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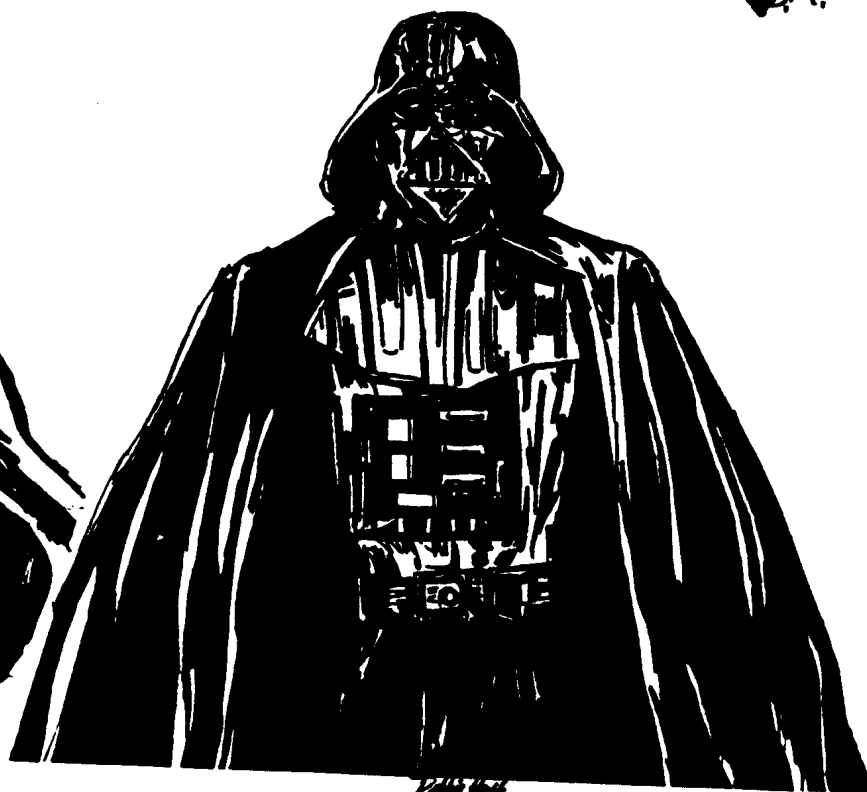
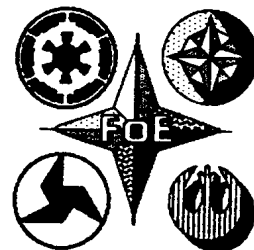
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F.O.E. celebrated its Tenth Anniversary in 1990, and with your support hopes to celebrate at least ten years more!

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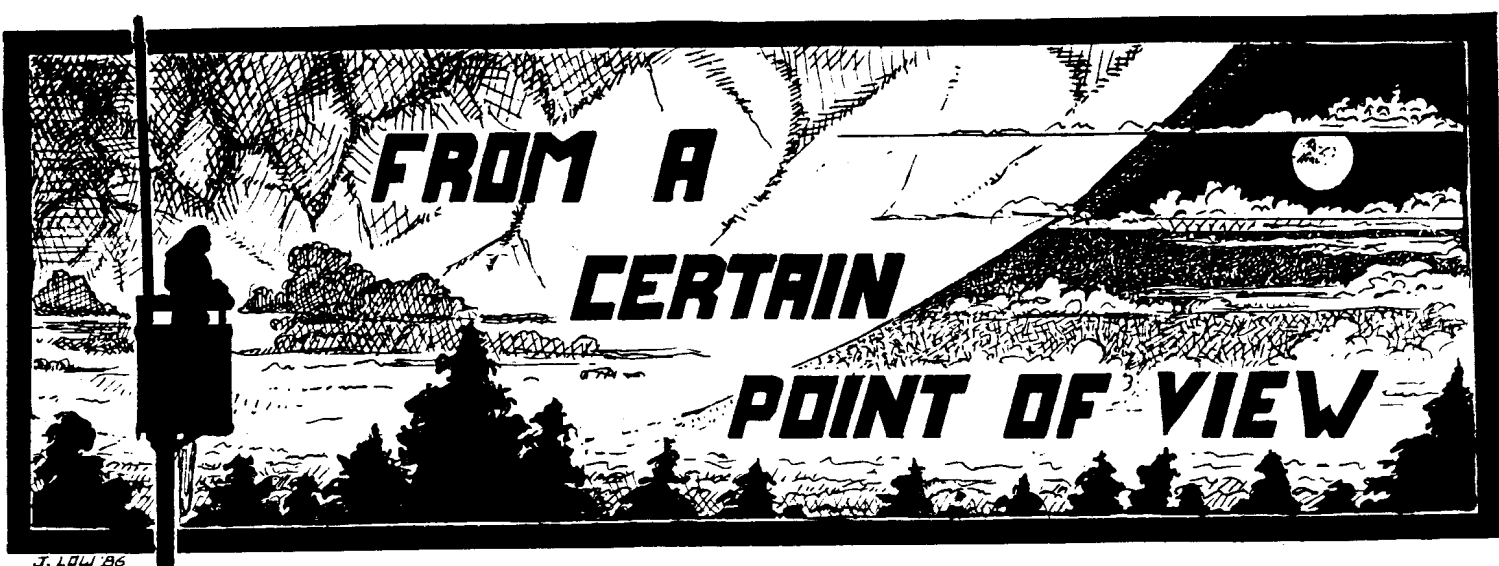
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WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR NAME FEATURED IN OUR PEN PAL COLUMN? IF YES, LIST YOUR HOBBIES AND FAVORITE SW CHARACTER BELOW. PLEASE PRINT.



J. L. W. '86

Judith G. Yuenger
901 Meadowcrest Road
LaGrange Park, IL 60525-1530

January 29th, 1992

((Ed: Egads! Somehow or other, I misplaced this LoC of Judy's which should have gone into last issue! My sincerest apologies to Judy!))

Nothing like waiting until the last possible moment to get around to doing this. Have been incredibly busy so this is going to be short.

Have been working on the STAR AWARDS for both '90 and '91 and things are going great guns. The '90 STAR AWARDS winners should be appearing in SE and other newsletters and I have sent them out to those who sent SASE's. The '91 ballot will appear in SE and other newsletters soon. Please vote!

I am really pleased with the awards. The certificate (much thanks to Z.P. Florian and Arwen Rosenbaum for their efforts) turned out really gorgeous. The medals are really nice. Gold medals on a red, white and blue neck ribbon. About half of the winners from '90 will attend MW and receive theirs at MW. The remainder will be mailed to the winners. The same will apply when I have the results for '91.

