
And, IMO, *we should get back to reviewing fan fiction as well*. One LoC pointed out that we put up with much worse than the pro fiction in our own zines. If our standards are different for pro and fan fiction, we need to recognize this. If we don't complain about fan fiction because of social courtesies/pressures, we need to acknowledge that reality. More, we need to create once again a dialogue for discussing what we're reading.

(Yes, I know all the old problems of reviewing in fandom. Maybe the reviews could run under a banner that states "*I can dislike your story and like you at the same time.*")

(By the by, thanks, Nora, for the compliment on my writing — ;))

Another thought on the difference between pro and fan — there's a world of difference between writing fanlit, for which your audience knows all the descriptions and conventions of characterization and plot, and writing for a non-fan audience that very likely doesn't remember who knows whom, or what happened where, or any number of other little details that fans like us breathe in and out daily. Fanlit makes an incredible amount of assumptions regarding the reader's familiarity with the characters and the plot.

Belea Keeney: I'm not aware of any declared time between the movies. Kurtz was asked about that once, but declined to say anything definite. He suggested that we all make our own minds up about it.

Of course, that makes for great diversity! For me, Luke is nowhere near 30 in ROTJ; maybe as much as 25, but I see more like 23, with a year or two between ANH and TESB, and 6 months to a year between TESB and ROTJ.

As for Vader's age, with his cybernetics, why would age mean anything to him? I can visualize Anakin as any number of ages when he switched sides, depending on the rest of the scenario. His looks at the end of ROTJ can be deceptive: I've noticed that once people get past 40 it becomes increasing difficult to make judgements about age as genetic factors affect appearance. I work with people who, at my age of 46, look both 5-6 years younger and 10+ years older.

To A. G. Steyn, as well: there's also the problem of language in assessing ages, especially with English which is an imprecise language, and more especially with American, which is even more ambiguous. It's entirely possible that the description of a "young" Darth Vader has different roots than mere chronological age. I've heard/read 35 year old men described as "young", and I've heard the word used to describe anyone who is new at starting a task, whether they be 15 or 50. The use of the word *young* to mean very specifically a person under 30, if not under 20, seems a fairly recent and — to me — very much media-American speak, with its obsession with youth.

And besides, the movies don't talk of ages at all; these people are travelling in space which screws up time, and we have no idea whatsoever how long these people live. Maybe OWK is 120 and 40 is indeed chronologically young to him! Much like Spock, at 33-34 when we first saw him on ST — if I remember correctly, being barely out of his teen-age years by Vulcan standards (and no wonder he was socially awkward, his humanness not withstanding).

Marti Schuller (SE39): I wonder — why should anyone know about Luke and Leia's paternity? Alderaan, with Bail and Foster Mom and their court, is gone. Kenobi is dead. Palpatine is dead. The secret was kept from Vader for over 20 years, which might imply success at keeping any hint of the births/connection out of the records. Who would know in the Alliance? Mon Mothma? Possibly. Maybe it's just Luke and Leia's (and by extension, Han's) little secret. Maybe, now that all the principals are dead, even Luke and Leia will not really care that much. After all, who even knows what happened on DS2? Only Luke remains of that encounter. Antilles and Calrissian are the heroes of the DS2 destruction, with a nod to the ground troops.

(SE40) That Kenobi spent all his time post-Republic on Tatooine alone is, I think, one of those fannish conventions that another LoC mentioned: accepted by most, but with no foundation in the actual films. It may come from the novelizations, but, as you say, there are many possibilities. One could take Tarkin's "Surely, he must be dead by now," remark and fly off on a story wherein Kenobi did roar about the galaxy, trying to rouse people and getting shot at so often and reported dead so many times that by the time 20 years had passed, no one expects to see him again. Maybe he did so for a few years, then dropped out of sight, leaving people to assume he had died. Maybe, had he lived through the Death Star I battle, he would have had to endure a Snake Plissken "Obi-wan Kenobi? I heard you was dead!" re-entry into society.

Ming: Related to your comments on what is good/moral?, and to all the comments (throughout the years, not just in SE) about SW being obvious good vs. evil, I'd like to throw in the possibility that SW may be just as much about "right vs. right" in that it presents people in difficult situations, with multiple interpretations and paths facing them. Yes, blowing up planets is easy to see as evil (although some fans argued in years past that such was an acceptable military action), but what about OWK's choices, or Lars', or even Anakin's? A founder of the Institute for Global Ethics, Rushwood Kidder, has described four "right vs. right" categories: *truth vs. loyalty; individual vs. community; short-term vs. long-term; and justice vs. mercy*. When people face these kinds of choices, Kidder says, they most often apply one of three moral principles, which are (1) Utilitarianism, which is doing what's best for

the greatest number of people; (2) Rule-Based Thinking, which uses inner conscience as a guide; and (3) Care-Based Thinking, which means treating others as you would have them treat you.

SW is just chock full of these kinds of situations, as it sets up all sorts of problems for the characters and the audiences to solve, providing for endless involvement, which is why — IMO — it's still popular world-wide after all these years. Especially since the stark dichotomy of Western classic Good vs. Evil as a defining human social element, is not universal approach to life.

Pat Nussman: Absolutely, computer bulletin boards are a time sink and decisions must be made, or else the days extended to 48 hours each. Also, the BBS are not places to leave/receive deep and long thoughts. They're great for networking and schmoozing and human contact (yes, I mean human — I've been touched in heart-warming ways by many people on the nets). But the thoughts evaporate and you find yourself repeating yourself every month or so. For fact gathering, they are powerful tools, but for thematic development and thoughtful discourse the BBS are made of teflon.

Yes! Now that the Alliance has won, the Clone Wars (i.e., Civil War) will be revealed as what they truly were: The War between the Worlds (i.e., War Between the States) to define galactic society and world rights. Bring on the galactic Ken Burns!

Well, actually, re: Mon Mothma, I *am* working on a series of stories (one pre-Jedi and 2 immediately post-Jedi) in which an assassination attempt is a plot point (both Imperial and Alliance claims for the attempt are put forward). Personally, and despite the pro novels, I think that many post-Empire politicians will find someone who founded and ran a rebellion too damn dangerous to keep around in "peacetime." (See my answer to Jacqueline for other reasons why folks inside the Alliance might not care for a continuance of revolutionary spirits once Palpatine is done for.) Of course, since I'm of the Emperor-as-Mule school, I see the post-ROTJ political situation as totally AFU due to Palpatine's Forceful meddling.

Well, you can count me to the PPMSWC club on both MMothma's and Wedge's part. In my mainline stories, Wedge will develop as the "for godsake, let's get something done" Jedi to the evolution of Luke's more reflective/theoretical persona. I realize that Lando is not a minor character, but the way fandom has ignored him over the years, he might as well be, so you can throw him in too, on my side, since those MM stories are told from his point of view.

Louise Turner: (SE39) Thank you for pointing out that fairy tales are not necessarily "pretty" tales. Certainly, when I was a kid, I had no patience for cleaned up stories when I encountered them. I wanted the real stuff, with bad

guys rolled in kegs of nails down the hill to the river and nasty siblings cutting off their heels in their greed and the violent mother or father leaving the kid in the woods. I wanted stories that addressed my real fears and suspicions about the world and not something that simply made nice and patted me on the head and told me not to worry. (Don't ask my opinion of Disney!)

Also, as you pointed out, I needed to know that good can be pulled out of evil, otherwise who wouldn't despair?

Speaking of good out of... Louise, there is no need to have a computer to do a zine. Don't let yourself be intimidated. Some of the best zines that ever printed were done on mimeographs, or typed and then pasted together on kitchen sinks. Go for it, whatever!

And thank you for the kind words about my stories. I'm hoping to follow up the plot streams in those stories with the ones I told Pat about above.

I don't know, though, about intellectuals being such a great support of the Alliance. Depends on how the Empire was presented at the beginning. Also, was it fascist, or was it totalitarian? And what were the prevelant ideas about government/galactic society in the Republic just before it fell? It's popular to think of the Enlightenment intellectuals supporting democracy in the late 1700s, but a good many of them had no interest whatsoever in the "mob" getting involved with their democracy. And in the 20th century, many intellectuals, disillusioned with late 19th century capitalism and with the growing pop cultures that distained their potential contributions, were seduced by the totalitarian version of Marxism.

(SE40) Oh, I know what you mean about believing oneself past the super-intense phase of fandom only to have a button or two pushed by some perceived distortion of SWTRUTH! I'm not terribly involved with Trek these days — okay, I've been out of it for a long while — but although I proclaim my disinterest when someone at work calls me a Trekker, the following five minutes (or more) of reasons *why* I'm not a current fan (i.e., what was wrong/right with the movies, NewGen, DS9, etc.) betray my fannishness everytime.

As for romantic heroes, I'll be looking forward to reading responses to your question. Dark, fatalistic heroes who flame out at the end aren't terribly American heroes; they aren't social successess and don't wed/tame easily. Just look at the way fans reform/explain away/make nice the darker characters that do show up in fandom; even Avon in B7 had to be "explained."

Gerald Crotty: (SE39) I like your term, *science eventuality*!

Yes, the differences between 70mm and 35 are annoying. I wonder how many fans out there have ever seen the three movies in proper ratio? Some of the side action contributed mightily to character development in

early fan lit, especially with Han in ANH who is much more vulnerable in behavior when he thinks no one is looking. And OWK's reaction to Solo becomes more complex when you ignore the dialogue between Solo and Luke and watch Kenobi's reaction on the side.

Still, I will praise VCRs for the ability to stop action. The exchange among Solo, Kenobi and Skywalker in the cantina is fascinating when done frame by frame. You really get a more intense sense of the fencing between Kenobi and Solo... which leads one to all sorts of curious thoughts about Kenobi and where he picked up such styles of speech and understanding (and, where did he learn enough about new tech to be able to glance at the screen display on the DS and know exactly what to do to disable the force field, huh?).

(#40) Oh heavens, the Imperial fans were quite serious, and there were some fascinating articles on why the Empire was the legitimate government and the rebels were terrorists on a galactic order. Everything was political, and very seriously so. For many, SW was not so much a battle between good and evil but a presentation of revolution and the battle against Authority. A very different movie in many ways.

Pat Grant: I can appreciate your response to Yoda's Do/Do Not comment. My mother was also of the "either it's done to my expectations or you didn't do it" school. Still, I don't think Yoda was speaking in destructive Win/Lose terms. Two lines of thought arose:

(1) It's a male/female thing. Boys are told to do something and if they fail, they're told to go back and do it until it works, with no major criticism involved unless they give up. Girls are told, "Well, at least you tried, honey." Therefore, the argument went, guys will understand that Yoda is simply telling Luke to keep doing it until you learn how to do it, while the gals will think the comment is critical and insensitive.

(2) It's a general language thing. The words "do" and "try" are changing meaning. Once *try* implied only attempting something and not carrying through; an incomplete action. And *do* implied completed action, whether it was successful or not. In this context, you did something and either achieved your goal or failed to achieve it; the goal did not negate the doing and you could always do again, in fact, you probably would since you would learn from the failure. To try to do something, however, meant you didn't really put your heart into it, and probably would stop short of learning anything since you didn't complete the action and so had nothing to build on for future action.

For me, Yoda's comment is simply a statement of action: you do and achieve or you do and don't achieve. If the latter, you start over and do it again. The emphasis is on actually doing and carrying through whether you reach

your goal or not. Just trying isn't enough because trying implies less than honest commitment; knowing you can *just try* creates an attitude that allows a person to create illusions.

Jacqueline Taero: I'm glad you (and others!) found the idea of a Fleet-free Republic intriguing. For me, using a medieval model provides too great a temptation to equate a Republic sans established Star Fleet with a technologically inferior society. The tech advances of the past couple hundred years have obscured *attitude* differences that are, IMO, a truer distinction between then and now. (If the Republic was trading amongst its own planets for 1,000 generations, it had to be technically sophisticated, at least in space travel.)

Perhaps, like the European Medieval world which lived in relationship with an outside power (the Christian God and His promise of Heaven), the Republic lived/used its technology in relationship with a philosophy born in the acceptance of the Force, with the Jedi as the visible representatives among diverse societies/systems.

Then, just as since Medieval days we have increasingly lived in relationship with the Self and its fulfillment/happiness (and in this century, with a perception of social development as subject to History/Progress/The Machine), maybe a movement toward a more "efficient/practical/unified" use of technology arose within the Republic. The Empire may represent those who are willing to submit human/sentient endeavor/differences to the idea of technological determination/progress. Palpatine could have used this movement to promote a "universal" view of service/bureacracy/culture/trade that — of course — needed a strong leader to guide it's infancy.

