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I schlepped up to the door expecting a roomful of nattering Enclavers ... and there was nothing inside but uninhabited furniture (Cheree had gone party-hopping) and this malicious liar of a clock insisting over and over that it was 12:30 and counting... Go figure! A bad case of timeblink can cause you serious social awkwardness, let me tell you. Of course, for me, the problem has been compounded by this strange difficulty I've been having (since I came to this universe) with successfully being in two places at once...

This monolocality disorder was particularly annoying on Sunday night, when it would have been *so* much nicer if I had been able to hang out in the artists' ghetto in the back of the Art Auction, and still not miss a single minute of action in the Cantina. (Bitchmoangripe.) Can you say, conflict of interests? (Well, *don't*.)

Sunday night was the culmination of the role play/blaster battle. Between divided loyalties (which kept me shuttling back and forth between far ends of the convention facilities), and the general mental deterioration that usually sets in by the last full night of the con, I probably missed quite a bit. But I had a great time, confusion notwithstanding... At the Cantina, what I mostly remember is getting sucked into a heated round of chaos poker at a dark corner table. There was this Corellian Nerd sitting across from me, babbling and peering into the gloom through garish tape-bound spectacles. The alien to my right kept nervously eating credit chips, jabbing me in the ribs and making unintelligible wheepling noises. On my left, Major Calamity (self-described erratic but thorough demolitions specialist) was frankly staring over my shoulder; eventually she started just plain reaching across and grabbing favorable cards out of my hands. (She would've won a bundle, if anybody had been paying attention to the bidding by that time...) Whenever the formidable Peggy Sue (in all her hot-pink accessorized splendor) wafted past, more chips would mysteriously "disappear" from somebody's pile. This caused ... debate. And some rather intense whispering conferences. The rules (questionable at best) finally became so confused that the game degenerated completely. The high rollers got fed up and left; so the rest of us gathered up such surviving chips as the alien had not found edible, and used them to write rude words in Bocci on the table. (There were also pictures — but you nice people wouldn't want to know about *them*.) Glancing around at the crowd (the place was packed), you never knew which fascinating captive would be dragged across the room next, or what incomprehensible but tantalizing announcement concerning the status of the battle (overall) would echo through the ever-thickening atmosphere.

*Was fun!*

General convention comments. There were many excellent *hall door decorations* showing hard work and

creative wit this year, though I'm afraid nothing quite matched the impact that the Holodeck Entrance section had on me in 1994. (Impossible act to follow, I should toss it as a standard of comparison.) I didn't attend the formal masquerade competition, but *hall costumes* in general (apart from role play/blaster battle participants) seem to be in decline. \*SIGH\* (Maybe I just happened to miss a bunch of good ones? I spent less time than usual sitting in the lobby well, so my cross-sample is probably less representative than in some years.) The *dealers' room* seemed to offer less diversity of goods than sometimes in years past. I don't recall seeing the same quantity of costume jewelry offered, or elegant stuffie dragons, or clever sculpie critters, or general craft items, as in prior years. I'm *not* complaining, just observing. The emphasis seems to be returning to zines, and that has always been my primary purpose in visiting the dealers' room anyway, so I be happy camper. There were still a few tables decked with pretty sparklies — and it was possible to find neat non-zine goodies from private room dealers, as long as one's feet (and time) held out.

The *Art Show*: okay, so, where's the SW art? Other than that minor quibble, I have to say there was a heckuva lotta good stuff. I encourage everyone to celebrate the return of Karen River to the MWC art show. Karen's work is as strong as ever, and in addition to more common graphics media, she has added engraved stone (marble and granite) to her repertoire. (I asked — she is doing commission work on headstones nowadays as a side line to her regular job.) Would we could all be so creative. Not to mention, ah, strong.

The *SW doll display* was once again innovative and impressive. (And, er, just slightly off-color amusing! Perhaps one of the fabricators could offer us an explanation of just *exactly* what Han was doing with that teddybear — or was it an Ewok? — in the wedding suite?) Maybe if fandom in general learns to view this as miniature set building and costuming (both original and reproductions) the "doll" displays will be more widely appreciated. They deserve it. I'm not a builder myself, but having been present at one or two brainstorming sessions, my respect for the crafting skills, imagination, creativity and just plain hard work involved in this project every year has gone up immeasurably.

Mundane comments: the food service in restaurant seemed sloooooow this year. This was somewhat alleviated by the constant availability of self-service buffets, but on at least one occasion all I wanted to ingest (or pay for) was a cup of coffee and some soup, and it took an absurd 50 minutes to arrive. Room service (on the other hand) was remarkably fast, sometimes arriving in less than 15 minutes even in the middle of the afternoon. The hotel staff in general (even the pizza delivery person!) seemed to have

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general (even the pizza delivery person!) seemed to have a very positive attitude. More than one hotel-person commented to me on the remarkable friendliness of fen (weirdness notwithstanding, though also accredited). When I first tried to check in, the registration desk clerk said that the computer said that my roommates' reservation had been cancelled (while staring at the screen in puzzlement, since the allegedly cancelled folk were clearly occupying the room at that very moment). Just a typical check-in glitch, but again I must compliment the clerk on his immediate willingness to sort things out without resort to calibrated ordnance, or other, less technological methods of persuasion.

So much for my "con report." Next issue, back to the usual calendar of observances...

In parting, here's a totally unsolicited convention "plug." I hope lots-an-lotsa people will come to Electicon this fall (October 27-29, 1995). The more who come, the better the con will be!

Just a quick general comment on the past couple of issues of SE: I really like the diversity I'm seeing, not just in the contents of the letters (which is delightful of itself) but also in the different kinds of subject covered: the afore-praised ongoing SW letterzine history, the FOE/role-playing origin explications, the report on Electicon, the SW awards and more.

I'd say this fandom is doing mighty well!

One last parting shot.

Z. P.: Hey, brevity is a cardinal ... virtue. But seriously, many thanks for your good grace at my "short" quips. You're completely right. Of course!

On that note, I'd better cut and run. This is (technically) late already, though I'm hoping Cheree will manage to sneak me in somehow...

Read and enjoy!

## GAMUT OF EMOTIONS

M. J. Mink  
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Portland, OR 97225

Hi to everybody I met at MWC! And hi to everybody who didn't go — wish you could have — it was wonderful! Lots of beautiful new zines debuting. Thanks to a verrry friendly group (both Dead Bothans and assorted live species — you know who you are) for going out of their way to make me feel welcome. Great visiting, delightful doll exhibit, and crazed zine shopping — what more could a fan ask for? See you next year.

Belea: The high quality fanfic spoiled me, too. I think that's true in all fandoms; the pro novels, maybe because of

the restrictions placed on them, just don't deliver the emotional satisfaction that fanfic does. Fanfic is open to anything and everything; pros don't have the latitude fans do — darn it. Though Hambley took it as far as a pro can go — Luke certainly ran the gamut of emotions (and trashing) in COTJ. Finding pro novels unsatisfying was what sent me looking for zines, and nothing will ever replace fanfic in my heart.

A. G.: Speaking of names cropping up ... a JC Penney catalog from last year had a lovely ladies' shoe named Darth (pink nubuck, as I recall).

Z. P.: Congratulations on unveiling a great zine! *Garbage* is delightful, and it's so refreshing to see adult situations in stories. As for Yoda and Ben calling Luke their only hope, I like to think that's because he was the only hope to recall Darth's "better half", and that Darth was the only Jedi strong enough to destroy Palpatine — Luke obviously wasn't up to it. Love your idea of Luke as a warrior/prophet. And I finally got 8 megs so I can play Gabriel Knight — it's terrific! Voices are great.

Judy and Marti: *Smelly* is a wow. I bow at your altar and can't believe it's your first zine! Great stories and illos — oops, this isn't supposed to be an LOC, is it? — anyway, I laughed myself silly.

Maggie: A violent lifetime on Tatooine to explain Luke's non-violent reaction to the Owen & Beru BBQ? Given that the Tatooine lifestyle we saw seems to be of the frontier type, maybe Luke has seen crispy critters before. The sand people, etc., may have burned their dead (as well as their victims) rather than attempt to bury them in sand. Interesting idea.

Take care of yourselves, everybody!

## SURROUNDED BY GREAT COMPANY

Nancy Stasulis  
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June 9, 1995

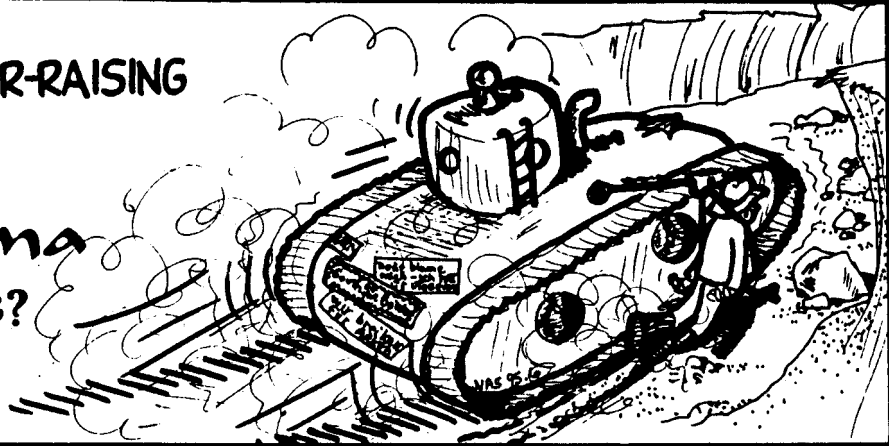
I want to say how really nice it was to finally *meet* several people (including present Ed) I have been reading/hearing about/illustrating for/writing to/have always known the name but never seen the face, etc., for so many years, at this last MWC. I was beginning to think some of you were mythical — either that, or all alternate pen names for Cheree. I was also astonished that many of you live within "meet you at the Pizza Hut in 15 minutes", etc. distance. Geez! I'm surrounded by Great Company and never knew it. I shall have to have all MD-DC-No. Va.-ers over for tacos or something else cheap and filling and bad for the



**Q:** WHAT IS MORE  
APPALLING  
THAN  
*Freddy Krüger?*

MORE HAIR-RAISING  
THAN

*Indiana  
Jones?*



MORE TERRIFYING  
THAN  
JURASSIC  
PARK?!?

**A:** Reading  
'On This Day In  
History' in *Southern  
Enclave* !!!!!



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cholesterol in the near future. Gosh! I really am boggled!

I enjoyed all the letters and opinions (altho of necessity quite a few remarks went over my head since they referred to prior communications), but I especially enjoyed Maggie's article — it plunged my mind back to the Good/Bad Old Days. I infer from the comments of the savage readers that they were at least two earlier segments in Issues 39 and 40? I also noticed in the fine print on page 3 that those copies were sold out. I would love to read the first two installments ... anyone living nearby that could let me borrow them (you can hold all 4 of my cats as ransom for return in good condition ...?); failing that — Hey! You! Cheree or Maggie! Any way I can ~~blackmail~~ persuade you to send me a copy of just that article? I will promise not to (or to — your preference) caricature or cartoon you in any fan-related media? ((*Ed: Sure, if one of the Dead Bothans doesn't loan you a copy, let me know and I'll dig out my personal copy of those issues and make a xerox for you.*))

Being serious, Maggie, I remember clearly but small and far away the very things I read in your article, and it moved me a great deal; I want *very* much to read the whole and see how your perceptions concurred/differed from mine and what you noticed that went over my head at the time (I tend to be perpetually Clueless).

