

Kathy Agel  
51 West 2nd Street  
Bayonne, NJ 07002-2322

Well, If I don't sit my butt down and do this LoC now, it'll never get done. So here I am!

Lots to say, but where to start... "Welcome to Hellcon" was an accurate report on this year's MW\*C. I spent a lot of time at my table, and as a result didn't get to see as much of certain people as I'd have liked, but since everyone hits the Dealers' Room at one time or another, I got to see just about everyone I wanted to see. Next year just has to be better—while I wasn't treated badly by the hotel personnel (those I had occasion to deal with were quite friendly), several friends had bad experiences. I did have several photo Xeroxes of Gary Cole stolen from my door... hey, if the perpetrator had asked, I'd have given them to her/him/it!

This LoC was submitted on a 360K disk—I'm doing my bit to help our intrepid Editor to cut back on her work load. I can sympathize with your problems, Cheree—after nine months of excruciating pain, I've finally been diagnosed as having neuritis in my right wrist. It's not carpal tunnel, but it hurts like hell, and the doctor has told me to cut back on my typing. I've been lucky enough to find typists willing to help with the input involved in the zines Criterion Press puts out (more on them later), but the amount of typing my end requires still puts a terrific strain on my wrist. So guys, take it from one who knows, and please send in your LoCs on disk!

I think the editor/artist/author exchange is a great idea—sign me up as an editor looking for warm bodies—er, willing contributors.

Which segues nicely into my next subject. I've been on GENie (the General Electric Network for Information Exchange) for the past few months. Some of us (Mary Jean Holmes, Mary Fall Wardell, Mary Bloemker, Linda Deneroff, to name a few), have been discussing the whys and wherefores of zines. Someone—I don't remember who, but the odds are good that it was one of the many Marys, probably Mary Jean Holmes—asked me why I wasn't doing a SW zine, since that was the fandom that started me writing. I said, "You know...." and ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE was born. It's now open to submissions, with a flexible publishing date, so start sending those stories in! By the way, I finally managed to convince my husband that I needed a laser printer to survive, (I think sticking umpteen-odd zines in his face for two weeks after MW\*C, saying "Just look at how nice this looks!" might have had something to do with it) so Criterion Press now has a brandy-new Laser-Jet IIP! Ah, progress (and with the number of zines I do—counting the 1/z, the total is up to nine, although two of those will probably be one-shots, if they get off the ground at all—I need it!)

Sally Syrjala: You're right—it's expensive to do a zine today. I own my own copier, which enables me to keep costs down, and the final price of my zines is still high. Postage alone takes a big chunk. My local copier company gives me a cut-rate on toner, and I buy xerographic paper on sale, but it still adds up. As to the time involved, I squeeze copying

in where I can—before work, on my lunch hours, before and after supper. My copier does 30 ppm, which is pretty fast, but it still takes a while. Collating and binding are two more time-consuming jobs.

Donna Frayser: I agree, well-written original characters can be a wonderful addition to a story, but PLEASE don't refer to them as Mary Sues! A Mary Sue is a poorly-done original character, an exercise in self-indulgence for the author. I received a great deal of positive feedback for my own Cara Solo, and the original characters I've created for my Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea fiction have been even more well-received, but they're not Mary Sues. Why? I've made them real people, with real feelings, real motivations, and real flaws. A Mary Sue has none of these.

Judy Yuenger: Um, are we talkin' about the same Cheree here? Bubbly? Uh-uh. And no, Cheree, you're not bubble-headed, either... And Judy, it was nice to finally meet you, even if I didn't have all that much time to talk. At least anyone looking for me knows where to find me.... Darlin', you have my sympathies on your new project, for all the work you have ahead of you. May the Force be with you on this one, kid! As to the name of the new award, I second Cheree's suggestion--The STAR AWARDS sounds great to me.

Deb Kittle, Matthew Whitney: More Pern fans, huh? Anne's dragons have been a major love of mine for years now, and the fannish Weyrs are a major fannish activity. I edit n/ls for two of them--StarRise (one of the largest, where my character is Weyrwoman 2nd) and NorthWind (one of the smallest, where my character is the new Weyrleader). I enjoyed the graphic novels, but in that format, the bare bones is about all they have room for. #3 is due out shortly. Anne's next book, ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN, will be out in hardback in October or November. Can't wait!

Cathy Churko: I'm a Han-fan, but I never dumped Leia to substitute another female as a love interest for him. I think they belong together, and there are a lot of stories still to be explored regarding their relationship. I never slipped into her character, either. I can't say I haven't been guilty of that in other fandoms, though...

My own characters usually come alive for me, and when they do, they're much easier to write. It's when they don't that I have trouble. Lynn and Kevin Murtagh (from my Voyage fiction series) are incredibly easy to write, and so was Cara Solo. I got to the point that I could put Cara into any situation and I'd know immediately how she'd react. I'm at that point with Lynn and Kevin (who still manage to surprise me at times, however). I liked Cara; I still do. But her story has been told, and I moved on.

Marti Schuller: I'm a fanatic about recycling. Here in Bayonne, we recycle high-quality paper, aluminum cans, steel cans, glass bottles, corrugated cardboard, and newspapers. We have commingled recycling here, but I separate the aluminum cans from the rest and take them to the firehouse--the proceeds go to help children who've been burned in fires.

Jennifer Moore: None of us were experts when we submitted our first stories. Granted, some of us have more native talent than others, but we all had to start someplace. Write a short piece, submit it, and wait for the editor's response. We're not picky, we're not snobby--and most of us love to encourage new writers.

Maggie Nowakowska: LoCs are next to impossible to get these days. My Voyage letterzine has a circulation of 85 (about 20 of them are over in the UK), and I'm lucky to get 20 LoCs for an issue. And those 20 are usually from the same people. LoCs for fiction zines are in even shorter supply--I received five on BELOW THE SURFACE #1, and one on #2. To date, I've received none on #3.

Tim Blaes: Most of the Weyrs send their n/ls to Anne, but she rarely has time to read them. She has her guidelines (no sport dragons; no using her characters in our fiction; no men on goldens or women on bronzes), and couple of Weyrs that violated her tenets were closed down because of that (and those Weyrs that allowed silver dragons were told to get rid of them--except for Ista 9). But she's pretty easy to get along with, and supportive, to boot.



---

Nora Mayers  
11459 Cherry Hill Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705

August 13, 1991

Just received my first copy of SE and am enjoying it immensely! If the enthusiasm I found inside is any indication, I'd say that fears of SW fandom's demise are over exaggerated! It's great to read so many spirited opinions, both pro and con, and I've even got a few of my own!

