

Re: Anakin's "puffy" appearance (that some fans object to). It didn't strike me as the paunch of an old, sedentary man. Rather, I thought of how nasty your feet can get after a long day in sweaty, non-porous snow boots. Yuck! Or maybe early NASA space suits where the guys were sealed in for several days. Talk about ripe! That's my image of Vader. He's too obsessed with carrying out bad guy business to worry about showering regularly. His body is physically strong, but otherwise unkept. Nor do I see him sitting down to sumptuous meals. Just inject him with some nutritional supplement, and he's back to lightsaber practice. A date with Darthie would probably not be a "hot night on the town". Agreeing with Tina Ben-trup, spare me the Humpty-Dumpties. IMO, Anakin's appearance seemed appropriate, and with his eyes being soft, blue and pitiful ... well, it worked for me.

The pet people among us may be heartened to know we adopted a stray kitten who'd been hanging around the neighborhood. We'd not approached it at first (unsure if it was a neighbor's pet who was allowed to roam), but when we saw it limping on what turned out to be a broken foreleg, well, we just had to save the poor thing! After snaring her, we had the SPCA check her for communicable diseases, we gave them the OK to mend the leg and spay her. She's completely overcome her people-shyness (at least to us, strangers still scare her) and has become an ideal, loving little sweetie. Her coloring is jet black and I named her "Lucky" in contrast, 'cause for a black cat she sure was lucky to find us. I'd toyed with giving her a fannish name, but didn't think my folks would be able to cope with that.

Within a week, I'll be taking that big bird to Chicago for VISIONS. Wish this nervous flyer safe "skywalking", will ya? Take care, all. MTFBWY.



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Greetings, Rebel boys and girls, and other assorted technopagans! Was 1992 one long orgasmic experience or what?! I think it's been the best year for SW fans since 1983. I truly feel that the '90s will be ours.

Other Realms: At this moment (early Nov.), I'm rejoicing at the release of the fifth book of the Hitchhikers's "Trilogy" (thank the Force!) and the fourth book in Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles. I waited at a bookstore three hours in order to beat the crowds when Ms. Rice came for a book signing. It was fun and definitely worth it, since I was one of the first to get my book autographed. Reading about ol' Lestat and Co. always makes me wonder what would happen if someone with Force powers were to become a vampire. Would he or she automatically become a Darksider? How would vampire and Force powers work with each other? How would other Jedi deal with such a vampire? It would make a great story...

Re the Jedi and Sex: A popular topic, no doubt! Tim, have you read Nussman & Taero's "For Better or Worse" in *Tremor* #6? This story sort of addresses your question. In it, Leia describes her experience as "(interesting) ... and more." Han must be one happy guy. Anyway, that leads me to my own question from last time. I say you could make a good case either way. Alderaan was a sophisticated, progressive society, so perhaps Leia got to experiment a bit in her adolescence. Sure, she might be a princess with high visibility and all, but look at the royals decorating the weekly scandal sheets on our planet. I'm not saying she would be as bad as, say, Fergie or Princess Stephanie, but still. On the other hand, Leia may have been too wrapped up in her duties in the Senate and the rebellion to bother with boys. Also, most guys were probably intimidated by her demeanor and her power. That's why I think she was impressed with Han. He was the only one who didn't put her on a pedestal. Anyway, I wonder why people think the Jedi are celibate. What about Anakin and Leia? And how do we know Luke, Ben, and Yoda didn't keep company (at least at some point in their lives)? As for the lack of good sex in fanfic, I promise to help rectify that situation in the future (tee hee). But in the meantime, I recommend *Chronicles of the House of*

Alderaan. It's got lots of sex and romance, tastefully done (even Luke gets lucky!).

Boba Fett Sightings: I knew as far back as 1990 that our favorite bounty hunter was still alive. While I was working as a DJ at the University of Missouri's radio station, I came across a 12" single by an industrial band called Ajax. The song was produced by "Bobba (sic) Fett." "Aha!" I thought. "He's been working as a record producer all along, and he added that extra 'b' as a way to toss us off his trail!" Furthermore, I have proof that Mr. Fett lives in the Washington-Baltimore area. I was listening to the radio one night in September when a man identifying himself as Boba Fett called in to request "Melt With You" by Modern English. At least he has good taste in music!

Z. P. Florian: How goes it in Falls Church? Mara a "Mary Sue"? Sure, she's a wench, but that's better than a weepy, wimpy chick. As I confessed before, I really liked DFR. I had to force myself to keep from reading it all in one sitting. I'm *really* looking forward to part 3 (but if Zahn doesn't show the twins' birth, I'll kill him). The cover art wasn't *that* bad! If you want to see some bad art, check out the illos in the *Heir to the Empire* sourcebook. My lovelies look like mutants! In one picture, it looks as if Leia is wearing big false eyelashes. Since when did she join the B-52's? But you are right about Dark Empire. It's incredible! Thank the Maker the same team will do a second series that will come out mid-'93!

Carolyn: Yes, you are right that we cannot forget that others contributed to the saga. ROTJ toy-oriented? I know not everybody liked the Ewoks, but it's still a wonderful flick! I refuse to feel guilty, darn it! Don't worry about anything permanent between Mara and Luke. She's not in the comics series, not even a mention. Luke is *not* a depressive! Why do people assume he shuffles around staring at his shoes as he mumbles, "Life sucks, man"? He might be quiet, unassuming, wistful, or even a bit eccentric, but, geez, he's not miserable! Yes, *Regarding Henry* was lame.