I have written to MW Programming and we are planning on a SW luncheon (everyone is invited!!) followed by the presentation of the STAR AWARDS. That will be followed by a round table discussion of zine eds, SE, Forces of the Empire and Sons and Daughters of the Force to try and unify fandom and to see what's going on. Everyone is encouraged to attend and add their two cents worth. Everyone try to attend these sessions and make SW one of the biggest attended events at MW.

Cheree: Liked your obituary for Gene Roddenberry. Well written and the second to the last paragraph is true for me too. He will be missed.

Also I love the Crew Roster — really a nice way to get to know a little bit about members.

Mary Urhausen: I am sorry to hear that WOOKIEE COMMODE will no longer be printed. I enjoyed WC very much. It will be greatly missed. I never meant for all those categories to be part of the awards, the questionnaire listed all of them to see just which of them most people wanted to have. I wanted to comment on your notes to Z.P. Persistence is a wonderful thing. It can and does get results. There was this club I wanted to join and I sent letter after letter with no reply. Finally met someone who belonged and got another address and finally became a member. Wouldn't be if I hadn't persisted.

Kathy Agel: A laser printer! I'm jealous. That's my next purchase (I hope). Good luck with ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE and I want a copy!!

Nora Mayers: I, too, like The Corellian Merits of Achievement better being a Han fan but we didn't want to start a fight with the Luke and Darth Vader fans, now did we? STAR AWARDS is PERFECT.

Marti Schuller: Nobody but nobody said a word about my smoking in the hallways or where ashtrays were provided. Wonder if my appearance is intimidating? I feel that I am a careful smoker. I don't smoke in small rooms where there are non-smokers but I'll fight if someone tells me I can't smoke in an area where smoking is allowed.

Catherine Churko: Jawa Joy Juice! Insanity pills is more like it!

Hope all had a very Merry Christmas and wish you all the best in this New Year.

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

Hi, there! I am going to MWC, will be dressed more or less as a black wizard, only I don't know--how do you take a staff on an airplane?

Number one, Dark Empire comics are glorious! I am sure half of fandom will faint from sheer joy seeing Luke kneeling in front of the Emperor. The other half will take up arms...

Number two, I was at the press opening of the ST exhibition in the Air and Space Museum. Worth seeing... The entire cast of the show was there, from Shatner to Majel Barrett, and they breathed!! and talked !!! and walked. (Just bragging).

Re your comments...

Jacqueline: Yes, James Earl Jones WAS Vader. I buy your theory on Kenobi deliberately keeping Luke from going home, to sever his ties to Tatooine. Very good point: if Leia was the other, why risk her life, why keep Luke from going to Bespin? I have no answer...

Debbie: And many others--I think Leia was racing home with the plans, but when she saw that her capture was unavoidable, she directed the ship towards Tatooine, hoping she could get there to meet Kenobi. In Melanie Gutterrie's grand story, Kenobi already told Leia's father that he is about to bring a real live Jedi boy to Alderaan sometime soon.

Marti: Yes, a pox on colorization. And yes, DRAGONLANCE is part of my world.

A. G. Steyn: IMO, your English is better. English grammar? Two things kill me, one is the should-would-could-might monster, especially in the past tense. The other is the wicked way I am supposed to say "I'm supposed to say" instead of "I am supposed to say." *Möge die Macht mit Dir sein! Az erő legyen veled!* (Or "veletek" in plural. The "ö" is like the "i" in "bird", but a very long sound.)

BLACK MAGIC WOMAN is a third-rate, cheap horror movie, Mark Hamill's BODY is generously shown! (Shame on us...)

Catherine, the Churko: Listen, willya stop teasing us with your secret drawer full of delicious pictures? Publish them or face my wrath! And thanks for your (and Cheree's) kind words about the Zornom.

Ming: Nothing would give me bigger pleasure than to have an English speaking person dissecting my stories grammarwise, before they go to the editors. Anyone out there want to volunteer? I

am a good sportsbeing and can take corrections.

Michelle: Huh? I am missing something here. Everybody seems to know more about you, than me. I agree. It hurts if someone changes your dialogue. Even worse is to have the last line of your story changed. Fortunately, I never met an editor in fandom I didn't like. Lucky me. Some suggestions are great. Last time the editors asked, "And where are they when this happens?", it made me see that I knew exactly where the conversation had taken place and assumed the reader would know it, too.

Fiorenzo: By this time, you are probably ecstatic about the second part of Dark Empire.

Tim and others: I'd love to finance the computerization of fandom, but alas, right now I can't even afford a bit more memory to play Ultima 7. I merely say that in ten years or so, computers will be everywhere, like telephones.

Maggie: I think Han would be a good father. I love all the fan stories about complex, tribal, or clannish Corellian customs, that explain his basic honesty and sense of honor under the smuggler's layer. IMO, Han would insist on having his children by his side, under his protection all the time. But then, I am not writing SW, Lucas is. The Dark Empire comics are supposedly main-line Lucas ideas, much more than HEIR, which they practically dismissed as an episode.

Nuff said.

See ya at MWC. I'll be the short gray lady in the black hood, accompanied by a very tall, 13-year-old Vulcan female (if I can manage the ears).

Gigantic Problems

Jacqueline Taero
Hither & Yon, Apt. 2
Elsewhere, Terra

It occurs to me that there's something downright improbable about the Empire's existence--that it faces two gigantic problems which should have prevented its formation in the first place and which should have subsequently hindered its

ability to thrive.

The first concerns the matter of travel within the SW universe. In our own reality, leaving one's own borders requires passports, visas, and all manner of red tape even in the most liberal and freedom-loving countries; many totalitarian governments sharply restrict freedom of movement even within their own borders.

What is the situation in the SW universe? Certainly the Imperials aren't likely to allow beings to travel from planet to planet without attempting to keep tabs on them—this is supposedly some form of dictatorship, after all. But no matter how proficient the sensor webs or how thoroughly patrolled planetary space may be, the sheer vastness of the SW universe indicates that there would have to be numerous opportunities for ships to slip through the cracks. A wide-open galaxy filled with "unauthorized" ships avoiding the ports and disgorging their cargoes/passengers wherever they please would make any good Imp's blood run cold.

In ANH, we are shown a rather unorthodox departure from an Imperial-supervised planet—it's doubtful that blasting your way out of port is the accepted routine. But what is the normal procedure? Should Luke and Obi-Wan have possessed travel documents? I recall no reference to this canonically. Was Han supposed to have submitted a passenger list and itinerary to port officials? Does the transportation of droids between planets normally require some sort of official sanction? Again, no help from the filmed Saga. It's not unreasonable to assume that the Empire would make a concerted effort to prohibit unauthorized travel. And yet, how does a government prevent its population from going wherever it wishes when we are speaking of space travel and entire planets?