MWC 11: I know the hotel had its share of problems (to put it mildly), but this was my first year at MediaWest and I had the time of my life! It was great meeting so many people whose writing and art I'd already come to admire through the pages of various zines (especially FLIP OF A COIN--you hear me, Barbara, Wanda, Cypher, Rebecca). I felt like I'd stepped back in time to the '20's and was sitting in on the Algonquin Round Table or Harpo Marx's Thanatopsis Inside Straight and Literary Club. For those unfamiliar with that elite club, it was a non-stop party of famous (and infamous) wits, artists, writers and talents. Conversations were outrageous, funny, unlikely, and a great deal of fun. That sums up MediaWest for me, too. I have only one complaint! I was "kicked out" of the SW party (I didn't realize payment was required in advance). I don't mean to sound sour (honest!), but the request to leave was abrupt and impolite. Being a newcomer to MediaWest and a relatively new SW fan, I admit to being a bit hurt and very disappointed. To add insult to injury, the person in charge asked if I was a mundane! Now, that's getting low! I'm really not trying to use SE as a forum for complaint, however, it might be a good idea in the future to handle such situations with a bit more decorum. Incidents like this could very well prompt a new fan to leave the fandom. But, as for me, exactly how does one go about paying for the party next year?! Incidentally, anyone who complained about the heat and humidity in Lansing obviously never spent a summer in Washington, D.C.! I thought the weather was kinda balmy. Really! ((Ed: The "party" Nora refers to was the SW cantina held on Sunday night of

the con. I have discovered that this cantina was set up by the Forces of the Empire group and was for the sole use of the blaster battle participants. A cover charge was required for entry and everyone was required to be in costume and/or SW persona. I have written to Pat Grunenwald and suggested that they post a sign next year explaining the requirements and thereby reducing the chance for hard feelings on both sides.))

Heir to the Empire: If MWC 11 was labelled the con from hell, this must be the novel from hell. I have so many complaints about the book that I hardly know where to begin. Perhaps the best place is Han and Leia's relationship (except there isn't one). So, Leia's pregnant with twins. Is Han the father? As indifferent as he is towards Leia in this book, it's hard to imagine them getting close enough to produce offspring. Example: "I love you, Han," Leia says. "Me, too," Han replies. Wow, heart-stopper. If this is a play on the "I know" line, it falls flat. A fan pointed out that this novel takes place five years into Han and Leia's marriage, so naturally things aren't going to be glowing with the light of new love. Why not? Luke's relationship with Leia in HEIR is very loving. Another thing that bothers me is Leia's overactivity and Han's willingness to let her become involved in dangerous situations even though she's only three months into her pregnancy (a dangerous period, as any woman will tell you). Han's comment to Luke, "She can't have her big brother around to protect her all the time," also rang false. Is this the Han who risked being captured by Imperials to rescue Leia from Hoth station? Or the Han who instinctively threw a hand out toward her when they were captured on Endor by stormtroopers? Something's certainly happened in five years to change Han's personality! Luke fares no better in the novel. Someone at MediaWest commented that he comes off in the book as the perfect dweeb. Five years after the rebel victory, he has done nothing to advance the Jedi Order, Leia hasn't been trained in the ways of the Force...what has he been doing? Another quibble--the scene where he breaks out of his cell by dismantling his prosthetic hand seems unlikely. While escaping from Jabba's sail barge, Luke receives a blaster "wound" in

the hand and reacts with pain. How likely is it that he's going to blithely dismantle the hand himself and suffer nothing more severe than a slight tingle in the fingertips? Please. I found a problem on nearly every page, but I'll stop here or I'll ramble on for pages. Let me just add that, like Cheree, I felt that the characters and the feel of SW have been better represented in some of the better fan fiction. Timothy Zahn might have benefited by deigning to pick up TREMOR IN THE FORCE, FLIP OF A COIN or WOOKIEE COMMODE to get in touch with what the fans have been doing with the characters the last 13 years. As far as I'm concerned, this was a "let's make a fast buck by capitalizing on a sure fire formula" book, and I was very disappointed.

Luke Skywalker Turns 40 — and still somehow manages to look 16. I'm beginning to think he really is from another planet!

Regarding Henry: Definitely not as bad as the critics say, but probably not as good as fans hoped for. Still, Harrison was splendid and the character is wonderful and ripe for fan fiction! There's a lot a good fan writer could do with this endearing, sweet character—I'm looking forward to reading what they come up with!

Donna Frayser: Personally (as a relative newcomer to SW fandom), I'm impatient when fan writers add new characters to their stories (Ellen Randolph and Cypher are two writers who pulled it off and kept my whole-hearted attention, but for me, that's rare). I disagree that it's all been written—there are many, many possibilities yet to be explored in the lives of our favorite rebels. Mary Jean Holmes has tackled a few wonderful variations on the norm and proved that it can be done. We don't have to give in to Mary Sue yet!

Maggie Nowakowska: I've published four zines (with a fifth in the works). LoCs have always been so rare I've felt like framing the few I've received. It's unfair for readers to assume that zine editors are putting their publications out without needing feedback. Unlike the pro publishers, we don't make a profit on these things and it takes a lot of sweat and pain (and cash) to produce them. I don't think an LoC's too much to ask. If there's a decline in SW zines, folks, look to this as a possible

reason. I've almost quit publishing several times for lack of response.

Matthew Whitney: Loved the photo of you with David Prowse!

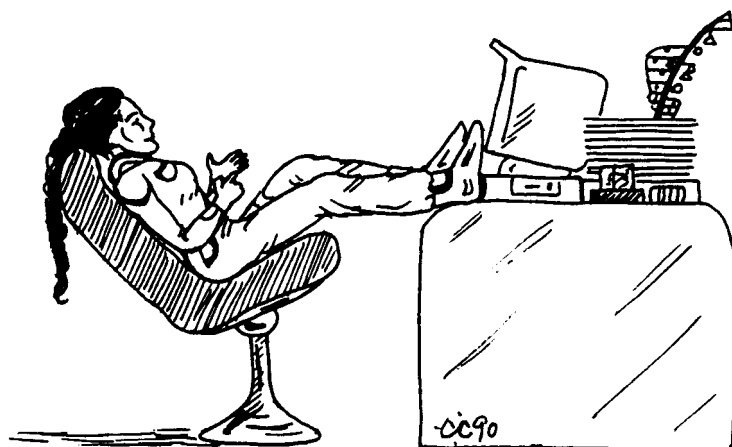
Judith Yuenger: I love the name Star Wars Fandom File, but being partial to the Corellian, I like "The Corellian Merits of Achievement Awards" even better!

Z. P. Florian: Jabba was probably just perverse enough to lust after anything female, but perhaps he showed special interest in Leia just because he knew how it would affect Han. Also, regarding Ben's "whopper" regarding the death of Anakin—my opinion of Obi-Wan deteriorates with every viewing of ANH! With friends like these, who needs enemies?

Sally Syrjala: ROTJ was also my least favorite film, but Harrison's performance (especially while coming out of carbon freeze) makes up for a multitude of sins for me. I could really believe he was blind. Great acting job. Too bad he got so little opportunity to act in this one!