Marti: There have been many times when my fan enthusiasm has waxed and waned. I can chart this phenomenon in my own life this way. When ANH came out, I had SW fever big time from 1977 to about late 1979. Then it flared up again when TESB came out, and then it cooled off the second I started that emotional hell known as puberty. It came back around Fall 1982 and lasted until the end of 1983. The mid-80's (1984-1987), I think, were truly a sucky

time to be a SW fan. For one thing the big anti-SW backlash got underway the nanosecond ROTJ was unleashed, and that lasted until about 1987-88. Secondly, nobody knew if there were going to be new movies, so folks were already writing obits on the saga. Then there was the 10th anniversary in 1987 when we learned that we *may* get new movies, which I guess was the spark that rekindled the fire. That, and the new roleplaying game, put me on a SW high well into 1988. Things sort of stayed at a level until last year, when *Heir* came out and did well. "Yay!" I thought. "People besides me still care!" 1992, though, has been sheer heaven. With all of the great SW stuff that has come out along with my entry into fandom. I'm madly in love again. You know, I feel like I've been in a 15-year marriage or something.

Maggie: Your Palpatine/Hitler comparison was positively chilling!

Tammy: I hope you liked Barcelona. I was there in '85, back when Spain was a cheap country to visit. The Gothic Quarter and Gaudi's architecture rule! As for getting the comic books, you could (1) order them from a comic book store (the ones around here will let you do that anyway), (2) get something like "Advance Comics" and order them for yourself, and (3) contact a subscription service.

Catriona: Don't be discouraged in writing Luke romances or putting female characters in your stories! I may be a Han fan, but I like seeing the kid have a little fun, too!

Debbie: The kiddie books do indeed have good artwork (I love the cover of *Zorba the Hutt's Revenge*), but despite some nice parts, the stories are total Velveeta (*i.e.*, cheese). Why do the authors tell us 9000 times that Han is a "Corellian bachelor"? Why do they have him leave Leia behind to build a hacienda after we see in ROTJ that the poor guy's heart was about to shatter when he thought he had to give her over to Luke? It makes no sense! The Sci-Fi Channel is a godsend. The people behind it have my eternal gratitude for bringing back many of the shows I grew up with.

A.G.: I'm with you for more adventurous fanfic. The stuff I've written so far has, I think, remained true to the spirit of the Saga, but I try to put in a unique twist everytime. For example, I'm working on a story in which Leia confronts her own dark nature and her feelings about Daddy. However, I must disagree with some of your comments about GL. I don't think he's afraid of the fans or that he's contemptuous

of them. Being a shy person myself, I realize not everyone is comfy being with "the people". He's just not a 1-man PR machine like Roddenberry was. It's a bit like saying other bands don't care about their fans because they don't let people tape their live shows the way the Grateful Dead does.

Sandi (and everybody else): After watching TESB and ROTJ several times on HBO in October, I've changed my mind about Vader knowing who Leia was. Now I think he might have (a) felt tracings of the Force in her and got curious, therefore, not eliminating her when he had several opportunities to do so; and/or (b) she reminded him of her mum (a/k/a Mrs. Skywalker). I no longer think that he knew she was his daughter. Your fantasy is not weird -- I'd do the same thing! Just leave the files there when you're done, okay?

Matthew: Elvis is everywhere. I did see the longer version of TESB back in 1980 in the theaters, which was about 2 weeks after it came out. I have not seen that version since.

Michelle: The reason why Palpatine looks so god-awful is that the Dark Side has been destroying his flesh, much in the same way it has been destroying his soul. I love bad movies, too! My faves include: *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*, *Hamburger: The Motion Picture*, *Satan's Cheerleaders*, and *Robot Monster*. *They Saved Hitler's Brain* is a laugh riot -- all Der Führer has to say is "Mach Schnell!" and the whole cast changes about halfway through the film!

Tim: Yes! I've seen that "open the blast doors/close the blast doors" version of ANH several times. In fact, my brother and I quote those lines all of the time. I would *love* to see any extended version of the movies!

Cheryl: Yes, Eastern fans rule! I'm glad to join the ranks.

Anne-Virginie: Comment allez-vous? That is one of the few phrases I remember from French class. So, you're from Catalonia? My ancestral roots are from that very part of France (and Spain as well, with a few crazy Basques and Gypsies thrown in). Studying in England sounds like fun. I hope you're enjoying it. Yes, you have misjudged poor ol' Ben. He may be a Jedi Master, but screwing up doesn't make him a terrible person. He's still only human. You do have an excellent point about Leia using Darkside powers. Being a politician, she would see more shades of gray, I think, than Luke would. And, she would be much,

much more difficult for Vader and Palpatine to control. No wonder they put all of their efforts into sharing Luke instead. Re Han's background: I've always suspected that he was a bored child of the suburbs who turned to the military, and eventually smuggling, as a way to escape the utter mundaneness of his surroundings. True, it's not as romantic as his being, say, the abandoned child of a whore and a wild young nobleman, but it's as good a theory as any.

Tina: I had the funniest vision of Darth Vader retreating to his mediation chamber to pig out on Ho-Ho's after I read the line "he was secretly snacking in there for all those years" in your Loc.

Well, in case you are bored and would like to read something entertaining, I recommend *Life Force* by Leo F. Ludzia (\$3.95, published by those neo-pagan darlings, Llewellyn Publications). It explores the nature of the "life force" and how you too can harness it. Some of it's interesting and some of it's hokey, but it makes several references to the SW saga. It's also got great meditation techniques. Available at a new age bookstore near you. I also recommend *George Lucas: The Creative Impulse* by Charles Champlin (Harry N. Abrams, Inc., \$39.95) -- it's a nice, classy coffee table book on everything GL has been associated with from his student films to *Young Indy*.

Until the spring equinox, take care of yourselves, wear a towel, and, above all, don't panic!

P.S. Lisa, thanks for everything!

First Letter

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Hi, everyone. This is my first letter to SE although I've been a SW fan since late '77 when I first read the novel. We didn't get the movie until January '78 and it fully lived up to my expectations. Even back then it was a mystery to me why all the reviews praised the effects and ignored or criticized the plot and acting. SW is primarily a fantastic story. It's

without a doubt the greatest adventure story I've ever read or seen. For me, the saga has never been about great visuals or weird aliens (although I love those elements, too), it's about Luke Skywalker, who's a wonderful character. Now I knew the story was good because I'd read the novel but Luke's character relies mainly on the talents of the actor portraying him. Mark Hamill does a consistently excellent job in all three movies.

