general, which, as we have seen, is not necessarily a rank equivalent with American generals. Maybe his title reflected a situation as specific as Han's or Lando's. For me, the films readily suggest that the Jedi were not an integral, organized part of Star Fleet as presented by the Alliance, with the implication that the Jedi were likewise not officially part of command in the Republican Fleet.

Here's an idea for a history story: maybe

the Republic's umbrella culture was one of lateral relationships and flexible planetary status; of cooperative ventures among peoples wherein individual talents were called out as needed, but were not necessarily or automatically cause for permanent advancement. To use Raisa Eisley's terms from *THE CHALICE AND THE BLADE*, perhaps the Republic's overall culture was closer to the Partnership model than to the Dominator model. Maybe events, culminating in the Clone Wars, evolved to encourage a longing for the stability that hard and fast roles/hierarchies so easily provided; or, maybe, it was as simple as the miserliness of great wealth, spoken of in the ANH novelization, persuading people to give up the old ways to secure their status/greed.

I would imagine that Star Fleet always knew a high level of tension, grown amid the conflict between a culture that encouraged cooperation and an organization that depended on some sort of hierarchy (much like the conflict America experiences when military needs come up against individualism/civilian decision making). If the Emperor were able to exploit the feelings of those officers in Star Fleet who preferred more rigid hierarchies and/or who had never really liked working with Wild Cards Jedi--and during the Clone Wars, as Senate President, Palpatine probably did have that power or at least an easier time of securing such power--he'd be able to acquire the fire-power he needed to push his plans through.

The question I've always had is, *Where/who are the other senators?* We know Leia and we know (sort of) Mon Mothma (is that title, a la the senator, Mon Leia, or a name?). (*Ed: I vote for a title, e.g. the Mon Calimari and Grand Moff Tarkin.*) We're told in the literature (ROTJ STORYBOOK) that Mon Mothma was a young Senator who saw through Palpatine's scheming and founded the opposition whilst the new Emperor established his rule. Did she remain a Senator during the years between Imperial ascension and Imperial fall? What happened to her and the other senators when the senate was abolished? Did the New Order Senators move into patronage positions, or become Imperial overlords of their worlds? Did the Old Order Senators have to run for their lives? At what point, if ever, did Mon Mothma declare her true loyalties, or was the

entire Senate Old Order enough that she could hide within it?

Z. P. Florian: Thanks for mentioning that you enjoyed one of my stories. Gad, LAST SANCTUARY is 13 years old. The garnet eyes came about because of the giggles people had over the "red eyes" that could be seen through Vader's mask in some prints of ANH. Dyane and I really liked the idea, especially since it opened up a whole new range of colors to play with. I had wanted to make Darth a blond with red eyes, but Dyane—drat it now—talked me out of it.

My Vader stories, and those of Diane Kirkland who also wrote Vader in the THOUSANDWORLDS universe in those days, are available in THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED, published by Linda Deneroff (you'll find her in the classified ads under GUARDIAN). However, if you look them up, keep in mind that I was writing these stories in pre-TESB days; the plotline has little-to-nothing to do with mainstream SW after the ANH award ceremony.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Welcome to SE! Perhaps you know this already, but I just received a flyer from my Italian instructor discussing Perugia as a sister city to Seattle. So, hello, neighbor!

Your question about Luke, his weapon, and the cave was a good one.

Here's one way of looking at the situation: if I've got my traditional story-structure down correctly, while most heroes will use magic according to instructions given, advice on behavior is often ignored; learning the hard way seems necessary to the heroic experience. A corollary to your question might be: does Yoda actually expect Luke to put the weapon aside? Maybe the warning is simply meant as a remark to be remembered when Luke reviews what happened, a way to promote a different way of looking at the experience. Parents often warn children away from activities they know the kids are going to take part in anyway; I believe the appropriate accompanying comment is, "Well, don't say I didn't warn you." It may be one of those paradoxical situations: if I do unwise-action-A, I'll have to confront horrible-action-B, but if I don't confront horrible-B, I won't become wise enough to know to avoid it in the first place.

Here's another way to go at it. Assuming

Joseph Campbell's insight that "The hero is the one who knows when to surrender and what to surrender to," we can look at Luke entering the Darkside reality of the tree-cave as a foreshadow of parallel developments in ROTJ when and after Luke walks into the Darkside reality of the Emperor's encampment on Endor/on the Death Star.