One theory I've heard advanced suggests that ships may be so expensive that they are beyond the reach of any but the privileged few. A reasonable hypothesis, but examination of the cantina scene quickly punches it full of holes. Upon learning of Han's proposed fee, Luke exclaims that they could almost buy their own ship for that amount. This gives us some notion of the going rate for a small spacegoing vehicle—and the fact that sale of Luke's landspeeder raises at least a portion of the passage money establishes that some ships may well be within the financial reach of the majority. Another possibility is that pilot training is strictly licensed, regulated, and limited to the chosen few. This theory, too,

bites the dusts in the next few lines of dialogue from the cantina scene. Han's derision—"who's gonna fly it?"—would seem to give momentary credence to the idea that pilots are a rare breed, but it is immediately contradicted by Luke's confident assertion that he could, in fact, pilot the ship with no problem. And his subsequent X-wing exploits prove that this was not an empty boast. If a farm kid from the back edge of nowhere can acquire the requisite knowledge, it is doubtful that pilot skills are a closely guarded arcane art.

Nor does appropriate landing space appear to be a problem for the average craft. Luke's X-wing manages to take off and land from the mire of Dagobah with little difficulty, provided he keeps it out of the lake; Han sets the Falcon down inside a space slug's stomach. Regular port facilities do not seem to be required.

So we're back where we started, with "regulated" ships at official ports and a probable plethora of unregulated ships slipping through sensor nets, wholesale smuggling of goods and illegal immigrants, planetary "coast guards" and customs inspectors going crazy trying to stay on top of the situation, and a largely wide-open galaxy. And if that is the case, how has the Empire managed to keep any control at all?

The second problem facing the Improbable Empire is one of communications. One of the first things a dictatorship does is to limit the flow of information to its citizens—failure to do so can be its death warrant. However, in an age of cellular phones, videotapes, computers, fax machines and so forth, several totalitarian governments on our own planet have found it difficult to keep total control of communications.

Controlling the technology itself is no less problematic than prohibiting its use. Technological secrets seem to routinely change hands for ready cash, and the most advanced computer chips are sold world-wide on the same basis, despite government efforts to keep them out of undesirable hands. A similar state of affairs would almost certainly prevail in far away fictional galaxies. If the equipment exists, rebels, malcontents, and subversives are going to be able to get their hands on it; and what they possess, they will use. And technology in the SW universe gives every indication of being several jumps ahead of our own, although—given the fact that an astrodroid can tap into just about any computer he wishes at will—it's obvious that security measures lag far behind. If the truth shall make one free, the

technology is available to make the truth widely known, and there is little or no systems security, how is it that the Empire appears to have a stranglehold on the galaxy?

As I see it, we have an Empire which cannot possibly control the movements of its inhabitants nor adequately prevent the free exchange of information, two crucial factors in the survival of any totalitarian government. So the question before the house is this: Can anyone come up with a valid reason why the Empire as we know it should even exist?

Cheree Cargill & Z. P. Florian: Thank you for the kind words concerning Pat's and my story "Whom the Gods Recall". I was hesitant about publishing it, especially after a close friend dismissed the story as "uninvolving". You've made me feel quite a bit better about the whole thing.

Maggie Nowakowska: Excellent point re parents/children, inherited traits, etc. An idea I've played with on occasion (although apparently not a concept endorsed by Lucas) is that Leia could very well decide not to have children and be opposed to Luke having any, either, based on that very kind of underlying terror.

I also feel that Leia is going to have considerable difficulty at some point reconciling her own identity with that of her biological father. Unlike Luke, she has no "Anakin Skywalker" mythology to cushion the blow; Ben and Yoda haven't been playing their mind games with her head. Even if she seems to accept it with a shrug, as in ROTJ, it's bound to surface sometime and it could cause real psychological problems.

Rebirth aside, I have always felt that Anakin's face cheated the audience of its expectations. Remember the collective gasp that arose from the audience during TESB at the first sight of the back of Vader's head? We had three years to wonder what the front looked like—and when it was finally revealed, what was the pay-off? Humpty Dumpty in a black cape.

Now just suppose that the front had been as scarred and horrible as the back. And further suppose that Luke had seemed oblivious to the hideousness, because he would have been responding to the inner Anakin rather than the surface ugliness. We would have had not only a pay-off for three years of anticipation but also, with the "good" Anakin restored despite his "evil" looks, a reinforcement of not judging by appearances.

(I must in all fairness add that I personally would have preferred a scarred appearance partly because Humpty Dumpty utterly destroyed a terrific

story Pat and I had started. It's going to take me a few centuries to forgive George for that...)

I like the idea that the beginning of the end came when the Jedi divided the Force into Light and Dark. (There's something faulty with the Light/Dark business, anyway—one cannot exist without the other.) In addition to your eminently logical reasoning, there is the fact that the instant divisions are created, a situation exists wherein one side is almost inevitably pitted against the other. The Jedi, in that sense, would have created their own downfall.

Z. P. Florian: Your observations concerning the "Big Bear" syndrome with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe confirm fears I've been entertaining for some time. My question: Did the Empire play a similar role in containing/controlling national and racial hatreds in the SW universe? If so, what does that mean for the future Republic?

My choices for your poll are as follows: Luke is not getting a girl because: fan writers are not up to their job (okay, okay, I plead guilty as far as published work is concerned—are you telling me there's actually a market for Luke romances??? I thought it was etched in carbonite that a fanfic Luke was only allowed to agonize and train Jedi.) IMO, Luke should get...hmm, having noticed that you have a wicked sense of humor, how about something completely different—a bloodthirsty barbarian girl who doesn't believe in the Force, kills anyone who gets in her way, and eats with her fingers at state banquets?

Ming Wathne: Old guard? Does SW fandom have one? My first dealings with SW fandom took place in late 1978, first print appearance July 1979. I can't, on that basis, consider myself more than a late-arriving dinosaur, a tag I will cheerfully accept. But old guard? That implies legendary status from day one. I believe Maggie Nowakowska is the only one still among us who can lay claim to that.

Cheree Cargill: Wow! A cold-blooded way to sever Luke's emotional ties to Tatooine, indeed...but, you know, it fits. I'd never thought of it in quite that way, despite having suspected that Kenobi knew what was up. What a nasty little notion...and what rich story potential. In fact, some of the ideas in SE discussions lately have created the possibility of writing a much more complex and darker Kenobi than we usually see in fanfic. Ever so much more interesting than the saintly, pious, DULL Kenobi some of us dinosaurs remember.