I also am amused at myself that one of the major sources of wonder and atonishment to me at MWC *was* that all over the place I saw Impies and Rebels, Church of Fordies and Lukasites, Leia-lovers and Vader-vamps, sitting together, talking, and even during or after the Great Blaster Battle smiling and joking with each other and not just their "own", as it were. And it wasn't just the new Fen either: I saw several old "enemies" sitting in quiet conversation — together! — over a meal or two at the Hummingbird. Almost more than seeing my own old buddies, seeing these "old" antagonists being friendly and intermingling like the adults they finally are moved me greatly for reasons I have no words to explain, except that it always hurt me to be held at arms' length by several people I wanted very much to get to know better, solely because I was notoriously — and erroneously — relegated to the Imperial/Vader camp, when in fact my friends and I were very fond of *all* the characters — except the Ewoks, I admit.

We always wondered whether those involved in the all-too-real hostilities were aware that this *was*, after all, fiction. Carol Hines-Stroede once remarked that she was always on the brink of telling these parties to get a life. SW was and still is one of the centers of my real (as opposed to Mundane) life, but I am not about to denigrate anyone over their preferences, since there are better things to fight for (and about). Actually, I wonder how much of it started out as pretend teasing, and turned ugly when it got out of hand...? It does happen: people become

oversensitive to teasing — especially when it's somewhat rough or repetitive — and the surly or defiant pretended response becomes more and more real? Whatever went before, I'm glad it seems to be over this time around, but not surprised: 18 years of life *can* tend to mature some of us into sadder but wiser — and more tolerant — individuals. Pity it doesn't work that way for everyone. Anyway, to return to my original thought: someone please have mercy and send Parts 1 and 2 of the article somehow. Filthy lucre is only a partial object for such excellent analytical memoirs. If the segment in Issue #41 is on par with the rest — which from long acquaintance with Maggie's writings I am certain it is — then I wish Maggie would enlarge on the subject and perhaps put it out as a booklet or commentary: *The History of Fandom, by Someone Who Was There and Lived to Tell About It*.

One more comment and then I shall yield the field to those that are better informed as well as better writers. My thanks to all the members of the Dead Bothan Society at MWC; they have inspired me with at least half-a-dozen ideas for tasteless but amusing (to the easily amused) cartoons, etc. Please give my regards to Manny Bothans.

I look forward to the pleasure of reading you all again and hopefully seeing you next year in Lansing. 'Til then, ciao, and HnukH paH! (Supposedly Klingon for "Take care 'til we meet again" which translated literally means "Don't let yourself get killed by anything but the best", except that I have it from one who is an inveterate joker that it more accurately means something like "The beer's on me!")

## A FLAW IN THE SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM

Jennifer Moore  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

June 8, 1995

What's doin' everyone? Is everybody having an excellent summer? Why is it MWC flies by, but the rest of the year crawls by?? Definitely a flaw in the space-time continuum.

Wasn't MWC a blast! Glad nearly everyone could make it! To those who couldn't: If you can, definitely make it your pilgrimage to Mecca. It's worth it! Hope to see you there! Now on with the show!

To Everyone who voted for my poem for the Star Awards: THANK YOU! Even now I'm still stunned, but humbled by the fact you took the time to vote. It was much appreciated! Thank you again. You folks made my

year!

Maggie: Sounds like you and I have the same approach to the pro novels. I call them "subway" reading — something light to read and enjoy while traveling to the city but nothing to take overly seriously. Would I consider them canon? No. Sources for story ideas? Maybe. But then the new wave of fans may disagree with me. I definitely agree that SW fandom is changing. You hit it right on the money: There will be less of a common ground. Let's just hope it doesn't degenerate like Trek did — into "Classic" vs. "Next Gen". Fortunately, that didn't last. Meanwhile, I hope to see you at MWC next year.

Michelle: Hey, I have to admit, I would pay to read "Looky, Looky, a Darkside Wookiee!" I got a kick out of the title. Have to admire yours and Mary Jean Holmes' nerve for taking on Ewoks as a subject to write about.

Marti: Ditto re your comments about Anderson's books. By the third book, he's mired in mediocrity. The third volume was disappointing.

It was great hanging out with you and Judy. You guys did a great job with the zine. Definitely an auspicious debut! Can't wait for #2.

Judy: I enjoyed the SW writing and artists workshop. After talking with Rebecca Carey and Wanda Lybarger, I felt encouraged about my photography, and that I wasn't totally off the mark on putting together a portfolio.

Great job with the zine! One of the best of the year! Have you started #2 yet?

Debbie: Isn't this weather wonderful? I'll gladly keep it on this side of the Potomac. Hey, can I borrow some \$ for the Hambly book? Talk to ya soon.

Amanda and Kymm and Cheryl and Minky: It was great meeting you gals! Hope to see you at Port Lansing next year!

Carolyn and Liz: Glad you liked my "bucket of Hans"! Oh, boy, you two really put some photographic ideas in my head! You, too, Z. P.!

Tim: Liked your definition of *ecchi*. Definitely appropo in some fandom cases.

As for fanfic and pro writing — I guess most of us involved in it fall somewhere between JAM's and CML's ("Just a movie" v. "Changed my life").

Aren't there two versions of the Energizer ad? I thought I saw two different ones.

Pat: Ditto your comments on DS9 and *Voyager*. Janeway can pass for a young Katharine Hepburn. Her voice is OK once you get used to it.

Great meeting you at MWC — how long did it take you to collate all those zines?

That's about all so I'll wind down. Thanks again everyone and fellow Dead Bothans for making MWC the place to be! It's amazing what so much talent can accomplish! Zines to the Doll Exhibit to the Star Awards

to everything else was incredible!

I hope this letter doesn't sound too disjointed. Shortly after the rest of my vacation (in Bennington, Vermont at a B&B with zines — heavenly!), I came down with the stomach flu which I'm just bouncing back from. Talk about being a speedbump for reality!

So take care, talk to you all soon and, Clear Skies!

## OUR OWN LANGUAGE

Ming Wathne  
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July 15, 1995

Well, tail end Tony again — seems like the time gets less and the work gets more as the years go on, but glad to see another issue of SE. MediaWest was fun — SW very well represented, group gets larger every year, more diverse, and it was nice to see everyone again even if we all didn't get the chance to talk.

Marti Schuller: Yep, fans would be as likely to condemn in Fan Fic. Problem with the pros is they are getting paid for their work — so they should be better. Fan Fic is often made up of people who are learning. Pros are supposed to know what they are doing. After great expectations, the Pro books have been a major disappointment, and in some cases even painful to read. I had expected something like the first Han books only advancing in age for our characters.

Belea Keeney: Ah, you have found the difficulty with the pro stuff. Fans over the years have built up their own mythos we have developed SW with our ideas. We have even developed our own language. Shimmersilk, Shiver trees, Ganks, Little One — these are all fan ideas. After reading (trying to read) the pro material I sometimes wonder if these authors ever saw the movies. Their development of the characters did not seem to reflect the characters we know and love.

Tim Blaes: Sorry, Tim, but despite our social ideas, nature made the choice of who would carry the child. As a retired X-Ray tech, I can assure you that the difference in the physical structure is more than just gonads. Male and female are different from the skeletal level up and probably down as well. As for the Energizer Bunny commercials, I wish I had them. I don't watch most of the big power stations, and by the time I know about them they were gone. I thought they were funny in the crazy way the bunny is. They at least made more sense than *Hardware Wars*.

Matthew Whitney: Glad you decided to stay in the fold

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— it is growing by the day. As for Lucas setting the dates on the time lines, well, it never seemed to bother him in the movies, so why in the new one?

Sue Zahn: Hey, a multi-lingual among us. And, yes, the Library does have the entire set of *Jundland* but only a part of it has been copied for circulation. We must have at least 4 requests for any issue before it can be copied to circulate. Economics demand this. As for the coming films, if and when... Sorry, I cannot get too excited about them. Look what Lucas OK'd for the books and the comics. Take a lot of Generic stuff, change a few names, make sure it is politically correct, tack on the name *Star Wars*. As for reviving the Republic, well, starting over can mean trying to pick the good from the bad when you rebuild after a fire. Politics as a whole are unhealthy over any given amount of time. Politicians eventually tend to talk to each other rather than the people they represent.

Jacqueline Taero: Yeah for critic on the Pro stuff and the fan material. As stated above, the Pro get paid — the fans do it for love. Either way it is my right to praise, or condemn, and as for purchased titles, I imagine it was done all the time. Not necessary in monetary units. As for the aging bit — well the twins are not identical. The aging difference might be laid to the difference in genetics between male and female?

M. J. Mink: You do not need to be a neophyte to get upset over the shortcuts. And, lady, you have a naughty mind and I love it. As for the Jedi being peace keepers, you run into the problem of how? An analogy might be made with our own police forces. Expected to do the impossible of protecting, while being criticized if they even sneeze wrong. If the Jedi were in that position, it was no wonder they were wiped out. They just literally could not protect themselves.

A. G. Steyn: I am with you on at least keeping some of the oldies if not the mains in the coming (perhaps) films, and, hey, lady, you will find that practically everything has been done before in some way or another. Ideas of changes have been with us from the start of time. The problem has been the back up tech to make them work. You need electricity to make a computer work and steam to originally drive a mechanical engine. And, OK, I would settle for a 3x5 or even one of those pics you need for a passport. With a memory like mine you need to renew more than once a year. Remember as a panelist I could not even remember the name of my own zine.

Brian Harris: Rebels & Imperials hanging out together. Well, it might happen on a one to one thing. As a grouping no way. As for Heros — well, it depends who is evaluating. If you liked the guy (Person), you gloss over the imperfections. If you dislike, you say they were a smidge who at least once in their life did something right. Han Solo was or is a realist. Shooting Greedo under the

table was a real solution given the situation. He knew who he was dealing with. He knew even if he gave Greedo the money, he would more then likely get shot in the back as soon as he got up to leave.

Maggie Nowakowska: As usual I get a charge out of your definitions of hero-anti hero, and poor sweet Lukey — come on now, the kid grew up on a planet where packing a gun to take a little side trip was not unusual, and where the homestead was threatened all the time by roving Indians, er, Tusksens. That he would not come completely unzipped at the death of his aunt and uncle, it is unlikely he would not be furious and bent on revenge. It was probably Ben who steered him away from that path.

Pat Grant: Like your explanation on how Luke & Leia could be different ages depending on the year of the Planets and not a Galactic year. That is something like our crossing the date line. On one side you are 19. You cross the line and you are 20 because you have gained a day on your birthday. Nice...

Cheryl Pryor: Stuck with the *Dark Empire* as canon. May the gods preserve us. Thank heavens for the Fan Fic that does not as a whole like the books and is not writing that J-(be nice Ming) stuff.