A thought: Has it occurred to anyone that Lando was probably trying to warn Han away from Bespin with his show of arrogance on the landing ramp, but lost his nerve and reverted back to his con man's ways by hugging Han? Also, doesn't it seem a bit callous of Lando to casually comment that "I've just made a deal that will keep the Empire out of here forever" before pushing Han, Leia and Chewie into Vader's trap? Just a thought.

Well, this letter could go on for another six pages, but I'll try to save you the agony and stop here. May your x-wing always fly!



---

Jennifer Moore  
1204 S. Washington, Apt. 301W  
Alexandria, VA 22314-4448

August 16, 1991

What a night! I'm watching the Redskins and writing to SW fans. So, if my letter sounds a little disjointed, it's because I'm writing sentences between plays.

SE is definitely worth the wait! "From a Certain Point of View" is becoming my favorite section of the newsletter. I really like how everyone interprets the trilogy so differently!

Now to get down to business. Speaking of the state of SW fandom, I heard a rumor brewing. Not to start a letter war or a mud-slinging campaign, I just want to check and see if anyone has heard something similar. Shore Leave, the con in Towson, MD, had a panel entitled "Is This the Last Shore Leave?" What it was about is the latest doings of Creation Conventions. It seems that Creation bought the licensing rights to STAR TREK from Paramount Pictures. After doing so, they proceeded to send a "cease and desist" order to some dealers --in hopes of curbing the sales of "bootleg" merchandise. The panelists and others in the room went on to say that Creation has also tried to enforce this "licensing" rule by forcing fan-run cons out of business. Everyone there cited incidents that seem to support this claim. To make a long story short, people seem to believe that Creation wants to monopolize the convention and fandom scene; and no "small fry" will be allowed to break in. A lively panel it was! But, unfortunately, questions such as "How will this affect fandoms besides TREK? What is the future of cons such as Shore Leave, MediaWest, and other fan-run cons? Will fanzines be limited or even allowed?" -- were never resolved. I could go on further, but my letter would rival WAR AND PEACE. Has anyone heard anything more about this? This inquiring mind wants to know!

Thank you for allowing me to speak up. I just thought I'd pass it on about Creation Cons since it sounded so bizarre.

On a more positive note, I have to say I love those "what if" questions! I'm going to sit down and think of a couple. Maggie Nowa-

kowska's letter on "nostalgia" was thought-provoking. After some thought, I realized 1983 was a great year. ROTJ came out and the Redskins reigned supreme over the NFL. Now, in 1991, SW is becoming active again with HEIR TO THE EMPIRE and the Redskins have a legitimate shot at the Super Bowl. So I say, "Let's get this show on the road and get involved!" Like Maggie says, let's see what's out there now.

I've rambled on enough so I'll sign off. Last, but definitely not least, is Cheree--I hope your parents are doing better and I wish you and them the very best. ((Ed: Thanks for the good wishes. My mom's leg is healed now, although she's still sporting a very large red scar that we're keeping an eye on. And Daddy is feeling fine, though the doctors are keeping a close eye on him as well.))

## Theories

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

August 22, 1991

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Congratulations, Cheree, on winning another well-deserved Fan Q for SE. I'd argue with you, however, that all the credit belongs to those who contribute. You do such an admirable job, with too little expressed appreciation, so take your bow when you're recognized!

I thoroughly enjoyed reading everyone's reviews on HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. Of all the opinions given, I found myself most in agreement with you, Cheree. Like Z. P., I'm thankful for the new boost the book has brought to SW fans, known and unknown. Like Cheree, I've certainly read more entertaining, well-written ideas in fanzines. (I also agree, Cheree, that no one who has not experienced pregnancy first-hand can depict it accurately.) To Chris Graham,

I'll say I, too, had some questions re Chewie's family and Luke's prior activities, but I do have a theory on the ysalamiri. Suppose that their Force presence was once the strongest on the planet and that, somehow, this made them easier prey. Over generations, couldn't they develop a way to repel not only their own Force emanations, but all Force auras? As a means of survival? I realize this is a shaky argument at best, but it's the only one I could conceive that would allow me to enjoy the story. Anyone else have a better idea? Ming, I'm sorry you so obviously disliked the book but it certainly proves, once again, the differences that exist within fandom when some of us liked the novel, some of us took it as pleasant fluff and some hated it. It will be interesting to see if opinions alter over the next two volumes. My biggest gripe--the girl. If she is, as I suspect, the potential love interest for Luke, I may openly rebel myself.

How wonderful it was to see the bios on Debbie Kittle and Matthew Whitney. I love the caption "Crew Roster." I look forward to future bios so I'll finally have faces for all your familiar names.

Maggie, your account of your visit to the Italian Alliancecon was very interesting and enlightening. I particularly appreciated the differences you encountered. It seems you had a marvelous time and represented American fandom in fabulous fashion. I don't know who was the more fortunate, you or those you met. By the way, do we address you now as Madame Ambassador?

Thanks, Cheree, for your edifying glance at MWC '91. I'm almost glad I missed it, but not really. Any chance for photos from Hellcon? (*(Ed: Unfortunately, the Official Con Gremlin spent a good bit of time in my camera. I only managed a very few photos and none of them are good enough or interesting enough to print. Anyone out there care to share their photos?)*) I hope by now your mother is improving steadily, if not fully healed. We had a scare earlier this summer with my 18-year-old nephew. He stepped on a nail while cleaning the chicken coop on my sister's farm and developed cellulitis. He ended up in surgery, but it was still touch-and-go for over five weeks as to whether he'd need his foot amputated. Luckily, he's

fine now, but I do sympathize with what you felt for your mother. By the way, I've had carpal tunnel syndrome in both hands for several years now, so I can sympathize with you there, too.

Well, I want to try to keep this at the new three page request limit so...

Z. P. Florian: I'm sorry if I misunderstood your reaction to the torture in "Missing". I happen to know that Treena [Catriona Campbell] spent long, grueling weeks researching actual torture accounts in order to be faithful in her presentation of the horrors. I'll pass on your praise to her. I know she'll appreciate it.

Sally Syrjala: Hurray for another voice that recognizes the worth of stories on familiar themes. Good writing can make any plot seem new and fresh, IMO.

Debbie Kittle: I also saw Mark on the two FLASH episodes. While he definitely wasn't playing Luke, Mark did an excellent job, don't you think? He seemed to be in his element. Did anyone else see shades of Frank Gorshin's "Riddler" in Mark's performance, though?

I still haven't found "Jedi Honor", but I haven't had time to look much, either. Too many other demands for my attention these days.

Have fun at MWC '92. Hopefully, it'll be better than this year's apparently was. Tell you what--you hijack that plane and I'll rob the bank and see you there. Deal?

Judith Yuenger: It sounds like, in spite of all the problems, you had a blast at MWC. I am also a smoker, though, and I must admit that the year I attended, I found far less acceptance than you did. In fact, some fans were borderline rude, even though I smoked only outside the hotel or where ashtrays had been placed in the halls.

