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## Tales from the Cantina

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Recently completed *Showdown at Centerpoint*, and true to my SW resolution I did not pitch a hissy fit at those parts which caused an autonomic, involuntary wince. Rather, I gave a heavy sigh and continued reading, hoping to find a fleeting glimpse of the main characters I know and love. *Showdown* had a few moments. Not many, but it did have them.

MacBride Allen threw me a surprise plot curve. I would've put credits that given the close physical resemblance between Thracken and Han, there would be an identity/impersonation attempt ... either Thracken as Han or Han as Thracken. I thought I saw this plot twist coming from a parsec away. Why make such a point of the resemblance otherwise? Will admit to an *almost* hissy fit at the idea of the children flying the *Falcon*... until I recalled several articles in the N.Y. papers of children caught driving a stolen city bus and "borrowing" a subway train! Since starships are as common a transport vehicle for the Solo offspring, as buses and subways are to N.Y. kids, I suppose it could be possible.

Question: Why weren't Luke and Leia aware of their Jedi powers as children, the way Jaina, Jacen and Anakin are?

Overall, the Corellian trilogy wasn't bad, but neither was it particularly good. Just kind of blah, mediocre, average ... not the words one usually uses when describing SW. Once again, IMO, the pro authors fall short of the zine writers. With *Truce at Bakura* still the exception, the score remains in favor of the fan stories ... original, interesting, true to character, controversial, speculative ... all without losing sight of the SW universe.

This said, I'm turning right around and giving two lightsabers up for *Tales From The Mos Eisley Cantina*. I thoroughly enjoyed it, had all the qualities I just mentioned. The format reminded me very much of the *Vulgar Unicorn* series, different authors crisscrossing and interweaving each other's stories and characters to create a whole community. I'll never watch the cantina scene again in the same way. Aside from the main characters, it's now become a place of individual intrigue and subplots.

For those interested, some news on Harrison Ford. There will be two books coming out sometime before December. A new hardcover *Blade Runner* novel titled, *The Edge of Human* by K. W. Jeter and (drum roll ...

please!) *The Films of Harrison Ford* (it's about time!) by Lee Pffieffer. Advance PR stated that Harrison cooperated with the author in putting the book together. Of course, I couldn't let the letter go by without a good luck wish for Mr. Ford for the release of *Sabrina*. Those of us who find the actor "appealing", are in for a major thrill, I think, with this film. Though I have always stated that I would watch the man read the phone book for two hours, I will admit to some frustration over the run of serious, stoic characters he has played in his last few movies. *Sabrina* will give him the chance to once again showcase his comedic timing, his charm and seductiveness, yet with a sharp, hard business edge. Hmm-m-m, maybe this'll give us an idea of what Han would be like as he grew older.

Jacqueline Taero: As usual, you pose a myriad of SW conundrums to ponder. For the sake of SE's page count, I picked one, whether or not Yoda knew of Obi-Wan training Anakin. This could go in all different directions (that's what makes it interesting). Ben might have kept it a secret, eager to "surprise" Yoda with Anakin as a finished product. Or, Anakin might have asked Ben to keep the training a secret. One wonders, were Anakin and Ben friends before either knew about Jedis and the Force?

On the other hand Yoda might have known. Perhaps Ben was in training as a Jedi teacher-to-be and Anakin was his "assignment." Ben makes the statement that he thought he could train Anakin as well as Yoda. Did Ben overstep the lesson plan? Did Ben fail to keep Anakin from the dark side through poor judgement, lack of experience or arrogance?

A. G. Steyn: I'm with you on the Jedi children overdose. I accept the fact that Han and Leia would've become parents, but those three are entirely too precocious. Not to mention (but I will) that Han and Leia's childrearing techniques smack of too much Dr. Spock in the Alliance computers. Leia aside, the Corellian I know would look at his unruly, defiant, disobedient children and say, "Behave, before I blast you." (A Force salute to Samia Martz for the line of dialogue.) Also agree that the pro writers have filed down the sharp edges of Han's character. He became a husband and a father; he didn't have a frontal lobotomy. Perhaps he would've mellowed a bit, but I can't see him becoming a paragon of patience, sympathy and understanding.

Sue Zahn: Ahem, the polaroids are in *my* other coat. I didn't send you all that I had taken at MW. Foot massages, anyone?