Hmm, just had a thought. It's entirely possible that there are those within the Alliance who firmly believe in the good of such unification, but who despair of how Palpatine is going about it; and so they join the Alliance out of a need to depose the Emperor while still planning to push their ideas once Palpatine is gone. Now *there's* a thorny problem for the up-coming power brokers to struggle with!

(None of this is to say that individual planets, in their every day living, were equally technologically oriented. I imagine the mix of tools would vary widely, just like here.)

I agree that the timing of the Jedi destruction is problematic until Lucas, if Lucas, defines it in the 1st trilogy. It's possible that the "Fall" was merely the last event in a long-term dissolution of attention to the Jedi on the part of galactic society. Perhaps a lack of attention by the Jedi, too. Rather like IBM, resting on twenty years of success and old assumptions of progress and therefore misreading the appeal and power of Macintoshes.

Oh, isn't it possible that Bail is called to the roll and named Viceroy by his own people? As a reminder of who's really boss? After all, our own president and congressional

delegates are supposed to be our employees, not our king and princes, however much they (and many Americans) seem to forget that these days.

Naw, the Jedi aren't necessary to any government's survival, but they — or social structures like them, say spiritual organizations — may be necessary to any *civilization*. Just like kids can grow to maturity under any number of appalling conditions, but will they be human/e when they get there or just a form of adult human animals?

You're right about Leia's "skittishness" being person-specific. I'd like to add that her proverbial "bitchiness" reads the same and is usually directed the same way, at Han. Which blows out of the water all the beloved presentations of Leia as bitchy to the world.

Just the same, Amanda Palumbo makes a good point about Leia being the one who brings the "fellowship" together. She brings Luke to OWK; she keeps Han focused; she's involved in nearly all the important crunches (rescuing Luke under Bespin, providing DV with a successful goad in the last fight between him and Luke). This reminds me of an argument I've long had with the Yoda & OWK as Master Movers theory: if the only thing that got Luke involved was the chance of Leia's consular ship getting chased after being caught accepting illegal transmissions off the DS, then just how were Yoda & OWK manipulating events? With Yoda thinking Luke is too old, and OWK dug into the desert of a rim world ... aah, it just doesn't work for me.

And, to Marv Jo Fox, yeah, and it's going to be a while longer yet before Leia is appreciated for herself. Tell me that it's a little different for young women in the 90s than it was for those of us in the 70s, and I'll be happier.

As for SW ambiguities, well, see what you think about my answer to Liz Sharpe.

Liz presented a concise assessment of Han Solo's legal behavior in the Saga in SE39. She both described his behavior vis á vis authority and recognized that attitudes toward such behavior are dependant upon reactions to and respect for established authority.

I read the letter, nodded my head, then thought a moment and asked my Significant Other, "How are we defining *hero* these days?" Getting an annoyed, owlsh look in response, I added, "I mean, what's the difference between a hero and a protagonist in current thought? Does a hero have to exemplify totally admirable behavior? If he's flawed, is he only a protagonist? And who defines *admirable behavior*?"

My SO, being conservative in the ways of literature, gave me a short lecture on Icelandic Saga literature and Classic Tragedy. Her explanation seemed to imply that a hero is Major Admirable — and excused a lot of behavior because he's a *hero*, while a tragic character can be sympathised with but can't be a Hero because of his Major

Flaw, which drives the tragedy. The term protagonist and the suggestion of volitile definitions in popular media got her grumbling and I dropped the issue.

Instead, fueled by the strong suspicion that fans were shouting past each other, I described the current argument over Han's status/criminal behavior to a local 21-yr-old SW fan, someone who came back to the movies in her late teens because of the pro books and comics, someone for whom, she reminds me, *all* the pro stuff *is* SW.

My friend was very uncomfortable with the idea of Han as a criminal. Intellectually, she agreed that Han probably "had a history" that is not squeaky clean; emotionally, she desperately wants Han to be a *real* good guy, without baggage that has to be explained.

But, I protested a la Liz' arguments, he does A, B and C and you know as well as I do that A, B, and C are criminal behavior. We talked around and around the subject for a while. Finally, we figured out that, as someone who had been only 4 years old when SW first appeared and who grew up in the city in the 80s and 90s, her definitions of good guy, and criminal, are very different from mine. *Very* different.

My friend's definition of good guy/hero includes a degree of violent, and legally questionable, behavior that my generation didn't expect in heroes. Would Little Joe Cartwright growl, *Make my day*? Would Matt Dillon chortle, *Hasta la vista, Baby*, as either blew the baddies away? For audiences of the '60s, protagonists who foreshadowed Dirty Harry, *et al*, were even called *anti-heroes*. When did you last hear that term, save in a video catalog listing *Hud*?

The way I interpret my friend's observations is this: because heroes were allowed more latitude in the late 70s and into the 90s, absorbing behavior that once had to be "explained" for Han, criminals became, by definition, *really nasty*.

For my younger friends drugs are crack and junkies, not low-level THC highs and hippies. Guns are something the neighbor kids carry, not a sleek sexy symbol for a spy or a Peace-Bringer for the sheriff. Alan studied SW in film class and found it *quaint*, for heaven's sake; and Yolanda worries about drive-by shootings on her walk home from the bus stop after classes.

Alan and Yolanda don't need to rationalize Han's behavior. Of course he's armed. Of course he kills Greedo. Of course his business dealings are simply smart dealings. He's the *hero* and he's fighting for my side and my continuing good life in the way it's *really* done. Alan and Yolanda automatically exclude Han from *really* criminal behavior and don't need our boomer lines in the sand.

Reality seems to support this development -- it's reasonable that my friend doesn't want Han, whom she likes, associated with serial killers, drive-by shootings, or

vicious drug dealings. But, if a new fan reads older fanzines, or a story by a writer who still uses a fuzzier vocabulary, Han's extra-legal activity can easily be misread as a level of hard-core criminality that the writer didn't mean.

(Frankly, my friends' definition of a good guy disturbs me. I don't want the good guys to be the equivalent of Han in ANH's cantina, shooting Greedo under the table. I want Han to be borderline, to be changed by his experiences with Luke and Leia into the Han we see in ROTJ, a softer, laughing man. I don't want good guys who don't regret being turned into killers, even of really nasty bad guys. But, then, I'm an early Boomer.

And Lucas is five years older than me. I wonder if he sees the same changes in perceptions that my friends have led me to see. Maybe, in a way, he actually couldn't make his first trilogy, with all it's implied darkside choices and behaviors, until the 90s.)

Liz, I'll vote for the Emperor not knowing about Yoda, citing the dialogue when Vader presented Luke ("OWK has taught you well" sort of chatter from both DV and Emp), and the belief that it makes for a better story if one has to explain why ol' Yellow Eyes doesn't grok the Old Mushroom. By the by, good point about Yoda's reaction to Luke's comment before he leaves.

On SW as Good/Bad, Black/White storytelling, although lots of people agreed with SW as such from the very beginning, plenty complained that the movie was *not* B&W enough. SW's bad guys were too appealing; it's good guys were too questionable in their actions. SW was not specific in what it promoted, unlike Trek which presented a philosophy, and — by ghod — let you know *why* Our Side were the Good Guys, and the Bad Guys Not. Sure, SW made it clear that the audience was expected to cheer on Luke and Han in their rescue, but — *why* were Luke/Han/the Alliance the good guys? Because the Empire blew up Alderaan? As mentioned early, there were fans who saw the Empire as the established Government and the rebels as a terrorist force.

For me, that unknown quantity is real *and* essential to SW. Unlike Trek, with which you either agreed or not, SW leaves us free to think; in fact, *insists* we stop and think. It is not B&W at all.

And, that's why I wanted to stand up and cheer when OWK pointed out that "the truths we hold most dear" are dependant on a our own point of view.

Yeah, I nearly did. And I've rewritten this part of my letter half a dozen times, it seems, in my effort to intelligibly explain why I disagree so completely with you on this issue.

So, here's my interpretation of the issue. Take it as you will. (Warning — personal philosophical rambling follow. Proceed with caution or to the next letter, as mood or

inclinations lead you...!)

On my tape, OWK's exact words are, "Luke, you're going to find that many of the truths we cling to depend greatly on our own point of view."

Note that Kenobi didn't say *all* truths, just *many*. To me, his message is that I (Luke) constantly have to review what I accept as Truth, most especially those truths I "cling to", *i.e.*, depend upon most heavily and pronounce most assuredly. If I'm to be an honest adult, I'm going to have to *know* that I select the truths I continue to profess rather than blindly claiming that I have no choice in the matter because "of course, X and Y are true."

Fact is, murder/killing, honesty, loyalty, parental affection, self-interest, and all those actions with "timeless" definitions are often defined very differently through human history and in humanity's varied societies. The *subjects* are basic to human discussion, yes, but not necessarily the applications!

(Think of suicide, which is considered the antithesis to human self-respect in some societies, and one measure of self-determination/honor/duty in others. Each of us comes to our own decision about suicide, our own judgments of other's suicides, but are those decisions and judgments the "truth?")

All socialized humans grow up wanting to be "right" in the eyes of their peers. We're social animals and need to be accepted ... and therefore, we accept rules and norms of behavior and interpretations of that behavior. Our group's standards become our standards, our communal "absolutes."

I don't think Kenobi's saying that there are no absolutes; that's not his argument here. Rather, he saying that a person should be very aware of the origin of what s/he considers an absolute. Does it come from the group? Is it a meta-absolute? Or is it our own private absolute? And even if it is the larger absolute, we should be aware of how that absolute came about, so we can understand the consequences of our acceptance of that value.

OWK may be saying that — similar to the advice to Question Authority — one must learn to question the authority of the very human need for absolutes. We *like* absolutes; we find social order and security in absolutes. But must we be locked in our absolutes?

It seems to be that Jedi would have to be super-aware of the extent to which sentience creates its own universe. Both science and religions have long reminded us that *any* truth we can experience is by necessity limited by that experience. The Tao, the God, the Universal Mystery that we can describe is *not* the Tao, or God, or the Mystery. The only Truth-That-Is cannot be expressed, leaving all our Truths to be lesser truths of experience and/or mutual agreement. Science aside, if there is one point that all religions seem to agree on, it is that there is indeed a

mystical otherness that can never be accounted for in human terms; and that this is the only ultimate Truth. After that level, we're in the realm of human assessment.

The contradictions of SW remind me a lot of the story, *Rashomon*. (And Kurasawa is a hero of Lucas'.) The crime in *Rashomon* is witnessed by 5 different people. That a man is dead and a woman experienced intercourse are facts — but facts are not truth, *i.e.*, “what really happened.” All 5 people tell stories that reflect possible, human interpretations of the events ... and each story is different, and often contradictory. The final judgment is an “agreement” of truth on the part of the community, but is it “true”? The audience realizes that it doesn't know ... and *can't* know; each individual viewer can only decide which story to accept for him or herself.

That Anakin Skywalker sired Luke is a SW fact. That OWK told Luke in ROTJ that Luke must “face Vader again,” with Luke being the one who used the words, “I can't. I can't kill my father,” are SW facts. However, the *truths* that OWK, Luke, and we fans draw from those facts vary wildly, and probably always will.

If Luke had “clung” to OWK's truth of the death of Anakin when Vader arose, he probably wouldn't have accepted the truth of his experience of good still deep within Vader. I would argue that OWK's warning is that if Luke does not question his own absolutes — “I can't kill my own father” — then he will be prime meat for the mental manipulation of an experienced Force User, who has already proven that he's very good at turning idealism on its head.

(The corollary here is that we are all capable of all Evil, and most so when we deny that capability, whether through our own supposed impervious will or because of our reliance on the will of another power (be it the State/Law or God to prevent it). Luke is most vulnerable when he realizes that he has indeed acted Just Like Dad. At this point he can give into despair — *I'm no longer perfect/pure and therefore can only be bad* — or make the choice to stop what he is doing and start over again. Which is what he did, forever afterwards to live imperfectly and never again able to say “I can't kill my own father.” And, IMO, to live a much wiser, saner, and Truthful life.)

As you said, the stuff of SW is not easy or simple. To go back to the question of SW as a black and white presentation — for me, in this movie there are no clearly marked paths of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, but rather there is a lesson that we must always strive to see our own thoughts/prejudices/ambitions clearly, with responsibility to others, and in the spirit of love and the affirmation of life. No pat answers. No easy ways to sit back and relax in our righteousness. Even the talented Anakin screwed up; even Obi-wan has his blind spots; even the heroes, and you and I, are always struggling with

right and wrong.

Try? There is no Try; Do or Do not.