You really have lists for all SW fan writers?! Now I know you're the one to tackle the awards. Speaking of which, I like Cheree's suggestion for the name. Previously, I'd liked the "Obi", but it does exclude the Darksiders, I suppose. Another thought, how about just the "Force Awards"? Whatever name, best of luck.

Matthew Whitney: I like your four stages of the Force, but I'd add a little. PASSIVE: aware and feeding the Force, but unable to use it. LIGHT: used for constructive and selfless

---

interests, except in the matter of personal survival. DARK: used for destructive and self-serving purposes.

I've always felt that Dagobah was, somehow, shielded, but not by Yoda. More of a special quality of the planet itself. I do agree though that Ben used his Force powers rarely while on Tatooine to avoid undue attention.

Add me to the list of those who appreciate DRAGONSLAYER! That's the best dragon ever created, bar none!

Catherine Churko: Re your question about drawing Luke in "regular" or more casual clothes. I, for one, say DO IT. So long as he doesn't end up in a galactic leisure suit, I think fans will accept anything.

You asked about characters and how writers can become bored with "old friends". I can only speak for myself, of course, but I find that I sometimes need a break from characters in order to keep them fresh. I never forget them, but new ones pop up that demand attention, too. I'd hate to ever feel limited to just those I knew well. Imagine that you love drawing flowers and can draw a handful extremely well. Does that mean you never want to draw trees?

Jennifer Moore: Hail and well met! If encouragement is what you need to get more involved in fandom, I think you'll find SE a great source. As for not writing fanfic because some you've read are superior to your view of your own work, I doubt there's an author alive—in fandom or pro—who can't name writers they feel are better than they are. Derogatory LoCs can hurt, but I've seldom seen any that weren't meant well or that couldn't enlighten the author, once you get past the sting, of course. By all means—WRITE! I'm also a staunch believer that the more you write, the better you get. I hope to see your stories soon.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: I'm continuously amazed at how well-read and well-educated SW fans are. I've never read Plato's vision of the human spirit, but I really like your application of it to SW. I had noticed that each of the main characters does come up against what they'd seemingly desired only to find it lacking. I've always felt it was Lucas' way of demonstrating that wise old adage "be care-

ful what you wish for because you just may get it."

I agree 100% with your analysis of Palpatine as purely evil. Not everyone turns to the Dark as a result of external influences, even in real life, and I firmly believe there are those who shun "good" of their own free will, even in face of utter defeat.

Maggie Nowakowska: I missed the 60 MINUTES segment on Nazi children, but I like the idea of drawing on it to portray Luke and Leia's attitudes over their parentage. I will say I found it profoundly sad that those Nazi children were so obsessed and haunted by their parents' activities. I, for one, have never accepted that the sins of the father are visited on the child, except by the narrow-mindedness of bigoted fools.

I love your perception of Anakin/Vader and share your ideas whole-heartedly.

Re LoCs -- AMEN!

Leanne Wingo: Welcome to SE! I have to agree with Cheree that Mos Eisley is probably a lot more visibly wild after nightfall, but also, Ben probably "senses" underlying currents of villainy that may not be overtly noticeable to someone not Force-aware.

Auriette Hahn: Hi! I love your first name! I haven't heard any more on the comic "Dark Empire" either, but I'm glad you brought it up. I was beginning to think I'd imagined hearing of it, at all.

Tim Blaes: Good luck with your cross universe zine! It sounds potentially, delightfully weird fun. Be sure to let us know when it's available for sale. As for SW being hard to cross, I've certainly read enough stories on this theme to find that hard to believe. (SW & Shakespeare, Ghostbusters, Dr. Who, to name only a few.) I know I've crossed SW with Christmas and DRAGONLANCE myself, so if I can do it, anyone can.

Oops, over my three page limit by half a page. Sorry, Cheree. I'll try to do better next time. For now, have a great holiday season everyone. (Am I early or late?) And keep those pencils, pens, fingers working to keep SW fandom moving. Peace to all!

\*\*\*\*\*

---

Debbie Kittle  
11521 Idlewood Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

September 10, 1991

Happy Autumn (soon to be Winter) to All! Congrats on the Fan Q for SE. That's really great. It sounds like MWC was very...interesting to say the least. It will probably be very boring when I go next year.

At the end of August I got to see Jonathan Frakes (Riker from STING) and a week later I got to see Bill Shatner. Both put on nice shows and I enjoyed them both. It looks like STING's 5th season is going to be good especially with Spock making an appearance in November, then ST 6 coming out one month later. That movie looks to be very promising.

Could it be that George is finally going to give us what we've hoped for? I know there have been rumors and such but this much stuff in printed form seems a little promising. I'll be keeping my fingers crossed as well as some Forceful wishing.

Z.P.: What would constitute a Huttese beauty? Was Jabba handsome by Huttese standards? Who's to say what turns on an alien life-form? Even us humans have some weird tastes from time to time, though what is considered weird for one doesn't necessarily mean weird to the next person.

Sally: I agree with everything you stated. I'm not looking for anything fancy. Sure it's nice, but I'm happy just with a nice looking zine with no frills, bells or whistles. I love to read a story even if it's been done a hundred times. I know that no two people would have the same exact story.

Matthew: 3PO definitely knew she was on board because he tells R2 that "there'll be no escape for the Princess this time." It also indicates that they've been through this before. I could accept the programmed security block with other droids but 3PO strikes me as someone who would have a hard time going along with it. Why didn't they use that on him in ROTJ? Quicker not to tell him than insert the new programming?

The whole scene struck me as odd just like Ben's little eye problem in ANH.

I agree with your theory about why Ben and Yoda were never sniffed out but if Dagobah was shielded, Luke seemed to have a pretty easy time finding it. He told R2 that they were going to the Dagobah system so there must have been more than one planet. It's possible that Yoda lowered his shield so Luke could find it relatively easy. I still think that Darth knew nothing of Yoda as only Masters know about The Master.

Catherine: Would love to see Luke in different/alterd Jedi clothes. It's great to see other people's imagination.

Only R2 is aware of Kenobi's existence. 3PO carried on too much to feign ignorance. It was just strange sounding to me. He knew that she was on the ship and they had had at least one if not more adventures together. I would've thought if he were trying to protect the Princess, he would have come up with an excuse of his own to explain the holo, not let R2 do it. He does tend to think he is better than R2.

I have GUARDIAN 6 on my waiting list from the Lending Library. So I'll look forward to reading that story. Thanks.

I got two of the three 3-D SW comics. The third one was sold out and I've been unable to locate a copy myself.

I tried to see the partial eclipse we had over the East Coast. Yes, I put on my sunglasses and was able for a few seconds see the moon over the sun, only about 7%. Call me crazy and foolish but I had to.

Chris: See my response to Catherine above about 3PO.