Miscellany: Am I the only one who sees a strong parallel between the Jedi and the Knights Templar? From the blend of religion and militarism (complete with obscure origins) to enormous power and the company of kings, to the alleged "fall to darkness", betrayal and wholesale slaughter ending with the entire order being wiped out in an incredibly short period of time, the story has a very familiar ring.

Concerning computers: Zines on disk? Oh, my aching eyes. As regards submissions, assuming that everyone in fandom were rich enough to afford the equipment, there are still various problems of compatibility. The whole process can be skewed by such simple things as 3-1/2" vs. 5-1/4" diskettes—which is why poor Cheree ends up re-typing my unconscionably long letters to SE. Sorry, Cheree...I'll shut up now!

Zines on Disks

Ming Wathne
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Santa Barbara, CA 93110

Well, I thought I better get this out today, before my mind wanders out into another direction and I completely forget. I still have a 6 inch pile of letters and such that accumulated while we were at the Con.

Jacqueline Taero: Vader's fascination including not only the voice but the simple presence of the man. And he also tends to appeal to all of us who have a secret urge to take control and straighten things out. Lucky for us most of us are too civilized to give into the impulse.

Wanda's idea about Yoda—I like it! A bit like what happened to Christianity during the time of the Spanish Inquisition.

I will go along with asking for deposits after you are ready to go to press; otherwise, I still think they are an accident looking for a place to happen.

Debbie Kittle: Isn't it possible that Leia had a whole list of rebel sympathizers on any number of different planets? As apparently a key member in the resistance, they could direct her

to a bolt hole if she were pushed into difficult situations. Sort of a survival address book!

Z. P. Florian: Using the mouse with the left hand (hot diggity, we southpaws have some advantage)—I can use either, but prefer the left for mouse and right for keys. Works great. Drives my teacher up the wall!

Jabba's "Soon you will appreciate me"—well, some men get their jollies out of beating up women and then say the ladies enjoy it (sppp! — deleted)! As for the gender preferences or abnormalities, well, almost anything you can think of has been practiced by homo sapiens at one time or another. It is the culture that tends to tie approved behavior to the sex acts and defines perversion.

Think you need to read a few more stories about Luke. He has been lai—well, he had done it on more than one occasion. I think your Fen Poll is great!!

Marti Schuller: One thing about being my age is you can say "I was there." I saw the Bela Lugosi DRACULA in original release when I was 5 (no, I do not advise it—but then you went to the movies every Saturday back then and no one thought your morals were going to be corrupted by what you saw. It was either over your head or squeaky clean). The black and white were great, but I don't object to the color version if they are well done. It adds excitement. We will have to get together and compare notes, but my collection is somewhat shorter than yours.

Entire zines on floppy disks! Well, if you can find a disk that will survive accidental erasure, electrical accident, or fit in a pocket-sized computer, maybe! Until then, the pocket version or 8x11 I can roll up and put in a backpack, cram in a suitcase, or leave on the seat of a car without worry, will do.

I think Vader was happy enough to bury Anakin until he reached the age where he wanted his line to continue. This tendency is to be found in almost every culture. If it is a deep species survival instinct, we are still not sure, but it is not unique to see men who have ignored their offspring in early years to suddenly become interested in them when the realization sets in that they are not going to live forever.

A. G. Steyn: You and I are in the same mind about these winter-loving people—Go to Hoth!!

Regarding Han in sequined jockstrap and bells—well, you should see my Han doll. The foregoing costume would be overdressing him, with his tiny loin wrap.

Can really appreciate your friend Claudia's surprise when Dave Prowse answered the phone. Here in Santa Barbara, you are never sure if that person you saw in the supermarket is the actor you think it is or merely someone who resembles them.

Nora Mayers: Hey, don't I get a little credit for helping think up the Star Awards? It was me who pushed Judy into it (okay, blackmail is the word, but that sounds so gauche).

As for Creation Cons, well, all we can do is stay away and tell our friends to stay away. Maybe it will do some good. At least I hope so.

Catherine Churko: Coping with weather patterns. Well, we wanted rain. We got rain in the usual California way—really more than we wanted at one time. Southern California is a Corellian colony with its peculiarities. People who visit here are astonished at the Los Angeles River that is a wide concrete-lined channel (see *TERMINATOR* #2) with a tiny stream about a foot deep running down the center. They wonder why we go to all the trouble of containing such a small bit of water. If you have seen the news in the last few months, you now know why. Can you imagine what would happen if we did not have that concrete channel? Yep, typical Corellian thinking.

Jennifer Moore: Well, Jen, I am glad you tried writing. Look for a bit from you in *BRIGHT CENTER* #2. You came in just under the wire.

About writing and the zines, well, in the SW universe, there are a lot of stories. Many great, many good and some bad. The most amazing thing I have found is that no matter how poor a story may be, there is almost always a bit or piece that is good, either an idea, or the way a story is handled. I have always found it amusing that outside of Shakespeare or the Bible, one of the most quoted excerpt example is "It was a dark and stormy night...", supposedly a most terrible quote! We can learn from even the bad.

Enough. Go in peace with the Force.



Marti Schuller
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Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

March 29, 1992

It was wonderful, as always, to receive my copy of *SE* #31. First off, congratulations to all the Star Awards winners. Cheree, you must be very proud—not only best SW zine, but so many other winners from *TREMOR* #5, as well. Of course, we all know it was a great zine, anyway, but aren't accolades nice to receive? (*Ed: You bet! I haven't stopped grinning since getting the announcement from Judy. Since TF never won a Fan Q—it was beaten every year by WOOKIEE COMMODE—and 1990 didn't even have a SW zine category, this award was all the sweeter! Thank you to everyone out there who voted for us and my congratulations to all the fine folks whose work appeared in TF#5. You can bet this award is going to be framed and hanging on my wall!!*)

As I write this, spring is newly sprung and warm weather is just over the horizon. Am I ever ready, too! Soon it will be time for a fresh crop of SW zines, hot summer movies, and lazy days of fishing (which I confess to loving, but we believe strictly in catch and release).

I loved the photos of Judy Yuenger's "babies" and Ming Wathne's gorgeous new grandson, but I'll admit that I missed the Crew Roster. I hope next issue (this issue?) will be cram full of MWC pix to make up for it.