If going "pro" means you wouldn't be writing your own SW stories, but only those dictated by George's restrictions and guidelines, then I promise I would personally show up at your front door and have you de-Lucas-ized! For me, your fill-in stories have become a *part* of the trilogy. As I watch the films, I "see" your scenes and events you've

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imagined and created to bridge the gaps in time. The stories ring so true and so perfectly capture the "feel" of the SW universe, they just drop right in like the last puzzle piece completing the picture. *Never* go pro.

Matthew Whitney (and Gerald Crotty): Agree on the book *From SW to JJ*. Loved the little tidbits of info, such as the miniature SW poster in the cockpit of Leia's consular ship. Plus the sharp, detailed prop photos are a godsend for those who costume.

Minky: About the lack of Rebellion interest in Luke as a Jedi... In ANH, no one really realizes that Luke is able to use the Force, do they? Except for Han and Leia, who else on Yavin knows Luke has Jedi powers? When he turns off the targeting computer, the Yavin base techs haven't a clue why and he just says, "Nothing, I'm alright" when asked what's wrong.

Louise Turner: You know, it's *okay*, to drift away from SW and enjoy another fandom. It's done all the time. People drift away and come back. Some never return. Those that do find the door always open. No one is going to pass around little Louise Turner voodoo dolls because you no longer eat, sleep and live SW, which is an exaggeration, I know. But SW fandom isn't a cult where one isn't allowed to find interest elsewhere. We won't banish or shun you. Heck, Louise, start writing that cross universe SW, Babylon story with Wedge caught in the proverbial (pick one) time warp, black hole, dimensional portal, space continuum rip and fly that Alliance x-wing right into Babylon Station. It's a good show. Awesome costumes, makeup, great political plots.

Tim Blaes: *Splinter of the Mind's Eye*. Mention of this SW story should remind people that griping about the pro novels is not a new phenomena in SW fandom. We were highly critical and most uncomplimentary of *Splinter* way back then. I believe the book was commonly referred to as a *Splinter in A Pig's Eye*.

About Winter... You may have answered your own question. Winter makes no real contribution; she doesn't affect the plot, doesn't emotionally interact with any of the characters. She's given no personality, no reason for existing. No past history. Just who *is* she that Han and Leia would so completely trust their children to her care? She seems to be a character created to help the author make the story flow better, but she has no intrinsic value of her own.

Marlene Karkoska: Welcome back (see, Louise) to SW fandom ... which is much more than fanzine production so don't label yourself as if you might not count. That disturbed me a little. Is that the impression we've been making in our letters and commentary? Is it that the subject just takes up a large percentage of the discussions? Either way, you *are* involved in fanzine production. I think I'm correct in stating that it's the readers of the zines

who make up the majority of SW fandom. Not everyone can be a writer or artist or editor (besides I understand you have to be certified insane before you can even start a zine). Through the readers, the editors and writers find out what works and what doesn't. You can influence the look, the style, the content of a zine. I call that involvement.

Bottom line though, you're a *Star Wars* fan, like the rest of us. If I may say so, Cheree, SE is not a Fanzine letterzine. It's a SW letterzine, right? Your thoughts and opinions, everyone's ... whether on fanzines or the breeding habits of mynocks are welcome and important. And that's all I have to say on that. I'll get off my soapbox now.

Z. P. Florian: "I take it back." *The Rest of the Garbage* was tastefully (for the most part) done and wisely, discreetly distributed. I predict a line down the hotel corridor outside your room when you're ready to give out #2. The stories were varied, some made me shudder, some made me sigh, one made me giggle. (That was the one that was not so tasteful, but very funny!). Even the author pseudonyms (to protect the not-so-innocent) were entertaining. After finishing my copy, I said, "That's good. You've taken your first step into a larger world."

Happy Holidays to all and to all May The Force Be With You.

## Growing up in hollyweird

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September 21, 1995

I hope most of you have seen the article in *TV Guide* about Carrie Fisher, "Growing Up in Hollyweird". Unfortunately I don't get cable, so I missed both her programs on A&E. This was the first I'd heard about the father of Carrie's child leaving her for another man! Whoa, bummer. On a more upbeat note, it looks like Carrie will have some part in scripting the next batch of SW movies. Lucas says he wants her to "enhance the woman's roles, such as Leia's mother." Yayyy!

I would disagree that using directory assistance to contact other fans over the phone is discourteous.

Jacqueline Taero: It could also be that Mrs. Skywalker was somewhere *between* a bitch and an angel. It is possible to be a basically good person and still make bad choices. Perhaps the reason she was so sad was because she really screwed up, and the whole mess was her fault.