TESB was a real blast. I hadn't read the novel this time so all its surprises hit me full in the face. I was amazed and overjoyed that Lucas had taken so many risks. For the next three years, I anticipated ROTJ. I figured that Lucas would provide us with something even more amazing. After all, he was now in a position to do whatever he wanted. The studio wouldn't dare interfere. Unfortunately, ROTJ wasn't everything I expected it to be. In many ways it's the sort of sequel I would've expected 20th Century Fox to come up with. However, I must say that despite all my reservations about ROTJ, I do enjoy watching it. There's loads of good stuff and in the most important respect (that being the resolution of the conflict between Luke and Vader), I was more pleased that I ever thought possible.

My involvement in SW fandom didn't really begin until the early '80's. Actually, I was a member of the OSWFC from mid-'78 and that was very frustrating. They'd always send the newsletters by surface and often 2 issues at a time, which meant any info was at least 6 months old. Sometimes they wouldn't bother sending an issue and then they'd send another copy of one I'd already received. After a couple of years of this, I wrote a long letter of complaint to them. They sent back a form letter which basically said, "We're glad you like the club"!

After that, I started writing to SW penpals in the States and I got a couple of fanzines, one of which was an issue of *Skywalker*. I was amazed! Why didn't the official fan club do stuff like this? I started doing SW illos for zines here and in the States.

Then came the Ewok movie and that really depressed me, then the Ewok cartoons and that depressed me even more, then the Ewok comic and that *really, really* depressed me. And then another Ewok movie... Well, you get the picture. It seemed that Lucas was never going to take us back to that galaxy far, far away. So, around '87, I stopped writing to most of my penpals (or they stopped writing to me) and I stopped doing SW artwork. It seemed that SW

fans were dying out.

Then a couple or 3 years ago, I heard about a British SW fanzine, *Telesponder*, and I contacted them and found out that there were still plenty of SW fans around and I learned about new zines in Europe and the U.S., and so I started doing artwork and articles and even stories. This past year has seen a big resurgence in SW popularity.

I must agree with Z. P. Florian's reviews in SE#33. I thought *Heir to the Empire* was pretty boring and consequently haven't bought *Dark Force Rising*. However, *Dark Empire* is very good. The artwork is fantastic. I haven't read #6 yet but I hope it resolves things in a satisfactory manner.

I've also been enjoying the "Classic Star Wars" comics. The stories aren't that interesting but that's understandable, considering the restrictions Archie Goodwin had to work to. Al Williamson's art is great and the coloring is beautiful. Dark Horse Comics is doing a great job.

Young Readers SW Books: Yes, well, er... The covers by Drew Struzan are very good, much better than those provided for the two Zahn novels. The stories are kind of simple and a bit silly but at least they move along at a fast pace. I quite enjoyed the third book, although I'm a bit embarrassed to admit it.

West End Games: Are they a force for good or a force for evil? Well, I've seen some savage criticisms of their info in some British and European zines. Some people have complained about the stuff they've "invented". I don't mind this so much as long as it doesn't conflict with what we already know. What I do agree with are criticisms of info they provide which is wrong. For instance, the blueprint of the *Falcon* in the *Star Wars Sourcebook* is full of mistakes. Another annoying thing is the use of photos and illustrations we've seen many times before. There aren't many rare photos and sketches considering they've had access to Lucasfilm archives.

In their defense, I will say that I find a lot of the info very interesting and it does seem well researched. And I suppose we should face the fact that they aren't producing a SW Bible. These books are supplements for playing the games.

One of the topics discussed in various letters in SE#33 was how Vader/Emperor discovered Luke's identity. Well, it seems pretty obvious to me. When the stormtroopers paid a social call to the Lars' farm, they would have learned of Luke's identity then or

later on. His name wasn't a secret. Eventually, Vader would've seen their report and put 2 and 2 together. Which raises a difficult question: Why didn't Ben, Owen or Beru change Luke's name? I know it's a big galaxy but obviously Ben figured Luke would be important one day... So why take the risk? I suppose this question has been debated before but I've never heard a satisfactory theory to explain it.

A. G. Steyn: "Weeping over Darthie's death ... which (keeping in mind what Vader did to him, his family, his friends) isn't exactly rational behavior." I don't agree at all. Firstly, Luke wasn't crying for Vader. He was crying for his father, Anakin, and himself. Other fans have complained about the apparent ease with which Luke forgives Vader, but it just isn't the case. What Luke achieves is something not even Ben or Yoda thought possible -- he redeems his father. It's his greatest triumph, the point the whole trilogy had been building up to. In my opinion, it isn't the Emperor's energy bolts that kill Vader/Anakin. It's Anakin's decision to turn away from the Dark Side, to return to the Light, something Ben and Yoda thought couldn't be done. Anakin comes back: The Return of the Jedi. Luke was the one that helped him do it. The price is death but his "soul" has been redeemed. I was so pleased that Lucas decided to show Anakin's face. I feared he might chicken out and not show it just to retain Vader's mystique. If he'd done that, I'd have really hated ROTJ. It's essential that the audience see that inside the dark monster is a man. Just a man. Anakin is morally responsible for what he did as Vader and so it is pretty hard to imagine being able to forgive him for all he's done, but Luke manages it. It's a feat greater than destroying a Death Star or surviving a battle with Vader and the Emperor. It's why Luke is the greatest of all heroes.

Sandi Jones: Concerning whether there was a version in which Luke made 2 attacks down the Death Star trench: I never noticed until just recently but in the novel he does make 2 attempts and even in the storybook (which is very condensed), he makes 2 runs. I believe they did shoot 2 attacks but edited them together as one. At one point, Biggs says: "Hurry up, Luke, they're coming in much faster *this time*!" which does suggest they'd already tried it once.