On Dagobah, Luke still thinks the challenge/danger facing him comes from outside himself; he doesn't yet understand that the danger he faces is his own ignorance/fear/Darkside and that the strength to face himself can only come from within, and never from an outside power like a blaster. As a result, once in the cave, he sees himself as Vader, a man who is dependent on/servant to an outside power (the Emperor, the easy quickness of the Darkside) for his status.

On Endor, Luke realizes that he has to face Vader with his own strength, and so he enters Vader's sphere without aggression, this time giving up his weapon before facing this challenge. Good; first test passed. Then, prodded by the Emperor, Luke's good intentions slip. Giving into pride by thinking he could do anything at all to stop the Fleet battle, once again Luke is fighting the figure in the cave. But—Luke can and does realize that the result of joining such a battle is becoming like Vader. He withdraws, refuses to fight; he passes test two.

Then, Vader threatens to put Leia through the same drills. Luke loses his cool. He fights with all the anger he can muster and that anger is enough to back Vader down. Unfortunately, once he has Vader down, Luke stays on a killing streak. He drinks deeply of his Darkside desires for revenge for what Vader has put him and others through—vindication? Recognition of his own superiority? Only when the severing of Dad's mechanical arm jolts Luke, when he sees the connection between Dad's and his potential/growing inhumanity, does he stop to think. And then the choice is upon him, made vocal by the Emperor's prodding: is he willing to surrender this self-awareness to the sterile power and self-righteousness of the Dark, or will he accept but not be dominated by the Light and Dark reality of his own Force? At that point, Luke passes the third test. He tosses away his saber, his means of physical

action; he surrenders to the realization that the Emperor can kill Luke's body, but he cannot destroy Luke's humanity. And, lo and behold, Luke's experience reminds the latent individual in Vader that such a choice always exists, allowing Anakin to finally reject his own subservience as he chooses life for Anakin's own humanity over death for Vader's mechanical existence. (Using humanity = compassionate sentence.)

Hokay, enough of that. Speaking of Italy, here's a request for everyone. In May, through the wonderful generosity of Gian Paolo Gasperi and ALLIANCE SW fans in Italy, I'll be traveling to Italy as a fan guest at the 1991 ALLIANCE SW convention, held in conjunction with ITALCON 17. I'm really looking forward to the trip and expect to have lots of stories to bring back for SE#30. More important for SE readers, I'll be part of a panel with Italian and German SW fans, talking about "SW Fandom Today" and would appreciate any input that SE readers might have to offer on the subject. What would you like to say to our fellow SW fans in Europe about American fandom, its past and its future? (Just in passing, let me note that Ming Wathne, of the SW Fanzine Library, and I have sent copies of American fanzines to Gian to be part of an American fanzine reading room, so a lot of all our work over the last 13 years is going to be on display, folks--get your disclaimers in now). By the by, re: the question of different translations of SW dialogue, I asked Gian about the use of formal and informal address (you/thou in archaic English) in the Italian script and he said "...in the Italian presentation of the Saga... Luke addresses Yoda with the informal language right from the start: once he discovers that Yoda is the Jedi Master he's looking for, Luke does not change to the formal form, but he simply uses the title "Master" (which is equivalent to the English version). As regards Luke, Leia and Han, things are a little more interesting. At the beginning, they all use the formal language to address one another. Leia is the first to change to the informal form while comforting Luke aboard the Falcon after Ben's death. After that, Luke addresses Leia informally, too. Leia and Han keep addressing each other formally until the end of the movie; when Han returns to Yavin, after

the destruction of the Death Star, Leia begins to address him informally. It's quite interesting to note the formal language! To be more precise, he changes from the formal language a couple of times during the movie, which seems to convey the idea of conflicting feelings inside him, I suppose. By the end of the movie, from the "kiss sequence" on, he addresses Leia informally."

Cheree, like you, I've wondered why so many post-JEDI fannish stories, especially the Luke ones, are downers. Do you think it could be a "down the road" reflection of all the "Luke is fallen/darkside" brouhaha that immediately followed the movie? Nearly drowning in that controversy, did we miss a wave of victory that once lost cannot be reclaimed? Or, did we finally accept the argument that the focal-point hero was not really heroic, and are we, as consequence, unable to celebrate him and his?