End? There is no End; it is enough to Aim.

Both sages who said these things could have added, And then Live with the Consequences.

Whew. I'd had better stop before the hole gets any deeper. Or Cheree starts hitting the Delete button, and this time, on purpose! Have fun at MWC all!

((*Ed: Maggie's LoC is so extraordinarily long this time because it's actually two LoCs in one. She sent her usual wonderfully scholarly letter last time on disk and I proceeded to plug it into the zine. Only this time, I screwed up and accidentally deleted her LoC and never noticed it (the mixer in my brain having been set on puree for some weeks at that point) until she pointedly brought it to my attention! My deepest apologies, Maggie! I'll try not to let that happen again!*))

FIRST EVER BRITISH SW CON

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Hello, everybody!

On November 13, 1994, we had a one-day SW con. As far as I know this was the first SW con ever in the U.K. It was held at a cinema called “The Venue” opposite the Elstree Studios. The event was called “The Elstree/Star Wars Day”. The guests were Dave Prowse, Kenny Baker, Mike Edmonds and Jeremy Bulloch. Due to some problems, the scheduled events were a bit late starting. The guests were introduced to the audience at about 11 a.m. Bulloch was a surprise guest. He replaced Brian Johnston who couldn't make it. The guests were escorted onto the stage by 2 fans in excellent hand-made costumes of Boba Fett and Bosch. Next they showed all the movie trailers for the Trilogy. I hadn't seen them in a long time. The early SW ones are strange. They have a sinister quality to them. After that, the stars began signing autographs. Unfortunately, since the event was held in a cinema, there wasn't much space. There was a bar with some seating area, but that was occupied by some dealers' tables, so the guests had to do signing in the corridors.

There was an exhibition room with some excellent props on display: TIE fighter helmet, stormtrooper helmet, 4-LOM mask, various weapons, and a complete Darth Vader costume which had been fitted with a breathing sound. Very impressive!

As the day progressed, it became obvious that most fans were getting more than one autograph from each guest and

so it was going to take a lot longer than expected.

Around 2 p.m., they showed "The Making of Empire", then at 3 p.m., the highlight of the day — a film called "Return of the Ewok." I say highlight because this was the first time it's ever been seen. It was made in 1982 by Dave Tomblin during the production of ROTJ. Tomblin became friends with Warwick Davis and decided to make a short comedy film with him in their spare time. It's about 30 minutes long and concerns Warwick trying to get a part in ROTJ. He goes around Elstree meeting many of the production crew and cast. Eventually, he travels to Endor as Wicket and meets Han, Luke, Leia, 3PO and Artoo. Then he meets the other Ewoks and there is a battle with stormtroopers. After which Warwick's parents turn up to take him home. He tries to tell them of his adventures but they don't believe him. It's really quite funny and charming. It almost made me like the Ewoks!

The items on the dealers' tables seemed very expensive so I didn't buy anything. Later in the afternoon there was a charity auction of rare and unusual SW items.

Around 6:30 p.m., there was a question and answer session with the guests. Dave Prowse seemed rather bitter. He said he hated ROTJ (several times). He also complained about the money he gets in residuals and that he wasn't allowed to see a complete script during shooting. Kenny Baker was the exact opposite. He was very cheerful and had nothing but happy memories of working on the movies. Jeremy Bulloch seemed a bit bemused by the attention of the fans in a character he knew very little about. However, he did say that he thought that Fett would have escaped from the Sarlacc.

Well, it was a great day and although there were some organizational problems, it went surprisingly well for a first con. I spent most of the day talking to pen friends, some of whom I was meeting for the first time. Hope we can do it again soon!

Onward...

Kenneth Branagh as young Kenobi... Well, I know it's only a rumor but I certainly hope it never happens. I recently saw him in *Peter's Friends* and *Dead Again* and his performances were absolutely awful. He cannot act. Why he gets so much praise is beyond me.

SW Special Edition: Well, I just read a report on this by Lisa Cowan and it seems definite that Lucas does not plan to replace the Biggs scenes. In my opinion, these are the only scenes which are essential. Can I suggest to everyone that you write to Lucasfilm and let them know that you want to see the Biggs scenes? I really think this is important. There's only going to be one special edition and we've all waited a long time to see those scenes. Let's make sure it happens. I really think that if enough of us write in, then Lucas will do something.

Belea: According to the novelizations, TESB takes

place three years after SW and ROTJ takes place 6 months after TESB. In the script published in *The Art of SW*, Luke is described as 18. In the SW novel, he's 20. So by the end of ROTJ, he's 21-22 or 23-24. There is a timeline of ages and events in the new *Guide to the SW Universe* by Bill Slavicsek. However, this timeline isn't accepted by everyone. I think Luke and Leia are 18 as of ANH.

I think the friendship between Ben and Anakin will be the major issue of the first trilogy and what happens to destroy their friendship. Obviously some sort of betrayal must be involved. Perhaps Ben falls in love with Anakin's wife. This would match the Arthurian legend. Ben as Lancelot, Anakin as Arthur.

Louise Turner: Well, you're showing your true colors at last. You admitted that the only reason you dislike Threepio is because he's English. And I can sympathize. No doubt you feel very envious of the fact that he pronounced his vowels correctly and has good manners. As for the Scottish members of the cast: Ol' Lawson can't decide what accent to use and McDiarmid needed several pounds of latex plus optical effects to help his over-the-top pantomime performance. He should have studied Peter Cushing a bit more. Now there's a guy who knows how to play evil. A slight smile, raise an eyebrow, clear diction, much more effective than all that cackling and lightning bolts.

Louise, you mustn't feel inferior to 3PO just because he's English. With some voice training, you could learn to speak properly. Just think how wonderful it would be if everyone spoke like 3PO!

Thought your ideas about the Ideal Romantic Hero very interesting. You're just a weirdo, aren't you?

Tim Blaes: Yes, Leia is described as "about 16" in *The Art of SW* but, if you believe Leia is 16, then Luke is, too. Most fans don't seem able to accept that he's as young as 18. So, they're certainly not going to believe he was 16. How long is a year in the SW galaxy? Oh, God, I don't even think about that. It's hard enough agreeing on a coherent timeline, but if we start questioning the length of a year, it'll really open up a can of worms.

Raymond Velasco was the author of the first *Guide to the SW Universe* published in 1984.

I was looking through some of my *Superboy and the Legion of Superheroes* comics from the mid-70's recently and I noticed the name Tim Blaes on the letters page. Was that you?

Stargate: Have to mention this because a lot of reviewers are comparing it to SW. Well, all I can say is "HA!" Even after all this time, critics still don't understand what made SW so great. *Stargate* has some nice widescreen visuals, but no drama, wit, chemistry, or excitement.

Has anyone seen *Radioland Murders*? I heard that it

had been released but then not a word since. It hasn't been released over here yet.

Star Wars Insider: Well, the first issue is better than the Lucasfilm mag, mainly because it's all SW. But it still has the same annoying aspects of the Lucasfilm mag. The letters page really encapsulates all the things that bother me. Every letter is totally sycopathic. I don't blame the letter writers since I can well imagine that anything critical or intelligent has been carefully removed before they're published. And the whole magazine is so patronizing. A good example is the interview with Sue Rostoni and Allan Kausch about timeline and continuity. When asked about the fans' obsession with continuity, they refer to a fan who noticed that the *Falcon* photo on the *Starlog Technical Journal* was flopped, which makes it seem like the "fans" are only interested in the most trivial of trivia. Why don't they mention that the fans have written in pointing out some very confusing continuity errors within the canon material? Of course, they aren't do that because it might reveal that the fans know more than they do! However, on the plus side, I'd have to say that the interview with Carrie Fisher was pretty good.

Well, that's all for now...

CALIBER OF ZINE WRITERS

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January 17, 1995

Que pasa, everyone? I hope everyone's holidays went well! But I have a feeling 1995 will fly just as fast as 1994 did... Now on with the show!

Nora: Your comments about the novels being viewed as canon got these ol' mental gears creaking. Yes, I can see new fanfic writers being influenced by the novels in the beginning of their zine careers (for lack of a better term). But I don't see that lasting because the caliber of zine writers already established is too good, along with the editors as well. They can't help but learn from, if not emulate, the editors' and writers' styles. I mean, who here hasn't (say that 3 times) been influenced by various zine writers?

Your reaction to that fan saying she had the "real thing" (as she called the novels) is understandable. But, unfortunately, fanzines do have a so-so image. When I was in college, I saw local fanzines dedicated to the local rock/music scene and I recall they didn't outsell *Rolling Stone* when they were displayed at the record store counter.

People wanted "real magazines". All I can say is, it's their loss. But I definitely would have the same reaction as you did first thing, if I heard that.

Barbara: Your reaction about a "smutzine" made me stop and say, I didn't think of it that way. I see your POV; and I'm glad you said it because it sparked some discussion. Like Maggie once said, it's around — it's gone underground. So I figured it's always been there so I won't worry about it. GL himself hasn't been policing the zine scene as much either. And what may offend one person may be condoned by the other. So it's a tough argument to make. All we can do is tolerate different views.

Maggie: Thanks so much for presenting the history of SW fandom! I enjoyed reading it; but on the other hand, it make me kind of sad. Because of all that bickering, how many new writers were turned off by SW? I hate to think of all those ideas that were lost... I know my reaction would've been — had I joined in fandom at that time — forget this! If I want abuse, I'll go to the Division of Motor Vehicles and renew my license for fun! I just hope it never happens again!

Debbie: Hey, keep that snow on your side of the Potomac! All of us Virginian Bothans like to drive on a clean, dry highway! So please, folks, when you wish Debbie could have all your snow, don't do that! I live too close to MD! Give me Tatooine weather anytime!

Wouldn't you know it — we buy enough card sheets and they change the size of the cards! It's definitely an Imperial marketing strategy!

Carolyn: Thanks for asking. My knee's all healed, the research is done, now it's time to set up shop! I can't wait! I'll have everything set up and the first print should be hot off the presses during the beginning of Feb. I'll let you know how it goes.

Cheryl & Lin & Other Cadfael Fans: Thanks for telling me about those books! They're great! Now I'm looking forward to watching all the Cadfael shows on *Mystery* (PBS). Derek Jacobi steals the show!

Ming & Z.P.: Thanks to you and everyone else for their comments on the Ewoks. I'll definitely have to read more of Mary Jean Holmes' stuff. At least they're not being as marketed as much as they were when ROTJ came out.

Tim: Your description of going to your first MWC definitely is on the money! My reaction to MWC consisted of sensory overload to downright loneliness; but overall, I enjoyed it immensely.

To several: Give three cheers for Leia! She made Capt. Janeway a reality! A woman captain at last! *Voyager* is great!

Pat & Other Readers: After reading the novels and listening to the radio shows, I come to appreciate Harrison Ford's portrayal of Han Solo more and more. No one else has been able to get the mixture of humanity and menace

right. He made Han so believable — that, yes, he can shoot someone like he did Greedo, yet be able to win the heart of Leia. Most of the other portrayals make Han sound like he can be too stupid to live. Just thought I'd throw my credit's worth into the fray.

Marti & Judy: I hope things are going better for you. Hang in there!

Dead Bothans: Hey, it's been a great year hanging out with you guys! Like Mary Jo said, let's make more dealers cringe and keep Another Universe in business! Take care and let's also make 1995 a year to remember!

Oh, my, I think I disqualified myself from the short letter sweepstakes. What the heck, it was fun conversing with you folks! I guess I'm getting to be a chatterbox in my old age. Take care and welcome to all the new SE'ers and future Bothans! Congrats to Randy about the new job! May more Bothans be slain this year! Talk to y'all later! Ciao!

CRITICISM OF PRO NOVELS

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Debbie: Re your question as to whether we, as fans, are prejudiced against prowriters. No, I honestly don't think so. I'd be *delighted* to find profic I really liked ... a good SW story, fan or pro, is something to be prized. But I don't feel many of the SW writers have thought through the characterization ... and I feel *Jedi Search* is a particular problem in this regard. As I said (*ad nauseum*) in my SE39 letter, I found Anderson's portrayal of Leia and Han, in particular, pretty damned outrageous.

Zahn, BTW, didn't outrage me. He just bored me.

Of course, there are many fan stories I think are *much* worse than *Jedi Search*, the Zahn books, *et al* and I don't get hot under the collar about those (well, in most cases). However, I don't think it's unreasonable to hold a writer who's working for pay to somewhat higher standards ... not to mention that these are "official" Lucasfilm products and fanfic stories are not.

To put it another way: You don't criticize someone who plays golf on the weekend like you would a pro golfer, right?