Debbie Kittle: I hope you had a fantastic time at MWC. One day I will get there again, but sadly this wasn't my year. As for sending my photo in to *SE*, I haven't been asked and I presume that Cheree is keeping track of who has and who hasn't been featured, requesting input as she needs it. Besides, being photogenic is something I've never been accused of. (*Ed: Everything in SE is done on a voluntary basis, including the Crew Roster. So, let's get on the ball, you guys, and send me some photos and bios!!!*)

Z. P. Florian: I loved your comic "fen poll" re Luke's nocturnal activities. It wouldn't be a bad idea, though, for *SE* readers to honestly speak out on this storyline idea. How do most fan readers feel? Is there interest in sexual Luke stories on a romantic level (non-graphic)? I, for one, see Luke as moderately sexually active with perhaps a few select partners who don't seek long-term commitments from him—intimate friends—but I doubt this would provide satisfying reading.

Am I wrong?

Cheree Cargill: Ah, another true devotee of the great old films. It's so nice to know I'm not alone. You named so many of my favorites, especially ARSENIC AND OLD LACE. What a wonderful mood breaker whenever I'm feeling blah! As for colorization, I hope Ted Turner spends eternity in a black and white hell!

I do have to comment on your remark to Ming that you'd only received seven LoCs from 150 copies of TREMOR #5. I realized some time ago via the pages of SE that the dearth of LoCs was lamented, but I didn't appreciate how truly poor the response was until I read this reply. Come on, people! Let's twist some arms out there and get those LoCs pouring in!

Jennifer Moore: Hurray! I'm so glad we'll be seeing your writing soon. Be sure to let us know where you'll be appearing in print. No matter what, keep at it.

Ann Birnstiel: Welcome to SE! It's always good to see a new name.

Tim Blaes: Oops! Okay, so pregnancies do vary vastly, but some aspects seem to be at least 90% common to nearly everyone I know.

Leanne Wingo: I loved talking to you, too, and I have relayed your praise to Treena for "Missing." Thanks for your kind words on my story, "Her Ladyship". I promise to find a "home" for it soon. Janet can let you know where and when, but I'm glad you enjoyed it.

I'm afraid I disagree that Ford is perfect for the role of Jack Ryan in PATRIOT GAMES, though. I'm trying to keep an open mind, but I enjoy Clancy's writing and really feel Harrison is just too old to play the part. I'll gladly admit it, though, if the film proves me wrong.

Love your idea in "The Day George Went Too Far", but just how late at night did this giddiness arise?

Maggie Nowakowska: I suppose I can understand vaguely why some people would choose to not have children if their own childhoods were unbearable due to "bad" parents. However, I think the majority who survive such a past feel that they can protect their own children by being loving, caring and vigilant for signs of "wayward" behavior. In tracing my family tree, I found a "bad seed" in every single generation of one side (bloodline, if you prefer), but I am not overly concerned for my sons because of this. I do feel that having a "bad" or "evil" family member makes the rest of the family strive harder to do "right" and distance themselves from that relative. I say this,

having some personal experience with "evil" family myself.

This is shorter than my usual replies, but not much else is going on in my life just now. Hello and good wishes to everyone I missed commenting to this issue. I would have loved to comment on the SW comics, but unfortunately, I haven't been able to find them here on the moon. I would like to add a quick last word on THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES. So far, I have truly enjoyed this program. The history and photography, acting and stories have been terrific. With QUANTUM LEAP following (on another network, as they say), Wednesday night has become my favorite evening of the week.

Well, until next time, stay healthy, be happy, and keep the Force, always.

Hamill News

Lisa Cowan
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April 27, 1992

Hello, SOUTHERN ENCLAVE readers. I'm a new member to your esteemed, or should I say, rebellious ranks, although I'm not new to SW fandom. Some of you will remember when Lee Vibber and I published "ON THE MARK, the Newsletter for Mark Hamill Fans" from 1982-1987. Others of you may have seen my articles in the Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine. And please don't complain to me about that latter magazine's total lack of schedule; It's Not My Fault! I just write the occasional article for them, I don't make policy. I'm just as frustrated and disappointed about some aspects of the LFL-FC as anyone, more so perhaps.

I'd heard about SE over the years and I may have bought an issue long ago, but only recently I refound Cheree's address and bought some back issues, including the Spring 1992 issue. Good stuff! So, I'll try to squeeze SE into my crowded, overburdened life. I can see SE is a letter-

zine, but also a bit like an APA, and I'm a ten year member of APANAGE, ostensibly a children's and fantasy literature APA, although the 25 members discuss everything in the universe. SE is far more manageable than APANAGE which averages 350 pages every two months! Most members are writers and writers tend to...write. I average 20 pages each mailing and I've not missed one in ten years! However, I'll not attempt anything like that here!

Brief bit of Hamill news: Mark will be the voice of The Joker in a new animated BATMAN TV show set to debut on the Fox Network this September, weekday afternoons. Last year, he filmed a (low budget) time travel SF movie in Canada called IN EXILE. No word when or if it will be released. It may well go direct to video, as have his last two films.

Other SW alumni updates: RAIDERS and JEDI producer, Howard Kazanjian, has produced an SF film called X-CHANGE about cyborgs. No film distributor has picked it up yet. SW producer Gary Kurtz is living in England, but I don't know what he's been doing since SLIPSTREAM. Sidney Ganis, former marketing president for Lucasfilm, is now President of Motion Picture Distribution at Columbia (Sony) Pictures. He's done quite well for himself and he's still a super nice guy! I got to work closely with Sid on the TUCKER movie project when he was a film exec at Paramount Pictures.

Even though most of you are into SW fanzines, there is a new newsletter for SW memorabilia collectors that I can recommend. It is called STAR WARS COLLECTION TRADING POST. The quarterly news & letterzine is published by Laura Kyro, 6030 Magnolia, St. Louis, MO 63139-2748. A subscription is \$12.00 (4 issues). The newsletter has SW news, collection articles by readers, news on what's new out there in SW and Trek merchandise, letters and other stuff. The SWCTP also takes brief ads (25 cents per words for fans) and I think it would be a good place for SW zine editors to advertise their zines and recruit new zine readers. I'd say that most SWCTP readers are unaware of SW fanzines and many would be eager to buy.