(Ed: I don't think it's your first suggestion at all because the vast majority of the fans who are writing the gloomy stuff were not even in fandom at the time of all the Dark Luke debates. Oddly enough, it is the staunchest Luke fans who write the most depressing stuff! Probably someone with a good psychology background could think this through and write up an enlightening essay on the subject. As a long-time and staunch Han fan, I can only say that Luke never particularly appealed to me in the first place and all this angst and doom and gloom that his fans put him through has convinced me that Corellians have more fun!)

Or, do the stories reflect anger with the Saga for not being all wonder and brightness, and for not crowning LL&H at the end? Did it fail to communicate a happy feeling to fans, or was the message it did get across not acceptable? The whole Saga certainly acknowledges the darkness in light: its heroes are none of them unrepachable; its most impressive villain still glows with the integrity of his lightside; the public glory at the end goes to Lando and Wedge, not Han or Leia as part of the ground team, and certainly not to Luke, whose exploits are unknown to anyone but him. I can remember claims that the lack of a wedding in JEDI made the movie a failure, that Luke's demeanor at the cast-call party (was he or wasn't he smiling?) was an omen of dire

future events, that Luke's lack of a love interest at the end was a disaster as far as plotting was concerned.

Rereading *HERO WITH A THOUSAND FACES* recently, I came across this description, evaluation, of different common endings to the hero's quest: "...if the monomyth is to fulfill its promise, not human failure [rejection of the word after experiencing the glory of the quest] or superhuman success, but human success is what we shall have to be shown."

ANH can be taken as the film that ends with superhuman success ("Use the Force, Luke"); TESB with human failure (loss of Han, loss of Luke's innocence).

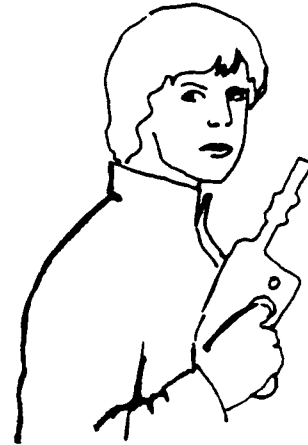
For me, JEDI successfully reflects the most important conclusion: human success, here based on love. Such an ending is not as spectacular as winning through pure, innocent use of the Force and through the strength of a friend's loyalty (ANH--"Let's blow this thing, kid, and go home"), but neither is it as passive as the rejection of an unwanted truth (TESB--"I am your father." "No!"). In ROTJ, Luke, Leia and Han learn/earn the power of love and share it with everyone ("celebrate the love").

Campbell also says, "...the hero shall now begin the labor of bringing [his boon/prize] back to the kingdom of humanity where the boon may redound to the renewing of the community, the nation, the planet or the ten thousand worlds." Reading the "Luke is depressed" stories, with their subplot of "Luke can never be happy again", I wonder if some fanwriters simply can't believe that Luke would want to return to the mundane world of trade and politics inhabited by Han and Leia, or to a world in which he is the only lonely Jedi. The possible "human failure" ending to the monomyth that Campbell talks about presents a hero who refuses to return to the world with the glorious experience of the quest and the pragmatic reality of the mundane world. Do many of our stories reflect our subconscious belief that, despite Luke's appearance at the cast-call, Luke would be one of these "nonreturnable" heroes? Or do many of us have trouble believing that anyone would return and so write Luke's future as a reflection of our own discouragement?

Campbell is fond of quoting the Buddhist

saying, "Life is joyful participation in the sorrows of the world." Do fanwriters reject such a possibility for Luke, Leia, Han or Lando?

On that cheery note, Cheree, I will send this off two weeks before your deadline! (But still too many pages too long...)



Matthew Whitney
1003 Allen Street
Springfield, MA 01118

January 24, 1991

For the sake of zine readers, I hope Cheree has spurred the established fanfic authors--and a "next generation"--to write some fresh ideas and get SW fanlit out of its doldrums. I must confess to having written stories in most of her overused categories, though hopefully successfully. What Cheree is saying, though, is not that those subjects/stories were bad, but that they have been done. (Right?) It's time to move on. I'm going to try to wrack my brain and put my spiffy new word processor (Brother WP-1400D) to good use. Wish me and all others hoping to do the same Good Luck. My chief problem with SW fic is that I'm deep into about a half-dozen fandoms now. When I wrote most of my SW stuff, I was SW nearly through and through.