Vader was probably put "under" Tarkin's command so that the Emperor could keep an eye on the Moff. If Tarkin

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steps over the wrong line he could have trouble breathing. It's also possible that Vader was being punished for some reason.

A. G. Steyn: Well, I'm interested in the "next generation", Luke & Leia's children especially. I'm not sure the pro books are handling them as well as they should, however. The idea of toddlers with control of the Force displayed in Vonda McIntyre's *The Crystal Star* is a little scary. And would every child of a Jedi want to become a Jedi also? And are all Jedi the warrior sort? If the last trilogy ever gets filmed, might we see the adventures of Luke Skywalker Jr., Jedi Accountant?

Marti Schuller: Not long ago my best friend's parents died, after she had to watch them deteriorate in a nursing home. I look at my mother and I wonder at the time and quality of her life left. There wasn't that much I could do for my friend, except listen to her talk things out.

Debbie Kittle: Thank you very much for the widescreen cards! Next MediaWest why not bring photos of past doll exhibits? Ideas for next year; Karaokie Night at the Cantina.

What might be mundane and just plain annoying to one person might seem like a grand adventure to someone else. So Leia might take her brother's tale of one of his least favorite days back on Tatooine and turn it into "Luke Skywalker and the Little Lost Bantha." The question is, would she leave in the part about the bantha calf pooping on Luke's boots?

Barbara Anderson: "Star Wars is like a pizza." I like it. SW used to be described as an onion (layers inside layers) but I like your analogy better.

Cheree: I'd like to go on record as saying than while I do like Zahn's books, I like the novels by Tyers & McIntyre better. Some fan fiction I've seen (not just SW) suggest that it is possible to focus too heavily on "relationships" to the detriment of the universe it's set in. On the other hand...

I met author David Weber at a con and became intrigued with his *Honor Harrington* series of political/warfare teamed SF novels. I didn't get very far into the first book before I had to set it aside. It wasn't that his book was devoid of interesting characters or plot. The title character was *very* interesting, in fact. It's just that I kept snagging on his "tech". I don't need four pages to describe how the weapons system works, just tell me who they're shooting at, and if they hit 'em or not. It would all probably make a better movie than a novel.

Either your scanner hiccuped or I screwed up on my hardcopy, because there is a *major* typo in my first paragraph to Pat Grant. It should read like this:

That Lucas makes money out of SW shouldn't affect how we treat him. The fact that we do not *should* affect how he treats us. An extra "not" got slipped in there and

totally flipped the meaning.

Matthew Whitney: The Jedi may have felt the need to develop universal terms in order to interact with the myriad religions and civilizations in their galaxy. The end result may have been the "religion" of the Jedi, as expressed through the Force.

A CD-ROM "book" offers a world the reader can explore and control at their own pace. But I expect more traditional, linear books will not fall out of use.

If Leia hadn't been rescued she would either have been executed as planned, or Darth might have saved her to turn her to the Dark Side; he may have sensed Leia's Force potential. If Kenobi had made it off the Death Star I'm sure he would have found the proper Rebel contacts eventually, and probably found the tracking device planted on the *Falcon*. I wonder how the attack on the Death Star would have happened then?

Maggie Nowakowska: I remember one evening from my first MediaWest; I was wandering around, feeling lonely, looking for anything to do. Then a large group of people came out of the elevator and I followed them out of curiosity. They all piled into a room and I hoped I might be able to join them. But before I had so much as peered into the room a woman popped up and said, "Sorry, private party." Slam! Things have changed alot since then, thank goodness. Nowadays there are plenty of open-door room parties, some of which will reach out and *grab* you if you are unwary enough!

If the Republic was the constantly morphing structure you suggest, the the rise of the Empire may have been completely within the "rules". And so might the Rebellion.

Yoda's perception of the Force is probably on a level far above Luke's, until he lives past 800, anyway. To be able to look around you, at the clouds, the bug crawling over your toe, the way the trees move in the wind, just *know* that "you can't get there from here." But the knucklehead apprentice your former student has foisted on you might, *if* he can keep the right mindset.

Louise Turner: I'm glad that you're a B5 fan; it's the best SF show to come down the pike in a loooong time. But I'm equally glad you haven't decided to dump SW fandom.

Before ROTJ I would probably agree with you that there wouldn't be too many instances where Imps & Rebels could mingle in a neutral setting. But after ROTJ it could be a whole 'nother story. The Old Empire has broken up into numerous little empires, some of which might be less hostile than others. And there might be a few neutral ports open up, where Imps & Rebels both are welcome — *if* they both behave themselves.