Tim Blaes: I've been watching the *Batman* cartoon show and it's excellent. They've taken the best elements from the comics and the movies and come up with something brilliant. Tim, you said in SE#33,

I know for a fact that the U.K. version of TESB was longer." Aaaggggh! This rumor was going around in '81. It's *not* true. I've seen many different prints of TESB and, apart from the minor differences we've talked about, there is no difference. The rumor used to be that the British prints contained the scene where Luke tells Leia he'll be going to Dagobah. Well, it's not true.

On the subject of different versions, a friend just told me that an extended version of SW has just been shown in the States. Is *that* true?

Cheryl D. Pryor: A new series of Topps cards? New toys? Have they appeared yet? I've just seen the book on SW collectibles by Stephen Sansweet. It's very nice with some interesting pics, but it only seems to cover a limited amount of the SW merchandise.

I've also seen the new George Lucas book by Charles Champlin but I don't think I'll be buying it. The text isn't much and it's too sycophantic. It even makes excuses for Lucas' involvement with *Howard the Duck*. Apart from 2 or 3 rare photos, the pics are the usual bunch, I thought.

I read in the latest Lucasfilm Magazine the interview with George Lucas. He says he will get around to making the first trilogy but it'll be a few years yet. It seems that that nasty article in *Cinefantastique* has had one positive effect: it provoked Lucas into publicly stating his plans for the saga. He also seems very pessimistic about ever making the final trilogy. I figure that's why the recent books and comics have been able to do major things with the main characters. If Lucas doesn't plan to do any movies concerning Han, Luke and Leia, the writers won't be treading on his turf with what they're doing.

It occurred to me recently that there are some obvious differences between U.S. SW fandom and European SW fandom. Firstly: Most U.S. fans seem to be women -- 85-90% -- whereas in Europe it's about 75% male. U.S. zines seem mostly made up of fiction and the lettercols mostly discuss the characters and their emotions. Over here, the zines tend to consist more of articles and the letters mostly discuss technical and historical stuff about the saga. I don't know what conclusions can be drawn from this. Anyone got any ideas on the subject? ((Ed: I'd love to have some of those articles for SE! Any of you non-American fans out there interested in contributing any??)) Well, that's all for now.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

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Why do I always start my LoCs at the last moment? *sigh* This one'll be up for the "under the wire award", for sure.

I'll open up with comments on some interesting publications I've run across. Have any of you come across the Bantam Skylark juvenile SW books? I haven't had a chance to actually read them yet, but they do look interesting, if somewhat ... juvenile. They are well illustrated and the covers are beautiful. They are *The Glove of Darth Vader*, *The Lost City of the Jedi* and *Zorba the Hutt's Revenge*, all by Paul and Hollace Davids. Cover price is \$3.99 each, but I picked up a boxed set at WalMart for \$7.78. Coming soon: *Mission from Mount Yoda*, *Queen of the Empire*, and *Prophets of the Dark Side*.

Besides *Dark Empire*, Dark Horse Comics also publishes Classic SW reprints of the newspaper strips, reformatted and augmented with some original art. It's a blast from the past that I haven't had the chance to see until now.

Star Wars: From Concept to Screen to Collectible by Stephen J. Sansweet would be an excellent addition to any fan's library. The book's primary focus is on the licensing of the Saga. Particularly interesting are the glimpses of prototype toys that never made it to the shelves. It really is laced with "never before seen photos". \$19.95 softcover, ISBN 0-8118-0096-2.

I'm afraid that I can not claim to have had a LoC in every issue. Check #30. The only reason I didn't get in a LoC that issue, however, is because the Post Awful apparently ate it.

So, Lucas would like to have 10 clones, huh? I didn't do all that well in biology but, as soon as I get a time machine that can travel sideways as well as back and forward, well, George and I can talk.

Carolyn Golledge: Hey, I know full well that Lucas is a flawed mortal, like the rest of us. I probably wouldn't like his movies if he wasn't. At least he isn't dead like Roddenberry, who has been canonized and placed above criticism. Re modern movies: I don't care much for gore, but what's wrong with sex, special effects, and a little noise? A B-movie now and then is good for you. (If you eat steak all the time, you lose your taste for hamburger.) Re Creation: I *am* a consumer; I'm just not a mindless consumer, nor am I gullible.

Nora Mayers: Sorry, I have no new information on *Superman: The New Movie* (I still think that title is dorky). I wouldn't mind seeing Reeve in another movie also, but if they ever do another Superman TV program, I'd rather see a different approach to the character. As for the Pern books, if you like fantasy over SF, read them in order of publication. But, if you would rather approach the books from a SF angle, read *Dragonsdawn* first. McCaffrey herself calls Pern SF, but the psuedo-medieval society was what held me back from reading them at first. But, once I started, I swallowed the books whole. ((Ed: I second Tim's recommendation on reading *Dragonsdawn* first. It sets up the entire series and cleared up parts of the books for me that I'd been puzzling over for years.))

Z. P. Florian: Does Darthie have "the equipment"? Well, I'm sure the boys back in the lab could build it for him if he didn't.

Yeah, now that I think about it, it was weird for Leia to tell Luke to run away and hide. I can only guess that because she was in shock and couldn't deal with it yet, she didn't want Luke to deal with it, either.

Tammy Olsen: The rumor that I constantly keep hearing is that DC Comics is about to go belly-up and that Dark Horse is in a prime position to buy them out. Dark Horse is the fastest growing comics company today, so I'm surprised that none of the comic stores in our area carry them. The regular newstand around here carries their Young Indiana Jones adaptations. If you haven't lucked out and found the trade paperback collection of *Dark Empire* on your own by now, I might be able to track you down a copy.

Mary Jo Fox: I can imagine a near scandal involving Leia and a senatorial page. On the other hand, there might be perks and privileges that go with the office. Perhaps Mon Mothma recommended the best "escort services" for all those diplomatic functions. But if Leia is experienced in matters of physical intimacy, why didn't she try and jump Luke's bones? Is it because she classifies men between those you "bring home to daddy" and those you have "fun" with? Considering who she wound up with, I don't think so. Was Obi-Wan playing chaperone? I think Leia's latent Force-sense set off a klaxon the moment things got too hot between her and Luke. But that must have lead to some tense and frustrating moments in their relationship.