Marti: About the Hutts, just because Jabba is like he is in ROTJ, there is always the possibility that he went through a metamorphosis (like caterpillar/butterfly) and he was able to move on legs or appendages early in his life. He might have been immune to those mind tricks but Leia's boosted strength and his "new" overlarge body hindered any hope of continuing his life.

Those temps for Anchorage were hot and record breaking for them at that time (just my luck). To me, 70-75 is warm. I was going out in Glacier Bay, which had air temps of the 30's, in a short-sleeve regular thickness shirt and was in my element. I also went up to



---

Thompson's Pass to see Worthington Glacier and got my picture taken in a snow bank with same type of shirt above, air temp probably in the 40's. Everyone else is bundled up and I'm working up a sweat just standing there. I know some of that was from an adrenalin rush because I was so excited but in the winter here (when it decides it will be a winter) I go around in T-shirts and a jean jacket for the most part.

That's why I hate summers here. It is so hot and humid, it's disgusting and I'm miserable. I've been told by some friends go to the southwest. It's hot but not humid. I keep telling them I don't want to live anywhere where it is more than 70 degrees for more than a week at a time. I want to live in Alaska, but I just have to win that state lottery first (yes, I tried for the \$21 million a few weeks ago and lost.) I want a state that has a winter season that is a true Winter with an occasional blizzard just for good measure.

I've discovered that lately the new people that we've hired at work are fans of the Trilogy. It's been nice to discuss points of view with them but they don't wish to become involved in fandom. It's just nice to talk to someone about it. The Library keeps me involved in SW, there are so many zines to read, and thanks to Z.P. and Cheryl Pryor I now am working on my own clothes for my newly acquired SW dolls. I am having loads of fun.

Thanks for your good wishes for my grandmother. She's doing well and just turned 88 in July. I'm glad things are going well for you.

Jennifer: Here's a large dose of nerve, courage and motivation for you to sit down and write something, anything. I loved to write in school, especially those research papers but the professors in college, especially one in particular who I hated, usually cut my work down. That one teacher though really did a thorough job of hating everything I put to paper. He tried to tell me that my sentence structures were too simple or vice versa. It was in technical writing and that was the only English course ever that I got a 'C' in, the rest were 'B's or 'A's. The guy was a jerk and he even stated in the beginning of class that he wasn't really supposed to teach this class but they were short a teacher.

I didn't let it discourage me, though. With the help of a friend, we sat down, wrote a story, submitted it to WC and it got accepted. Let me say that it is a big thrill to get that acceptance letter, sort of like getting into college. I'm certainly not prolific like Carolyn Gollledge and some others but I do what I can. My work would never come up to snuff in comparison with their talent but I accept it and write what I feel is my best. I just got my fourth story accepted for WC 8.

I also don't mind the LoC's. They give good criticism, especially if you're a first timer. I also take into account that you can't please everyone. Someone is going to dislike the story, just don't let it get you down. I don't. I hope you'll give it a try one day.

Fiorenzo: Interesting explanation re: 3PO and the radio shows. He could've been angry with R2 which was typical of him but it still rubs me the wrong way.

Maggie: Perhaps only certain carbon chains (C-C-C-...) were melted thus insuring that the victim would remain unharmed yet there seems to be some discrepancy. It appears that others have been put in hibernation before as it doesn't appear to be anything new to them but on the other hand, carbon freezing doesn't seem to have been used on a person. Perhaps only in experimentation. I wonder how many forms of hibernation there are?

Auriette: Welcome to SE. I think it would take more than 40 years to reconstruct the galaxy though by that time, the major framework, diplomatic stuff would have been laid.

I hope you'll tell us what Timothy Zahn said at the Con as I'm anxious to hear what he has to say.

Tim: I like your what if about Leia trying to find Ben. I've thought of that myself at one point. Maybe she had a rough idea (from Bail) and was going to ask around. It seemed old Ben the Hermit was at least known.

If Luke had made it home ahead of the troopers, I don't think he could have said anything to them that they'd believe to make them leave. Maybe Beru would've, but I think Owen was stubborn enough to stay put and fight them off, if they'd have shown up.

Good luck on that C/U SW zine. How about "A-Cross The Force" as a title?

---

Now for some tidbits: Looks like Harrison's next movie is set in the 1930's and is by Harold Becker entitled NIGHT RIDE DOWN. Certainly sounds different than what he's done.

Looks like Harrison may be coming to Washington in a few months to start filming PATRIOT GAMES, a novel by Tom Clancy. I might brave DC to try and get a look at him.

Some recommendations for stories to read in your local fanzine: "The Wizard of F. Oz" in the NERFHERDER'S COMPANION #2. The characters were replaced with SW and it was really funny when they put in the George Lucas add-ins.

In SKYWALKER #4, a story by Jackie Paciello entitled "Kessel Run" gives a great definition of that 12 parsecs problem Han mentioned in ANH.

Well, I'll close now and hope by our next get together we'll hear if our wishes/dreams come true concerning Chapter 1 and I hope everyone has a delightfully COLD winter. Fly Casual!

## *On the Mark*

Maggie Nowakowska  
2330 Federal Avenue E.  
Seattle, WA 98101

2 to 3 pages, eh? Okay, I'll give it a try. (Do I hear cheering?) By the by, loved the DESERT SUN interview with Ford--best one I've seen yet.

Here's a chorus I thought worked well with the philosophy of SW:

*You've got to sing, like you don't need  
the money;*

*Love, like you'll never get hurt.*

*You've got to dance, like there's nobody  
watching;*

*Live with your heart, if you want  
it to work.*

Sally Syrjala: I think you're right on the

mark with the idea that Han and Leia are reflections of each other psychologically and that one thing that binds them is their ability to see behind each other's mask.

As for Leia's reactions to everything that has happened to her, while I agree that folks on the political levels that Leia Organa inhabits can get tired like any other human, it seems to me that one of the particular traits of political animals is that they thrive on what would exhaust, or drive crazy, the rest of us. Leia could be tired and soul-weary with all the set-backs and tragedies she has endured, but there's plenty of precedent to assume that she would keep politicking with her last breath. A person usually doesn't stop mothering just because she's tired and heart-sick; a mother is what she is and she keeps on with it, whatever the circumstances. If Leia is truly a deep-in-the-politics animal, a mover/shaker is what she will remain, and she will keep on with it whatever happens--death, destruction, or lovers by the name of Han Solo. Now, I have no trouble with someone writing a story that takes as its premise the idea that politicking was forced upon Leia and that she would be happy to give it up, no matter how good she is at it--I was good at science and I spent the remainder of my mother's lifetime unsuccessfully convincing her that I didn't want to be a nuclear physicist--but the author is going to have to write it pretty convincingly after all the on-screen behavior support we've seen for the idea that politicking is Leia's choice of vocation.