I was just teasing you a bit about your Ideal Romantic Hero. Any counterpart of mine would be just as impractical. Thinking back over the female characters that

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have attracted me, I'm surprised to realize how many could be considered psychotic!

I think it would be a great college project to try and duplicate Stonehenge, as faithfully as possible, using the same technology the original builders used. It might take a few years, but they wouldn't have to rope it off.

Liz Sharpe: Why was there so little SW art at this year's MediaWest Art Show? Because the fandom doesn't lend itself well to Slash Art, that's why. Successful artists know what sells.

Nancy Stasulis: I'm sure Maggie will get around to doing an official SW Fan History, but not unless she gets some help. I started my purely subjective chapter to add to this project, but I've had to postpone finishing it at the moment. As soon as things level out for me I'll finish it and send it to her. Any "fossils" in earshot should do the same.

Jennifer Moore: There was a long and short version of the Energizer Bunny ad. I think they could do another one, with Boba Fett & the bounty hunters. (Hey! There's another great name for a rock band.) ((Ed: *Anyone seen the new Energizer Bunny/Boris and Natasha commercial? It's hilarious!*))

Ming Wathne: About twenty years back or so, we had three cats dump litters on us almost simultaneously. Two were first time mothers who thought every kitten must be hers, so there was a lot of kitten-stealing going on. But the neighborhood we live in now has grown somewhat hostile to cats, so I'd just as soon that didn't happen again.

Gerald Crotty: With all the conflicting information between the movies, the novelizations, and the radio plays, how can they co-exist as canon? After ANH, Lucas cut any unused scenes from the published shooting scripts of TESB and ROTJ. I guess he got tired of people asking him to put back the Biggs scenes, or Han's scenes with Jabba in the docking bay. Ironic, considering his plans now.

Donna Frayser: Yeah, it would have been a real kick if Boba Fett had been revealed to be Ms. Skywalker, especially if it had turned out Vader was lying about being Luke's dad.

Z. P. Florian: I'm not much of an artist, so don't expect me to send you pin-ups of Hutt-babes in silk stockings (shouldn't that be singular, anyway?). I have put thought into this, however. You may have seen lingerie made of leather, lace, or even latex rubber. But if I were in a position to design sexy underthings, I'd experiment with chain mail. There are lots of textures to play with, depending on the size and weave of the mail, and I think it makes an interesting sexy sound when it moves. For those of you concerned about the weight, it could be made from the lighter metals, or even plastic.

Someone could probably fill a zine with alternative versions of what went on between Luke & Leia out on the Ewok Balcony, both funny and serious. I think what we

got was the sanitized version.

Marlene Karkoska: I'd like to see Luke become a daddy, too. One possible result of the prequel movies is that they will set up exactly who Mrs. Luke Skywalker will be, so don't blow them off before you see them.

I know I'm in the minority, but I'd like to see Mara Jade try her hand at romancing Luke. Okay, so most of the time we saw her, she acted like she was having permanent PMS, but that was because Emperor Pruneface twisted her mind. By the end of *The Last Command* Mara was another person, and we should take a look at who that other person turns out to be before dismissing her.

Amanda Palumbo: Yeah, you can use "laser bidet". I still wouldn't want to try one; they must be hell on hemorrhoids.

Metaphors be with you...

## Don't Judge a Zine by its Cover

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September 25, 1995

Hello, everyone!

Where did summer go? Hope it went well for everyone. Thanks for a great issue, Cheree, great photos from MWC, too! On to the LoCs:

A. G. Steyn: I agree about zine quality. The saying "Don't judge a book by its cover" really applies to choosing a zine. I remember when I started going to cons and seeing some less fancier zines, my thoughts were "what a ripoff", and kept on walking. I know better now! Meanwhile, I'm still shaking my head over that Ford fan's comment.

Marti: Thanks for the kind words! Now I just have to find time to put pen to paper. Amen about SW writers' influence on new writers. The other effect of their influence I've noticed is: I'm not sure I agree with this character's portrayal so I'll write about him or her this way and go on from there. Ditto about Cadfael!

Mary Jo: Thanks for "bellowing through the bullhorn." Well said! De nada about *Jundland Wastes*.

Debbie: Ditto about 1995 being a Bothan year. Believe her about the Vader comments, folks. I ingested enough caffeine to sustain enough of a comprehension level — I saw the scene, too. Be sure to phone her at 3 a.m. so she can tell you all the details. :) See you at the next con to look for Pogs!