Jennifer Moore: I prefer to think of Han and Indy as being different sort of people. Indy was born into a prominent family. Somehow, I don't think Han

was. If Adventure has a name, it's Indiana Jones, but Han Solo knows "adventure" is something to be avoided, if you expect to make a profit. By the way, how many times do you have to remind yourself *Young Indy* is set during World War One?

Catriona Campbell: So you're "stuck on the dark side of Tatooine". Scotland is the second foreign country I'd most like to visit (first being New Zealand, third Japan), but I suppose anybody's home town can seem boring. Hope you find a jet plane under the Christmas tree. Better yet, an X-wing. How far are you from Loch Ness?

As for your not writing a romance with Luke because you don't want to be stuck with a "Mary Sue" label, I say go for it! As long as your Mary Sue is not insipid or omnipotent, I will consider her a valid character. And, from the show of hands, it would seem most of SE readers think Luke could use some "female companionship". So, go ahead and fulfill your private fantasies. That's one of the things that fanzines are for. (And, if you make your Mary Sue a Starfleet officer or a Colonial Viper pilot or whatever, then you can send it to me to put in *A-Cross the Force* and make me very happy.) Oh, and if you ever make it to MediaWest, remind me to give you a *great big hug!*

Debbie Kittle: If the cell where Leia was being held was being monitored, and that's very probable, then Darth would have had plenty of time to review the tapes *before* the coming battle.

Sandi Jones: I've been told that the Greek plays we study in our schools are there not so much because they were the best plays Greece had to offer, but because they were the few plays to survive the ages. So, in some admittedly unlikely post apocalyptic future, *Wookiee Commode* is taught in high school, next to such classics as *M*A*S*H Goes to Morocco* and *The Zine Ed of Gor*. ((Ed: Tim, have you ever read *A Canticle for Liebowicz*?))

Michelle Malkin: An editor has the right to say "make changes in your work or I won't print it". But an author has the right to say, "you will not make changes in my work that I disapprove of". I once had an editor who mauled a vignette of mine and made the most inexplicable changes. This is a good way to get on my bad side. I'm also sensitive about letterzine editors who mess with my words. The only thing you can do about that when it happens is walk away from the letterzine.

Re "guilty pleasures": Does anyone remember

Night of the Lepus? I'll watch anything with Sybil Danning or Tim Thomerson in it. Some juvenile/young adult books have a focus and clarity that some supposedly adult books lack. Diane Duane's *Wizardry* books are a joy to read, but I might never have found them if Diane hadn't talked about them at a World-Con panel on writing SF for young adults.

I'm here at SE as much for the "crowd" as I am for SW fandom. Sometimes I'd like to talk about things like comics or ST, with someone who *isn't* a hard-core comics or Trek fan, if that makes sense.

Kathy Agel: Zines are supposed to be non-profit, so a zine on a computer disk would be frightening only if someone sold hardcopy or the disks at a profit. If they spread from fan to fan, on a personal basis, that probably wouldn't happen.

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Re your comments on a Ben & Leia relationship, you forget to toss Han and Luke into the mix. With Han blowing raspberries and Luke idolizing the old coot, Leia might not express any reservations openly. And she *is* a diplomat.

Perhaps Leia is one with the "Plaid Side of the Force". She *is* a politician.

Maggie Nowakowska: It was good to talk with you again, even if I did blow a hole in my phone bill. I still think the paranormal should be addressed in *Young Indy*. When did Helen Seymour die? How about a ghost story? I would like to see Caitlin O'Heaney in a recurring role as a Scottish vampire, though I would agree that's probably not the direction Lucas wants to take his show.

Cheree: Am I just imagining it or did some of A. G. Steyn's LoC get lopped off at the bottom of page 50? ((Ed: ...sigh... No, you're not imagining it. I didn't realize it until several people brought it to my attention. It comes from reprinting certain pages to correct typos and not having time to do a final, total read-through of the issue. My fault and apologies to A.G. and all concerned.))

And now we sign off, with Lando Calrissian and his All Corellian Orchestra, as they ask the musical question: "What Do You Get A Wookiee For Christmas When He Already Has A Comb?"



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Hey, all you old Enclavers!

Winter has come to Browns Gap and Christmas is in the air! The trees are bare, the ducks go quacking around the pond, the gray heron puts in an occasional appearance, and the screech-owls make shivery sounds at night. Dan and I have been exploring over on the other side of Beaver Creek, eyeing potential Christmas trees among the many cedars that grow wild there. Today it is cold and gray, with a hint of snow (!), but our woodstove is toasty and the fridge is packed with leftover turkey & trimmin's. That Obi-Wan Kenobi sure knows how to cook!

Got a nasty shock at work the other day when our department, Interlibrary Services, received an overdue notice from the Palatine Public Library in Palatine, Illinois. My heart was palpitating like all get out until I realized a crucial P was palpably missing, and that his Imperial Hideousness would not, in fact, be sending his "sinister agents" to U-T to retrieve the book. Drats...

Issue #33 was so good and so juicy, there's so much I want to say, and yet I've left this to the last minute, as usual.

Thank you, Lisa, Maggie, Matthew, and everybody else who shared good book discoveries. I'll be tapping into OCLC to see what libraries are holding them. I got a catalog from the Intergalactic Trading Company the other day, and lo & behold there's a new book published by Abrams called *George Lucas: The Creative Impulse* by Charles Champlin. I've put my borrowing request in to 5 libraries that hold it, but so far two of them have passed. Must be a popular book! Guess I'll have to break down and ask Santa for it.

Z. P.: Did you really like *Dark Force Rising* better than *Heir to the Empire*? Gee, maybe I ought to go back and read it again. On second thought... naaaahhhh! I agree, the Dark Horse comics are better. I think that in the depths of Luke's enslavement to the new Emperor, the ghost of Anakin should appear to him and help him out. Frankly, whatever happens *after* ROTJ doesn't matter much to me (UNLESS...!), but I admit I'm narrow-focused. Where on Earth did you learn that "permission to bring back Vader or

Kenobi was denied"? It's these little crumbs that drive me nuts...