Michelle Malkin: Four cats, enough already. You have a way to go to catch up with my catting heyday. Seven. A female stray that immediately got pregnant, upsetting our old house pet no end. He had little love for the kittens, and then, of course, my son brought home a cat that is now eight. All gone now years ago. I love the critters, but allergic reaction will not let me have another, so I have cat pins, glass cats and statues instead.

Well, enough. Nice to see all the new faces, regular faces, and old faces (Hey not literal) again. With peace in the Force...

## PLOT HOLES

Gerald Crotty  
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June 6, 1995

Hello, everyone.

*Ambush at Corellia*: Well, it was okay, readable but the story took a long time to get going. The problem with a leisurely plot is that the reader has a lot of time to notice plot holes. For instance, Han does nothing to check out Kalendra or her story. The subplot involving Lando could be quite funny but it isn't. And Luke has nothing to do but follow Lando around.

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I recently bought *From Star Wars to Indiana Jones*, a beautiful book. It's basically a catalogue of the models and props from the SW and Indy trilogies. The photos are large, sharp and mostly unseen before. I believe this is an English language version of a Japanese book which was done to complement the *George Lucas Super Live Show* or whatever the hell it was called. It's by far the best book of its kind since *The Art of...* books.

I also bought *The Radio Play Book*. In it I noticed that Leia's father is called Prestor rather than Bail. Does anyone know why this is?

If you haven't seen *Clerks* yet then go see it. It's very funny and there's a great conversation about all the innocent construction workers who died on the second Death Star.

*The SW Widevision Cards* are very nice. Good quality photo reproduction. My only criticism is that they could've used the space on the backs a bit more wisely.

Marti Schuller: I've seen the Vader-Energizer Bunny commercial and, while I thought it was funny and very well made, I really think these sort of ads should remain uncommon. Otherwise there's a danger of trivializing the SW myth. How long before we see Chewie advertising breath mints or Leia selling tampons or Solo condoms? I haven't seen the *Simpsons/SW* promo. What's that?

Carolyn: Congratulations! It's wonderful news concerning your writing job for WEG. Hopefully this is just the beginning for you. My fingers remain crossed.

Maggie Nowakowska: It's a good question, how come Luke takes to killing so easily? Well, my understanding is that Luke has grown up in the "Wild West". That's what Tatooine is — a frontier town and there are hostile natives or other settlers. When Luke and 3PO go out looking for R2, Luke has a powerful-looking rifle with him and, when 3PO announces there are several creatures approaching, Luke takes the rifle and obviously intends using it if he has to. On the other hand, Luke is a bit of a coward when he's confronted by the "scum" in the cantina. So my feeling is that Luke has probably had to shoot Sandpeople and others, maybe even humans (moisture-rustlers?) when they've attacked the Lars homestead, but it's always been impersonal and at a great distance. In SW he only shoots faceless stormtroopers.

It might make an interesting story — the first time Luke had to shoot someone.

Tina Bentrup: The good mother/bad mother quote comes from an interview Lucas gave which appeared in *American Film* in June 1983. He said, "Darth Vader is the bad father. Ben Kenobi is the good father. The good and bad mothers are still to come." Unfortunately, we don't know if he's talking about the first trilogy or the third. However, I think he's used the basic plot in *Willow* since that had good mother/bad mother characters.

Have to disagree with you about TESB's plot. Like the other two movies, I think the plot is excellent. The plots of all three SW films are works of art. However, there are some "holes" *between* the movies, but I'll explain that later. First, I'd like to offer some answers to the questions you posed:

1. "Why was the Wampa necessary?" Well, I suppose he wasn't essential to the main plot but provides menace and danger for the rebels until the Empire turns up. The Wampas were due to appear in many more scenes as we all know. I recently learned of another interesting scene involving them which doesn't even appear in the novel or comic. If you watch one of the TESB trailers, you'll notice 3PO tearing a sticker off a door. This is from a scene when they're evacuating the base. The rebels have put the Wampas in a strong room and the sticker is a "danger" symbol. When 3PO is evacuating, he tears the sticker off the door. The snowtroopers come through, open the door and get attacked by the Wampas.

2. "Why did Vader chase the *Falcon*?" Well, what other ship could he chase? He had to tell his admirals which ship to look out for. The *Falcon* is a unique ship and Vader knew that Han, Chewie and probably Luke or Leia would be on board. Either way, he knew that once he had Luke's friends, he would have Luke. Vader couldn't order his men to chase Luke's X-wing. How would they know which one to chase? I suppose you could argue that Vader could have reached out with the Force to find Luke but with all the chaos (physical, mental, etc.) of the battle, I think he'd have trouble getting a "clear signal."

3. "How did Luke know where Dagobah was?" Well, as you say, the Force led him. He tells R2 that he prefers to keep it on manual. I didn't get the impression from the movie that Dagobah was uncharted. This info comes from the novel and other sources. So I wasn't worried how he got there while watching the movie.

4. "Why did Vader bring in bounty hunters when he already knew where the *Falcon* was?" Well, he knew it was in an asteroid field, but he also knew that it wasn't wise to rely on the abilities of star destroyer admirals. And he was right!

As I said earlier, the only plot concerns I have are what occurs between the films. For instance: TESB is 3 years after SW. Why did Ben wait 3 years before sending Luke to Yoda? ROTJ is 6 months or a year after TESB. Why do our heroes wait so long before rescuing Han? Comments anyone?

Louise Turner: On the subject of zinelegging, thanks for pointing out the issue of copying artwork. It can really suffer with each copy generation, just like video copying.

I must defend Kevin Anderson's *Jedi Academy* books against your criticisms which weren't fair. The idea of Wedge having an alien girlfriend isn't such a radical one.

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There have been other occasions where this has occurred. In the Marvel Comics there was that pink-skinned woman who was always lusting after Luke. In one of the early drafts of SW, Han had a girlfriend described as a 5 ft. tall cross between a brown bear and a guinea pig (see p. 146 of *Skywalking*) and, then of course there was Jabba's lust for Leia. So I don't think it's fair to call Wedge's romance a departure. And it's not done in any kind of sensationalist way.

You've also misunderstood her position in the Empire. Actually, she has no position. She's a slave used for her scientific abilities. She and many others from her planet were taken as children and trained in science because the Empire knew they had particular talents. Their homeworld was always under threat of destruction if they failed to live up to expectations. She's quite an interesting character, actually, because she has a very limited view of life. She's only even known numbers and scientific problems. It's not until she meets the rebels that she realizes what it's all for. Her name's Qui Xux. The Anderson novels are still the only spin-off novels I've enjoyed, although I haven't read *The Chrystal Star* or *Children of the Jedi*. I get the impression that *Bakura* is the most popular. I read about half of it and got really bored then skipped through most of the second half. ((Ed: I've noted with interest that the like or dislike of the pro novels seems to be divided by gender — both of the writer and the reader. Those novels written by women — Vonda McIntyre, Kathy Tyers — are more heavily into relationships and are most enjoyed by female fans. The books written by men — Timothy Zahn, Kevin Anderson — lean more heavily on hardware and action and are more enjoyed by male fans.))

Michelle Malkin: The Dark Horse comics are *not* canon. They're supposed to fit in with the new novels but they're not official stories. According to the *SW Insider*, the only canon material is the films, the screenplays, the radio dramas and the novelizations. The problem is that much of the Dark Horse info is being cross-referenced with the West End Games material and people are starting to take it as official. It's not. It is all getting a bit confusing, though. Example: Is Coruscant the official name of the Imperial capital? We all seem to accept that as its name but, as far as I can tell, the name didn't appear until WEG came along.

Tim Blaes: A few issues ago in SE, we were discussing the much rumored longer UK version of TESB. Have you come across any evidence since then? All the UK fans I've asked about the matter say that they never saw a longer version and never met anyone who did. A lot of them are aware, though, that it's a rumor which continues in the US. I'd love to know how it got started. Maybe there's some truth in it. If you have any info, I'd be very interested in it.

Finally, I'd like to say thanks to everyone who voted

for me in the Star Awards. And I'd better sign off now before I go into Tom Hanks mode!

## IN THE TUB WITH SE

Donna Frayser  
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June 12, 1995

What joy to come home after a grueling 14 hour workday to find *Southern Enclave* waiting! I got into the tub with SE and turned on the whirlpool, having initiated the SOP that nobody is to knock on that door unless (1) the tornado is on the ground and less than 500 yards from the house, (2) it's an *arterial* bleed, or (3) the house is on fire and the flames have gotten as far as the bedroom. Cheree, I hope you know how much your hard work is appreciated by all of us who usually merely lurk instead of responding. To help your RSI (repetitive stress injury), is there any possibility you could get a scanner like Ming has? (Hi, Ming!) ((Ed: I have a scanner at work which helps immensely. I'd never get this thing out if I still had to type it all!)) Please accept belated condolences on the death of your father. The obituary you wrote showed clearly what has been called the uncommon goodness of the Common Man. He seems to have had the qualities that make for true greatness, infinitely more so than any politician or business mogul or media figure ever would. How you must miss him! No one in your life will ever be there for you in quite the way your father was; but there will come a time when the pain recedes and you will be glad to remember. Been there.

I know I never write except to renew, but this time I really had to thank Maggie Nowakowska for putting together the Golden Age history; it's been fascinating. I wish you could have put in more about the personalities, some of which sound gloriously eccentric; but perhaps you had hurt feelings (not to mention libel laws) to consider. What you wrote sounded objective and fair to all parties. But really, I would have loved to read all the sordid details!

Marti Schuller: I nearly called you last winter (we had gone up to Kansas City to see *Phantom of the Opera* on tour there) but on remembering that while I had been reading all *your* letters, you knew nothing about me, I thought it would be too much of a shock! Lee's Summit is pretty country, girl. I really empathize with your newbie feelings; there's always the knowledge that whatever you write somebody somewhere has written before, and possibly written much better. But that's no excuse for not pushing ourselves to do it in our own ways.



Mary Jo Fox: What an appalling idea, to have Harlan Ellison under Boba Fett's mask! Right up until I read your letter I'd always sort of hoped Fett had escaped from the Sarlaac. I think it would be cool if ol' Fett turned out to be a woman, and we never did find out who Luke and Leia's mom was...

How right you are about SW fandom being underground in the 80's! If not for the happy accident of being married to a Trekfan who happened to pick up a flyer for *Tremor* at a con, I still wouldn't know anything about it. But what with the Net growing all the time, who knows how it all might take off now.

Tim Blaes: Really like your considered comments on pro and fan writing. One thing we should remember is what Heinlein pointed out in *Grumbles from the Grave*, that a writer's first business is to entertain, and if he doesn't do that he'll never get his ideas across because nobody will keep turning the pages to find out what they are. Certainly we can (generally) expect more technical competence from the pros, but they are admittedly less entertaining sometimes; as you pointed out, it's not always from the heart. But we should always keep in mind that zine readers and organized fans are a very small percentage of the book-buying and ticket-buying public — perhaps less than one percent. So our opinions may not count too much with the publishers.