Matthew: Oh, boy, how do I put this diplomatically? I,

too, had a rather "educational" encounter with Ms. Crispin. By that I mean, real humility is a true gift — she taught me that. I felt sad for her — she'll only enjoy success on a superficial level while a Michael Jordan or a Cal Ripkin will have enduring respect long after they're gone, all because of humility. My other reaction was, if success or a gift for writing or anything else does that to you, then keeping my size 7 feet planted on terra firma isn't such a bad place to be. (Nope, I still haven't bought one of her books, either.) All in all, a very useful lesson.

Tim: Yes, *Voyager* is going through the same "growing pains" as *Next Gen* did — especially with the *deja vu*. But you're right about the characters being likeable. I get a kick out of the Doctor!

You're welcome about your first MWC comment. I figured after I read it, hey, I wasn't alone! But I also agree with Maggie about controversial comments — we shouldn't be afraid to voice them as long as we don't get into personal attacks.

19 hours on a Greyhound bus?! You deserve the Medal of Honor!

Carolyn, Barbara, Bothans and Everyone: I enjoyed your comments about MWC! Where else does Christmas come early?

A hearty welcome to all SE Newbies! Congrats to Carolyn and Cheree on their well-deserved success! Congrats to the Star Awards winners!

Take it easy, everyone, and Stay Forceful.

## Social and Generation Gaps

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October 1, 1995

Gad, it's the end of September and I haven't even written my notes on SE 43. There's so much going on here ... sigh.

Jacqueline Taero: A number of the points you've brought up dangle me between looking at SW from a reality standpoint and simply accepting SW as symbol/myth/impressions of growing up.

From the latter point of view, the generation question is irrelevant, save in the relationship of young to old. From a more realistic angle, I suspect that the apparent lack of a generation gap between Luke and OWK is, in regards to the larger population, a bit more common than the gap between my young city friends and equally urban folks of 20/25 years ago. While my friends both grew up in LA, a city very much at the forefront of American social and

cultural changes, I also work with young people who grew up in remote areas of the West and, well, you're talking different planets between them.

There are so many people out there who are really not so different from their grandparents. (I was going to say: aside from the technology, but for a lot of people TV and telephones are the only technologies that are different between Then and Now.)

As for attitudes, I remember hearing a guy rant on once, back in mid-70s Seattle, about the coming revolution and how everywhere he went up and down the coast the young folks were rising. I asked him if he had ever been to the deep Midwest. He said no. I told him my opinion that, as the Midwest I knew was full of people who thought just like their grandparents, the revolution was not, indeed, coming tomorrow or even the next day. He was defiant; time proved him also wrong.

Oh, there are differences between then and now, but everytime I head eastward to the homelands, I am stunned by how much hasn't changed. Luke, likewise, grew up on a planet remote from the faster galactic core. And not only on a remote place but in a remote place on that planet. He was also a bit of a wonk among his social group, not a position known to bestow an deep understanding of the new and the hip.

Also, Owen and Beru appear to have known Anakin Skywalker, as well as Ben. They may very well have raised Luke with traditional ideas about life, the universe and everything. We can only speculate about the reach of galactic communications in the SW universe. Perhaps Luke didn't have access to the sort of cultural levelers that we have become accustomed to.

In support of that idea, it always struck me that while Luke at first puzzled over OWK's vocabulary (Jedi, lightsaber), once he associated the names with ideas he apparently understood (good guys, weaponry) he slid right into them.

Actually, when my friends and I first sat around talking SW, we speculated that it was Han's generation, rather than Luke's, that would be the cynical one. Although Han's generation grew up with the morass the Republic had become, they probably also grew up with the assumptions of the Republic despite the rise of the Empire (if you speculate Han as 30 in ANH to Luke's 20). Just like people who grew up in the 70s still learned the assumptions of "every generation does better than it's parents' generation" and "college guarantees a high-paying job" even though the economy was beginning its changeover from post-WW2 boom. And while Han's generation, as adults, would see the contrast between the cultural myths of the Republic and the newborn realities of the Empire, by the time Luke was 10, the turn over would be more thorough.

Hmmm, considering the way it had been accomplished,

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a lot of reconstructed nostalgia might even be going on for hipper younger folk to pick up on. Just look at the way people are romanticizing the 50s.