Loved your insight into the Life With the Larses. Can't you see them sitting around the supper table saying "Pass the salt, please" and talking about the weather? How did Luke learn about his real father to begin with, I wonder. Did Owen take him aside at age 10 or so for a man-to-man talk? Or did Luke stumble on the truth by accident? Had Luke ever seen a holo of his dad? Did he know his name was Anakin? We'll never know the answers because the Prequel happens too long ago. Now here's an idea for a new TV series, George: "The Young Luke Skywalker Chronicles"!!!

Marti Schuller: I'm so glad you said what you did about the waxing and waning of your SW involvement. I went through a bad "waning" phase right after our move, and I was afraid that my SW madness had run its course. With the coming of fall, however, I could feel my imagination perking up, and now I'm back to normal. How many other Enclavers go through these periods? ((Ed: *Cheer up, Tina. Even I go through periods when I say, "Why am I spending all this money on fannish stuff? I could take my Media-West money and have my kitchen painted!" But then the madness passes and I come to my senses! P.S. My kitchen still needs to be painted!*))

Maggie: A history of SW zinedom? Just what I've been wishing someone would do. I'd love to contribute but not being an Eofan (what a great word!), all I can do is drool in anticipation. What would I most like to read about? The interface between fans and Lucasfilm. I think *A Brief History of SW Fantime* would be a good subtitle, but for a main title maybe you should have something a little snappier. A word or phrase from the Trilogy, though that's getting pretty picked-over. To me, SW fandom resembles an Indian tribe, especially with its yearly gathering in Lansing, so how about *Star Wars Nation*? Just an idea...

Cheree: I like the sound of that upcoming *Tremor* cover! In full color, eh? What a sly way to tell us you're going back to B&W! ((Ed: *I neither joke nor jest! Nancy Stasulis' painting of Vader that graces the cover of TF#7 is, indeed, in color! Just wait until you feast your eyes on the Big Guy!*))

Jennifer Moore: Re your comments to A.G. about Obi-Wan: Remember in ANH when Ben & Vader were fighting, and Luke rushes in, and Ben gives Luke that wonderful crafty look ("Ben's wee

glance" as Catriona would say), then looks back at Vader before raising his saber and inviting the death blow? Does anyone else sense triumph here? Obi-Wan has managed to bring father and son together at last, and now by dying at Vader's hand, he sets Luke up to be his avenger. What a master stroke! Not that I'm convinced Ben is really such a schemer. But he is an enigmatic character!

Catriona: Thank you thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kind words about Sebastian Shaw. I was beginning to think I was all alone in the world. Not that you're exactly a *fan* of his, I realize, but at least you're not saying those awful things about him like H-D and Uncle F. I gather SS is almost unknown in the UK in spite of his lifetime in theatre, including the Royal Shakespeare Company. Anything you know about him, no matter how trivial, would be welcome news to me.

Don't feel bad because you're so far away. Personally, I envy *you* living in Scotland. The brief times I've spent in the UK only make me wish I had a large block of years to spend exploring the British Isles. Truly one of the most intensely magical places on this planet!

I agree with you and Debbie Kittle that Vader found out about Luke not through the Force but through intelligence reports and the like. What he must have felt when he heard the name "Skywalker"! Did he run to the Emp right away with the information, or was their holochat in TESB the first time they had discussed it? Obviously, Palpatine knew the score because he said, "The son of Skywalker must not become a Jedi." Had he known all along?

And I like your reading of the Lars family, too. Owen has had a bum rap both in the novelization and from fans; it's nice to have you stand up for him. By the way, even though the novelization says that Ben and Owen were brothers, I just don't believe it. My first notion was that Owen and Anakin were brothers, then I started to wonder about Beru... Hell, they *all* have grey-blue eyes! Ben, Moff Tarkin, Mon Mothma, Chewie...

Sandi Jones: Thank you for your lovely sentence about Anakin living up to Luke's idealization of him. I couldn't agree more. And I'll gladly join you in your post-Armageddon trek to Skywalker Ranch to find out what's in those files!

Matthew Whitney: You wouldn't be working on a "post-ROTJ Anakin" story, would you, by any chance?

Cheryl Pryor: You really run a comic book shop?

I could almost forgive you those Darthies. I have a cousin in Richmond (Richmond is not too far from Knoxville), so who knows, maybe a Jawa will show up on your doorstep one day!

Did you see Lucasfilm #17? Did you glomm that 18-inch soft (*soft*??) vinyl model figure kit with the "ultrafine detail"? Is it worth \$64.95 to you? Are you wondering how a certain Glove survived the Deathstar explosion, and whether there was a Hand in it? Did the sidebar on page 6 leave you howling at the moon??

About those European initials: "A.G." stands for "Allgemeine Gesellschaft", the German version of "Incorporated" or "Limited." Therefore, A. G. Steyn is not really an individual, she's a company. Don't let that photo in front of the Christmas tree fool you...

All & Sundry: I'm really enjoying the discussion about Leia and Vader. Tantalizing as it is to imagine he sensed their kinship as early as ANH, I doubt very much if he did. I think he was genuining surprised when he learned the truth in ROTJ. James Earl's voice goes up almost an octave there! Well, maybe an augmented fourth...

Yet the interaction between Darth and Leia is fascinating in any case. From the moment she is brought before him in ANH, it's obvious that they "go back a long way," and that she has no fear of him. I am tantalized by her first line to him: "Only you could be so bold." It sounds almost like a compliment, especially compared with the "foul stench" line she bestows on Tarkin later. When you think of all the things she *could* have said about him, it's odd that she would choose the word "bold".

Then comes the scene in her cell with the gruesome hint of torture to come -- only the next time we see her, she looks none the worse. What really happened in that torture scene? Could it have been something like what Maggie envisioned in "Notions"?