Matthew Whitney: Too true, what you said about usage in SF language of phrases like "first meal" or the dreaded "standard time parts" that can really distract and irritate! It's highly unlikely that another galaxy would have anything human — though "people" might come in all shapes and sizes — so a translator would put everything into some earth equivalent. There's nothing wrong with using good basic English to convey your meaning, and saving the invented words for the truly outre — yipes, lapsed out of English! Perhaps I ought to stop pontificating. I love the way Lucas came up with "lightsaber" for example — good accessible English words, yet conveying a sense of something Other.

And speaking of English, Gerald Crotty, you fine artist you, the language in all its permutations is delightful, from the Scottish burr to our Southwestern twang, even to the plummy vowels of Queen Elizabeth! And I will regret the day when mass media wipes out all regional differences as it is already fast doing here in the States. Don't listen to him, Louise! It's great to hear from all of you in the UK (even if the Brits did behave rather despicably over here in 1812-1814). Did anybody else wonder if Lucas used British actors as Imperials to play on our subconscious xenophobia? Or was it mere convenience because filming was done at Elstree?

A. G. Steyn: You are a naughty (but funny!) girl. I'm not as badly jolted as you are by the use of words like dogs

and ducks in the novelizations. If the SW universe has humans and falcons and trees, who knows what other parallels there might be? But you and Pat Grant have a good point about the use of a term like Immelman; it's loaded with associations. And yes, Pat, I too was puzzled by *Stargate*'s use of Ra as a villain, though I suppose it would have been worse if they'd used Osiris. I think Ancient Egypt is fascinating, too.

And to whomever asked about Stephanie Hawks (I'm a brainburn case and can't remember), I have a few 80's *Doctor Who* zines with some terrific examples of her art work, and I know she's done art for other fandoms. I think you might be able to catch up with her by checking zine listings in other fandoms and writing to the editors.

Good luck to you, Carolyn Golledge, in your new writing job and may I say I'm not a bit surprised? You've earned it.

Yo, Minky, welcome; your Thighmaster comments sent me into paroxysms of giggles.

Brian Harris and everyone else in this neck of the woods, hope you haven't been too badly battered by all the storms this year. I love a good thunderstorm but even I am getting burned out on them by now.

Hope Mediawest went great for all of you — hope to attend one myself some year soon, though I'll probably just lurk there too, if I do. And hope you've all had a great summer! Any of you traveling this way are more than welcome to call or stop by.

## SURVIVED ANOTHER MWC

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I seem to have survived another MediaWest\*Con. Almost didn't make it this year, due to the economic state of the family, but MW\*C is just about the only social event left to me and I would have been in a blue funk if I'd missed it. Just wish I didn't have to deal with a 19-hour bus trip. "No ma'am, I'm not on drugs; Greyhound did this to me."

The workshop for SW writers & artists was fun, and I'm pleased at the response I got from the excerpt I read from "Leia vs. Murphy's Law" (I'm still surprised that no one threw tomatoes). If we do this again next year it'll need a bit more organization. It took 20 minutes just to introduce ourselves. Someone suggested that we should have pooled ourselves into groups of 4 or 5, and that sounds like a good idea to me.

An issue brought up at the panel I would like to continue here; who should control what and how a story is

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illustrated, the writer or the artist. I've also heard an opinion that the editor should call the artistic shots. I think they should all work together.

I assume most of you saw the lightsabers in the dealers room? Oh, if I'd only had another \$225 this year. Not only could they light up a transparent rod, but they also vibrated when switched on! I understand that Lucasfilm is getting ugly with people making lightsabers.

Marti Schuller: I think I could understand why Leia might name one of her sons Anakin. Judas used to be a common, respectable name, until one person disgraced it. The public at large doesn't know about Darth Vader's other life, and I don't think Luke or Leia are in any hurry to tell them. That Leia did name her youngest son Anakin tells us that she did finally come to terms with who her father was and forgave him.

How much would you like to bet that young Anakin will be the real heartbreaker of the family? On the other hand, he could also be as he was in J. P. Treleaven's "Adventures In Babysitting" in *I Don't Care What You Smell!*, a marvelous zine I picked up this MediaWest, edited by Judith Yuenger and... What was her name? Can't seem to remember. Anyway, it was a *great* zine!

Debbie Kittle: Yeah, those wide screen cards are stunning. Can't help but wonder why they didn't do something like this sooner. Some of them would make nice posters. I'm looking for cards # 51, 77, 82, 86, and 97 to complete my second set. I've got some extras; wanta trade?

You understood exactly what I was getting at, regarding Palpatine's visions of the future. The old goat was so smug that all he was capable of seeing was victory. He did; it just wasn't his own.

Mary Jo Fox: *Snowfire* is hot, and I'm not just saying that because I've got stuff in it, and I'm glad to hear it's not just going to be a one-shot. I'm with you 100% regarding the secondary material. We don't have to swallow all of it, we can pick and choose what we like to use in our art & fiction.

Carolyn Golledge: Glad to see you make it to MediaWest after all. I hope you'll remember us when you become a Big Name Pro Author. Think you'll ever get around to sending me a cross-universe story? *A-Cross the Force* is still alive, but it's stuck in carbonite.

Belea Keeney: If you'd like to get the hardcover novels for less than the hardcover price, join the SF Book Club. You might have to wait for a few months for the SW novels to be included in the selections, but they'll be there sooner than they will appear in paperback.

Matthew Whitney: Whoa, that was fast! Glad to have you back. As for the pro novels, I haven't been able to read all of them either, but you might want to try *Truce at Bakura* and *The Crystal Star*. Dark Horse Comics is

planning to adapt many of the novels into comics, including *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. That first original novel suffered from being written before the first movie was even finished and I wonder if DH will be able to fill in the cracks or even finish the story Foster left hanging.

Susan Zahn: There is reported a ban on novels set between or before the movies. That's a shame, because the sort of story I'd ask Carrie to write would be a "day in the life of Leia" set between *A New Hope* and *Empire*. It could answer some questions I've had for some time, such as what are her day-to-day responsibilities? How did she adapt from being a Senator to an underground revolutionary? How do front-line rebels regard her, and what kind of relationships did she form with those closest around her?

The number of men at MediaWest has been steadily increasing, mostly because the women are bringing their husbands into fandom. So I wonder why there hasn't been a male/female writing partnership in fandom. I think there have been a couple of editing partnerships.

I agree with you on the *Dark Empire* comics; the coloring is way too grim and cold. Kind of makes me long for hoojibs.

M. J. Mink: So you like "Blonds in helpless bondage", huh? Prefer redheads, myself. Your talk of Jedi ThighMasters invokes images of Darth doing the infomercial circuit with Suzanne Somers.

I haven't yet read Anderson's *Jedi Academy* books, but I imagine Luke's scene before the New Republic Senate going something like this. Luke: "We must restore the Jedi Knights!" The Senate (in dazed unison): "Yes, we must restore the Jedi Knights!" Remember, this scene happened not long after Luke dabbled with the Dark Side. And he could be influencing them a bit without even completely being aware of it.

A. G. Steyn: Y'know, The Dead Bothan Society would make a great name for a rock band. Who was it selling the official DBS T-shirts at MediaWest this year? I'd like to order one.

I think we should allow for a certain amount of Earthisms. We are stuck with characters who speak English, after all. We can spend half a paragraph describing an X-wing maneuver, or we can say Luke did an Immelmann. (Of course, I wouldn't mind the half-paragraph, because I don't know what an Immelmann is.) And I would like to think the SW universe still has things like dogs and cats, chocolate, and stupid puns.

Z. P. Florian: Wasn't that 80 lb. python at MediaWest neat?

The idea of an underage kid being caught with an adult zine gives me the willies, even without factoring in the Wrath of Lucas. Heaven help us if one of those Big Time TV evangelists were to get ahold of a slash zine. We

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must be discreet!

Brian Harris: Well, I think *Star Trek* deserved a better third season than the one it got.

The "stag" room at MediaWest (stop snickering, Susan!) has unfortunately disintegrated out from under me. One of the key members has decided not to return to the Con for personal reasons, and when I called the other guy to find out which hotel we would be staying at, he told me "I've decided to room by myself this year. I'm sure you'll be able to find a room." I didn't, and if I hadn't pulled night duty in the F.O.E. Cantina I don't know what I'd have done. They did me more of a favor than I did them. A cosmic sized Thank You to all concerned.

So if you plan on coming to MediaWest next year, we may have to start an all new bachelor pad.

No, the women of fandom aren't out to clip a guy's wings. Most of them aren't anyway. But there are times when I feel out of the loop. I doubt it's anything they are aware of, but there are some subtle mechanisms of this female society that are hard for a man to interface with. Hard, but not always impossible. I'd rather be with this crowd than hang out with the mundanes.

Maggie Nowakowska: Tatooine is a frontier world far away from "the bright center of the universe." Given the hostile nature of the terrain, water, and natives, death would be a more common occurrence there than on one of the more "civilized" worlds. Luke has probably looked Death in the face numerous times before we first saw him.

I can easily imagine Leia and/or Mon Mothma writing a paper, initially for the High Command but eventually leaked to everyone in the Rebellion, on the topic of "What Are We Going To Do Once We Win?" Being an educated woman, surely Leia must be aware that she and other leaders of the Rebellion could become "dangerous" at the end of the war? Would there be any way to prevent/prepare for this ahead of time?

The term *anti-hero* has been misapplied by most of the people I've heard use it. My dictionary lists it as "a protagonist who lacks the attributes that would make him a heroic figure, as nobility of mind and spirit, a life or attitude marked by action or purpose, and the like." Homer Simpson is more of an anti-hero than Dirty Harry.

Greedo ambushed Han and threatened him at gunpoint, so I have no problem with Han blowing him away from under the table. I'd take it *very* seriously if someone pointed a gun at me.

Gerald Crotty: If you have any idea how we might be able to view a copy of "Return of the Ewok" let us know. I'm sure it would be quite popular at American conventions.

Yeah, that was my name in the letters page of *Superboy*. I've been a comics fan from way back, born & bred in the DC briar patch, though most of what I buy

today you would probably find too obscure. Mostly stuff from Antarctic Press, Dark Horse, and VIZ Comics. Besides the SW titles, does anybody here read comics?

I disagree that *Stargate* was without drama, wit, chemistry, or excitement, though it didn't excel remarkably in any of those categories. Rather, the movie was solidly *good* in all aspects, and was produced for a fraction of what the studios said it could be made for, and those are the movie's main virtues.

Jennifer Moore: I'm not jumping up and down yet, but *Star Trek: Voyager* shows a lot of potential. I've talked to a couple of friends who watched the first 3 or 4 episodes then gave up on it; the plots were retreads of past Trek episodes, they said. Perhaps, but the first season of *The Next Generation* was rife with the odor of *deja vu*, and it improved over time. I like the characters, and the music/visuals in the opening credits are beautiful!

I'd like to thank you and the others for letting me know that I was not alone in my initial awkwardness at MediaWest. I wasn't sure how that confession would be received.

Pat Nussman: Perhaps you should drop a note to Kevin Anderson on Fidonet and GENie, that if he *really* wants to know what long-time SW fans think, he should read *Southern Enclave*.