I hasten to add that all this is (obviously, I think) IMHO only. The *Jedi Academy* books are selling like lemonade on Tatooine (I understand that *Jedi Search* was the best selling SF book of 1994) and, as far as pro novels are concerned, the proof of the pudding is in the sales figures.

OTOH, I am looking forward to reading McIntyre's

book, because I really like her Trek novelizations. (However, I will admit that the fact the book is apparently a lot about the kids prejudices me ... I wish someone would kidnap those kids and *keep* them! I want to read about Han, Luke, Leia and the other adults.) I understand Barbara Hambley is doing a SW novel, as well ... I think she's a very good writer and I'm looking forward to her contribution.

But I do wish Lucas had chosen to seek out some of the SW fans who've gone pro and commission *them* to do books, rather than choosing people with no real interest in SW other than their next paycheck.

Louise: Re your definition of the Romantic Hero (more morally ambiguous, even dangerous) ... hmmm, into *Blake's 7*, as well as SW, are you? Sounds like Kerr Avon to me. (I am, myself, a raving Avon fan. But that's a different subject...)

I guess I'll forgive you for killing off Rieekan in your universe. Maybe. This time. :-)

Cheree: Argh, yes. I remember the MediaWest with *The Prisoner* motif all too well ... my most embarrassing con, ever. Usually, I can peek at people's badges and pretend I remember who they were all along. But that year...=shudder=.

Gerald: No, I didn't think that part of *Jedi Search* should've been devoted to debating whether the Jedi should be revived. But I thought that it should've been referenced that the Senate had or would talk about it, instead of just rubber-stamping Luke's proposal. I've never seen any free legislative body that *didn't* debate proposals *ad nauseum* (look at the U.S. Senate, your own Parliament or the new Russian legislature ... they go on and on), and I just felt the Anderson scenario was beyond the bounds of beliefs. That's just not the way legislators/politicians behave. IMHO, of course!

Judith: I apologize if I've stepped on anyone's toes in my criticism of the novels. If the consensus is that this subject is likely to cause too much controversy, I'm more than willing to keep my trap shut. But IMO, this subject just isn't as sensitive as the old CoF/CoL controversy (where opinions of characters tended to reflect the world views of the fans expressing them). I certainly would not criticize a fan writer so strongly as I have the pros — but that's because professional writers are paid to take a certain amount of criticism in the form of reviews, for example.

Also, I'll admit I feel more free to criticize because the writers aren't here in SE. I've had to swallow my opinions in the online forums I frequent (Fidonet and GENie), because Kevin Anderson *is* hanging out there. I'm not bitchy enough (really!) to post a negative review in those places. SE, thus, is the only place I felt I could let off a little steam. Because, yes, I really am frustrated by the treatment of the characters (especially Leia) in the novels.

But, again, if I've offended, I do apologize. I probably won't have too much more to say on the subject, anyway, since I haven't read the remainder of the *Jedi Academy* series. I have a pile of books I really *want* to read and I'm not so determined to criticize Kevin that I'll slough through books I don't particularly like in order to do it!

A LITTLE WEIRD

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Greetings, Enclavers! This letter is going to be a little weird because I seem to have misplaced the last 2 issues. Somewhere in this great barn of a house, buried under a pile of slither, or vanished into the black hole where odd socks go, are all the choice letters and red-hot issues I wanted to respond to. So I'm just going to wing it and try to remember (the kind of September) what I was going to say.

First of all, I'd like to respond to Gerald Crotty's invitation to discuss the new Trilogy. This is a subject that's close to us all. Here are some of the thoughts I've had:

George has stated that he will not be using any actors from the existing Trilogy, but I don't see how he can avoid it entirely. We know that the two droids are the only characters who will continue through all the SW movies. So it would seem that Anthony Daniels would need to be involved again, if only to do voiceovers, if not to don the gold suit a second time. Similarly, since we know we'll be seeing and hearing Darth Vader again in our lifetime (!!!), it sure would be nice if he sounded like James Earl Jones, even if he won't be walking exactly like Dave Prowse. And beyond all logic or hope, I'm praying that George will bring back Ian McDiarmid as Young Palpatine.

George has said that the new Trilogy will be about "betrayal and those kinds of issues," and that characters will not be what they seem. He has also said (and I'm sorry I can't cite my source here, but I *know* I read this) that there will be an evil woman in this story. The actual quote went something like, "In *Star Wars* I showed you the evil father. In this next trilogy, I'll show you the evil mother." Now we know Mrs. Skywalker was "beautiful, kind and sad," so presumably she's not the Darkside Lady. Who does this leave? Well, certainly not Aunt Beru, so maybe it's Leia's adopted mom, Mrs. Bail Organa? The archetypal wicked stepmother...?

I think that the 2 biggest challenges in casting will be Obi-Wan and Anakin. Alec Guinness has a unique elfin quality that will be hard to approximate. Too bad they can't lift him bodily (filmily?) out of some of his old

movies like *The Man in the White Suit* or *The Lavender Hill Mob*, dub in new costumes, scramble the audio track (or have Sir Alec do voiceovers), etc., etc. Maybe they can, who knows what's possible anymore? As for Anakin, I hope George will follow standard procedure and cast an unknown. He won't necessarily have to be tall, because Vader could have been built taller than Anakin (that would explain why Luke and Leia aren't giants), but he will have to have blue eyes, dark hair, and *presence*.

I don't have any trouble imagining what George is going to fill 3 films with. What I do wonder is how he'll handle the serious content. The fall of a good man to evil, his horrific injury and survival as a cyborg, the extermination of the Jedi, and the rise of the Empire: not exactly upbeat material. As Spielberg had to do *Schindler's List*, now maybe George also needs to deal with tragedy. These upcoming films may be quite different in tone from the Trilogy we know.

Will Han and Chewie come into the story at all? I could see a little subplot about those two getting together, not tied into the main plotline at all, but everyone would know what the connection was. It would be neat to see Kashyyyk and lots of Wookiees. But the place I want to see most is Coruscant.

Speaking of Coruscant, what do you think of the latest issue of *SW Insider*? It features a "new painting by [Ralph] McQuarrie of the Entertainment Center on Coruscant." There's so much to look at in that picture, I keep discovering new things all the time. I hope they make a poster of it, also "the frozen geysers of Hoth." Things really seem to be cooking at Lucasfilm!

Maggie: Your literary history of SW fandom is all I had hoped for and more. I'm so interested in your recounting of the pro-Imperial movement, and I was especially gratified to learn that someone had raised the question, "Why did Vader chase the wrong ship?" in TESB. This is only one of the problems I have with the plot of that movie. Is it too late in the day to rehash some of these issues?

1. Why was the Wampa ice-creature necessary? Why didn't Luke simply get zapped by the Imperial probe droid? Everything else could have followed logically from there.

2. Why did Vader chase the *Millennium Falcon*? Did he think Luke was aboard? When did he learn his mistake?

3. How did Luke know where Dagobah was, since it wasn't on the stargates? I know, I know, he used the Force, but this is never made clear.

4. Why did Vader bring in the bounty hunters when he already knew where the *Millennium Falcon* was?

After 15 years and a zillion viewings, these things don't really bother me too much any more, but they bothered me

a *lot* the first time around. I thought the plot of TESB was a chaotic mess! Comments, anyone?

Susan Zahn: Eine andere Deutschsprecher? Ausgezeichnet! With a name like Zahn, I should have known. But I'm shocked at your suggestion that we speak German in order to cheat at poker. That just wouldn't be proper!!! Wann wir zusammentreffen bei MWC, dann können wir im geheimen unser Komplott schmieden, ja?

A. G. Steyn: Once again it's raining in Europe and I'm worrying about you. You must be getting pretty soggy.

The Sebastian Shaw Spy Network has some sad news to report. I received a letter from Louise Turner with a newspaper clipping on his obituary. He died on December 23, 1994 at the age of 89. I wish the clipping had given more information about his personal life, but I guess that wouldn't be British. There was no mention of his role in ROTJ.

A few nights before I got Louise's letter, I had dreamed that he died and that I was talking to a lot of people who had known him. I feel as if I've lost someone who was very important to me, even though I never met him or wrote to him.

Sorry to end on a sad note, but that's all I have time for.

THANK GOD FOR GEORGE LUCAS

Pat Grant
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February 16, 1995

Hi! Hope all is well with everyone! Is it just me, or is "cabin fever" compounded with the anticipation of MWC approaching? I feel ready to start climbing walls, and it's only mid-February?

Hey — I've heard rumors about a SW convention to be held in 1997 — anyone have any actual facts and information on this?

If anyone is making it to MWC early and would like to get together, please give me a call (517-694-0961). Oh, I screen my calls, so make sure you say something — if I'm home, I'll pick up. I live less than a mile from the hotel, on the same street, and have the entire week off before the convention.

And one last note: I've given a lot of thought to this and have decided I'd like to take on a roommate. Anyone out there interested in moving to Lansing, MI (home of MWC)? Must be female, non-smoker, and like cats (I have two). If so, get in touch with me and we'll talk it over.

Well, there's lots to say, so on with the comments.

Nora Mayers: I share your concerns regarding

Courtship and the *Dark Empire* series. New fans will pick up on these personalities and we'll see a whole outcrop of new stories with poor characterization. I just hope new fans have the sense to watch the movies several times before writing anything. I also hope that person who told you she'd lost interest in fanfic since she now had the "real thing" has since come to her senses. Quality is not measured by the difference between fan and pro. It is measured by how well written, believable, and true to the genre the story is.

Susan Zahn (N.R.T.T.): Yes, Louise — I agree we should add the initials, meaning No Relation To Timothy! Hey, Susan, long time, no hear. Can't wait to talk with you at MWC. I'd call but I don't have your phone number. And I've so many projects going on these days that writing letters has practically become a thing of the past, unfortunately.

Everyone: I have a non-SW question, but I'm interested in hearing others' opinions and this is a great forum to reach people. Okay, this is in regards to the movie *Stargate*, which I *loved*, and fully intend to buy a pro copy. But, did it bother anyone else that they used the Egyptian god Ra as the chief "bad guy"? I'm not an expert on Egyptology, but am an enthusiast and have spent a good amount of time reading and researching all things of ancient Egypt. I was always of the opinion that Ra was the good one — the god of the sun, basically benevolent and good. The *really* evil one was Set (or Sekhet, or Sekmet). Any thoughts out there on why they used the wrong god? Or am I wrong about this? I'd like to hear from you.

A. G. Steyn: You've brought up one of my *biggest* Pet Peeves in SW fandom — and lately I've been running into this a lot in my club (F.O.E.) — that is mixing of "Earthisms" with SW. You mentioned catching the phrase of Han doing an "Immelmann" and asked if anyone in that *long ago and far away galaxy* knows a German fighter pilot of the 20th century (Earth). My point, *exactly*! I'm so tired of the current trend to Earth-ize SW! Instead of calling something, for example, chocolate, why not call it "deezle"? Then do a page reference and at the bottom of the page, you say "Tatooine deezle is very close in taste and texture to what we on Earth call chocolate pudding." I enjoy the inventing (by myself and others) of SW terms, to give the Trilogy its own feel.

Also, in response to your comment to Marti Schuller, I've heard (a long time ago...) a decent explanation for how Luke can be 20 at the start of ANH and Leia can be in her teens. Remember, they were raised on separate planets and would have grown up in the time reference of each planet. Therefore, Luke was (18-20?) Tatooine years old, and Leia was (16-19?) Alderaan years old. Translating that to their home world time line, or to a "galactic standard", they'd be the same age.

Debbie Kittle: You caught Maggie on the TV show *48 Hours*? Get it on tape? If so, *please* bring it to MWC!

Belea Keeney: Sorry, but I have to agree with Barbara Anderson. George *did* give us the SW universe and it *is* his right to establish the rules and parameters of that universe. Ignoring for the moment the fact that he does legally hold the copyrights to everything, keep this in mind. *He* is the one who created it. If he hadn't done all the work to produce the Trilogy, we wouldn't have it at all! You are confusing the selling of the tickets with the creation of the concept. Just because he made money off it, doesn't take away his right to create the laws of his Universe and rule it. Face it, in the SW universe, George Lucas *is* god, and we have to respect his wishes in regards to SW material. He has the legal and the creative right. And George didn't step out of the picture a long time ago. He continued to hold the legal rights throughout his SW sabbatical, even if he produced nothing new.

Sorry if I sound harsh on my opinions of this, but I do have hopes of publishing my own material someday and I know how I'd feel if someone else wanted to take my characters and do whatever they wanted with them. I fully believe in creator's rights. And, of course, the creator makes money off it — that's how he/she makes a living! If it was all for free, nothing would be produced *ever*, and we'd never have known *any* of the great works out there! I say, thank God for George Lucas, and respect the man's wishes, for goodness sake!