And finally, at the destruction of Alderaan, where Tarkin backs her up against Vader, and he restrains her with a hand on her shoulder, she seems so used to him somehow. She doesn't shrink from his touch, doesn't beat on his chest or spit at him (as the novelization so regrettably has her do). It's what *doesn't* happen that is intriguing, suggestive of a subtle empathy between them, underscored at the end of ROTJ when his last thought is of her.

And speaking of last thoughts: Luke is not getting the girl because Vader didn't die at the end of ROTJ, and the poor boy has his hands full. The true

facts are only now beginning to reach our Galaxy.
Stay tuned!

Puhleeze... No Stars!

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I will be on time. I *will* be on time! Hello! Hope everyone had a happy Turkey Day. I'll be leaving for Darkovercon the day after. Four glorious days in a row away from work. Staring tonight. Sigh.

Carolyn Golledge: Hiya! And thanks for your nice comment on whatever the heck that zine was that I did a zillion years ago (the old gray cells seem to be not replacing themselves a lot faster these days than they didn't replace themselves back then.)

Hmmm, I think I need more than a great voice to be attracted to an actor. I love Michael Gambon's voice (he plays Inspector Maigret), but he does *not* turn me on. Harrison Ford's looks in TESB or *Witness* or *Frisco Kid*, on the other hand... And, I like his voice, too. I love Patrick Stewart's voice, too, but I wish he would stop dropping VCRs out of windows. One's bound to land on someone's head. (Are they showing this ad in Australia?)

Puhleeze, no star guests at MediaWest*Con! Not no time. Not ever! I agree with you about how it would spoil such conventions. Plus, I have been to many guest star conventions where the spirit of fannish creativeness was nowhere to be seen or heard. All anyone was interested in was seeing the stars, being seen *with* the stars and the heck with any friends who might have been there to see them.

Z. P. Florian: Re Luke's eating habits at a state banquet -- I kind of like the idea of his baggy sleeves falling into the main course. Just like old times at Aunt Beru's dinner table.

Are you saying that Yoda and Ben Kenobi meant for Luke to kill his father and then not have any kids of his own? What about Leia? Or is it that practicing Jedi don't have children due to their belonging to a religious order of some kind, but that Leia and Han

would be free to produce little possible future Jedi? Seems to me that this would be a way of cutting off an awful lot of perfectly good genes. And, you can't keep a good mutation down.

Marti Schuller: Another Eddings fan! I love the books about Garion and his companions. His other series is okay, but it just isn't grabbing me the way the first did. The people in it just weren't as interesting. Hopefully, it will pick up. Eddings has a tendency that I've noticed in lots of British books, movies and TV series -- they start slow then pick up speed. Eddings' books start out at a snail's pace but have you gasping for breath by the time you get to the last page.

What did the Jedi do with someone who had fallen to the Dark Side? How about send out a hit Jedi? Gads, what an idea! If they were a military as well as a religious order, like the Knights Templar, why not?

Maggie Nowakowska: Good luck with the SW fan history. If I can help in any way, please let me know. I have tons of old SW letterzines and correspondence. How about *Tempest in a Teapot: A Brief History of SW Fandom* as a title? I'd better not chronicle the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke Controversy, since I was involved. Dumb, dumb, dumb. Thank Ghu that the actors never got involved in any of that nonsense.

Beastiality, hmm? Well, I'd be perfectly happy to be with such "beasts" as Sarek or Surak, rather than such illustrious so-called "sons of Adam" as Hitler or Stalin. I'll bet that the Fundamentalist ST contingent was the same group of fen in SW who said (and wrote in their stories) that sex was a sin but detailed depictions of torture were just fine. If they want to believe that, fine. But, leave me out of it. I don't believe in torture; I do believe in sex between consenting adults. One is evil; one is natural. To say that you can write about one but not the other tells me the kind of person you are. Personally, I don't believe in censorship, but the kinds of censorship others believe in tells me worlds about them. Sheesh, if Amanda was guilty of beastiality with Sarek, what the hell does that make Spock?

Re my own comment to Tim Blaes: Now that I've actually had a chance to read *Rescue Run*, I can say that the story actually involves a group of Terrans who come to Pern *before* the Pernese forgot their origins. They just meet the wrong people. Tsk.

Cheree: A Space Ship fan! Here's the info you

requested. The books were written by Louis Slobodkin. They are published by Collier Books in softback and MacMillan Books in hardback. Both companies are in NYC. The titles are "The Space Ship Under the Apple Tree", "The Space Ship Returns to the Apple Tree" and "The Three-Seater Space Ship." ((Ed: Thanks, Mickey! I'll look for them!))

Tim Blaes: Luke's deja vu on Dabobah could have been genetic or racial memory as you and others suggested. I like it being an actual memory, though. There's so much writers can do with that. Here's another question, one that I brought up a long, long time ago and never got an answer to. Did Vader actually kill Ben Kenobi or did Ben disincorporate before Vader's lightsaber ever touched him? It looks that way if you watch the battle closely, and Vader seems awfully startled by Kenobi's missing body. Maybe it shouldn't have vanished so fast. When Ben puts up his sword, was he surrendering to the inevitable or giving himself time to concentrate on his vanishing act? Perhaps by rejoining the Force voluntarily, he was cutting down on the time it took to recover from the shock of death, and was able to come back to help Luke sooner than if he'd been sliced in half.

Kathy Age!: Reread *Decision at Doona* and then finish *Crisis on Doona*. It's worth your while. After so many years, I'd forgotten how much I'd enjoyed the first book. And, the second book was a good continuation. I'm going to reread *Dinosaur Planet*, which I remember not liking. The later books in the series plus the series it was combined with look a lot better, and I don't want to miss out on anything because I missed something from the start.

Cheryl D. Pryor: I hope that British production company does do the Brother Cadfael books as a series -- for *Mystery*, not a weekly show! Ian Holm is a possibility for the lead, but how about either Gareth Thomas or John Rhys-Davies? Considering that Cadfael seems to solve about 3 or 4 murders per year, *Mystery's* four show per year format would be just about right for him. (I think that Pargeter never expected him to be so popular when she started Cadfael off as a monk already in his late 50's, so she made his murders seasonal rather than yearly. Otherwise, since there are already 19 full length books, the poor man would now be in his later 70's!)