The elegant weapon business has never bothered me. Surrounded by ex-military as I am, I can appreciate such an assessment. OWK is a retired soldier. I can easily see him preferring a weapon that demands skill, interaction, and a fair chance; an elegant weapon of humane proportions as opposed to impersonal aerial bombing, napalm, assault weapons. What OWK may well be saying is that, as a man of war, he prefers direct confrontation to the Empire's blanket destruction ways.

Metaphorically, the difference may well be that philosophical difference between honorable confrontation and "just winning" (which is a choice I don't think our culture sees as a choice because our culture doesn't understand anything but winning, IMO); or between facing the consequences of one's acts/standing up for one's acts and blowing away the evidence to cover one's tracks. More simply, one's reaction probably depends upon how one views death and the morality of fighting. I tend to be very realistic on that subject: people will always fight over something and I'd rather there be attitudes toward fighting that encourage one-on-one combat and formalized weapons (limiting factors). As for Death? Well, no one avoids it finally and any number of versions of life hereafter depend upon on how one meets it (death before dishonor a la the nuns who taught me, death at dishonor a la the Samuri, death before lack of function a la the Romans, etc.).

Oh, I agree that the Sweet Mom vision of L&L's mother is less than challenging. But playing her to the other extreme seems too easy. Why not Mom as someone who made a big mistake herself, amidst positive actions and positive intentions, and subsequently paid the ultimate price? Much more interesting.

Maybe she got pregnant after she already knew better than to trust Anakin? I've known a number of women who have used pregnancy to try to control/change men. Maybe she did it because she wanted his kids and didn't care what he was becoming. Maybe the pregnancy was an accident (Gee, Ben, I was using everything I should; yeah, yeah, I know nothing's 100%, but I couldn't resist that body One Last Time...).

I want Mom hip deep in the politics, myself. I want her strong enough to be able to pull away from Anakin when he Goes South, and human enough to have to reconcile, within her soul and character, what she knows about him with her attraction to him. In other words, I want a Mom who thinks and feels.

Frankly, I don't think many kids would know about Alderaan's destruction, but then I don't think many adults would know, or would necessarily believe it. And those

that would, spacer people, would grow up with the chanciness of living in space and so might be more philosophically reconciled to such destruction.

That's the one problem I have with Alderaan's destruction as a Major Propaganda Device for the rebels. You might rally portside people who know about it through business or travelling relations, but whole land-based populations? Naw. I really don't think the mid-century fears of nuclear annihilation can be compared with Alderaan. If people these days have trouble believing that the WW2 holocaust happened (and have ignored the Cambodia holocaust, and aren't interested in interfering with the Balkan holocaust), I can more readily imagine that folks would consider such claims as Alliance propaganda until such time as they had a personal interest in knowing about Alderaan.

Which bring me to a favorite rant. Even in the fantasy science of SW, the distances are too great for massive cultural conformity. I think we all discussed this a few years back: is the Alliance a rebellion of worlds or is it a rebellion of space-oriented peoples, a galactic elite if you will?

A. G. Steyn: I tend to agree with you about all the emphasis on the kiddies in the pro stuff, but then, even when I was a kid I didn't like reading about other kids much. I wanted to read about grown-ups so I could take notes.

Marti Schuller: Hmm, I don't think my friends were complaining about a Luke able to express emotions when they gritched about "fragile Lukes." I think they were referring to a tendency to present Luke as either somewhat defeated by the irregularities of his heritage/life/current situation, or too overwhelmed by unfulfilled emotional needs to handle his family/emotional challenges well. As if a person can't be robust and sensitive at the same time, or optimistic and realistically aware. As you say, Luke is a survivor, and willing to fight for as many of his own terms as he can wrest from the path he's walking.

Mary Jo Fox: I'm glad you got a chance to read all the *Jundland Wastes*. I don't think the truly outrageous can be reported successfully — people just won't believe you short of publishing the damn things, and then you just look like someone who can't let an embarrassment die. Also, I knew most of the crazies in fandom back then. We all did; fanzine fandom wasn't that big and airfares were a lot cheaper so you met everyone at the yearly cons. You would watch someone whose obsession with being a BNF was pathetic and you learned compassion, or at least the ability to walk away and find your own excitement. And years later, it wasn't worth the effort to antagonize friends of friends all over again.