As for accepting an encompassing description of fanlit as similar to romance lit in structure, I'm a little hesitant. Certainly that's one style available in fanlit, but others exist. Mark me down as one fanlit reader who craves the surprise of simulated real life and therefor dislikes formula intensely, no matter how interesting the characterization. Maybe I'm just one of the restless breed of human, but I find no reassurance in unchangeability; and the older I get, with ever more limitations on my choices in life, the more I want my fantasy life to offer me unexpected adventure and development.

Z. P. Florian: I've always thought Jabba's interest in skimpy outfits for humans was part

---

and parcel of his interest in maintaining control over this people. He's probably acutely aware of whatever works re: subjugation for each type of operative. It really isn't very difficult to learn that sexual humiliation works very well indeed with humans. (Just as droids fear not being able to fulfill their function and so are threatened with being slowly short-circuited.) Redefining a brave, bad-ass undercover agent as no more than a body for a g-string and brass bra effectively neutralizes that agent's ability to threaten anyone. It would be no different if it were Han decked out in nothing but nipple rings and a sequined jockstrap with bells. If the capture of Leia and Han were presented realistically, Leia probably would be raped immediately by those humans Jabba wished to favor. Probably Han as well, from what I've read of how gangs often avenge themselves on each other. Let's not forget the psychological pleasure some sentient folk take in another's humiliation, a pleasure that is not dependent upon the ability of the antagonist to perform sexually. I have no trouble at all imagining Jabba enjoying Leia's exhibition both on a control and a perverse psychological level. I know of one couple that got the message behind Lucas' images immediately and forbade their 4-year-old daughter from seeing JEDI because of those early scenes.

Matthew Whitney and Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: I'd use the yin-yang symbol to answer Matthew's questions about the purity of either side of the Force, but Lucas included enough symbols of the same in the movies. Look at the stormtroopers, white with black; or at Han, black with white; or at Luke, who goes from all white in ANH to mufti in TESB to black in ROTJ until he finally turns away from Dark temptation and white flaps back once again to show his returning balance.

There's light in the dark and dark in the light, and while I think all cultures know this, it seems that the Eastern philosophies accept it as natural more readily than do the Western ones. From the Greeks, as well as from Zoroaster and the Levant, we've inherited an emphasis on purity as a desirable and possible goal. IMO, that sets us up for failure because of the irony Fiorenzo pointed out: that it is

in the extremes/purity of our desires that we walk hand-in-hand with the Dark Side. Too much light can blind (darken) the eyes, and too much dark leaves the eyes useless, both undesirable situations. Since I feel the Easterners have a better handle on reality, I can't see Palpatine as all Dark, philosophically; even he could change...but I sure wouldn't want his karma!

Catherine asks why authors can't write about favorite characters forever. Speaking for myself, I stop writing when the character's life--how s/he was born, grown, educated, bedded, experienced and completed--has been fleshed out completely; when I know everything I need to know about why the character is who s/he/it is. Sure, I could repeat storylines, but that is boring. And putting a character through hoops just because I want to read about her/him/it--well, for me, that's emotional masturbation. And cruel to a character I like. I mean, I think of these folks as real people, and real people--even those who are hyperactive--can only take so much. For me, Han can get his lights punched out only so many times, just like real people; and Luke can indulge in only so much depression; and Leia can only bluster so much. Eventually, the characters grow up and out of the stories. At some point in my imaginings, during which I outline my tales, a character will leave the story, look at me and say, "Enough already." For those familiar with my THOUSAND WORLDS series, I'll use JetRever as an example. I really like this guy; he's a father/lover image for me, the classic archetype, and in my own fantasies, I've worked the character as much as any I've had. But about a year ago, he let me know that any more usage would be abuse and he wouldn't cooperate. And that's that, as far as I'm concerned.

Auriette Hahn: When Vader cracks wise on Leia's ship, I always thought he was being drippingly sarcastic about the rebels' cover. He and they knew darn well it wasn't an ambassador's ship and the Dark Lord was merely rubbing it in. As for Palpatine not sensing Leia whilst in the Senate, it would fit in with the deep cover suggested for her by Kenobi's statements on Dagobah. Also, the ploy about the most obvious enemy being the one last

---

noticed could work here. A sudden thought: although many fan writers use the Luke as Forceful/Leia as Force-blind plot development, that contradicts Luke's own belief (stated on Endor in ROTJ in a very factual way, as if he has already sensed her unrealized abilities), and Vader's assumption that his other child would be workable material.

Tim Blaes: Oh, yeah, some great alternates could be written about what happens when Leia is intercepted with the tapes. We've had one running where Luke finally gets into space when shanghaied by Han who needs a body fast and takes the easiest-looking one in Mos Eisley; where Leia is kept by Vader as a trophy after Alderaan blows up; where Luke gets conscripted by the Imps onto Vader's ship, takes up with Leia to whom he is drawn through the Force, and subsequently learns about the Force from Vader's Darkside POV; where Kenobi sets out after Luke a year later, runs into Han and Chewie who are pissed about losing their by-then partner to the Imps (H&C) and Kenobi pissed about losing Luke to the Dark. The story line packs incest, Darkside, revenge, et al, into one screaming package. Gad, I'm glad I don't have time to write it down...

## *Moronic Hotel Management*

Leanne Wingo  
640 Valley Meadow Place  
Escondido, CA 92027

September 12, 1991

Greetings! Here I am back again. I just loved reading through SE#29, as well as all the back issues I ordered. The hard work you do to put it all together is amazing. You do it so well, too. Give yourself a big pat on the back!

I honestly didn't think I'd be able to re-

spond so soon (if at all) this time as my college schedule has been rather hectic this semester. Not to mention the fact my part time job is slowly turning into a full time job. I've forgotten exactly what sleep is, but it often sounds appealing! I managed to luck out today as two of my classes were cancelled, so here I am! Enough babbling; onto the LoC...

To our fearless editor, Cheree: I really got a kick out of your editorial about "Hell-con". C'mon, it really wasn't that bad. I really enjoyed myself despite the problems with the moronic hotel management. It was really wonderful to see so many friendly faces and to meet so many people in fandom. It was something I needed as my father died of cancer shortly before the con, and I was under a great deal of stress. I debated on even going as I didn't want to leave my mom when I felt she needed me. It was she (a woman with little understanding of fandom) who encouraged me to do. I am so glad I went; the con worked wonders for my morale. I want to give extra special thanks to my wonderful roomies at the con --Elke Slowik, Carolyn Gollledge, and especially Janet Madden for making it so much fun for me. The three of you are tops in my book! I really hated to leave and I found myself feeling a sense of "culture shock" when I got home. I kept wondering why I was no longer in a galaxy far far away!

By the way, has anyone heard anything about the lawsuit against the Holiday Inn? Somebody told me Lori and Gordon were trying to contact the wedding party people to go in and sue them together. I sure hope the hotel realizes what a big mistake they committed at MWC-11.

Maggie: I have to tell you I really agree with the idea you play Mon Mothma in the first trilogy. You really write wonderful letters. So, tell us what your secret is! I really loved your report on Alliance Con in Italy. Sounds like you had a fabulous time. Quite an adventure at the airport, eh? Thank the Maker you arrived.