I read the *Young Jedi Knights: Heirs of the Force* by Anderson & his wife Rebecca Moesta on the bus to MW\*C this year. I enjoyed it. It had a reasonably good plot, though I think they talked down to the reader at times; the "young adults" this book was targeted for are sharper than they seem to realize. I understand that they are also working on a *Junior Jedi Knights* series, presumably featuring little Anakin. If a story doesn't feel right to me, I wouldn't want my (hypothetical) kids reading them.

Tina Bentrup: Han could probably be fitted into a cameo in the first trilogy. Perhaps Ms. Skywalker might need the help of a gypsy-spacer kid to smuggle herself & daughter to Alderaan.

Pat Grant: George Lucas didn't produce *Star Wars* as any sort of altruistic gift for us fans. By most reports he didn't expect the film to make that much money, either. He made SW for much the same reason that we write fan-fiction; because something inside of him compelled him to. That Lucas makes money out of SW shouldn't affect how we treat him. The fact that we do not should not affect how he treats *us*.

And Lucas *did not* do all the work to produce the Trilogy! He was vital to its inception, I don't dispute that. But if you tally up the individual creative contributions of the other writers & directors, actors, production artists, ILM ... heck, most of the people listed in the end-credits, Lucas comes in on the short end of scale. He didn't do it alone. The next time somebody trashes Han should we be

required to get Harrison Ford's approval?

Cheree: I'd be interested in George Takei as a presidential candidate, too. But he had to drop out of the '79 California Senate race due to some wild interpretation of an "equal-time" law that equated his appearances in ST as a political appearance. His opponents threatened to have *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* pulled until after the election. He could face something similar in a presidential race.

Question: if you use a scanner to feed these LoCs into your computer, do I still need to double-space? ((Ed: *It helps. The ideal copy to scan in would be double spaced and typed in Courier type — much as you have been sending yours in. It will read most anything except dot matrix but this format is the best.*))

Cheryl Pryor: Just what is it about Winter (the character) that sets you and others off? There's not enough to her to dislike.

Michelle Malkin: I had some idea of what you were trying to do with your "anti-male" comments, and I'm not angry. But I can't let a sexist/illogical comment go by me unchallenged, seriously meant or not.

"Girl-girl sex has a sweet innocent charm about it that's hard to explain ... especially to your wife." From the letters page of *XXXenophile* #5. I bring this up because I suspect that it has a corollary to "slash" fandom. I'm sure it's hard to explain to your husbands, also.

Louise Turner: \$25 happens to be a significant chunk of my take-home pay. Perhaps I'm the only tight-wad in fandom, but I'm more inclined to buy a zine the cheaper it is, and I'd rather not have to deal with overseas snail-mail. Finding an American publisher could lower costs and simplify distribution. Trust me on this.

Don't worry about re-inventing the wheel in zines. It's something we all have to do when we get here. Maybe some day one of us will get it right.

Hi\*Yo Silver, Away ...

## AIMS TO INSPIRE

Z. P. Florian  
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The best of the press — SE deserves an award, a permanent first place in this universe.

First of all, congrats to Golledge for her contract with West End. Well deserved.

To all: Hambly's SW novel is well readable. Luke fans will like it.

Kittle: I did catch *Voyager*. Neatly done, fizzled limply further on. Whitney wrote that the characters are great,

and they are, but the only one getting a remotely decent role is the Doc.

Palumbo: I inspired you? It would be arrogance to deny that I aim to inspire — what else is controversy for? But thanks. I need flattery, especially on gloomy, rainy spring days shortly after the Oklahoma bombing.

Fox: What, Weis offended by the Energizer Bunny? Hey, I wasn't and show me a more rabid Vader fan than I am (okay, forgive me, Veronica).

Golledge: Computer — buy a 386 IBM clone, 4 megs memory, nothing else but Windows and a mouse. Used, it should be around \$600, max.

Keeney: Drop me a large SASE. I'll copy the letters for you. And I am quite okay about vertical challenges: short is grand. Re flattery, read above. The weather is still gloomy.

Blaes: Okay, so tell me, why didn't the Ewoks peel Han and Luke before cooking? At least us poor girls would've seen a bit of skin, after Leia wearing next to nothing for *your* pleasure. But, yes, she is kinda skinny. And yes, I think men would be able to carry a child to term. After all, they are the ones who served time in the military since the beginning of time and carrying all the equipment wasn't any easier than carrying a baby. As for galactic lingerie, you might as well grab a pen and do something just in case there will be a *Garbage* #2. (A female Hutt in silk stockings?)

Whitney: Oh, sure, Vader was plotting against the Emperor from the beginning of time. Rule the galaxy as father and son — he needed all the help the boy could give him. And when it came to the final confrontation, he left the Galaxy in the boy's hands. His turning was not a surprise — it was rooted in his character.

Zahn: Where do I get the time/energy? To be honest, the praise should go to the federal government. While I was working in the private sector, whenever I was done with my work, the boss said, great, you can go home early. Now, no matter how fast I am done, I have to sit out the eight hours. Guess what, I fill the time with SW. My co-workers think I am insane but who cares? Let them stare. Your German does not suck. Oh, well, I don't believe either that Lucas really intends to do any movies — all he wants is a line of computer games and related toys for teenage boys. As for Luke learning to flip Bantha burgers ... you think I wouldn't let the poor boy retire, tend his gardens and forget about the whole shimmering mess of dead Jedis? I don't have a very high opinion about governments in general, and Luke wouldn't find his place in any new one, either. He is a warrior, not an administrator.

Taero: I don't think Yoda told Ben much. When Ben said, "This boy is our only hope", Yoda answers, "No, there is another." Perhaps Ben didn't even know that Leia

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was the twin sister or was he just really dumb and forgot it in the heat of the moment? Wow, this is a great idea! Write it!

Mink: Newbie? You have been here long enough, even if not in person. What you wrote about the Jedi was very much on target. The words used were words of fear (sorcery, mind trick, etc.), and just look what Bib Fortuna said, "Rather bargain than fight? He is no Jedi!" What does that tell us about the reputation of the Jedi? Using the Force only for defense? Just what the heck did the Jedi do to acquire this reputation? Or — being an expert propaganda worker myself — just how good did the Imperials do in discrediting the Jedi?

Harris: What a question! Of course Vader is a romantic hero. What else? Tall, dark and handsome, imprisoned behind a black armor, feared by everyone, lonely in his majesty, waiting for his chance to eliminate the Emperor and bring peace to the Galaxy, lost his wife, his babies ... how much more romantic can he get? Okay, he is not cute, but this is not a Harlequin universe.

Nowakowska: Of course Han smuggled *everything*: blacklisted reading tapes, stolen computers, anything that needed to be smuggled. Spice, too. Re the fragile Luke: the guy used to hunt womprats from his little flying machine, like the brave hunters shooting deer with machine guns from a jeep. He was going about on Tatooine with a rifle and I have no doubt he'd use that rifle on any Tusken Raider he can shoot. He is raised on a planet that was full of dangerous lifeforms. As a kid, he was probably throwing stones at the Sarlacc. A certain level of violence must have been very natural to him and he definitely had no inclination to consider the Jawas a suppressed minority. He wasn't raised an artist or prince: he was a frontier farmer. Re your remark, of one needing to know that good could be pulled out of evil, otherwise we'd all despair — thanks for putting it so well. I was searching for this truth and couldn't come up with more than a vague feeling.

Malkin: Yes, yes, yes. It was very wrong to have Leia advise Luke to run away! Run away??? Run? Away? That, from a girl who withstood the mind probe? Who faced Tarkin and Vader with insults? Who packs a gun and directs Rebel pilots to blow up Death Stars? I'd like to see someone write a story where Luke answers to her advice: "Oh, yeah, you're so right, sis. I'm going to pack my bags and travel to Ord Mantell. Look me up in the Honeybunny Inn when this whole Death Star business is over."

Finally, to the lowlife who write that I am Yoda, because short am I and grammar I use inverted, let me you warn that the next x-wing I of the swamp raise will on your head be dropped! Of my stature you may joke but to my grammar a large respect I demand!

## OLD AND NEW

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June 14, 1995

Greetings from Twinsburg, the Twins Capital of the World! During most of the year, Twinsburg is a quiet community but for 3 days every August, twins from all over the U.S. and many other countries gather here for the Annual Twins' Days Festival. Twinsburg is only 17 miles from downtown Cleveland but it has a small town atmosphere. A large dairy farm adjacent to my 5-year-old development gives the area a rural flavor. It is an interesting mix of old and new.

I'm a mix of old and new, too. I'm an old SW fan whose interest was newly rekindled about a year ago. A few "old timers" might remember that I wrote LoCs to SE for about 2 years during the Great Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke controversy.

I found the wonderful characters and classic story very appealing when I first saw SW in April of 1978. I loved *all* of the characters but Luke Skywalker has always been my favorite. I didn't discover fan fiction until late 1983 or early 1984. I was shocked by the viciousness of the attacks on Luke by the Church of Ford in SE and I became one of his defenders. Even after that nonsense ended, more and more of the fanzines began to contain Dark Luke stories or stories where Luke was killed off or portrayed as very weak. In others, he had only minor roles or was excluded altogether. Fanzines were also becoming more expensive and I figured it was silly to pay for zines whose contents (for me) were depressing, irritating, or disappointing. So I stopped buying them and for 6 years I didn't read any SW fanzines or letterzines. I didn't even watch the films. My interest in SW was resparked when I read *Truce at Bakura* by Kathy Tyers. I enjoyed it very much and, after reading it, I suddenly had the urge to reread Ellen Randolph's books *A New Challenge*, *Revenge of the Sith* and *Sanctuary*. (I highly recommend these fan fiction books to anyone who hasn't read them! They are *wonderful*!) Very soon after that, the SW trilogy was shown at midnight on 3 consecutive nights in a local theater as a fund raiser for a children's hospital. After not seeing them for 6 years, I found them surprisingly fresh and magical and I was hopelessly hooked on SW again! (I was amazed at the huge crowds that turned out for these midnight showings. Three large theaters were sold out every night!) I started buying zines and SE again. I was planning to simply "listen in" and not actively participate in SE, but I decided

that if I could survive the Church of Ford, Cathedral of Luke war, I could survive anything! I'm not a fanzine editor, author or artist; I'm only a consumer. I hope you don't mind "hearing" from someone who is not involved in fanzine production.

Thanks to a friend who shared her copies of SE with me, I've read most of the back issues. I have lots to say after 6 years away from SW (about 8 or 9 away from active participation in SE), so I hope Cheree won't get too upset if I take up more than my share of her letterzine!

First of all, Cheree, my sincere condolences on the loss of your father. I lost my own father to colon cancer almost 2 years to the day of your father's death. (April 4, 1993.) I understand your feeling of loss.

Thank you, Ming Wathne, for your comments about using abbreviations without first spelling them out! As one newly returned to fandom, I have found some of them very difficult to decode. I missed the issue where JAMs and CLMs were defined and I found myself struggling to figure out the puzzling letters until someone finally (mercifully!) spelled out the meaning.