You're absolutely right that there will probably be quite a storm when the next trilogy finally reveals Lucas' take on

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his story. I don't think it's so much that we have to remember that it's just a movie, but rather that we have to remember that this is a highly personal movie and that a person's own interpretation is perfectly fine, whatever Lucas does. A little self-awareness will go a long way. Perhaps the SE that comes out after Episode 1 should have a banner reading, *Remember, the stuff that Really Ticks you off about anything, is telling us all a lot about Your personal buttons*. I never cease to be amazed on the BBS by all the people willing and able to rant on about how something on the shows IS IMPOSSIBLE! and how the writer doesn't even know his own characters and how THIS IS CRAP!, etc. Of course, I probably shouldn't be surprised; listen to all the people willing and able to tell others how they should conduct their spiritual lives...

Barbara Anderson: I like the idea of SW as pizza — sometimes not so hot, but always better than no pizza!

Michelle Malkin: Re: humor in Everything. Sometimes I think one of the biggest mistakes western religions made was to drop the notion of the holy fool/clown. IMO, one of the West's biggest sins is hubris and all its religions could use a good laugh every once in a while. Maybe we need an Energizer Bunny commercial about EB and the Pope, or the Archbishop of Canterbury, or an Iman or two; maybe the pope and the archbishops and the imans need it even more! I say it's a mark of health on Lucas' part that he can laugh at his own creation.

One of the favorite phrases in the local group is "The Force has a baaaaad sense of humor," by which we mean to remind ourselves to laugh at adversity.

Matthew Whitney: On the language problem, I think the best rule to follow is, if it sounds natural/understandable, then you've used your "new" word in a correct setting and in a correct way. If, when reading your story out loud, you hear yourself catching at the word, it is too phoney. If the guy's in a bar, drinking with friends, and you've set the scene right, you can slip in that he threw back the slivovitz with a cough and a grin, and your reader will move along with you, even those who don't know that slivovitz is a perfectly normal terran liquor. It's all in the balance, or am I stating the obvious?

Louise Turner: The question of aggression and Jedi is certainly one that could never end! The classic Chinese stories I'm reading these days are full of people who lived far more violent lives than Wedge or Luke and who still became successful monks, and such, so at least one branch of humanity hasn't separated aggression from enlightenment as thoroughly as ours has.

I simply see Wedge as someone who would reroute his energies. In fact, I think Luke might need someone Extremely Active like Wedge, given the inclination to reflection so many people have seen aborning in Skywalker.

One of the most severe criticisms I have of the Saga is the highly dualistic tone of the movie, seemingly encouraging extremes in light and dark. And certainly the pro books are following that lead. Although I think Lucas was trying to present the ROTJ Luke as a mixture of light and dark (i.e., IMO, a developing mature being), by then the subtlety of that presentation was a bit lost amid Vader's exclamations for the Dark Side. I do remember people pointing out that the stormtroopers wore white, Han was mixed, and in the last movie, Luke wore black, but that was long ago.

Without the fertile, active power of the Dark Side we none of us flourish. It's all in how you handle that power and whether you let yourself believe that such power is all you need. I much prefer the Asian symbol of the ying-yang — with its spot of the opposite in both sides of white and black purity — to all our Zoroastrian/Catharistic/Manachist black/white absolutes that leave us victims to history. But I'm wandering in my thoughts again, just like last time. ((Ed: Think of the old ST episode "The Enemy Within" where Kirk was split into his good and bad halves. He finally realized he needed both sides to live.))

Liz Sharpe: Thanks for your endorsement of the JW history reports. Hmmm, maybe as a counter to all the downers in that history I ought to publish those This Is Not A Con Con reports we all wrote back in 84. I still have yours ... heh heh.

Nancy Stusulis: Great cartoon! Maybe we EoFans ought to start slipping you memories and have you illo them ... all in historical interest, of course!

I'll be looking forward to reading your comparisons/notes on the JW history, Nancy. I'm hoping to (finally) make it back to MWC in 97; maybe I ought to bring flip charts labeled according to the various controversies and sit all us dinosaurs down to brainstorm what we remember of various incidents. Afterwards we might edit the names, but that way we'd get a variety of viewpoints.

Not living back east, I can't just declare a weekend SW History Weekend and invite everyone in a three-state radius over for High Intensity Brainstorming. Anyone of you EoFans want to come visit Seattle? Hey, we could call it Sleepless in Seattle Con, how very appropriate for con activities.