Carolyn Golledge: Hey, it's great to have another member of the "Ian Malcolm Fan Club"! Maybe we should get buttons made up!

Ming Wathne: I agree with disliking the use of initials, *i.e.*, FACPOV, with no explanation. Here's a thought (please don't send me a letter bomb, Cheree), perhaps in each issue, Cheree could go through and jot down all such references and in the front or back of the issue give a listing of "abbreviations used in this issue" and give their meanings. ((Ed: *Perhaps in each issue the letter writers who want to use abbreviations could spell it out the first time and then put it in abbreviations afterwards, like legal documents are done, such as From a Certain Point of View ("FACPOV"). This would help newcomers understand and save me time on a chore I don't have time to do!*))

And I love your idea of having a costume category of the STAR aWARDs. Actually, we're also going to start giving awards for SW costumes in the cantina on Friday night, making it a masquerade dance. *Everyone* is welcome to wear their costumes and show up. We'll have unannounced judges who will announce the winners at an intermission during the dance.

And also — you're just full of great ideas! — I love the idea of the zine of Fan Pics of MWC! Fantastic! Just make sure all photos are accompanied with complete

names and maybe even a brief note about what's going on. Another fun thing might be to pick out some people, get current photos of them and photos of them as babies and have a section where we can try to match them!

Amanda Palumbo: Hi! It was fun reading about your Trek Con memories and it brought back some of my own. At the same time you were attending the 1973 Int'l ST Con and 1974 Int'l ST Con, I was attending Star Con 73 & 74 in Detroit, MI. These were my first convention experiences and they were a lot of fun. There were discussions on whether Trek would ever come back, and they showed the blooper reels. It was the first time I ever met George Takei, who actually walked up to my friends and me and introduced himself to us — as if he needed to! What a great guy! If you've never met him at a convention, I highly recommend going to a con where he's a guest. ((Ed: *I second that motion! George is an incredible person. He was a guest at a ST con in Dallas in the 70's and hung around the dealer's room at all hours, schmoozing with the fans. I was working with the Star Trek Welcomittee at that time and wrote him a note thanking him for coming, never expecting an answer. I got back a personal note typed and signed by him thanking us for having him! Then a year later my friends and I were at a con in Tulsa where he was guest. He spotted us and came over and called us by name! Do you suppose we could get him to run for President in '96?*))

Judy Yuenger: Many, many condolences on your double loss. It was such a shock to hear about. I hope you are doing well.

Okay, I feel chastised. I agree, we all have a right to our own opinions. But I have to say, I still don't like the books (except for *Truce*). However, let me add that I feel about them pretty much the way I feel about the movie *Highlander 2*. I hated it, *but* ... make a few minor changes, take the Highlander name off, and put it in its own universe, it would have been a fun movie ... on its own. But most fans refuse to accept it as being Highlander. These SW books are much the same, for me at least.

Some fans feel we should like them just because they are SW. Phooey! Just because they are being sold as pro books doesn't necessarily mean they have quality! We should keep in mind that book publishers are not necessarily fans of the show and may not realize the inconsistencies — or even care. And I still much rather see works by, say, Maggie Nowakowska, for one — among many others, to be found in professionally published books than most of the ones who are.

Jennifer Moore: I love the changes in DS9 and I really love the new show, *Voyager*. I've heard a few complaints about Janeway, particularly in regards to her voice, but I think they're nuts! I love her — and I think her voice reminds me a lot of Katharine Hepburn.

To everyone who will be at MWC: Only three months to go! See you there!

COMICS CANON

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February 26, 1995

Hi, Folks! I'm pushing the deadline again but I'm so glad to have a chance to write I don't care. (Cheree might...) As many of you know, my husband and I bought the run-down used bookstore next to our comic shop last spring. Ever since, we've been in remodeling hell. I missed MWC. I lost a summer somewhere. Last autumn sometime, I emerged blinking in amazement that my world no longer revolved around sorting books.

If Cheree can stand one more mention of Dead Bothans, I'd like to thank them for asking me to all their fun activities even though I could only come to one or two. And barring any disasters, I will be at MWC! Yay!

To Nora Meyers and your comment about the novels being taken as canon, I agree completely. We're seeing a whole wave of people who were into the movies as kids, sometimes really young kids, got out as they outgrew their Kenner playsets, and have gotten back in only because of the novels. They don't know a fanzine from *Starlog* magazine.

Where Trek fandom had David Gerrold's *World of Star Trek* which told all us little neos what we were missing con-wise and zine-wise, SW fandom has been mostly underground. We all exist in the shadow of Lucasfilm guidelines and rumors of "cease and desist" orders.

There are more of these new fans than there are of us. Some of my customers come in chatting SW and how excited they are about the new movies. When I say I just hope the new trilogy doesn't ruin the originals for me, they just look at me funny. "But it's *Star Wars*!"

On the totally prurient side, I loved *Courtship* because Luke was one hot sexy Jedi. The parts that were stupid, I just skimmed. I did like the idea of Fabio as Han's rival.

Um, Z. P., are you actually referring to yourself as Yoda? Let me see ... short, inversed grammar, check. So how come when I refer to you as Yoda, you threaten to kill me? Whine, whine...

I hate the babysitter for the twins, too. I don't care how busy they are, "our" Han and Leia would raise their own kids. Plus I hate Winter (the character). I really wanted her to die in some disgusting way in the Zahn books.

Marti Schuller: Interesting point about Luke not

sensing any good in Vader until the truth came out. Wouldn't it be neat if he also sensed things through their newly-created Force bonds? I'd love to know what sort of images that might flash through his brain that would lead him to say maybe Pop should be redeemed.

Oh, hey, don't feel isolated by not living close enough to other fans. It's three hours easy for me for any of ~~Debbie K.'s hare-brained escapades~~ fannish events. If you ever come up this way, there's lots to do — including a visit to the Shrine of Planet Hollywood.

You *are* writing that story of Ben slipping off to Mos Eisley for a little congenial company, aren't you?

Debbie Kittle: The Herculoids? Bleh! Gimme Space Ghost any day. I don't see the Herculoids with their own talk show on the Cartoon Network.

Hey, did you see — Marti S. invited all of us to her house for widescreen viewing. I'm not doing anything the week after MWC...

A. G. Steyn: Boy, I like the way you think. So Luke is groping Darthie's thigh, hmm? I've heard of comforting the dying, but that seems a little extreme.

Who's got a copy of Mark licking bosoms on Howard Stern's show? My husband actually likes that show and we missed that one! Argh...

Belea Keeney: Welcome! Where did you get that excellent name?

Your fanfic faves echo mine exactly. Though I admit that when I actually met Veronica Wilson, I didn't put her name with her stories until it was too late to prostrate my unworthy self before her. Another fannish opportunity lost... Carol H-S has achieved goddess status in my own personal SW religion. (Just a movie, my butt...)

Loved your casting idea. Dolph Lundgren — dubbed by James Earl Jones, of course. Just imagine if they'd used him on ROTJ for the unmasking. (Still dubbed, natch). Maybe aged just a tad. Brr... I'm shivering just thinking about it.

Louise Turner: Oooh, love Bail as a villain. Leia would need some intense therapy after that revelation. I always hated his character in the radio shows, especially that annoying laugh.

Amanda Palumbo: Great to meet you at Eclecticon, albeit briefly Sunday afternoon. I'll get those Igneous Rock t-shirts done real soon now.

Enjoyed your ST memories. Little ol' Richmond got exactly one con that decade but we lived on the memories for years afterward.

Mary Jo Fox: I'm blushing! Lord Vader's #1 groupie? Moi? I'd like to thank the Academy and of course my parents...

Seriously (sorta), about the pro novels... I admit I was dismayed that they were keeping to one continuity. Necessary perhaps but that means they're all based on the

comics, *Dark Empire*. Luke falls to the Dark Side, effectively negating the entire trilogy. While I liked the story when I read it, I never expected it to become part of the "canon". Now, we're stuck with it.

That's what I'm afraid will happen with the new movies. Suppose Luke and Leia are the product of rape? Or eugenics? What if Mrs. Skywalker is a bimbo? I'd never look at the trilogy the same way again.

Well, I'm in editville enough as it is. See everyone at MWC. (You don't know how good it is to say that!)

From the dark side...

LOVING SW HISTORY

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Here's my letter for SE#39 and 40. Thanks for giving me some extra time to get it together, since I got the zines late. There was so much to comment on that I really needed the extra time. I hope that this doesn't get to be too long, since I'll be responding to some remarks that don't deal strictly with SW. Here goes!

Maggie Nowakowska: I'm loving your history of SW letterzines and wonder if you'll continue it with other zines besides *Jundland Wastes* and *Alderaan*. I hope that what we've seen so far is just a glimpse of your entire SW history and that we'll eventually see the entire thing under one cover.

Being one of the people at the shared table, I well remember the incident of the angry new fen. I still think of it as "the M&M Affair," since these new fen thought that a bowl of candy would open all doors (whatever that actually means). A friendly gesture, yes, but walking up to people and introducing yourself goes a lot further.

Alderaan, *Comlink*, and *Jundland Wastes* — what memories they bring back. SE is terrific, as far as SW is concerned, but I really miss *Comlink*. I wish there was an all purpose fantasy and science fiction letterzine — one that wouldn't mind if writers occasionally went off on a tangent about mysteries, histories or whatever, but was basically F&SF, whether it be TV, movie, written fan or pro.

My dislike of stories in which any of the main SW characters dies was a personal one which I extended to my zine *Kessel Run*. I always figured that if such a story was good enough, it would find a home in another zine, therefore I wasn't affecting a writer's chance of getting printed. Besides, if an editor can't control what goes into her or his zine, what's the point of putting out a zine?

I remember the anti-Leia sentiment in the early days of SW, too. It got so bad, in fact, that I remember people

being afraid to comment on it — thinking it was the majority opinion. After a while, I got so disgusted by the whole thing and especially the virulent anti-Leia sentiment in *Against the Sith* #9, that I asked anyone interested to write in about why they *liked* Leia for a rebuttal in *Kessel Run* #1. Eight of the replies were printed in the zine. I won't take responsibility for ending the anti-Leia screaming that had been going on, but after this rebuttal came out, it got a lot quieter.

In reading over my old letters in *Jundland Wastes*, I found that I seemed to have believed that Senator Palpatine and the Emperor weren't the same person. Somewhere along the way — I can't say when — I changed my mind. I have for a long time believed that Palpatine was an evil Force-sensitive who coerced and murdered his way to power. Not having read any of the recent SW books yet (I have several, including the first book of the Han Solo Corellia trilogy which contains a chronological timeline of all the books out so far), I don't know if Palpy's background has been filled in or not. If not, the next SW movie trilogy should be very interesting about this mystery.

Oh, my, do I remember the furor over "Satisfaction Guaranteed". In my case, the title did not at all fit my opinion of at least half the story. This was a shame, since up until this last story, I'd loved the entire series. But, what I remember even more was a general fannish fear of admitting a dislike of this story in public for fear of being ridden out of SW fandom on a rail by the authors' supporters. I've never seen anything like it from then til now. I wrote one of those critiques, and I stand by it. I'll let you know if I get any poison pen letters at this late date.

Yup, I was branded a "Luke lover", too, in spite of Han being my personal favorite SW character and all of my stories centering on Han. My crime — not hating Luke for having the nerve to simply exist in the same universe as Han. Silly me.

Maggie, will you be doing similar articles on *Jundland*, *Too* and *Soundrel*? Good luck!

Here's a chuckle. In going over my copies of *Alderaan*, I found a letter in the very first issue (1978) in which a fan from California was of the opinion that SW would never become a true fandom like ST no matter how many fan stories were written or pieces of artwork done because *you can't get involved with it enough!* I wonder if he was still around for all the noninvolved fun of the next several years. I'd say that 18 years so far is a pretty good track record for a fandom that none of us could get involved with.

Carolyn Cooper: Lovely typo (I hope) in your SE39 letter. Did you mean a "mortgage burning party" and not a "mortgagee burning party"?! Hopefully, Cheree and Randy aren't into self-immolation! ((Ed: No scorch marks

here! We didn't burn anything, actually. We put the papers in the bank safe box so we can take them out in later life and smirk in satisfaction.))

Some zine eds have been using the movie rating system on the flyers for years. I've seen this in various fandoms.

Susan Zahn: If no one contacted you about taping you a copy of the Science Fiction Channel SW trilogy hosted by Carrie Fisher, I have it and can dub. Let me know if you still need it.