It was interesting to read about the translations in Italian. I just love the idea of the Imps speaking more properly than the Rebels. Also, the implications for the Italian words for "master" sound very good. I almost wish it came out that way in English.

Your accounts of the children of Nazis were chilling to say the least. As a matter of fact, the other day a friend and I were discussing that very subject and I read her that portion of your letter. Her reaction was the same as mine when I first read it. Sad. Very sad. In '83, Carrie Fisher told an interviewer (I believe it was in PEOPLE magazine) she was glad that they told her before they shot the scene where Luke tells Leia that Vader is their father. "Otherwise," she said, "it would've been like Mark was saying Eddie Fisher wasn't my father, but Hitler was."

Yes, I believe Anakin/Vader is a reminder of the darkness in all of us. We all have our dark moments, just as we all have choices on which path to take. We can be like Darth and choose to follow the dark path, or we can choose, as Luke did, to follow the path of light. This, I think, was a big factor in the success of the SW movies. The theme is universal and many people could relate to it. You're right; Anakin's return to life is hope to us. It shows that despite our mistakes, we can start anew.

Auriette Hahn: The CHICAGO TRIBUNE said a new SW film could be out as early as next year??? Nahhh, I better not get my hopes up too high, I'm sure it's just a rumor. Wouldn't it be nice, though? Which reminds me...

Hi, Marti! Gee, it seems I've heard your name from a certain Janet Madden for years! I feel as if I know you. A friend of mine said there were a bunch of rumors flying around a con in the Bay Area that RED TAILS is really a SW movie. I believe it's probably only a rumor, though...but it's nice to dream about it, eh? All I know is if I saw a trailer for a new one, I'd probably faint. ((Ed: For the record, RED TAILS is not a code name for the new SW movie. It is a movie done by Lucasfilm about an all-black fighter squadron in WWII.))

Yes, it is in the JEDI novelization that states Ben is Owen's brother. It's the scene where Ben is explaining to Luke about Leia being his sister. It's a bit more detailed than the movie's scene. In this same scene, Ben also tells Luke that when his father left, he did not know his wife was pregnant.

Matthew: Hi, I've also heard your name mentioned a few times. (Rumor has it that you

have quite a collection of movie stills.)

I also got a copy of the audio of HEIR TO THE EMPIRE. It took me forever to find it, too. I work in a fairly large mall and I thought for sure that either Walden's or B. Dalton's would get it in. Both places looked at me like I was crazy when I asked for it. Well, then I went on a short vacation to San Francisco this summer. I thought I'd probably find it there. No such luck. After all this looking at various book stores in the Bay Area, my mom finds it at a book store in La Jolla--practically in my back yard! I've enjoyed what I've heard so far. The one thing that struck me is that Lawson is English. Okay, after a million or so viewings of the Saga, one would think I would have realized that but I never did!

Debbie Kittle: Congrats on your new computer. My grandpa recently got one and I think he's getting tired of my face as I'm always going over to his place to use it!

Guess what? We have Price Clubs here, too, and in the past few times I've been in there, they've had SW playing on the big screen! Is this coincidence or is the organization run by fans? Hmmm, something to ponder...

Well, I guess I'm through ranting and raving. Before I close, what does everyone think of the situation in Russia? Pretty amazing, isn't it? The whole world is changing before our very eyes. Let me close by wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a very prosperous 1992! See y'all next year! May the Force be with you...always!



Medicine  
Man

---

Dr. Mary Urhausen  
42 Three Mile Road  
Racine, WI 53402

She's baaaaaack! I'm sure my absence from the last issue or two of SE went largely unnoticed by fandom in general; probably the only people who missed me were the folks who like to engage in a mutual locking-of-horns...but hey—even an argument is a dialog, right? I'm afraid writing LoCs is just one of many fannish activities to be put on hold this past year. I was extremely lucky to be able to make it to MediaWest\*Con this year. I was apparently one of the many fans who had a wonderful time in spite of the hotel problems. (My favorite comment on that: "Nice hotel you've got here ...it would be a shame if something were to happen to it...!") I'm sorry I didn't make the SE gathering. Although its scheduling was probably perfect for most SW fans, I was working the art auction (I know, I know—every year I swear will be my last for working the art auction!). I hope the SE gathering becomes an annual event; who knows—maybe next year I'll hang tough and not work the art auction, so I can attend it.

SE#29 was another nice big fat issue. Cheree, does it seem as amazing to you as it does to me that you've put out that many issues? (Ed: Constantly!) Thanks for your perseverance and all the grunt work you put into this letterzine. I've marked so much stuff, I can't begin to comment on all of it; guess I'll just try to hit the points where my scrawlings in the margins were the most vehement!

Z. P. Florian: Although I've discussed this matter with you in a private letter, I also want to make a comment on your remarks about how hurt you were by what you assumed was a snub from Samia and me and THE WOOKIEE COMMODE. I feel that a public apology is due—even though no slight was intended—simply because you have been traumatized enough by this to write about it in SE! As I explained, I have no control over letters sent to, and not answered by, Samia. My file contains only two letters from you, both regarding doing illustrations for the WC, and replies were sent to both (although I'll admit the replies were

probably vague and unsatisfying—since the future of the zine was in limbo). The only advice I can offer all fan correspondents is never, NEVER assume that no answer = rejection! Only a letter of rejection = rejection! Frankly, we are just not that evasive or polite in rejecting material! No reply to a letter could mean anything from the letter never arrived, the reply never arrived, the question can't be answered yet, or someone is too lazy or disorganized to answer their mail. I hope rather than making you timid or dejected, this experience will teach you to persist when you write editors—until you are sure you have been heard and until you get an answer.

Sally Syrjala: Your comments on the burden of fanzine publishing are pretty much on target. And yes, cost is definitely an intimidating factor. It's certainly one of the reasons why I would not consider trying to continue to publish the COMMODE by myself.

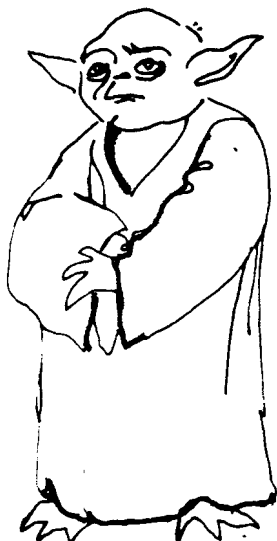
Donna Frayser: I agree with your observation that good created characters are the key to rejuvenating SW fan fiction—and I've said so more than once in these pages. I think the term "Mary Sue" has too much of a negative connotation, though; guess we will have to come up with a new name for them. FCCs? (Fan Created Characters) Or FCNCCs? (Fan Created Non-Canon Characters) Oh, forget it—the term is becoming longer than some of the stories.