Michelle Malkin: In the *SW Insider*, Production Editor Sue Rostoni and Continuity Editor Allan Kausch said that canon includes only the screenplays, the films, the radio dramas, and the novelizations. Apparently, they (Rostoni and Kausch) use and update *A Guide to the Star Wars Universe* by Bill Slavicsek which contains a timeline of the SW events. This now seems to be the "official" timeline, and the West End Game Books and the novels now seem to follow it. I know that a lot of people have been discussing the ages of the characters again recently. According to Slavicsek's book, Luke and Leia were 18 during *SW:ANH* and Han Solo was 29. Ben Kenobi was 60; Darth Vader was 55. Also, to answer Belea Keeney's question about time between movies: TESB takes place 3 years after ANH and ROTJ takes place almost a year later. If Luke looks older than 22 in ROTJ, that's not surprising. Given all that he learned and experienced in a very short time, and with all the physical, emotional and spiritual trauma he went through during and after TESB, it makes sense that he would age beyond his years as he also grew in wisdom and maturity. (...and Gerald Crotty, I'm one person who *does* think that Luke looked like a teenager in SW. I was surprised to find that Mark Hamill was 24 during the filming.)

If we *do* follow Slavicsek's timeline, it is true that Darth Vader would have been about 37 when he fathered the twins. This does not seem like a "very young Jedi" to us, but perhaps people live longer in that far away galaxy than we do, so perhaps 37 is considered young there. (In Ellen Randolph's universe, a normal life span is 120 years, for example.)

I noticed that rather recently there was a lot of

discussion in SE about the possibility of Luke being sterile. Surprisingly, many folks seemed to feel that this would be a good thing. Very frankly, I wholeheartedly *DISAGREE!!* Marti Schuller, I think that this started with your stories. I know that you write about a sterile Luke. You are a very good writer and you do wonderful characterizations! I have enjoyed *most* of your stories. (The exception being "The Emperor's Revenge" — though I must admit it touched me deeply.) However, I really feel that you're wrong about this being a good thing for Luke "because it will keep him from getting distracted from his important life's work." If Leia, who is head of the New Republic (and as much a slave to duty as Luke is) can have a husband and children, then Luke, who just has a few Jedi students to worry about, should be able to find some time to devote to a family as well. It is possible to have both a career and a family. I think that if Luke is allowed to have personal happiness with a wife and children, it would make him a better, stronger, healthier Jedi Master, not a weaker one. In Ellen Randolph's short story "Changeling" in *Sanctuary*, Luke at age 88, father of four, and grandfather of many, wrote a letter to his wife while on an extended trip. He said, "My Jessalyn, I would have had a very bitter and empty life without you." I think that would be true. Without the joy, humor, compassion, laughter, and balance that a family would provide for him, Luke's life *would* be bitter and empty. Some fans have been complaining about the rather grim, two-dimensional Luke that was portrayed in some of the pro novels. I think part of this comes from the fact that the human, feeling side of Luke was missing. He was Jedi Master only in some of the books and all work and no play *would* make for a rather grim Jedi ... and for Luke, I don't think "play" would be enough. He would want to share a commitment with someone. Having a partner with whom he could share his life and his work would make Luke's life easier, not harder. I truly believe that! A family would lift his spirits from the immense burdens of being a Jedi Master. I do think that Luke would probably not marry until later in life (mid-thirties anyway) because he would want to train some Jedi Knights first. When he has others who can help with the teaching, he would probably feel more comfortable starting his own family, but he shouldn't have to deny himself personal happiness forever. Luke deserves to be happy. I hope George Lucas plans to give him a wife and children in the future. Besides, what a waste of good genes it would be if Luke doesn't have children! (...and I'm hoping to see a good father/son relationship between Luke and his offspring in the third trilogy someday!).

I must admit though that poor Luke's experiences with women so far in his life (in films and novels) could easily make him a prime candidate for a psychiatrist's couch or cause him to swear off women *forever!* As a teenager,

Luke was ridiculed by Camie. The princess of his dreams ended up being his sister. He was attracted to Gariel Captison for whom Jedi Knights are somehow contrary to her religion. A witch tried to "capture" him. Mara Jade wanted to kill him. Jem died protecting him. And *then* he fell in love with Callista who died physically before he was even born! Not exactly a great track record! As if that weren't enough, if Luke *really* wanted to feel depressed, he could remind himself that his own mother chose to keep his sister and send him away! Yes, the poor boy has definitely had his problems with women!

Seriously though, I really *do* wonder why Leia remained on Alderaan with her mother while Luke was sent to Tatooine. Was it because Luke resembled his father too much? Did Luke have a stronger Force potential which caused Ben Kenobi to fear that he would be discovered unless he was sent to a faraway rimworld? Did Yoda foresee that Luke would be the catalyst that would eventually bring about the Emperor's fall, and so wanted him out of the public eye? Was it simply easier for a boy to be passed off as a farmer than a girl? Any other ideas, anyone?

I also would still like to know why Owen and Beru were willing to foster Luke. This was really a rather dangerous child to have around if the Emperor discovered him. What was in it for them? The only thing that makes sense to me is that one of them *must* be related to the twins. Ben Kenobi and Owen are brothers. Ben could also be the grandfather of the twins (mom's father) or Mom's older brother. Or Beru might be the sister of Anakin Skywalker or of the twins' mother. Does anyone have another idea about why Owen and Beru Lars were willing to accept the awesome risk and responsibility of raising Luke Skywalker? Just another thought ... perhaps Beru was desperate for a child and Owen acquiesced because the child would make his wife happy and keep her company in a harsh, lonely environment and please brother Ben at the same time.

Maggie Nowakowska: I'd like to discuss your question about Luke's reaction to seeing the charred remains of his guardians. First of all, to me, Luke seems to be a person who feels deeply but doesn't often show those feelings on the outside to a great degree. Also, the George Lucas Style of Storytelling doesn't allow for long emotional scenes. (I'm really surprised that he filmed that touching death scene between Luke and his father.) Lucas is more interested in getting to the action as soon as possible. Even though we didn't see Luke cry on-screen, that doesn't mean he didn't do it or didn't feel like doing it. I think the death of his guardians affected Luke deeply. The SW radio dramatization (which is also canon) showed a far more devastated Luke. Here are a couple of examples. Ben: "Easy, Luke. Take it easy." Luke: "There was practically

nothing left of them! Oh, Ben, you could hardly tell they'd been human beings! They were all I had, the only family I ever knew in my whole life! And when they needed me, I wasn't there!" Later, as Luke is driving the landspeeder and he keeps drifting off course, Ben says, "That's the third time you've strayed Luke. If you're tired, I could take over the controls." Luke: "No, no ... it's just ... I can't get it out of my mind, Ben... What they did to my uncle and aunt. I see it over and over..." When Ben died, we briefly see Leia trying to comfort a deeply saddened Luke before he is called to action by Han. In the rescue of the princess, the space battle, and later the battle against the Death Star, everything happened so fast that there wasn't much time for thought and reflection about the reality of what was going on. I have always felt that the night after the destruction of the Death Star would probably have been a very difficult one for Luke Skywalker. I doubt that he got much sleep as full realization hit him about the significant loss of life, both friend and foe, that day and his own part in it.

However, I also feel that life on Tatooine *was* difficult and often even violent. Teenager Luke Skywalker didn't leave home without a weapon. Obviously, the sandpeople were dangerous and likely to strike without provocation and Luke mentioned to 3PO something like "sandpeople or worse". So Tatooine was not exactly a peaceful planet. Danger and violence were not unknown there.

Tina Bentrup: I'd like to address some of your questions. (1) The ice creature probably wasn't necessary. Luke could have been zapped by the Imperial probe droid (although the damage to Luke would probably have been worse!). George Lucas *likes* creating aliens, though, so I think he used the Wampa just to please himself (and to explain the slight difference in Luke's appearance due to Mark Hamill's car accident). (2) I don't think Vader actually thought Luke was aboard the *Falcon*. Vader was already well-acquainted with the *Falcon*. He had seen it aboard the Death Star; he knew Han, Luke and Leia had escaped the Death Star in it; and the *Falcon* was responsible for the damage to his TIE fighter which sent him spinning away from the Death Star, giving Luke the opportunity to fire his torpedoes and destroy the Emperor's toy. Vader was interested in capturing his son and he intended to use the *Falcon*'s occupants (his son's friends) as bait to lure Luke into his trap. If by lucky chance Luke happened to be aboard, so much the better, but I think his immediate goal when he saw the *Falcon* was to obtain bait for his real prey. As Lando said, "Vader's set a trap..." (3) As to how Luke knew where Dagobah was, I think he was guided there through the Force by Yoda. In the radio dramatization, Luke says to Artoo, "I know it's not on the charts! I'm not even sure how I found it!" Later he says to Yoda and Ben (when Yoda seemed reluctant to train



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Luke), "If I can't do it, if I'm not worth, then why was I brought here?" (4) Vader *did* lose the *Falcon* for a time in the asteroids.

I agree with you, Tina. I want to see Coruscant also! If the upcoming films *are* "different in tone" from the originals, I hope they won't be totally without humor, friendship, or hope. If so, they wouldn't be SW films, at least as far as I'm concerned!

**Belea Keeney:** You said that your interest is now focused on the prequels to ANH. Maybe it's because I was away from SW for such a long time, but I actually have only a little interest in what happened *before* ANH. I really wish that Lucas would make the sequels instead. I want to know what happens to Han, Luke and Leia in the future, and I want to meet *their* children.

**Liz Sharpe:** Hi! Did you ever write the sequel to your wonderful story "Command Performance"?

Does anyone know whether or not Chris Jeffords ever wrote her *Brightstar in Glory* novel and, if so, where I can get a copy? Was the bibliography of fanzine stories ever produced? I would really like one! Does anyone happen to know whether the members of the old Church of Ford still believe that Han Solo is a secret Jedi Knight and Luke Skywalker is not a Jedi at all?

I have read good and bad fan fiction and good and bad pro fiction. I see nothing wrong with being honest about sharing your reactions to either. I am always interested in hearing other fan's opinions about the recent pro fiction. I hope you don't mind "listening" to mine. Unfortunately, I have a lot of "catching up" to do, so this will take a while! If you haven't read the pro fiction yet, you will probably want to skip the rest of this LoC.

Unlike most fans, I didn't like *Dark Empire* very much. I felt it diminished and negated too much of ROTJ and, except for a few quibbles, I basically liked that film. I also thought DE portrayed a Luke who was far too grim and cold. His personality underwent a huge change between *The Last Command* and DE, and only a very short time elapsed between the two. Certainly there was not enough time or enough reason to explain the change. I especially did not like the return of the Emperor. I feel that dead characters should remain dead! (...and just *how* did he manage to transfer to a clone while he was falling in the shaft and the Death Star was being blown to bits?!) I liked Dave Dorman's cover art, especially for books 1, 2 and 4 and the collection but I didn't care too much for Cam Kennedy's work. He does wonderful spaceships but the characters bear very little resemblance to their onscreen counterparts and I don't find the monochromatic coloring appealing.

I thought DE started off very well. The first book was exciting and intriguing. However, the story became rather disjointed in the later books and the "ending" was very

unsatisfying. Very little was really resolved. Obviously, there will need to be a DEIII. One thing I wondered about was why Yoda or Ben never seemed to know about all of the Force sensitives on Ossus. The cover of the "whole gang" of book 6 was quite spectacular! I'd like to have a print of that cover!