Nora Mayers: I've been to a few Creation Cons (I don't attend anymore) and I do agree with you. The "fans" are treated like peasants and creativity is shunned for "professionalism". David Gerrold is now connected with "Creation Enterprises" (their new name) and he was on the defensive quite often during an April interview on a

local science fiction radio show, "Hour 25". I think he said something about CE taking a percentage (read "tax") on the total amount dealers make at their "shows" (they are not called Cons anymore). That sounds gruesome to say the least! But Gerrold also said only licensed dealers can sell at CE's shows now, and they can only sell licensed merchandise (read K-Mart quality stuff). So, fans would be barred from selling their non-licensed, non-profit, "amateur" (read interesting and creative) products anyway. I can remember back in the mid-1980's when L. Ron Hubbard's "people" tried to take over fandom. They failed and so will Creation.

Matthew Whitney: Hi! You, I have known for many a moon. Why did you not tell me more about SE? I know, I know, I didn't ask.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Another familiar name. I've never had any contact with "that other" Italian SW group, only your CLOUD CITY. Feuds, feh.

A. G. Steyn: I correspond with several Hamill and SW fans in Germany. Are there an active SW club or zines in Germany? My 14-year-old son, Steven, will be taking German in high school next year. My father's family (Stelling) is from the Mosel River Valley (wine merchants, before they immigrated to the New World). I'll have to find my SW poster on which I have MTFBWY written out in Tolkein's Elvish.

Michelle Malkin: There are always SW movie rumors out there. Comic book stores and SF cons seem to grow them. All I can say is there is more talk of "when" rather than "if" coming out of the North Coast these days, but currently the YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES is Lucas' passion. 1997 is still the date most heard for the next SW movie, but it is NOT official. I would not look for anything finished before that date, however.

Tim Blaes: Hamill's car accident—right, no coma, just a concussion, fractured cheek bone and a totally mashed nose. A little cartilage from his ear was used to fix his nose. Painful, but not life-threatening. One "side effect" is that he now drives a Volvo station wagon. Of course, having three kids has something to do with that, too. The most humorous definition of a Mary Sue I've heard is: "A story where the author inserts herself into the story and then inserts one or more of the main characters into herself." Ahem...this is not to say I agree or condone this definition, but I do find it funny and sometimes true. I don't know who first said it.

Maggie Nowakowska: I know of you via Bev

Clark, a fellow Apanager. I like your idea of a retrospective zine. I may be able to come up with some early fannish SW art for it. I agree with your thoughts on the revealing of Anakin Skywalker's face. Are you aware of comedian Rick Overton's Anakin joke? At the gala SW 10th Anniversary, Overton did a SW routine, which included a sketch of Luke unmasking Vader. When the mask is removed, "Luke" startles back with a gasp, "Oh, my God--it's Uncle Fester!" It brought the house down.

I'll comment to others of you next time, okay? I love it that some of you own horses. I've owned and trained horses since I was 14, and I've owned my beloved Arabian gelding, Prince Allahsaum, since 1972.

I'll end with a question to all: If Timothy Zahn was told he could not bring back any character that was killed off in the SW movies, why then can Dark Horse Comics bring back the Emperor, as they did in issue #2?

Rebirth of the Jedi

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May 29, 1992

Once again, I'm cutting this awfully close to the deadline but I wanted to get in with MediaWest impressions. I hope everyone who went had a good time. I sure did. And there were new SW zines to be had--amazing! A new TREMOR, a new DAGOBAN, and a new BRIGHT CENTER. Gimme, gimme, gimme!

I liked the new hotel though it wasn't without its flaws. It was wonderful to have such a huge dealers' room. Even if it was the same number of sellers, having them in one room was a thrill. I was glad to see several SW panels (instead of a lone panel as in years past) and a renewed interest. My Obi-Wan costume got several favorable comments in the halls. I missed seeing any of the folks who do Vader--did I just miss out or weren't costumes as evident this year? I loved seeing

Melea Fisher's Leia but never saw Mark Fisher's Luke. Come on, folks, let's get those costumes on!

The STAR AWARDS ceremony was fun and the awards themselves were lovely. The art on the certificate would make great name badges. Can't wait to see what Judith has cooked up for next year...

Jacqueline Taero: Those shaking the bones questions have driven a lot of us crazy, believe me. But they're fun all the same. I re-watch the trilogy every year or so (usually right before MWC to get all pumped up) and it's great to match the questions to the familiar scenes. Suddenly, they aren't so familiar anymore. I agree with you about Luke's preconditioning towards the Dark Side. I wonder if he even took the test again. What would he see this time? I think the Jedi not trained on Dagobah should have faced a similar test--confront their fears in some way. I'd love to see this brought up either in the new books or the comics. (Haven't read the second Zahn book yet, though I love the title--DARK FORCE RISING has some erotic overtones that I'm sure won't be addressed.)

About your questions of humans trained by non-humans, I like the idea of Yoda being the last of his race. I always see him as a Moses figure--flawed but with an enormous job to do. And like Moses, he has to die before seeing the "promised land", i.e., seeing the rebirth of the Jedi.

I've always thought of the Force as crossing species lines, that it would affect all races equally. The idea that it wouldn't is intriguing. Since Luke's been given the task of rebuilding the Jedi, or at least of passing on what he's learned, I think his Order will little resemble the old one. He had so little time with each of his teachers and no real point that he passed that he could say, "Now I am a Jedi." Humans have a need for closure, even if it is a ceremony ("Now you are married") that has no other meaning except for the participants. Whatever Luke has been taught will be synthesized into the new Order.

Debbie Kittle: I'm so glad you made it to MediaWest. Thanks for bringing your dolls. I'm still drooling over them! (It's ruining my marriage, too!) Now, we have to get your butt self into a costume.

I love the whole question of how Vader found out about Luke and whether Palpatine found out first. I think it was after the Death Star but only because I think Darthie would have moved heaven and earth to find his son, especially since

he had political aspirations. Even if he'd known about Luke being hidden on Tatooine and kept mum so his boss wouldn't find out, I don't think he'd have sent stormtroopers to burn the Larses out, just in case sonny was home.

I guess the assumption is that when Luke announced himself to Leia on the Death Star, either Vader or Palpatine connected it to the Dark Lord's past life. I like to think they ran a DNA scan on the discarded stormtrooper armor just to be sure.

Z. P. Florian: Are you having trouble getting *Thousand Worlds*? I might be able to get you copies if you need them.

If Cheree doesn't write that story about Darthie not remembering his life as Anakin, I wish you would. And illustrate it, too. The world needs more Vader fiction. ((Ed: *I hereby throw this idea open to anyone who wants it! I'm sure I will never write this story, so Z.P. or anyone who wants to—have at it!*))

I love the image of Jabba as a Rhett Butler type. Cross-racing is a handy term that covers a galaxy's worth of activity. I'd imagine that most races and sexes go for their cultural norms but, as in every population, there's a percentage of variance—same-sex mating, different race mating. With such a wide variety to choose from, I'll bet within that percentage, it's anything goes, if physically possible, anyway.