A. G. Steyn: Have you seen Mark Hamill on *SeaQuest DSV* yet? He played the part in a very understated manner, like he did with Luke in ROTJ. I think he did a very nice job, even if his true identity was obvious sooner than it should have been.

Nah, Yoda wasn't Luke and Leia's mom. An Ewok was. They had the babies depilated as soon as they were born and gave them teeny-weeny nose jobs, and they were fine.

Liz Sharpe: What's it take to become a Dead Bothan? I can lay on the floor and rot along with the best of them.

A Tail of Five Kitties: Lord Peter Whimseycat went out one evening and didn't come back. The folks on the corner told me that a car had gotten him on his way home and I identified him. That was a rough week. Jenna, my Abyssinian tabby, kept looking for him and Cally, my half-Siamese, half something else, kept looking relieved. Than Duke Denver Whimseycat, my black and white stray, decided to move in. He stayed for a few days, then disappeared for a week during the worst part of the winter. I was afraid that he had been killed by the cold. While Denver was gone, Eric Silverpuss showed up half-starved and, after a few days, he moved in (supposedly in Denver's place). Of course, that was when Denver decided to return with his left front paw sliced open. This ensued a rapid visit to the vet to treat his paw, rearrange his kitten-making machinery, and a bunch of shots. In a few weeks, he'll go back to the vet to get his last two shots and have his teeth cleaned. Denver is a tough old cat who has had a very rough life, but he is adjusting to finally being an indoor cat. Eric, thank goodness, was already fixed and declawed. He is a handsome young cat with silver and black stripes and big green eyes with black rims and white fur around them. He looks like an ancient Egyptian. So, I now have four cats. Enough, already!

Marti Schuller: I agree that the talk between Luke and Leia on Endor was essential, but it felt wrong to me, too. Leia's lack of reaction to learning that Luke was her brother and, by extension, that Darth Vader was her father felt wrong. Her telling Luke to run away felt wrong. Wrong, wrong, wrong! It could have been handled a lot better. I just can't imagine Leia telling anyone to run away from anything when she would never even consider such a thing for herself. And, if learning that DV was his dad

had poor Luke screaming his head off, Leia should have had some kind of reaction like: "You're my brother, Vader's your father, I'm your sister... um, er ... pardon me while I pick up my teeth..."

Pat Nussman: Not only don't I feel that Han is bigoted against droids in general, I don't even think he's bigoted against C3PO. Threepio is just so prissy that I think Han simply gets a kick out of picking on him. If he disliked him so much, he wouldn't have bothered to come back to make sure he's made it onto the *Falcon* when the ramp started going up in TESB. I do admit that no one seems to place much faith in Threepio, not just Han, and that this has proven to be a mistake. When will they all learn that prissy doesn't necessarily mean dumb?

Maggie Nowakowska: Hello again. I guess I'm more JAM than CML, but include both in how I relate to SW or any other fandom. The three fandoms that have affected me the most in my life have been *Star Trek*, *Star Wars* and *Blake's 7*. But, while I prefer to delve mostly into the serious sides of each, there has to be a little humor in there somewhere to save me from drowning.

If we are dividing into camps over moral issues again, then I think I'm partly at fault. If so, I apologize. I have the feeling that before I started writing to SE again after a long absence, no one had been discussing such subjects as slash, and I reopened an old can of worms. If I'd known the whole round of "I'm right, you're wrong" would start up again, I'd have never brought it up. I stand by everything I've said on the subject, but won't get into a debate on the subject after this letter. I'll gladly discuss the subject in private letters and may occasionally recommend a story I think some SE readers would enjoy in these pages. I will say this — if someone wants to form a "camp" because they disagree so strongly with another person's opinion, then they are not truly a fan of anything but their own opinion.

And, as long as I'm already wearing my soapbox on my head, I'd also like to apologize to Tim and Gerald for upsetting them with my comments on men two issues back. If I sounded anti-male, it wasn't meant that way and came out stronger than intended. More than anything else, I was trying to get across a kind of tit for tat — to see how the men would react to having the same nonsense thrust at them that women have for centuries. Well, I found out, all right. The reactions were anger and dismay. The same reactions that women have. And, in being such a smartass, I may have made enemies where none were sought. Sorry, guys. You were right, Gerald. It was simplistic and it didn't help much.

Louise Turner: When I was at Stonehenge last September, we were only allowed to walk halfway around it, not all the way around it like I could four years earlier. And, of course, the ropes keep you from the stones

completely. Soon, you won't be able to go there at all. It will be totally closed to the public. And, while you can still go through all four fields (carefully avoiding the sheep poop) of standing stones at Avebury, even they will eventually be closed to the public, too. I'm glad that I got there when I did and have tons of photos for the memories.

Gerald Crotty: I agree that some of the battle scenes with the Ewoks were pretty silly, though there were bits of reality that shine through. For instance, there is the scene in which one of the Ewoks gets badly wounded and is groaning in pain. By the time his friend gets to him, he is obviously dead, and his friend cries over his body. And I loved the idea of using rolling logs to knock the big mechanical monsters off their tootsies. But, the bit with Paploo hanging onto the handlebars of the speederbike was just plain dumb.

Is *Dark Empire* accepted as part of the timeline after the movies along with the books? I just bought a copy of the *Dark Empire* collection after being minus one of the original comics all this time. I also bought the *Jedi Collected* which seems to consist of only two stories, though I enjoyed both of them. If the Dark Horse comics and the novels are now being accepted as canon, then a lot of information will become available much faster than I ever expected.

Jennifer Moore: A few years back, I wrote a little Ewok story called "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" which appeared in *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* in 1986. In this story, the Ewoks actually did eat Han, Luke and Leia and then got blown to smithereens by Lord Vader for their trouble. Tsk. I also had a Darkside Luke kill his weak old daddy in one story and Darth Vader take over his son's young uninjured body in another. Long live alternate universes! I was on a Darkside kick at the time, thanks to the CoF awakening me to many wonderful alternate story idead. I even wrote a long (thankfully!) forgotten gem of a poem called "Looky, Looky, a Darkside Wookiee". (Or was it "Looke, Looke..." Who cares?).

Barbara Anderson: Can't agree with you more that anything outside of the three (so far) movies is not a waste, especially fan writing, art and zine editing. Just think of all the writers and artists in SW and other fandoms who have gone on to become professionals, thanks to their fannish beginnings (why don't some of you write in to back me up? I'm sure many of the new fen would love to hear about how you made the jump from fan to pro. Cheree, how about someone doing an article on this? Think there's a pro fan who'd be interested in writing one?) ((Ed: *Fine with me. Anyone interested in doing this?*)) Anyway, to just limit ourselves to discussing only the movies would very quickly become very ... limiting? Still, I don't think that Yvette really meant that the tapes, etc., dealing with SW are really a waste, but that she only accepts the movies as

canon. I wish I knew for sure about the books and comics! And if GL does include them as canon, I can see fan fur flying in all directions.

I saw part of the Howard Stern show that Mark Hamill was on only because a friend called to tell me he was on it. As expected, it was gross and stupid. (This was the TV show, not the radio show.) My unasked for opinion of Howard Stern is that he's an insult to pond scum.

Carolyn Golledge: I'm hoping to have a computer by some time in April or May (whenever my income tax return shows up.) I even have a bunch of tapes to teach me probably out of date programs. That's okay. As long as I can do my stories on screen and my mail by e-mail, I'll be happy. I used to do at least three letters a day. Now, I'm lucky if I do three a month. And, I haven't written a story in over two years.

About parties and such — you know you're welcome to visit historic Philly, my tape collection and my felines. I'd even arrange one of my weekend bashes if you did visit.

Nora Mayers: Don't worry about that new fan not reading zines now that she has the novels to read. If she runs out of books, I'm sure she'll go back to the zines fast enough. Besides, I often get the feeling that a new ST novel hits the shelves every three seconds, but this hasn't cut down on the number of Trekkers reading Trekzines. I doubt that it'll ever be any different in SW fandom. Anyway, I wouldn't consider anyone who gives up all zines for a few books a terrible loss to any fandom. And, let's face it, there will always be tons more fringe fen than actifen (active fans), though I have a feeling that SW fandom will very shortly be getting a huge shot in the arm what with all the books and the coming movies. This can only mean more zines, new fan writers and artists. I'm looking forward to it!

Marti Schuller: Kenobi and Yoda remind me of Hindu mystics who go off alone in order to starve and join whatever god or part of the universe they believe in. The big difference here is that both Ben and Yoda seem to be waiting for something. If you have a goal in mind then being alone doesn't necessarily have to lead to death or insanity. Anyway, maybe they have long conversations with other Jedi who have rejoined the Force. If Ben could talk with Luke after he shuffled off this mortal coil, maybe Yoda spoke with his mentor, Joe Jedi.

I love the title "Hoth Days, Tatooine Nights."

Pat Grant: Han refers to Chewie as "he". Han ought to know.

Brian Harris: Jedi move an entire planet? Heck, even Yoda seemed a bit pooped by lifting Luke's ship out of the swamp. Maybe a whole gang of them could get together to prevent an asteroid from striking a helpless planet, but a whole planet ... nah. I'd really have to think about that, too.

Tim Blaes: I haven't seen Phil Foglio's *XXXenophile*. Thanks for telling me about it. I've been a fan of his since his ST fan days.

All Those Who Asked About My Trip: This is probably where Cheree starts to do some serious editing. I'll try to keep it short, but we went to a *lot* of places. Of course, we didn't stay in any of them for very long, but you can't have everything. We stayed in a nice little Victorian style hotel in London called the Charles Dickens and fanned out for the entire two weeks from there. My favorite place to visit was St Albans with its 1,000+ year old abbey cathedral, Roman Britain museum (with original mosaic floors dug up from Roman villas in the area), the cemetery full of Celtic crosses next to the cathedral, the ruins of a small Roman amphitheater and an active dig going on along one side of the cathedral. *Twelfth Night* at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon surprised me by being both funny and tragic. The next day, my friend Karen and I nearly had twin heart attacks from climbing up the tower stairs at Warwick Castle. The steps were worn in the center from centuries of use, and there's only a rope along the wall to hang onto. I had trouble going up the stairs and Karen had trouble going down. This castle is huge and has a gigantic medieval dining room with a long table, suits of armor for men and horses, and animal heads all over the walls. Other wings of the castle are done in late Victorian and medieval styles, plus there's a really yucky dungeon complete with instruments of torture. The wax figures in the rooms were designed by the folks from Madame Tussaud's.

Stonehenge and Avebury I've already mentioned. We went to Bath to join the tour and stayed long enough to revisit lovely Bath Cathedral with its angels climbing a ladder to heaven on one side of the main entrance and another ladder back down to earth on the other side. Yorkminster in York was incredible — all stained glass, statues and wall carvings. There were lots of famous people that I'd never heard of buried there or in raised crypts. The ruins of the old church nearby included a peahen who strutted around as though she owned the place and had a peachick in tow. Thanks to the weekly railstrikes (two different days each week!), we only had a few hours in Liverpool. It was just enough time to zoom through the Beatles Museum and raid the Beatles store. Someday, I'd like to go back and actually see the city. The part outside the big shopping mall in the center of town, that is. It's not just a dreary seaport town anymore.

We shared the train back to London with a zillion people returning from the games in Scotland. Air was at a premium. We stayed in Wales for two days in a little town near Caernarvon. In two fast days, we toured Caernarvon Castle and rode tourist trains up Mt. Snowden (it rained but we were the only ones who took photos going

up and down the mountain. Lucky thing, because you couldn't see a darn thing at the top) and partway around Lake Padarn.

In London, we saw *The Canterbury Tales* at the Garrick Theatre, caught the Buckingham Palace tour in the second of its five years, toured the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Natural History Museum, toured Westminster Abbey (and I located John Andre's grave before anyone else, including the guide. Andre was an English officer hanged as a spy during the Revolutionary War.). We tried and failed to get tickets to a concert at the Royal Albert Hall but all the shows we wanted to see were sold out.

That was our two weeks. I wanna go back! Even if Karen did come home with a torn leg muscle and I came down with the chicken pox the day after we got home. My supervisor at work was almost in tears when I called in to tell her I had to be out another two weeks. This was one vacation I'll definitely *never* forget!

That is definitely it for now. I'm pooped! It took me a week to go through both issues and pick out what to comment on and three days to type this up. And now to bed. Zzzzzzzzzzzz.....