I basically liked Timothy Zahn's books. (I guess I'm in the minority here, too.) I actually liked them better the second time I read them than I did the first. (Yes, I *actually* read them twice, once when they first came out and then again last summer after I became interested in SW again.) I didn't like the idea of the trees as the source of the New Republic's information leak. A traitor in the New Republic, like Admiral Ackbar or General Madine (I never *did* like him much) would have been more exciting, I think. I didn't like Mara Jade either. I'm glad Luke didn't end up with her. I also feel that the books would have been better if Zahn had been permitted to do what he originally wanted to do: He had wanted the Joruu C'Baoth character to be a clone of Ben Kenobi. I think that would have been more interesting, more powerful, and more effective, because of the impact that would have had on Luke. The rest wasn't bad.

I very much enjoyed *Truce at Bakura*. It had good characterizations and a good story. I even liked her (Tyers') original characters. I liked *The Courtship of Princess Leia*, too. The witches were a bit much and Han Solo's characterization was weak early in the novel, but I liked the discovery of the Chu'unthor, the action, and the fact that Luke finally got to use some of his Jedi skills in this book. (That's one of my biggest disappointments about much of the pro fiction: Luke Skywalker is only rarely shown using his many Force talents. I would particularly like to have Luke be given the opportunity to use his gift of Future-sight. Even if the future is always in motion, Luke's ability to see into the future should be one of his strongest talents, I think. Even early in his training on Dabobah, Luke demonstrated the gift of "seeing" glimpses of future events. I wish more pro writers would have Luke actually *use* this special talent!)

Anderson's *Jedi Academy* trilogy was a disappointment for me. He had too many characters and too many plot ideas and he didn't handle any of them as well as he could have if he would have deleted some of the characters and plots, and expanded upon and improved the ones he left uncut. He had some good ideas, but they got lost as he over-indulged himself. (That whole holographic zoo chapter was ridiculous and unnecessary, for example.) Anderson seemed to care more about his original characters than he did about the Lucas characters. I also do not share Anderson's ideas of what a Jedi Academy or Jedi training would be like. He made the whole thing overly-mystical and stressed the mental side of the Force. What



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about all the rigorous physical training Luke experienced under Yoda? That seemed to be almost totally missing. Luke himself was rather a monklike, hands-off person. It all seemed rather wrong somehow and the whole Exar Kun thing with Luke in stasis was really weird. What I objected to most of all though was having Han Solo go off after Kip. *That* should have been the job of the Jedi Master. Since Luke knew the terrible consequences of a Darksider on the loose in the Galaxy, I think *Luke* should have been the one to go after Kip when he left with Mara Jade's ship. In my opinion, after what happened with his own father, Luke Skywalker would have been extra wary and very concerned about unleashing a new Dark Lord on the Galaxy. It should have been the Jedi Master's responsibility to deal with Kip.

I enjoyed Barbara Hambly's *Children of the Jedi*. She was rather excessive in her descriptions (a friend said she was surprised Hambly didn't describe exactly what Luke threw up in zero-g!), and she had too many aliens, but I basically liked her story. I chuckled when I read about all of the injuries to Luke because they reminded me very much of the treatment of poor Han Solo by Carolyn Golledge in her stories. (I *do* enjoy your stories, Carolyn!) I guess it was Luke's turn to have his body trashed! The best thing about her book, though, was her human portrayal of Luke Skywalker. In far too many books, he has been very two-dimensional, a Jedi Knight only, sort of experiencing life vicariously through his sister and her family. Hambly showed a more complex Luke, a *human* Luke. Some of his childhood memories were shared, and she finally found a girl for Luke! I loved Callista, her background, her personality and her physical appearance. She's a special girl. I just wish she hadn't started out as a computer voice! The ending was magical and lovely, just like in fairy tales. Barbara Hambly has been signed to do another SW novel, but it won't come out until spring of 1997. I wonder if Callista will get killed off or if there will finally be a wedding for the Jedi Master? (Of course, I'm hoping for the latter!)

In my opinion, the worst SW book was *The Crystal Star* by Vonda McIntyre. (And it was the one I had most eagerly awaited!) I thought the story was dull and unimaginative and most of the book involved the Solo children. The kids were about the only intelligent characters in the entire book! As one who reads about 200 children's books a year (I'm a first grade teacher), I prefer to have adults as the main characters in the novels that I read. The characterizations were very bad, in my opinion. Leia didn't progress at all in Jedi skills and she didn't seem to be in control of herself. She was angry with poor Chewie when the kids were kidnapped, even though he nearly lost his life trying to protect them! Han Solo's character regressed. He only seemed interested in

drinking, gambling, and former girlfriends. Luke Skywalker was portrayed as a whimpering, selfish, violent, weak-minded fool who was totally lacking in self-control. He hardly seemed like someone you could leave alone without a keeper, let alone allow them to train future Jedi Knights! He started to draw his lightsaber on Han at least twice in this book, and he broke almost every rule in Yoda's Jedi rulebook. Does this sound like a Jedi Master? Does this sound like Luke? And if Rillao and Hethrir were strong Jedi, active during Yoda's time, why did Yoda tell Luke he was the last Jedi? IMHO, this was a *very* bad book!

So far, I am enjoying the *Corellian Trilogy*. The characterizations are good, the story is exciting, and there is humor too. (I loved Lando's scheme for getting "deep pockets"!)

Cheree, I am sorry that this letter turned into a monster. I am also sorry about being so late with this tome, but work (in this case report cards and end-of-the-year records) had to come before "play" (this LoC). Tomorrow is the last day of school! Have a wonderful summer, everyone!

## RECOVERED YET?

Amanda Palumbo  
PO Box 397  
Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

June 25, 1995

Hello, all and sundry — recovered from MWC yet? Those who hadn't attended are probably wondering just *what* the brouhaha's about. Well, I recently learned *why*. So many people/activities, so little time... 15 ft. snake-stroke sessions, getting nerf-whipped at the FOE Cantina Friday Dance with these long, psuedo-sabers, 3 a.m. discussions on theology and philosophy with an ex-NUN dressed as a DS9 "vedek" (ST religious leader), meeting terrific correspondents, shaking blooms off the poor trees in the hotel courtyard harmonizing with another SW balladeer post-midnight ... hey, where else can one participate in either a quarterstaffing or fencing class given by two extremely generous people outside? (Thanks, Dora, and your unknown master-in-crime!) Never mind those enshrined *doors* ... all this merely the tip of the Hothberg during an abbreviated day and 1/2 stay! Now I know!

Marti: Nice to meet at last! Gee, and I was sooo looking forward to watching SW and Indy on that widescreen TV — thought you were bringing it in the U-Haul for zines. Congrats on the Star Awards! Say, doesn't New Year's start in May, by your time reckoning?

See, it'll be uphill from here.

Cheryl Pryor: Oh, your door just said it *all* — hope you saved and framed that sucker! You and Lin ... her *hat* should've won a prize. Yes, the Igneous Rock Cafe shirt fits — already have been asked to explain it (...in three sentences or less? *How?*). How's the store?

Debbie Kittle: Yours and Z. P.'s exhibit is more than a doll show. Does the Museum of Natural History/Wonders know about this? When's the national tour? Hey, what happened to that lil slipper of Leia's? Really; you two should be staff consultants for the next trilogy! Have you acquired 2nd and 3rd jobs yet to pay for the next wave of collectibles firing our way? Oh, and have you amassed a munitions dump-sized pile of them "Han-winkie" cards yet? You and your filks — nearly fell into the loo reading them! This year's bumper crop of zines really reflect the pro books' impact on the scene. Overheard someone musing the possibilities of incorporating Marvel's runs' elements, too. \*sigh\*

Mary Jo: Legal Alliance Eagle just had to go and graduate MW weekend; whatta dilemma! Heard you'd donned ANH-era Leia regalia, eschewing traditional cap & gown; what's next? Camouflage for court? Nice to see *Snowfire* for sale in Judith Y.'s "Corellian Mall" — *better* be a #2 — have enough material up to #5 yet? Oh, what about *Threepio* proclaiming "warning, warning..." in the next Sci-Fi retro? Did you know that Droid TV is on 7am weekdays on the Sci-Fi Channel? Ariana and Erica are *still* searching for our gang; get the same question every five minutes. Yes, Brian's still threatening to tote axe & PA to Eclecti-Jam (hi, Kathy) but my keyboards will only be present if I can *somehow* reprogram them without spending 3 mortgage payments — you're the DJ; can ya fly the mixing board? Hmmm... Filksters/Musicians Strike Back? History certainly does repeat itself fen-wise. Yikes! The writing scene *must* change and/or evolve; who wants stagnation? Invite entropy? Personally, I'd like to see more fen-author collaborations; look at Wilson & Schuller's results! By the way, how's your end of that Rocky Horror/SW crossover coming? Bar exams, by virtue of the name, *should* be conducted in, say, Planet Hollywood at the next Dead Bothan meeting. Talk about support groups... Of course, that was Harlie in Boba's suit!

Tim: Ha! That's *your* opinion — the 5th! *Laser bidet*? Can I use that in one of my stories?

Louise: Run over Denis Lawson with your cycle yet? Tacitus' tome is now on my must-read list ... now, now — just because Qwi was *blue* (I'm never gonna hear the end of this) Luke's mated a la cyberspace COJ (I *did* enjoy it) — at least Wedge's first date was with a *breathing* humanoid! Since when can *any* seemingly fundamental concepts such as JAM/CML be reduced to polar categories? Shades o' grey... *Intolerant*? *You*? Those

unique viewpoints so *eloquently* expressed in letters ... so; what *century* is TOF II due out? Awaiting...! Whew, what a trip, you *incredibly* fortunate soul! And I thought Edinburgh's ruins the ultimate!

Matthew: Ah, the waxing and waning, then resurgence of fannish fire — like a true marriage, a continuous cycle. Big time concurrence with your observations/positions last issue. On the Yoda part, I've a question: with Ben as Anakin's mentor, wouldn't there have been references to Kenobi's teacher? He seems to be more involved with his students than the rather non-committal elder. Or, perhaps none thought Yoda could live that long? Is his age an aberration for the species, something to do with the Force? Or, if we start seeking absolutes in ages and continuity within the Saga, frustration is the probable result; one of SW's and other fantasies' charms has been the transmutability of various factors! And no, I'm not talking about character profile alterations, ignoring canon ... alternate universe scenarios are great for exploring "what if's" ... showing *your* age? Like, groovy.

Brian: Don't let them Texan Twisters carry ya off fer good — yep, another song's in the works; probably what blew the Korg Poly 800! Virus' infected the top board too! Looking forward to comparing musical notes at E#2, if I don't run into *major* interference on the home front. Yeah! Bring back Lumiya — sounded great! Cantina ... yes, I *am* thinking what you are ... last two letters *refracted* that on both sides ... Hawaiian Coconut or Banana Bean tonight? Oingo-boingo java!