I loved your poll—next time print it on a book page so we can remove it. I'd fill it out several different ways, depending on the mood I'm in. Now, if you could do one for Darthie... ((Ed: *My fault that Z.P.'s fan poll was printed the way it was. I'd hoped to have it detachable/removable but layout problems prevented it.*))

P.S. Your wizard costume was great! You should do Yoda (or someone of that race—whatever it was) next. You're the only person I feel really tall next to! Hope you didn't get killed in the blaster battle.

Marti Schuller: Glad to hear you're writing again. Pant! Pant! (At least, I'm not drooling anymore...)

A. G. Steyn: So, if we carry the Wizard of Oz analogy even further, would that make Vader the Wicked Witch of the West? They both dress in black. Yoda could be the token Munchkin. But how about Glinda the Good Witch? I vote for Beru, after she divorces that grouch Owen.

I agree that Darthie's bone dry humor is part of his appeal. It's got a lot to do with black leather, too, but his sarcasm is also an integral

part of his personality. Palpatine is humorless (unless you count that cackling) so Vader comes off as the soul of wit.

Tell Claudia "hi" from another die-hard Darth fan.

Nora Mayers: Hello from another Eastern Enclaver. Glad to hear you go to cons around here. Maybe we can all get together and show 'em SW is still kicking.

Ming Wathne: Good point about the responsibilities of each individual. If Vader had lived after finding Anakin again, I bet he'd need some pretty intensive therapy to come to terms with what he'd done.

I wonder about all this "forever will it dominate your destiny" stuff. Sure, it dominated Vader's destiny, but he still stepped off the dark path. If he'd spent the rest of his life making up for the evil he'd done, would he have evaporated too like Ben and Yoda? Human Christianity is concerned with redemption. I like to think the Force offers it as well.

Jennifer Moore: Great to see you at MWC! We need to get you into a costume, girl! Ever thought how you'd look, say, in an orange flight suit?

I'd never considered Ben's inclusion in matters rebel until you brought it up. For sure, Luke would have been different. I think Ben would have spent most of his time training Luke so that Luke could begin training others. Even if the character survived the first draft, I'd bet he'd have been killed off in the sequels just like Yoda. There's something awfully appealing about being the last of the Jedi, and I think Lucas killed all the others off so Luke could be just that.

Michelle Malkin: I love Brother Cadfael, too. I'd love to see a spin-off series about Olivier, his son. The Cadfael books are so full of gentle humor and lively characters, not to mention young love, that they're irresistible. The author has a newsletter that I subscribed to for a while but it wasn't so much fun as the books.

Tim Blaes: What other rumors have you heard about the new SUPERMAN movie? I'd love to see syndicated SUPERBOY Gerard Christopher get a crack at the role.

Love your idea of Linda Hamilton as Luke's mom. Now, if they could get Arnie as young Anakin...

Maggie Nowakowska: Great idea about a history of SW fandom. For me, it would be helpful

to know who the folks are who are now being welcomed back in the pages of SE. A panel would be perfect. It isn't too early to be planning for MWC#13.

Well, I've gone on long enough and I want to get this in under the deadline.

Crossracing

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Jacqueline Taero: If Leia knew that she should ask for Ben Kenobi, then going into the nearest cantina to ask directions might not have been a bad idea. There is also the possibility that she could have checked into a hotel, sat cross-legged on the floor, and mentally broadcast: "Mork calling Orsen, come in—" Er, I mean, "Leia calling Obi-Wan. You're my only hope." What if Bail didn't tell her about Kenobi? What if she found out herself? (By the way, was Bail Organa mentioned in the movie, or is that name the invention of A.D. Foster? I think they used it in the radio show.) I can't help but wonder how Ben and Leia would have interacted.

Luke Skywalker and the Last Crusade? Sounds like a Monty Python movie.

Debbie Kittle: I truly hope ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN is not the last Pern book McCaffrey will do. I suppose she might do a direct sequel to DRAGONS-DAWN. It seems most of her books coming out now are collaborations.

Z. P. Florian: I try very hard to choose my words and not say anything rude or snappish, but sometimes I fail. I don't like the way my comments to you came out last ish, and I hope I didn't offend you. I've used up three electric typers in the last four years, each lasting less than the one before it. Now I'm back to a manual. There are some advantages to a manual, but making things easier for Cheree is not one of them.

Still, even I wonder what it would be like if we were all linked by a fax-network. MediaWest

progress reports might come out regularly and at less cost. Editors/artists/writers could hash things out more easily. Yeah, it could be interesting. ((Ed: For what it's worth, I plan on getting a fax machine as soon as I can afford it—probably in a year or so, if I manage to get more of my bills paid off. Then, anyone who wants to fax their LoCs into SE can do so.))

Re "Crossracing": No one has ever, to my knowledge, accused Spock of being the product of beastiality. If Leia ran off with Chewie, it would be a different matter. It's the form that sets off the warning bells in some (most?) people. Pointed ears and green blood are not as disturbing as a body covered with hair.

Marti Schuller: One could make a strong case either way, regarding Luke's alleged virginity. Even attractive men can be socially/sexually inept. There don't seem to be many women on rebel bases, and their sexual behavior is unknown. On the other hand, if word got out that the pilot who blew the Death Star was a virgin...

Video is wonderful, but the true, best place to see a movie is in a theater, especially b/w films. As most viewers don't have cable, the subtleties of b/w are lost in bad reception. CASABLANCA has been making a round in theaters lately and, though it will probably not make it to Hendersonville, I'll be in line if it does.

Catherine Churko: Yes, I got that cartoon. Sorry it took so long to get back to you on that; it was my first and only contribution so far, though Carolyn Golledge said she will update an Indiana Jones crossover she did years back. Perhaps if you design me a cover for A-CROSS THE FORCE, the Zine Gods will smile on me and grant me a boon.

Did you catch sight of the Galactica in "Unification"?

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: It used to be, in the old Superman comics, whenever they did a dream or "imaginary story" that featured offspring of the Man of Steel, he always had twins, a son and a daughter. They broke this tradition only once, to my remembrance, with his first-born being a girl. If it had been up to me, Leia would indeed have had twins, but they should have both been girls.

Maggie Nowakowska: Maybe you could somehow find time to put in print that fascinating tale you were telling me issue before last.