YEAR OF TOLERANCE

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January, 1996

Greetings, exalted ones... Well, yet another year has come and gone. Life is hectic, what with work, thesis and horse, so I hope I get this letter sent off in time... Can I just make one last follow-up to the Great Debate which came to a head last year: 1995 is UN Year of Tolerance, so let's just show the world how to behave, shall we? Because it's damn obvious that the rest of the world isn't exactly giving us a good role-model on matters of tolerance, etc.

Gerald Crotty: You would, wouldn't you? Point out the discrepancies in the intolerance argument, I mean! You have a point, I suppose. But since intolerant people will by their nature be intolerant of me, then I might as well return the compliment.

About Wedge's alien girlfriend... Dodgy stuff there, I think. I find SW very realistic in its portrayal of a futuristic society, because even though questions of difference in colour and religion appear to be largely irrelevant *within* the human race (the exception being the predominance of white middle-class males in the Empire),

mixing between species seems largely taboo. Unfortunately, Wedge's alien girlie seems to be rather an exception to this rule. This constitutes a departure from the human realism which I find so good about SW, and a step closer to one of the aspects of the ST universe which I find extremely difficult to comprehend. Mixing of species in such a fashion is not physiologically sensible — if there are kids born of the union they will more than likely be sterile, and they will naturally be *very* grateful to Mummy and Daddy for giving them such a raw deal. The only place where an implied sexual mingling of species is apparent is in Jabba the Hutt's place, and that is supposed to be an example of decadence, anyway. Maybe Anderson's trying to make some kind of point there, but I feel that instead it was done as some kind of sensationalism. And making an alien an Imperial weapons specialist? No way! Following the White Middle-class Male rule demonstrated above, I don't think there's any chance the Empire will allow some alien chick to be messing around with weapons-systems. I haven't read the books yet, and from what I've heard from those who have, I am in no hurry to do so. I think I'd rather read the entire contents of the British Library first.

Which does not apply to Vonda MacIntyre's book. I haven't got around to it yet, but I'm looking forward to it.

Nora Meyers: Um, I think you've just put me completely off *Courtship*. The character assassination of Han sounds truly awful. Whimpering?! I think his reaction would be more in the order of "Ow! *I@fA*\$O! That A;E%\$\$*(@!!!" Another complete body-swerve is recommended there, I reckon.

Returning to the JAM/CML divide that Maggie highlighted, then maybe the ultimate JAM-my's are the professional writers. Now they really seem to treat the universe as one gigantic toybox! And I think that if they're getting paid good money to write this stuff, then they could at least put a little bit of thought into it. [Please note: there is a fundamental contradiction surfacing in me last time I declared myself a JAM-my... If this is the case, then why on earth do I keep making these knee-jerk reactions against the official material? Methinks I do take all of this a little too seriously...]

Belea Keeney: Welcome to the fold! And may I loudly agree with what you had to say, re your comment to Barbara Anderson. And I don't think your words expressed naive sentiments at all — rather a wry commentary on something which we all might forget, namely that the universe is a fantastic concept and great fun to explore, yes, but its prime function is that of a commercial entity. The latest material is quite clearly being produced with the intention of making dollars upper-most. The universe we read about in the post-1988 material is *not* that of George Lucas — it has been privatized and deregulated. I consider the current material to be written in the SW RPG universe

— not the film universe — and that is why I don't really like it very much. I've been given some stuff to read from the Internet by some netsurfing friends, and one of the most interesting things I saw was an article by a journalist from Canada who was bewailing the current state of the SW universe. He argued that your US Energizer bunny advert can in fact be seen as a metaphor for the way in which SW is now marketed. It is being presented afresh for the Nintendo generation, which is why older fans are feeling increasingly isolated. It was nice piece of commentary, so if anyone knows the guy who wrote it, can they please offer him my support?

I also read a great book last year. A book of heroism, suffering, brutality, political intrigue, etc. No, not the latest work by Zahn, or even a tale by Golledge or Campbell. It was in fact Tacitus, "The Annals of Imperial Rome", and the first chapter was so relevant to the SW universe. I got a tiny shiver down the spine when I read the bit about Augustus' ascension to power, and the references to the popularity of "the new order" (their words...) in the Provinces. Wow!!

Catherine Churko: On matters historical... Um, forgive my ignorance, but what ancient dwelling-places?? I haven't heard of anything that recent. I'm afraid my area of study is Bronze Age metalwork of south-east England, so perhaps that isn't surprising. Tell me more, please! And I hope you're feeling better now!

Tim Blaes: More matters historical... I love "Carhenge!" I think it's great! No, I think it is *just* possible for an archaeologist to gain access to the original, after having orders signed in triplicate, lost, buried in soft peat for three months, etc. Only the visiting time is something like 3 am in the morning...

About the xeroxing. I really don't think that \$25 is too much to ask for a 'zine that's about 160 pages in length, since the price is inclusive of airmail postage. However, I may have to put the price up by a few dollars soon, because my one difficulty is monetary exchange. My bank willingly takes US cheques made out to me in dollars, but has just recently pushed up the price of processing these by about \$8! All is not lost, because I'm currently shopping around for a better deal, and I'm sure I'll be able to organize something. At the moment, the more orders I get, the easier it is for me, but when there's only a few I've got problems, because some banks charge by the transaction and not by the individual cheque. So much for the world economy ...

Zinelegging: There's so much controversy going on here that I felt I just *had* to say something. I'm really in two minds about all of this. Personally, as a writer, I would prefer to have my work read and circulated, even if that involved fans sneaking xeroxes of stories, etc. Text is text, after all. *However* (and this is a very big *however*!) as

an editor I can understand the objections. Running a 'zine is a financial burden, and it's only through taking orders that this kind of burden can be eased (particularly if, like me, you have about eight or nine foreign contributors to pay for...). Losing orders in this way is a blow to the finances, believe me, and jeopardizes future issues. In addition, there are the sensibilities of the artists to consider. Text may be text, but the reproduction of the art is something which suffers through successive generations, and it's just not fair for the artists to have to put up with that! As for dealers making a fast buck out of circulating pirated 'zines, well. I don't really think there's anything more to be said on the matter — only that it stinks!

But, if people genuinely can't afford to buy all the 'zines that are going, should we really be giving them the cold-shoulder because they're copying stuff which they wouldn't otherwise be buying anyway? I mean, we do our best to keep costs down as much as we can so that the price is kept low and the circulation is maximized and if people are making illicit copies then at least they're interested enough to do so. It's a difficult problem, and one which I don't think has any real satisfactory answer.

Maggie N.: Your continuing history of SW fandom is being eagerly followed. Only thing is, I feel like all these great debates now occurring in SE are a question of

comparative newcomers like me eagerly re-inventing the wheel for the twelfth time...

And now, a general plea. Has anybody heard of an artist named Stephanie Hawks? She did some illos in *Kessel Run IV* and she's brilliant. She seems to have vanished. Does anyone know where she is, and whether she's still in fandom? Any information would be greatly appreciated ...

Dead Bothan Debbie, et al. You lucky people! To be part of such a mob of lively, likeminded people, and to have a snazzy name for your group! I'm jealous! In fact, I think I'll bring Squire and myself over on the next plane to your neck of the woods and move out there permanently so I can achieve Dead Bothan status.

Golly! What a short letter! One final word: all contributor's copies of *Bad Feeling* should now have reached their new owners. If you have contributed and have not yet received yours, then please let me know ASAP. This message is aimed particularly at Fiorenzo, who should have received Paola's copy. Catriona wrote to you once, I wrote to you in September and have not as yet heard from you, so I'm not sure whether any of our letters arrived. If you have heard from me recently, then just ignore this, but otherwise, get in touch soon, will you?

That's all folks, and Happy Star-Wars-ing!

Eclecticon Attendees



Back row: Mary Jo Fox, Lynn ?, Jennifer Moore, Judy Yuenger, Arwen Rosenbaum, Donna ?
Front row: Cheryl Pryor, Sheryl Haven, Amanda Palumbo, Ming Wathne, Rebecca Carey, Barbara Anderson.



Attention Trek Friends and Fans :

Mark your calendar for Sept. 7th, 1995,
and help us (the former DKFC members)
commemorate a very special occasion.

On this date our favorite **Star Trek** doctor,
Mr. DeForest Kelley & his lovely wife Carolyn,
will celebrate their

50th Wedding Anniversary!

Please send cards or letters (No Gifts please) to:

Mr. and Mrs. DeForest Kelley

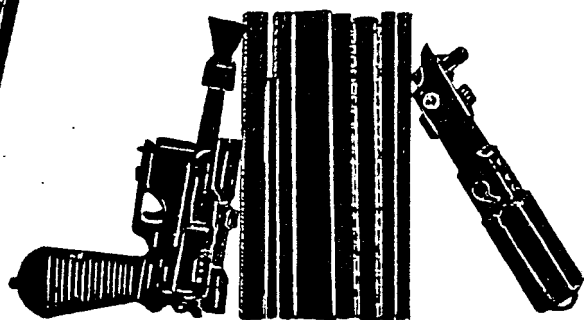
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5507 W. 98th St. Apt. 2
Los Angeles, CA 90064

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CURRENTLY IN PORT

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #2 is now available. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #1. 1993 Fan Q Winner for Best SW Zine. Includes stories by Schuller, Florian, Nowakowska, Campbell, Webster, Brin, Kirka, Kittle, Graham, Golledge, Kesler, Nussman, and Lybarger. Poetry by Taero, Mastoris, Olsen, Wilson. Filks by Olsen, Kittle. Art by Gutierrez, Camp, Humphrey, Churko, Cargill, Florian, Thomas, and Lybarger. Cover by Thomas. Laser printed, photocopied, 250 pp., GBC bound. \$24.00 priority mail (insured), \$28.00 to Canada, \$31.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Anson, Campbell, Cargill, Ghilan, Golledge, Hines-Stroede, Jones, Mayers, Schuller, Taero, Turner, Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Lybarger, Gutierrez, Stasulis, and more! Now taking orders. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #7. 1993 Star Award Winner for Best SW Zine. The Vader Issue! Contains many other Star Award winners and runners-up -- best cover artists, best illo artists, best poem, best cartoons, best medium and long stories. More! "Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede, illoed by Nancy Stasulis. A new chapter of Carol's Darth Vader/Alan Patronis series. Also stories by Campbell,

Cargill, Florian, Ghilan, Golledge, Lybarger, Sapiento, Schuller, Treleven, Wilson, and others. Poetry by Agel, Ghilan, Moore, Taero, and others. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis, color bacover by Dianne Smith. Interior art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Gutierrez, Lybarger, Stasulis, and others. Over 300 pp. \$28.00 priority mail; \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks or money orders payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #7. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine. Stories by Smithson, Karmell, McCurry, Hackett, Owers, Chapple, Renner, and Wells. Art by Palmer, Wells and Chapple; special art portfolio by Humphrey. Cover by Chapple. Laser printed, photocopied, 180 pp., GBC bound. \$17.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$21.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #6. All *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine. Includes stories by Smithson, Ames, Owers, Karmell, Walsh, Chapple, and Klein; art by Chapple and Humphrey; special art portfolio by Walsh. Cover by Chapple. Laser printed, photocopied, 174 pp., GBC bound. \$17.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$21.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. BELOW THE SURFACE #1-5 are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

BLUE HARVEST, Episode Four. Collecting SW records, QVC specials, roleplaying stuff, Delta Source, Clone Wars, and more reviews. Available Sept. 1994. \$2.95 + \$1.05 postage. Subscription Rate: \$12.00 for three issues in the US, \$18.00 overseas. Please make checks and money orders in US funds only payable to Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

BLUE HARVEST. Episode Five. Our best issue yet! Contains an ode to Boba Fett, reports from the Jedi Con in Germany and the Lucasfilm archives exhibit in San Francisco, reviews of *Ambush at Corellia* and *The Crystal Star*, and more. Coming in March. It's still \$4.00 by mail in the US, \$6.00 overseas. Please make checks or money orders out to Mary Jo Fox. Episodes Two through Four are still available for the same price. To order your copy, write to Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181. (Please add .75 if ordering two or more zines.)

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE. Available as reprints. #1, 2, 3 and 4. From Soaring Wings Press. SASE for price and information to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #3. The Empire may have fallen but Han Solo and the princess aren't exactly leading a quiet life together... During the Clone Wars, Princess Carla ignores a warning and interrupts an escape to buy "Milk for the Baby"; Lando Calrissian becomes embroiled in political intrigue when his pal Solo asks him to track down a woman who may have stolen an ancient relic from Alderaan; "Princess Leia Pays a Call" on her sister-in-law, and is amazed when her husband uses "The Old Jedi Mind Trick." There's much more in this biggest *Chronicles* yet! Stories by Denyse M. Bridger, Julie Gelbart, and Susan Deborah Smith. Illustrated by Julie Gelbart, J. M. McClure, Kathy Miller and Brandon Tucker. 160 pages; perfect bound; printed on recycled paper. \$16.00 US, \$18.00 Canada (US dollars); \$20.00 overseas (US dollars). Shipped priority mail within the US, air printed matter abroad. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820. Volume #2 still available at \$14.00; \$16.00; \$18.00 respectively. SASE for info about reprints of #1.