Judith Yuenger: Thanks for the work on the SW awards. I do think that you have too many categories, though. Even the ones in the Fan Qs are unwieldy enough! I feel it is redundant to have categories for both authors and stories. This is not like the Academy Awards, where a movie is the work of more than just its stars. A fanfic award for a story is an award for the writer, is it not? Ditto for the art categories. The only place I can see two categories is fanzine and editor; obviously any fanzine is far more than just the work of its editor. Interesting that this idea is taking root now, when SW fanzines and fanfiction are supposedly on the "decline"!

Ming Wathne: Hi! Nice to see you again, both at MediaWest and at WorldCon. Just wanted to let you know that I basically agree with your comments on communication between zine editors, writers, artists, and buyers. (Gad,

what is this?? Am I becoming--agreeable?! ...Naaw!) But—and this is a big but—my own views have undergone a major readjustment in the last year, due to the most relentless teacher there is: personal experience. Yes, at one time I would have agreed with you, and been pretty darned smug and dogmatic about it, too, that there can be no excuse for not responding immediately to SASEs. After all, how much time can it take, right? Right... Heck, I even used to respond immediately to people who didn't know enough, or didn't bother, to send SASEs, even those from foreign countries. Yeah, I was really Miss Holly Jolly Self-Righteous Zine-Ed, all right, sniping at all those lazy, careless, irritating people who couldn't get it all together. Well, now I have a different view. There is a real world and it contains limitless numbers of very genuine reasons why someone might not be able to respond immediately to your SASE—or to anything else, for that matter. I still consider myself a member of the Church of Responsible Fans; but now I just consider myself a member of the Reformed Branch, and I am not only far more willing to cut all those "irresponsible" folks a little slack—I am even willing to cut myself a little slack.

Well, this isn't the end of the hysterical marginal markings I made, by any means; but it seems like a fortuitous place to stop! I realize I am flirting with the dangerous precedent of not royally p.o.'ing (can I say "pissing off" in SE, Cheree?) ((Ed: Yeah, I suppose so, as long as you don't do it on the floor.)) half of SW fandom, but hey—so I'm hav-ing an off-year! Just cut me some slack, will ya?



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

September 9, 1991

It was great to see so much about the foreign fandoms! I think SW is stronger, more alive than we dare to believe. I also like the short bios, and thanks for the haunting photo of Hamill. And now to the personal messages!

Sally Syrjala: You say that by publishing, one is putting oneself up to criticism. Hm. I am still dazzled by my own courage to put ANAKIN together and have this secret fear that someone will beat me over the head with a fluorescent cover page... Still, we must try! Publishing is like using the Force, beginners get stung by remotes, but this is how we get ahead!

Judith Yuenger: You are right, communications is the main problem. Going to cons, buying zines is quite expensive nowadays, but there are other possibilities, too. PC billboards, for example. There is a pretty lively SW correspondence on Prodigy. Fax is bound to get even cheaper in the future. And how about zines published entirely on floppy disks?

Matthew Whitney: I think that Force power can be switched off, kept low key, and I agree that range limits depend on talent (did Yoda say he had been watching Luke for a long time?). And yes, DRAGONSLAYER is a great movie.

Catherine Churko: Hey, just try and draw Luke in any kind of clothing you can think of. There must be Alliance-issued pajamas, desert gear, neoprene suits, bathing suits, or native costumes for spy missions, and maybe a towel around his waist after a shower? Drop the towel; doesn't the man have a birthday suit?

About Han's time in carbonite: I think the book said six months, but then maybe not, so please, you out there: who knows for sure how long it was?

Chris Graham: Well, if Vader didn't hire the slugs, someone sure did. Jabba does tell Luke, "I was killing your kind when being a Jedi still meant something." And Kenobi says something like "Vader helped to hunt down the Jedi." So I assumed the two things could have

been connected. Jabba, by the way, is not immobile. We just don't see him slithering about, but I am sure he can! And look how fast he moves when he slaps his servants around!

Marti Schuller: About Jabba and the Force --Luke could not influence Jabba because of Jabba's immunity, but Leia's Force-strength acted on Leia, not on Jabba, when she killed him! I agree with you about Luke: well, who would not be on the sad side, depressed, serene, or even half-crazy after discovering that he has Vader for a daddy, that his uncle, aunt, his mentor, his Jedi master lied to him, that he fell in love with his own sister, that he was groomed to assassinate his own papa, and look, this simple farmboy takes it all with dignity, and a lot more sanity than most of us could!

Ming Wathne: You talk about the difficulties of writing in English. Is there anyone else, whose mother tongue is not English, or are you are referring only to me? In my defense, I can say that I do warn editors even before submitting a story and give them plenty of time to sweat over my work and I am immensely grateful for every drop of that sweat!

Maggie Nowakowska: I don't write in Italian, they translate me, and as much as I am able to judge, the translations are better than the original. Isn't their radio show book beautiful? About carbonite manacles: carbonite is not carbon; it is an alloy. I think Threepio says that. Again, yes, zines are expensive, but there is always Ming, the Library, blessed be her collection.

Tim Blaes: What an exciting question! What if Leia went to Tatooine? Hmm, but she never wanted to. She planned to go to her father, to give him the data ("My father will know how to retrieve it," she says). The question is: when she realized that the Imperials were going to arrest her, right over Tatooine, she remembered that Kenobi lived on Tatooine...now how did she know this? When all the world thought Ben dead? (Except Vader...and even Vader did not know where Ben was hiding.) Back to Leia: originally, she wanted to give the data to her father, then, after Alderaan was annihilated, she went straight to the rebels. Some things cannot be explained, I guess, because the story changed as the movies developed. Of course,

if we want to be really nasty, we could point out that on the first sketches, Luke was a girl, on the original card sets of SW, Luke and Leia aren't the same age, that in the original script, Jabba was a humanoid, and I am not even sure that Vader was ever meant to be the same guy as Anakin...remember how the Emperor said, "The son of Skywalker must not become a Jedi." Now, if the Emperor did not know that Vader was Skywalker, this sentence makes sense, but if the Emperor did know, then it is a very weird way to talk to a man about his own son! I think the Saga is endlessly fascinating, because there are a lot of unexplained and even quite messily patched-up bits in it, giving the fen enough puzzles for decades of delightful discussion!

Okay, one last question: In TESB, it is the Emperor who tells Vader, "We have a new enemy." How come that Palpatine knew about Luke before Vader did? Or at least learned of Luke's existence without Vader telling him? And if the Emperor knew that Luke was the "son of Skywalker", did Vader know it at the same time? Earlier? Or was it a complete surprise to him? And he suggested "turning" Luke, because he wanted to gain time to take a look at him? This holographic conversation deserves a better look! (*Ed: Stray thought injection here, Z.P. Perhaps Vader didn't know he was Anakin Skywalker at this point, part of his "rebuilding" by Palpatine so long ago. Perhaps only after dealing with Luke and feeling his Force-aura first hand did his memory return and he realized who Luke and he [Vader] were.*)