Anne McCaffrey's relationship with her fans has a lot to do with how they cooperate with her. Whose wishes would you most likely respect,

someone who sits way on high, surrounded by minions who keep fans away while insinuating threats over vague rules, or someone who moves among their fans, who says, "I really like what you are doing here, but please don't do this, that or this"?

Cheree: At the few cons I can go to these days, I usually find myself talking to the dealers about Creation Cons (or "Cretin Cons", as they prefer). One dealer who sells stills was confronted by a representative of Creation, who made the expected threats. The dealer said, "This is a weekend, so both our lawyers are not working today. On Monday, your lawyer can call my lawyer. Until then, get out of my face." Their lawyer did not call his lawyer.

The primary tools of Creation are rumor, intimidation, and disinformation. "Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain" is their motto.

In the April issue of DISCOVER, it said that pouring molasses into the tritium injection hole of a warhead would make it nuclear safe. I just thought you should know. ((Ed: Thanks. I'll keep that in mind next time I'm around any nuclear warheads.))

MediaWest turned out quite well this year, I think. Things went better than I would have thought possible with a hotel that never had to deal with us before. I like having twice the function space, and more stores within walking distance. On a personal level, the only sour note was that my convention sweatshirt was lost/stolen. It was only the second convention shirt I have ever bought, and the first for myself. *sigh*

That's quite a daughter you have, Cheree. She knows how to dress for a convention, is friendly and outgoing, and will argue with a signpost! All the fannish fine qualities. I wonder how long it will be before she sends in LoCs to SE. ((Ed: Well, she takes after her mother, after all. And I don't know about LoCs, but on the way home, she wrote her first filk—"Swamp Thing, you make my heart sing!"))

Be excellent to each other...



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April 23, 1992

Such a fine issue last time...where to begin? Jacqueline Taero had a wonderful letter, producing many ideas. Concerning Tatooine: There seems little on that dust ball to make it worth stopping at, one naturally wonders why there are humans on it at all? Actually, I should not say "humans", but instead should use the term "non-native beings." Also, I do not think humanity is wide-spread in the SW universe in the same manner as it is in ST. Digressing, in ST, humans seem to have been seeded throughout the galaxy by an ancient race, while in SW they seem to have never lost touch with whole populations, to the point where even the existence of other races is the stuff of legend, at best.

With that basic assumption, I see Tatooine originally being settled for use as a space port. This would entail only isolated outposts, with no real national government. Tuskins and Jawas are probably native, and were treated similarly to American Indians when the Europeans arrived. One can only imagine what Jawas did before high technology was introduced, like the Indian before the horse. Were the original settlements of the off-worlders legitimate or were they outside the law? The latter strikes my fancy, at the moment. Tatooine is so off the beaten path, it seems ideal for a smuggler port during the waning of the Old Republic and it has survived into Imperial times.

What authority there is was under Jabba, who might've been the most recent of a line of mob rulers. The Empire does have troops stationed there, and I can even imagine a military governor. Right in the hip pocket of Jabba, of course, content to let things flow whichever way they may—so long as the Empire receives their cut.

The population would not necessarily be all criminal. Maybe the original settlers were, but from there children would be born, a culture would develop, and some would turn away from the way things had gone before—perhaps until it were only a small illegal core, surrounded by legitimate, hard-working folk. That's where the Lars fit in.

Would Owen own his farm? What with raiding Tuskins being held off just barely, I see ownership no stronger than the average sod-buster of the 1800's. With that immediate threat at hand, Jabba would've been more like a railroad baron.

When Owen sold his moisture crop, a cut would go to the boss, but otherwise the Lars would be too small potatoes to draw the attention of Jabba, let alone the even more distant Empire.

How is the Empire/Emperor viewed by the common ...er...being? This question digs up why is the Empire the black hats, anyhow? My gut tells me that the average citizen would be basically content as long as there are two wampas in every pot and a landspeeder in the garage. If the evil of this Empire is not directed toward you, you may turn a blind eye to the rumors, so long as the trains run on time. I don't think we have to look far for parallels. As for the Emperor, as the Empire...so goes the Emperor. His popularity would wax/wane with prosperity. And what could the populace do if they were not happy? That is what the Saga is showing—a sleeping giant awakening. Look at the American Revolution, which brewed from 1763. How about the U.S.'s move to end slavery, which was waiting in the wings during the Constitutional Convention of 1787? It may not happen overnight, but the will of the people is (almost) impossible to stop.

Another topic of Jacqueline's, Yoda as an evil sorcerer, hating humankind, and undermining the Jedi. I categorically disagree—but it is a valid stand to take. I'm sure you could find loads of historical parallels, but to me this would spoil the fun of it. I'm not going to say you cannot argue the case, though. It does take the Saga and stand it on its head. Let's see what'll fall out of the pockets, shall we? I'm reminded of the examinations of Kenobi's methods. It's fascinating how many angles the Saga can be examined from.

Debbie Kittle and all the others who thought the end of ALL THE WEYRS OF PERN was emotional, you should hear Anne's reading of it on the audio tape! She's breaking up as much as we are. For me, I'll never hear "Turn, Turn, Turn" again without thinking of this book.

About the recent CON situation, I was going to do more complaining about pro-cons, but I think the best thing to do is to start avoiding them and hope if they don't go away, they'll just leave the fan-cons alone.

Cheree, continuing the discussion of Leia's destination at the beginning of ANH, your last comments (in your ed. comments in my LOC) are my thoughts, as well. Namely, Leia was on her way home to Alderaan via Tatooine. That seems most plausible to me.

In re Vader's saving Luke also being "his first

real chance to destroy Palpatine". Yes! It definitely takes much of the altruism out of Vader's actions, but it works!

Reactions to THE YOUNG INDIANA JONES CHRONICLES: Very positive, based on only the first two segments (rest are on tape, awaiting viewing). Old Indy is great, and both the young actors are perfect in their roles. It's not a clone of the films, nor should it be. Ten-year-old Indy's segments strike me as very Hardy Boys-like (books, not show), and make for good fun. The love story of the London episode was really sweet, especially the end. I'd initially been skeptical of what I thought would be awkward use of historical characters, but it does work. So far, the series plays like good juvenile fiction—enjoyable for both kids and adults, as well. Jones, Sr. strikes me not exactly as I'd imagined him—I picture a brilliant thinker, but a wretched teacher (based on how poorly he and young Indy got along). I don't see the rift that was between them, resolved years later in TLC. But, on the whole, I'm very pleased. (*Ed: I think the glue that held the family together was Anna, Indy's mother. The early scenes we see are before her death and she and Henry are obviously in love. I think Henry's grief caused him to sink himself into his work and shut out his son, thereby causing the rift between them.*)

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