Next, fulfilling a promise made to Carolyn Golledge, she asked me to ask if any fanfic authors would like to share thoughts on how ideas for stories began? For my own stuff, you could probably lump everything into any of three categories: (1) gap-fillers, like how

Han's vision returned during ROTJ; (2) a desire to see something a bit different, usually here I would want to build a story around a goal--like Luke gets angry; and (3) miscellaneous, like where I was inspired by a statue to write a Chewbacca story (for TREMOR IN THE FORCE #5). There is a big, outdoor statue of an American Indian here in Springfield. It was carved from a single tree trunk, the result being an elongated Indian, some 20 or so feet high. The artist was at the time making the rounds of all 50 states and at each stop was making a carving of one of that area's native residents. A wonderful project--but looking at this roughly carved warrior of dark-brown wood, I thought that it looked like an Ewok sculpture. The next question was, what would be a proper subject for Ewok art? The answer was a memorial for Chewie. Thus, "Tears for a Giant."

Z. P. Florian: On why Luke was put in carbonite by Vader. The obvious, though not necessarily the only or best, reason was that he was unsure of Luke's talents, so he was taking every precaution he could. The goal couldn't have been mere physical restraining, or he would have simply had Luke bound and guarded. If Darth himself could flip objects around, maybe he feared Luke could do the same--or use Jedi talents to reprogram the navigational computer. This implies, then, that carbon-freezing puts one into a hibernation that would extremely limit brain activity, and therefore Force-ability. So, I think the reason for freezing was security.

Did this have a dual benefit, though? As you said, could Darth have wanted to spirit his son off to an unknown location, away from Palpatine? If the freezing dampened Force-ability in the subject, it could well block him from being sensed from without. (Vader questioning whether Solo was alive after undergoing the process implies Han's life-aurea might have been clouded or blocked from Vader's senses.) Sounds like you've got a winner of a story idea, there. *((Ed: Confidentially, she does! Z.P. has a dandy story on this subject that will be published in TREMOR #6.))*

In response to Fiorenzo Delle Rupi's open question about what a first trilogy Palpatine would look like: I don't see him as that old. Not a young man, but not all that old. 50's? Klaus Kinski is a good choice. Definitely

sinister enough. Perhaps a bit hideous, but it would fit the ROTJ character. (I'm sorry, I think Kinski is just plain ugly. A great actor, but to look at--yeck! Real scary!) If they opt for just sinister and not deformed, that would work, too. With that approach you could have a progression of his evil making him look more and more gross. (Using the classic metaphor that evil corrupts mind and body, like Dorian Grey.)

What if Luke had not brought weapons into the Tree in TESB? His failure to leave them was a sign of immaturity and the lack of confidence. If he had overcome these weaknesses, I think he wouldn't have encountered an evil side. Instead, he'd have found a sensation of greater harmony with the Force.

If Luke foresaw Han's rescue from Jabba, maybe the part Leia played went as he had foreseen. Luke does have the Jedi-power to see future events, but that doesn't mean the visions are of all milk and honey. Sacrifices may have been necessary. If he did see this course of events, and the humiliation she had to endure, I think he'd have told her honestly what to expect.

Question: Was Yoda's dropping the hint that "Through the Force, things you will see," a calculated move to test Luke's resolve? Yoda must have seen the traumatic events approaching, maybe not details, but certainly that a difficult time for his young student was on the horizon. Do any of you think he brought up the subject of the Force potential to sense things, expecting Luke to test that talent then and there? Yoda may have expected/was counting on Luke seeing Han and Leia's peril. Knowing how Luke cared for these people, Yoda pushed Luke into making the decision whether to rescue them or complete his training. That makes him a manipulator almost to the degree of a Kenobi. Now, is that wrong or necessary because of the times they live in? If you are learning how to ride a bike, shouldn't you expect a few skinned knees?

Maggie Nowakowska: Lando as a modern hero? Yes, certainly. I also see him very much a realist/pragmatist. Also very at home with technology. Take away all the SW/SF trappings and put him into a modern film about, say, the corporate rat race, and I could see Lando fit right in.

SW in the category of "Space Legend"? I like the sound of that.

Re: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST reruns. Yeah, Family Channel is editing them, but I'm not looking the gift horse in the mouth. Better than nuthin', which is about what I had before. It does gripe me that two episodes (so far) have been skipped completely. They are "Dark Spirit" and "When the Bluebird Sings". The former is described as dreadful in ABOVE AND BELOW: A GUIDE TO BATB by Ed Gross (a fine, though slim volume of interviews, essays, and episode guide). But "Bluebird" I saw first time around and loved. I plan to write Republic video to ask for that one to be released on tape.