Z. P.: Congrats on the resounding success of *Rest of the Garbage*. Re your musings to Marti last SE — why don't *you* write it? Also, since prejudice has a nasty way of blinding bigots to facts before their eyestalks, Kenobi perhaps wouldn't necessarily have recognized Vader's signature on the first Death Star — or anyplace else; Darth was literally over Obi-Wan's head back on Tatooine ... on that subject, if Leia (also overhead) was placed under his vigilance ... does *he* require a more tangible connection, despite a Force-manipulator? I too am a Hambly fan — how did you find COJ? Amazing exhibit: made paying holiday airfare rates even more worthwhile to the con! Were the inestimable Zornom around back in '69, ST couldn't have been bumped from its original timeslot! Do continue their impact upon this universe, please? A pleasure to meet you. P.S. — I hear WCIV is already on the boards and Hamill *will* be featured again.

Belea: Hi, and welcome to the SW Think Tank! Where did you find, if you did, female Imperial Honor Guards, since you must've checked it out for Louise. The PS and Letterbox/Widescreen Vader skulls on my sets are the same. Is it only the Laserdisc version that differs? Why don't you write that story you'd mentioned? Most of us have explored similar angles at one time or another; each

puts their own unique twists and flavor into it — happy writing! I look forward to reading it.

**M. J. Mink:** Another big welcome! My younger daughter seems to be following your pattern re falling for the “badduns” and she’s already 3. Since you’re grown up, do I seriously have to start fearing for her romantic future? Oh, Anakin’s helmet is equipped with a Cranial/Facialmaster! Liked your theory on Luke’s “tactile reconnaissance”. How could the Alliance indulge in the “luxury” of coddling *any* of their members/fighters? In addition, Luke himself didn’t term himself a Jedi until Endor, anyway, at least attire-wise. Just as important is the canonical fact that if Han hadn’t returned to clear Sky’s tail back in ANH, Luke would’ve been immolated and so much for the Return of the Jedi until next generation,

unless Leia was tapped, and her skills were needed elsewhere anyway. Luke’s the clearer slate. If anything, Han’s character evolution/change was pivotal! Yay for Solo!

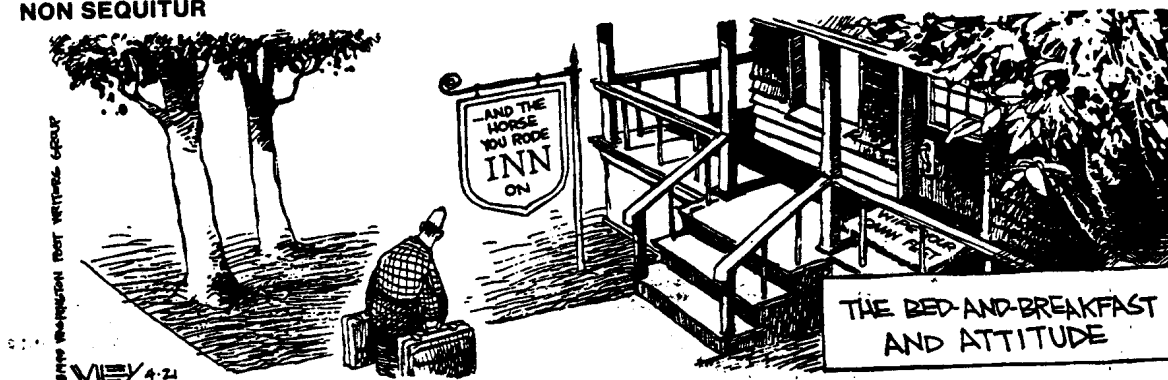
**Anybody and Everybody:** Hi, hello, and Cheree will kill me if I don’t sign off here!

**Cheree:** I’ve said it umpteen times and shall say it again: *Thanks for continuing SE and Tremor!* Laud and scads of applause!

**Judith:** Congratulations to you and Marti for such a wildly successful zine. People are falling in their respective johns all over while reading *I Don’t Care What You Smell!* Hope you get that artist to paint you a similarly astonishing fire-lizard vest!

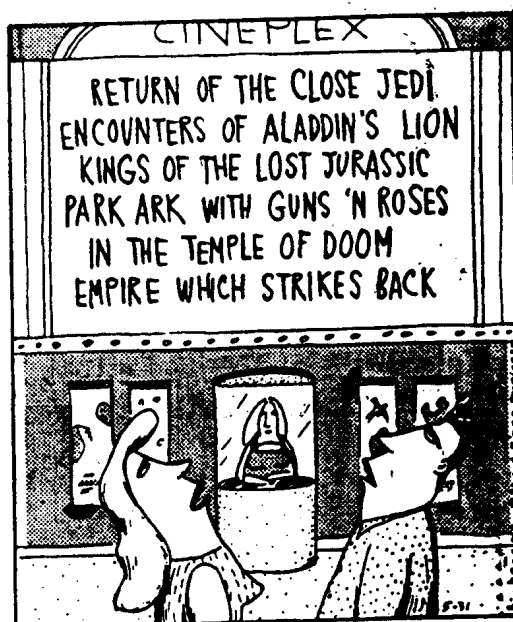
By Willey

### NON SEQUITUR

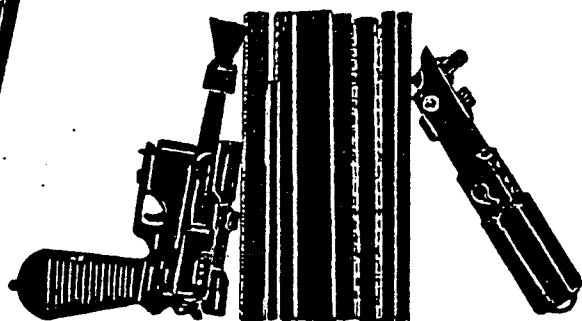


### THE QUIGMANS

By Buddy Hickerson



"Boy, that new Spielberg/Katzenberg/Geffen studio sure is taking some chances."



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**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

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**BLUE HARVEST.** Episode Six. Our best issue yet! Featuring everything you ever wanted to know about Wedge Antilles/Denis Lawson, the Marvel comix, collecting props, reviews, essays, and more. 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 3, 4 and 5 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 #4.** Winner 1994 Star Award — Best SW Zine. #1, 2, 3 available as reprints. 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.

**I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL!** Now available. 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, Guttierrez, Schuller and others! Plus poems by Wilson, and artwork by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Guttierrez, 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 #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, 109 West 85th Street, New York NY 10024-4401.

**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.

**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.** 1993 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.

**SNOWFIRE: Celebrating Princess Leia.** Now available... the maiden issue of SW fandom's only general Leia zine, featuring stories, filks, poems, and art by fans from around the world! Lineup includes Fox, Ghilan, Turner, Palumbo, August, Fredericks, and lots of new people! Color cover, spiral bound, approx. 100 pages. \$11.50 U.S., \$12.00 Canada, \$16.00 overseas. Please make checks or money orders payable in U.S. funds only to Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

**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.

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**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 heterosexual-adult Blake's 7 zine, first published in 1988, has been completely reformatted and reprinted. SB#1 features delicious adult stories about Avon, Vila and the rest by Liz Sharpe, Pat Nussman, Susan Matthews and more, with a cover by Karen River. \$15 first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd., Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required when ordering.

**STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #2:** B7 fandom's only hetero adult zine is back for a second issue with stories by Liz Sharpe, Ann Worham and Leah Rosenthal, Aurora, Judith Proctor, Michelle Moyer, Catherine, Liz Vogel, Irish, Kathy Moran, Vanessa Mullen, and Rhapsodie, plus art by Karen River, Leah Rosenthal, Phoenix, Leigh Motooka, and Val Westal. Color cover by Karen River. 100 pp., spiral bound. \$13.50 first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required when ordering.

**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 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 Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'?** — dedicated to Han Solo. SASE for information Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

## COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

**A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #9.** Still taking submissions until October 1, 1995. Material already accepted from Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Veronica Wilson, Marti Schuller, Pat Nussman, Z. P. Florian, Mary Jo Fox, Jacqueline Taero, Wanda Lybarger, MJ Mink, Donna Frayser and others. Color covers by Nancy Stasulis and Gerald Crotty. Other art by Wanda Lybarger, Z. P. Florian, Laura Virgil and more. Scheduled publication date: MWC 1996. SASE for submission guidelines. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

**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,

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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.

**IMPERIUM #5** is now open for submissions of fiction, art, poetry and filks. For more information on guidelines and all that, SASE Arwen Rosenbaum, 109 West 85th Street, New York, NY 10024-4401 or via e-mail to [ARWENR@AOL.COM](mailto:ARWENR@AOL.COM).

**MARKING TIME.** On a grey winter evening in 1994 a handful of brave and crazy (!?) fans thought that the time was right for a Mark Hamill Newsletter. They knew that it would not be easy but nevertheless they decided to put their plan into action... Now in the year 1995 we are looking for devoted and interested fans. This newsletter will concentrate on Mark Hamill and his career before and after SW. The newsletter will be available in both English and German, so contributions in English are welcome. For more information, write to: Marking Time, c/o Tina Lebelt, Fiensburger Str. 6, 19057 Schwerin, Germany. Please enclose a postal coupon and an addressed envelope with your letter.

**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 Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

**SNOWFIRE #2.** Still celebrating Princess Leia! This issue will feature a celebration of her relationship with Han, emphasizing *her* viewpoint. Of course, any and all other

kinds of stories, poems, art, filks, etc., about Leia are desired as well! Keep it positive and G to PG-13. Publication is planned for mid-1996. Deadline is 2/1/96. SASE for guidelines to Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

**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](mailto:Ashton7@aol.com).

**STRAIGHT BLAKE'S #3:** Now collecting straight adult stories for the third issue. I'm particularly looking for stories featuring Tarrant (missing from SB#2) and longer, plotted stories, as well as the ever-popular PWP. Deadline: February 15, 1996 for a MediaWest 1996 publishing date. For more information or to submit, contact Pat Nussman at 1612 Evergreen St., Sebring, FL 33870 or e-mail [p.nussman@genie.geis.com](mailto: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 piecees. 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

Gutierrez. 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 yellow shirts. XL only size left. Wolf t-shirt. White ink on black shirts. First come, first serve. \$5.00. 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.

**FANTASY PRINTS.** Art prints from the world of fantasy and fandom now available. B/W and color prints in various sizes. Suitable for framing. Makes great gifts for yourself or friends. Print subjects include: Dragons, fairies, elves; *Robin of Sherwood*, SW, B&B, *Prince of Thieves*, ST:TNG. Also offering notebooks, bookmarks, buttons, more. For a free catalog, write to: GLESQUE PRINTS c/o Sarah E. Glasgow, 888 N. First St., Suite 311, San Jose, CA 95124.

**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*, 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.

**ZS9: THE NEXT ZINE SALE.** I have *over 250* zines from ST, WOW, SW, UNCLE, ST:TNG, EQ, B:G, QL, B7, and other universes! Zines from Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, and Scotland! Please send a *large 2-stamped* SASE for list to Marilyn Reichman, 448 Neptune Avenue, Apt. 13H, Brooklyn, NY 11224.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Arwen Rosenbaum  
109 West 85th Street  
New York NY 10024-4401

Brian Harris  
1005 S. Josey Lane, Ste. 204  
Box 1246  
Carrollton, TX 75006



## SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill  
457 Meadowhill Drive  
Garland, TX 75043

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