ECHO THREE #1. Fiction by Fox, Olsen, DeLuca, Florian, Jivan, Ghilan, August, Kyla, Mesarthim & Stardancer. Color cover by Guttierrez. \$13.00 US, \$17.00 foreign. Check or money order. Mail to Kymm August, PO Box 1003, Long Beach, NY 11561.

FIELD STUDIES #3. All Indiana Jones zine back with a new, action-packed issue. Stories by Cargill, Florian, Sleeman, Virgil, Webster and Weddell. Color cover by Wanda Lybarger. Interior art by Lybarger, Dani, Crotty, Martynn, Florian, and others. Available in January, 1994. \$15.00 priority mail, \$20.00 overseas airmail. Please make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #5. The "romance" edition! He drew women like a magnet and Hanna Beru could not resist him. What dark forces plotted against them? Can Leia survive the desires of two men? What tragic secret is Han Solo hiding? Luke Skywalker must find the lost Jedi secrets - and his only link is a mysterious and desirable woman! The usual roundup of suspects, quality writing and fun! You'll love the color cover spoofing Johanna Lindsey! 200+ pages. \$17.00 US/FC; \$22.00 Europe. Checks to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, PO Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

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FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #3. What monumental battle are the Rebels *losing* the day after the Death Star? What's General Solo's *son* up to with a heavy blaster and a bottle of Upland Reserves? Han and Chewie with a steady, legal(?) job! What Naughty Bits of trouble is Hanna Beru in now? 146 pages. \$12.50 US/FC; \$17.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

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IMPERIUM #4. Stories by Schuller, McCurry, Wilson, others. Art by Florian, Hoyt, Lybarger, Rosenthal, Stasulis. Cover Marla Fair. 118 pp., spiral bound. \$15.00 (\$20.00 overseas). Make checks payable to Kirk Taskila, but send c/o Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Ave., Apt. New York, NY 10024.

LAIR OF THE BLUE FALCON. New novel by J. A. Berger. SASE for price and availability to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

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PURSUIT OF THE NASHTAH by Nora Mayers. It was not Luke's youth that made Genral Khala Jhen Rhessa dislike him as much as it was his own fear of the unknown. Rhessa was far more secure with a strong arsenal than with old superstitions and he found the idea of the Jedi as a major source of the Republic's protection a frightening concept. Somehow Skywalker had to be stopped. Send SASE for price information to Hill Valley Press, c/o Nora Mayers, 5485 Columbia Road, #523, Columbia, MD 21044.

REMOTE CONTROL #3. Star Award winner for Best Multimedia Zine. Includes fiction by Knights (*Rat Patrol*), Gillilan (*Simon & Simon*), Florian (SW), Webster (Indiana Jones), DeVries (*Young Riders*), Lane (*Alien Nation*), Holt and Grigsby (WOTW), McCurry (*Buck Rogers*), Hicks (UNCLE), Paulson (*Real Ghostbusters*), Wilson (*Magnum*), Karmell (*Professionals*), Martin (*Hawaii 5-0*), Wells (*Wild, Wild West*). Poetry by Matoris and Batterby. Illustrations by Florian, Lane, Kirby, Larimer, and Glenn. Laser printed, photocopied, 218 pp., GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$30.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. RC#1 (Fan Q and Star Awards winner) and #2 (Fan Q winner) are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #8. B7 genzine full of all your favorite authors and artists. Color cover by Leah Rosenthal. 180+ pages of reduced type, spiral bound. Stories by Dunham, Brown, Green, Brothers, Augustine, Mailander, and much more. \$18.00. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

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Katrina Larson Hellhound shoppers catalog. Color cover by Leah Rosenthal. 190+ pages of reduced, columnar type, spiral bound. Stories by Karen Yost, Linda Terrell, Jennifer Smallwood, Dee Beetem, Colette Bolech & Kathy Martin, Linda Knights, Donna Wilson, Jane Carnall, Sherri Fillingham, and more. Artwork by Andersen, Rosenthal, Morgan, Lovette, and more. \$19.00. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

STARNODES. A collection of SW stories by Yvette Ghilan. Contents include "Shore Leave," "Destiny's Knell," "Meeting with an Old Man," "One Night on Endor," "Genesis," and "To Catch a Skywalker." Computer printed. Bound in cardboard covered with sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$25.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY. Have you ever wondered what MM zine has a SW story that you wanted to read? Have you ever wondered if an author had done further stories? Now there is a place to find that information. The STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY is available in two versions - listings by zines and listings by author. \$6 each or \$10 for both by mail. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-1530. [Purchasers of the SW Bibliography at MWC: While doing the new updated Author's version, I discovered (much to my dismay) several whopping mistakes. New pages have been printed up and are available free to you if you send me a note requesting them.]

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #1 (reprint): The long out of print B7 hetero adult zine is going for a second publication and will be completely reformatted and printed with laser masters. SB#1 features stories over 150 pages of delicious adult stories about Avon, Vila and the rest by Liz Sharpe, Pat Nussman, Susan Matthews and more, with a "dominant male" cover by Karen River. Projected press date is Visions (November, 1994). If you're interested, SASE or e-mail Pat Nussman, 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870. Internet: p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #1 includes Classic Trek stories from Baudoin, Graham, Lee, Sodaro, and Smithson; TNG fiction from Ames, Benoit, Chapple, Morris, and a novella by Cottrell; poems and filks by Bloebaum, Goldstein, McMillan and Stone. Cover by Myers, interior art by Hebert, Humphrey, and Kenealy; cartoons by Miles.

Photocopied, GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$29.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE NEXUS CHRONICLES. A collection of all *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle, exploring the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Written by Kathryn Agel. \$10.00 in person, \$14.00 priority mail (insured), \$16.00 Canada (US funds only); \$19.00 UK. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE ORMAND FACTOR. Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume 2 to follow early in 1994.

THE RENEGADE AND THE ROGUE. One shot zine by Martha Wells. SASE for information and price to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

VOICES. The collected SW poetry of Yvette Ghilan. 44 poems in the voices of Luke, Leia, Han, Obi-Wan, Darth Vader, the Emperor and "X", Luke and Leia's mother. Computer printed, bound in cardboard covered in sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$15.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

WE GOT ONE! The first issue of our *Real Ghostbusters* zine includes fiction by Paulson, Nickell, Beetem, Dickerson, Morris, Van Fossen, and Riddle. Illustrations by Riddle, Howarth, and Van Fossen. Special art portfolio by Schreiber. Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'? is a new SW zine now looking for submissions. Stories, poetry and filks about Han Solo are being solicited. Stories may be set in any

timeframe from pre-ANH to post-ROTJ. SASE for information or submissions guidelines to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ZINE SCENE. Back issues. Sample copies/back issues of Zine Scene are currently available from May 1992 and May 1993. \$3.00 each or \$5.00 for both. New issues, when available, are \$5.00 each. I am also accepting submissions of reviews (in any fandoms) and articles for publication in future issues. Make checks payable to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. If ordering overseas, please send an SAE + 2 IRCs first in order to obtain your correct postage cost. Always include a SASE with inquiries. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #9. Now open for submissions. Material already accepted from Veronica Wilson, Marti Schuller, Mary Jo Fox, Wanda Lybarger and Donna Frayser. Probable publication date: MWC 1996. SASE for submission guidelines. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #8. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out January 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #9. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out May 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

ECHO THREE #2. Open for submissions until January 15, 1995. Toons, filks, fiction, art, poems sought. Keep it Luke and PG13. Humor encouraged. SASE or simply sub Kymm August, PO Box 1003, Long Beach, NY 11561, or Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll

look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL! A new zine planning a 1995 MediaWest debut is looking for story submissions and artists willing to do some illustrations. We are basically a comedy/light hearted adventure zine (with a name like that what else could we be!!!) but we won't say no to any 'good' story even if it isn't a comedy. Please contact: Judith G. Yuenger, 901 Meadowcrest Road, LaGrange Park, IL 60525-2530 or Marti Schuller, 415 SE Annette, Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS! Issue #1 is now available, with stories by Campbell and Turner, Dutech, Florian, Golledge, Gutierrez, Schuller and others! Plus poems by Wilson, and artwork by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Gutierrez, Pearce, etc. The zine is 160 pages in length, laser-printed, photocopied and comb-bound. Copies are available for \$25 or £15 (price inclusive of mailing) from Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Prices quoted are for US mailing only -- for all other countries please write (including an I.R.C.) for details.

IMPERIUM #5 is now open for submissions of fiction, art, poetry and filks. For more information on guidelines and all that, SASE Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Avenue, Apt. GF, New York, NY 10024-1608, or via e-mail to arwenr@aol.com.

ONLY HOPE #2 is now accepting submissions of art, fiction, poetry and 'toons. Publication date set for July/Aug. '94. And we are looking for the unique, unusual, and imaginative! For submission guidelines, please contact Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Rd., Mississauga, Ont. Canada L4W 1L6, or Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Road, North Haverhill, NH 03744. New writers and artists always welcome!

REMOTE CONTROL #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, filks, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SERRATED SEVEN #2. Now accepting submissions and deposits for this B7 genzine with a hurt/comfort slant. Issue #1 did not contain adult stories, but I would not be averse to expanding the format to include adult if the right stories come along. SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits:

\$5.00+SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia. The first zines of its kind in over a decade, *Snowfire* is totally dedicated to celebrating the feminine side of the Force. Join fellow SW fans from around the Galaxy in this loving tribute to everyone's favorite princess/senator/rebel leader/etc. Stories by Pia Rasmussen, Matt Kirby, Mary Jo Fox, John Fredericks, Yvette Ghilan, Amanda Palumbo, Matt Busch, Debbie Kittle, Maikel Das, Kymm August, Brian Harris, and others. Publication still set for May 1995. \$9.00 in person, \$11.50 by mail in U.S., \$12.00 in Canada, \$15.50 overseas. Make checks and money orders payable to Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

SOUTHERN COMFORT #8.5. Now accepting submissions and deposits on this B7 adult zine. Submissions of a straight or slash nature, any characters are acceptable. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

SOUTHERN SEVEN #10. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the B7 genzine. I'm already holding a few great submissions! If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

SOUTHERN KNIGHTS #3. Now accepting submissions and deposits for the SW genzine. That's right! I'm reviving my very first zine. All characters and situations are welcome. If interested in submitting, please send SASE for guidelines to Ann Wortham, 1402 Allison Avenue, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Deposits: \$5.00 + SASE. On-line address: Ashton7@aol.com.

STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #2: B7 fandom's only hetero adult zine is now looking for contributions for its second issue. The only two guidelines are that stories must be straight and must include B7 characters. That's easy, isn't it? Tentative deadline for submissions is February 15, 1995 for a MediaWest (May '95) publication date. To submit or for further information, SASE Pat Nussman, 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870. If you're on the Internet, e-mail me at p.nussman@genie.geis.com.

TATOOINE DREAMS. New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek pieces. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WE GOT ANOTHER ONE! Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

YEARS OF FIELDWORK. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS -- Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie Guttierrez. Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CLEARANCE SALE: Luke & Leia t-shirts. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. L, XL and XXL sizes. Please state first and second color preferences. Wolf t-shirt. White ink on black shirts. M-XXL. SE t-shirt. Only one left: Large, navy with design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$5.00 (\$6.00 XXL sizes). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines -- all fandoms. For info, SASE Ming Wathne, Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

LOOKING for Hamill with wife and kids on Howard Stern tape and Hamill on QVC. Also in search of Ackbar and Red Guard Bend-Ems to play with others in my demented kitchen. Please contact Amanda Palumbo, PO Box 397, Lake Peekskill, NY 10537. Thanks!

ZINE SALE! Cleaned out my closet and I now have a large number of used zines for sale. SW, ST, B7, media, some dating back to the 70's. Titles include *Wookiee Commode*, *Flip of a Coin*, *Facets*, *Against the Sith*, *Twin Suns*, *Warped Space*, *Skywalker*, *Southern Seven*, *Sol Plus*, and more too numerous to name here. Some fairly recent titles, too. Most zines in excellent to mint condition. SASE for list of available zines to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.



SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill
457 Meadowhill Drive
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