Marti Schuller: Never mind why Han's clothes were unaffected by carbon freezing. More important, why can't you see a vampire's clothes in a mirror? Think about it!

Speaking of vampires, what's the initial reaction to the new DARK SHADOWS? I'm impressed. Ben Cross is a wonderful Barnabas, though as Jonathan Frid said at a NYC Creation Con, "He has a strange name for a vampire." Ha ha! Joanna Going is breathtaking, and the actor playing Willie is a hoot! Only complaints: poor lighting and constant thunder/lightning during dramatic moments.

And, Marti, be assured your family is remembered in our prayers during this time of crisis.

Without turning these pages into a debate on international politics, may I also say that like all of you, I am hoping for the safe, speedy return of our men and women from the Persian Gulf. I've made up my mind on whether I think the U.S. is right in what we are doing, but I'll keep that opinion out of this forum. At school, my students are obviously VERY concerned, and there, too, I try to bring up different sides of the question so they will examine this matter from more than one "point of view". I am convinced it is more complex than "Blood for Oil", as some are saying. Let us hope and pray it ends soon.

Patricia Nussman had a super LoC. Lots of meat in it. I cannot wait to read the responses it draws. In preparing my notes before inputting this LoC, I just left a page reference to go back to, hoping inspiration would hit me while I finished reading the issue and

typed this up. Alas. What is the Alliance's strategy for winning? Darned if I know! Would it be better, though, to first wonder how the Empire maintains control? You've got to know what you're fighting before you decide how to beat them.

Is the Empire a galactic mafia? They could be extorting "protection" from the systems, while also doing some good by establishing order and stability. My only experience with the mafia is the GODFATHER trilogy, so take all this with a grain of salt—and a pinch of garlic. The Empire certainly seems to stomp all over civil liberties, and practices capital punishment on a planetary scale at the drop of a hat. We are never given a great picture WHY the Empire is bad, but it is clear that they are the black hats.

So, what is the Alliance strategy? How about attempting to inflict big, attention getting, 6 o'clock news-style publicity of every instance of rebellion against the Empire's military arm? This would encourage the planets paying tribute to withhold that money. The Empire would have to expend effort trying to force the payments out of these reluctant governments. This would spread their resources thinner, allowing the rebels to act more easily, causing more embarrassments, causing more systems to break away.

What kept them under the Empire's thumb in the first place? Perhaps the vast Star Fleet attacking their merchant fleets, cutting off trade to the rest of the galaxy. Toss in the occasional blasting their planet's surface with fire from Star Destroyers, and you have a galactic population of sheep. The Death Star, then, if it had been successful, would have been the end of the rebels' efforts, if this scenario is a reflection of Lucas'.

Judith Yuenger: The only McCaffrey Pern fanfic connection I can offer is a group called Fort Weyr, P. O. Box 402, Irwin, PA 15642. They are a fan club and do a (bi?)-monthly zine. I belonged for a year, but dropped because it wasn't exactly what I was looking for, and I was starting to feel I was spreading myself too thin, too. It might be just what you're looking for, though. Pern fans will also be interested to hear that a three-part graphic novel is coming out (Feb. 91), courtesy of Eclipse Comics. It will be an adaption of

DRAGONFLIGHT. Looks pretty good.

Judith, you mentioned in SE#27 CHRISTMAS IN THE STARS. While not the SW HOLIDAY SPECIAL, that is the title of a SW Christmas album. It featured a few fun songs, along with Tony Daniels telling "T'was the Night Before Christmas" in his 3PO voice, and even a nice bit of cover art by Ralph McQuarrie (of R2 and 3PO helping Santa in his work shop).

Is there anyone out there who wouldn't give 2 cents to know who killed Laura Palmer? This TWIN PEAKS craze is astounding, but I am completely disinterested. Lynch's ELEPHANT MAN is brilliant, but what little I've seen of his BLUE VELVET is enough to know it is not for me. Just too creepy!

Give me the Saga, anyway! Walk the skies...