Anne-Virginie Dutech: Good point about Luke not using his Force ability on Jabba. There's really no reason why he couldn't have, unless Jabba was Force-

sensitive, too. Now there's an interesting idea to speculate on. Leia, not realizing her own Force-sensitivity, could have caught him off guard in the end, simply because he wasn't aware of *her* sensitivity and she wasn't, either! I wonder if Lucas knew.

Guess what? In my "Aeries" series, I gave Han a normal, middle-class background. Maybe I'll reprint these stories someday, along with the two, ahem, "unprintable" stories.

Gotta run. My turkey dinner is about to arrive along with some chocolate chip cheese cake. Yum! Happy holidays to all and to all a happy, healthy new year!

Christmas Shopping

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November 18, 1992

Happy Holidays to one and all! I hope everyone's winter is delightful! Well, as I'm sure some of you have seen, George Lucas will have the next trilogy out between 1997 and 2000. That certainly seems like a long time but considering it's been 9 years since ROTJ, what's a few more?! Now that he's finally given us his Word, I'll be interested to see if he keeps it. And, of course, only a year between films instead of three will be nice.

I don't know how many of you have cable and get a shopping channel called QVC but they had a 2 hour SW memorabilia special with Mark Hamill as special guest October 28th. That was an incredible show. Mark was great and there was even a famous caller-- Peter David, the ST author. I bought quite a few things from them but then I always do. They have nice stuff and it's great to Xmas shop and not have to stand in line for it. I got the new Stephen Sansweet book: *SW: From Concept to Screen to Collectible*. I highly recommend this book for all of you SW collectors. It is fantastic! The pictures are absolutely

incredible. QVC also has had some great ST shows and Shatner was a guest a few weeks ago. That was a surprise. I thought he'd never stoop that low.

Anyway, speaking of Mark, I finally got to see *Black Magic Woman* and found it to not be that bad. It had a decent plot and I was surprised by the ending. The writhing Mark shots were not that bad either!

Anyone catching the *Batman* cartoon? It's really extremely well done and Mark does a wonderful Joker. I never miss taping an episode.

Another Dark Horse comic is out now. They are reprinting the SW newspaper comics in color. Very nice. *Dark Empire* #6 is not out yet as I type this. I don't know what they're waiting on.

Two new SW products for this holiday season: Super NES SW game and X-WING for IBM and compatible computers and the latter looks like it will be fantastic. You get to go out on missions as a pilot. You don't really see the Big 3 but you hear about them in background chatter. I can't wait to play.

The Sci-Fi channel is everything I ever wanted a SF channel to be. The weekend it premiered I saw ANH 5 times! That was followed on that Saturday by the other 2 on another movie channel so had my own private trilogy party. What a way to spend a weekend! Been having a lot of fun catching some oldies but goodies.

Nora: I loved the picture of you and Khamakazzi. Arabs are my favorite and Khemosabi is one of the most beautiful.

You were at OktoberTrek? I went on Sunday and had a great time seeing Brent Spiner and DeForest Kelley. It seems I'm discovering more SW fans in the MD and VA area than I thought possible. I found out a little while ago that Nancy Stasulis lives about 5 miles away from me. What a small world!

Z.P.: Re: Leia to Tatooine and OWK: In the new HTTE sourcebook put out by WestEnd, they say Leia was on her way to bring OWK out of retirement when she received a transmission of the DS plans from Alliance spies. I like that explanation. I found it hard to believe that after she picked up the plans, she went on with them in her possession to Tatooine.

I hope the doll exhibit comes to light at MWC. I'm making a stuffed Bantha that, Force willing, will be seen with my Tuskan Raider at MWC. I've got 3 of the 4 legs attached to the body as of this writing so the work is progressing.

I'm not sure Leia's comment about Luke running

away and hiding was weird. She was overly concerned for him though so maybe it was just a little out of character. Something else that was strange was Luke coming on the mission in the first place. He knew the Emperor was going to be there so could dear old Darthie be far behind?

Dr. Mary: I'm not sure whether you're taking votes or keeping count but you can add my voice along with Z.P.'s. Bring back WC! Please?!

Marti: Sorry to hear you got a deluge this summer. I only asked for the high temps for you. However, my summer was thoroughly delightful and I never have delightful summers. We maybe had 1/2 dozen or so days over 90 but no where near 100 as last year. And hardly any humidity. It was a summer I can live with and I hope to see more of them. Rumor has it that this winter will be comparable to Hoth. 'Bout time!!!

Hope you make it to MW 13.

I feel those glowing "after-images" of Ben could only offer advice and guidance but nothing else.

Re other Dark Side fallers: Who's to say they had any? Maybe, in all the history of the Republic, there was never a corrupt, ambitious person like Palpatine. I do find that hard to believe but it's certainly possible. Perhaps they exiled them all to a planet with no means of escape (much like Kirk did to Khan in "Space Seed" on ST) with warning beacons set in space. Interesting thought.

Maggie: I would love to read/buy "The History of SW Fanzine Fandom" or whatever title you chose. I didn't get into fandom until 1984/85 when I bought WC 1 so I missed all the interesting stuff. Good luck with it and with that MM-Mom-Anakin-Bailstory. It sounds good.

Tammy: Welcome to SE! Hope your trip to the Olympics was wonderful. I enjoyed watching the Dream Team cream the opposition.

You can write to Dark Horse comics at: 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222. I read somewhere that they would send all 6 issues but I can't find it anywhere. Write to them and see what they say. In mid-1993 will be another SW miniseries. And there will be a new SW comic strip in their new color comics anthology called *Dark Horse Comics*. The new SW strip is called "Tales of the Jedi". Can't wait.

Mary Jo: I don't want GL to churn out garbage either. I would rather see him not do another movie than to have it come to that. However, a promise is a promise. If he couldn't/can't do them then say so