Gian Paolo Gasperi
P. O. Box 411 - C.P.O.
41100 Modena
Italy

January 5, 1991

"Ciao" and Happy New Year to all SE readers. I've been reading SE for several years and, although I've become quite familiar with your names by readings your LoCs, just a few of you know me through personal letter-writing. Yet, I suppose some of you may already know that I'm the editor and publisher of the very first and popular Italian SW zine called ALLIANCE, as well as president of the SW Fan Association of Italy, an organization currently numbering nearly 250 members nationwide and abroad, founded in 1986 by a (then) small group

of both non-professional and professional SF fans still devoted to the SW Saga.

I've always wanted to send a LoC to SE if nothing else to express my personal "points of view" on some of the topics discussed in this excellent letterzine, but it was only after I read Cheree's witty editorial, "No News Ain't Necessarily Good News," and many other comments regarding the future of the SW Saga and fandom itself that I felt urged to write, at last. Be patient!

Secondary/Created Characters: I think one of the reasons why SW fanfiction is currently based on the same overworked storylines of the past few years of SW fanlit partly depends on the fact that most of the zine editors require submissions featuring at least one of the major characters featured in the movies. IMO, a writer can't be really creative and imaginative after a while with this kind of limitation. Furthermore, this restriction prevents writers from submitting other SW written material based on secondary or minor characters. I'm sure that without these restrictive submission requirements, SW fan authors could write more imaginatively—and reading some of the LoCs in SE, it's clear some writers already did—create new characters and situations and explore secondary/minor ones. (Personally, I would like to read more about Mon Mothma, for instance, a "minor" character of the Middle Trilogy but there's no doubt, IMO, she's going to be a major one in the first three movies, for she is—don't forget—the Supreme Commander of the Rebel Alliance.) Frankly, I can't understand the reason why many editors and writers believe that anyone in fandom would not want to read stories based on secondary and/or created characters! The SW universe is so vast to explore! Publishing popular Italian SW zines, I can state that two of the three SW stories which won the 1989 Alliance SW Literary Competition were centered around created characters, and in one case with no interaction with any other major character. Nevertheless, both of them did win the Competition and were extremely successful among SW fans. Honestly speaking, I believe that unless you come up with a totally original and imaginative story idea concerning the Beloved Three, it would be much more fun to "explore" the vastness of the SW universe, as well as the potential of minor char-

acters, or create new ones and make them interact with the major ones if the story requires it. Aside from one's personal thoughts about it, West End Games Roleplaying Game based on SW does give some good ideas and advice for creating new characters, exploring minor ones and designing fascinating story scenarios. I can even tell you that some of the Galaxy Guides and adventures scenarios edited for the RPG inspired a couple of the most intriguing and suspenseful SW stories I've come across! Without new movies coming out, it isn't good to totally ignore the RPG publications even if you aren't interested in playing at RPG. Although these publications have gotten, at times, some blameworthy flaws which make them a somewhat unreliable source for information, I believe the publications themselves are still a good source for inspiration for many fan writers. I definitely agree with Debbie Kittle when she says they can provide great story ideas.

New SW Movies: Despite George Lucas' and even the Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine's announcements, I'm losing more and more hope of ever seeing another SW movie, someday. I believe all of the recent announcements that were made about Lucas' plans to produce a new movie aren't a "prelude" to a new trilogy; IMO, Lucas is no longer interested in making a new film and I believe Tasha Mohr is perfectly right when she says, "He's just interesting in keeping fans interested"--just to exploit to the utmost SW in terms of money, to increase--with false announcements--the number of members of the Lucasfilm Fan Club, thus indirectly drawing SW fans' attention about Lucasfilms' non-SW projects which require support and publicity. You see, as an inauguration of the Skywalker Sound--the new sound facility at Skywalker Ranch--they called for John Williams to direct a new recording session of the SW score; once again, they used SW popularity to draw everyone's attention! This happened again last year during the inauguration of the new Star Tours attraction at Disney World in Florida and many other times in the past... Well, I feel like they're making the most of SW fans' loyalty! Please, don't get my words wrong; I'm not saying that Lucas owes us another SW movie, either. I'm just trying to say that he owes us a little more honesty. The

fact he's postponing "forever" (6 or 7 years' time to just begin working on it means to me he's not going to make it at all) the production of a new film indicates he's hoping against hope that in such a period of time he will feel like doing it or not. IMO, the more he waits, the less he will feel like doing it.

I just hope that facts prove me wrong. I don't know... examining the SW publications edited for the RPG, I would agree with Maggie (Hi!) that Lucas is keeping under wraps any areas which he might explore in new movies/books, but sometimes I feel like this is really "our last hope" if Lucas doesn't decide to play his cards, once and for all.

SW Fandom Survival: I agree with Z. P. Florian when she says that it's up to us to keep the SW universe and fandom alive but that's not an easy task at all! If we don't find "new ways to motivate" the existence of SW fandom, things will get worse and worse. Without new movies in the works, SW zines won't live "forever". I don't know if any of you heard of the recent demise of the STAR WARS FAN CONNECTION, out of Germany. Frank T. Bitterhof, editor and publisher of this international zine, told me that more than half of the SWFC's members had to renew their memberships last summer and only a few did. As a consequence of this, he decided to stop publishing his zine. Even the European SW/Lucasfilm Fan Club, run by another group of German SW fans, currently puts out no more than 1 or 2 issues of their zine per year. If you compare the number of SW zines being advertised in the last two or three volumes of SE or DATAZINE, for instance, you will realize its constant and worrisome decrease.

The situation of Italian SW fandom is quite odd, though. Maybe thanks to the "drawing effect" of our organization's many ideas and plans, SW fandom seems to be quite lively, despite the Dark Times we're currently living in. New SW zines are coming out and I'm told other ones are in the planning stages. Actually, in the last two years, our organization redoubled all its efforts in order to develop SW fannish activities other than traditional zine publishing. We're currently involved in the organization of such events as SW Fan Meetings and Conventions and other events new to SW fandom such as large exhibitions of SW

spaceship models and dioramas, and SW RPG tournaments, as the SW RPG is becoming more and more popular here in Italy. It's clear that to achieve all these goals, we had to learn to partly "sacrifice our egos", first and foremost, and join efforts with other more experienced media fan organizations and associations which could help us carry out most of our plans and ideas. Of course, we had to learn how to manage a "business-like" atmosphere in many organizational areas, but, all in all, it was a small "sacrifice" if we consider all the things we're now able to carry out!

Speaking of what is going on in Italian SW fandom, I'd like to ask everyone more details and information about any SW fan activities being planned during MediaWest*Con. Since I'm seriously planning to attend it in the near future, I'd like to know what kind of SW activities can be expected to be seen at the con. One LoC spoke of a club called "Forces of the Empire" running all the SW activities during the con; can any of you tell me something about that?

Debbie Kittle: Re Star Tours, the rides both in California and Florida are the same. A somewhat bitter note about it is that, according to some friends of mine who did the ride in the summers of 1988 and 1990, the ride is now shorter than the early one screened in 1987/1988...*sigh*

How to do a zine: Not long ago, I read a booklet titled "A to Zine: The 'How-To' of Fan Publishing" by Paula Smith (still available, I guess, from Boojums Press, 507 Locust Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007). ((Ed: Be sure and SASE first! This is a pretty old publication!)) It gives lots of helpful advice and suggestions, even though it doesn't deal with the troublesome aspects of setting up and running an editorial staff when the zine becomes so "big" that the editor can't possibly do everything by himself/herself. Aside from these limitations, it's a useful booklet, especially for the editors who are under fire for the first time.

Catherine Churko: Re submitting a SW art portfolio to some of the European SW zines for future illo work, I suggest you submit to the Star Wars Fan Connection (if and when the editor decides to put it out again), or the European SW/Lucasfilm Fan Club; or else to other

established Italian SW zines such as ALLIANCE and TREMORS, or the recent CLOUD CITY. Here are the addresses:

THE STAR WARS FAN CONNECTION
Provinzstr. 100, Qu 3
D-1000 Berlin 51
Germany

THE EUROPEAN SW/LUCASFILM FAN CLUB
c/o Dirk Bartholoma/Robert Eiba
Postfach 22 01 11
D-8900 Augsburg 22
Germany

ALLIANCE/TREMORS
c/o Alliance
P. O. Box 411 - C.P.O.
41100 Modena
Italy

CLOUD CITY
c/o Fiorenzo Delle Rupi
Via XX Settembre, 96
06100 Perugia
Italy

Well, I guess this is all for now. Before I close, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank all those American fellow fans who helped us carry out many of the ideas that went into the organization of ALLIANCECON II, our second SW fan convention, to be held in May within the 17th ITALCON, our annual most important SF convention.

Our deepest gratitude goes especially to Ming Wathne and Maggie Nowakowska for their generosity and invaluable support and help. Grazie!

Till next time—La Forza sia con Voi, sempre!

Midwife