Thinking on the complaint of It's Only a Movie/Get a Life, I suspect that we're all missing the real reason for all the excitement. The movies are only red herrings — the excitement comes about simply because we're people involved with each other. We told ourselves that we were just gathering to talk movies and TV shows, but we were actually creating a community. And, communities have politics and feuds and intensities that drive the social scene. We *do* have a life *in* fandom, whether we're FIAWOLs or FIJADHs, and it's that life we're intense about. Everything

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else is make-up. ((Ed: For neofans, that's *Fandom is a Way of Life (FIAWOL)* and *Fandom is just a Damn Hobby (FIJADH)*..))

**Donna Frayser:** You're right, in the small town of fandom, some things are better left to small talk amongst friends. Or, maybe I need to put on another 20 years before I can be franker about my opinions of the Main Players in fandom's history. What do you think, Ming?

Thanks for the compliments, though. I'm really happy that so many people have enjoyed the history of JW. Hmmm, maybe if one approached the subject from your suggestion of "glorious eccentricities," more detail could be unearthed ... no, down, girl, back! You have a house to remodel!

**Marlene Karkoska:** Hallo again to someone else from the borderlands of Cleveland and Akron. My old hunting ground for my school years, Brecksville, was 14 miles out of Cleveland. Glad to see you back in SE.

From the looks of Dad, I'd say that the blond twin baby with blue eyes was the logical one to send away. If Bail Organa turns up with brown hair and eyes in the next movie, I'd really second that notion.

I suspect that the reason we saw so much expression of feeling between Anakin and Luke was that, according to Lucas, he was working out his own feelings regarding his dad in that movie. By the time he got to ROTJ, he probably realized that by redoing the timeless myth he was also reliving it.

To everyone who addressed the issue of Luke and violence, thanks for all the thoughtful reactions. For those who have been reading the fanlit a while, I suppose the question would be: Why did we get so many morose, depressed Lukes in fanlit if most fans understand that Luke lived a pretty rigorous life in that colony? What angst in our own culture do we bring to our writings in those presentations? What assumptions of, say, a conflict between knowledge of light and dark and enthusiasm for living do we express?

This goes along with my wish for some critical assessments of the themes and approaches of fanlit. These stories, for all that they are fun and fantasy, reflect our current attitudes.

Which are...????

A last thought. Harkening back to the discussion on Do or Do Not; There Is No Try, and the possible application of gender differences to it interpretation, I found the following quote in a column in the newspaper the other day, from the president of Duke University, Nan Keohane, on the subject of subtle signals sent, even by people who mean well (in this case, fathers):

"A girl who accomplishes something outstanding might be complimented on her effort, a boy on his ability. There's a powerful difference between, 'You really worked hard,

and I'm so proud of you,' and 'Boy, you're good!'"

## Stimulating Creativity

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September 25, 1995

G'day, all! What a joy it is to find a copy of SE in the mail! Always a guarantee of a good read and that wonderful feeling of a fan convention at home! Many thanks, Cheree. Hope I get this letter to you in time — it's actually *raining* here today! This is our first day of heavy, constant rain in six months. At last I don't have to feel guilty about being indoors.

Many thanks to all of you who offered such warm congratulations on my success ("I'd call it luck!") with writing for West End Games *Star Wars Adventure Journal*. I've just sold my second story and am working on the third. I am paid \$400 per story — not \$600 — and hope to save the \$1600 air fare (and that's just to Los Angeles! Fortunately, I have a frequent flyer ticket for the remainder) to see you all at MWC next year. If any of you ever needed any proof that I'm completely nuts, that should do it! Who else living on a pension of \$600 a month would even try such travel? But as we all know — there is no try! :)

I make the above point so as to make clear my primary motive for writing for West End. I desperately need the money! (I'd love to go back to earning a teacher's wage, but \*sigh\* the Force has presently destined otherwise.) I have since found it a surprising joy to have my very own SW characters to play with and would continue to write my West End stories now in any case. I'd trashed poor ol' Hansikins in almost every way possible in fanzines and was running short of ideas! Nonetheless, I was utterly terrified when I sat down to read West End's Style Guidelines and try to come up with a completely original story — and one that had to come in under 10,000 words! Brevity is not my usual style — as Cheree and other editors can attest! West End's only restrictions are: (1) don't use main characters (though this looks like it could change), (2) don't mention events pre-ANH; (3) PG rating; (4) don't use religious references, e.g., damn, hell (yes, despite Solo's use of the word!), etc., as the Force is the only faith in this universe.

Anyway, West End has succeeded in rekindling my love of writing by allowing me to *create* my own SW realm. Yes, I certainly could have done that in fanfic, too



— but I preferred to direct such efforts to my SF/F novel, *Lightweavers*, and meantime it was a much faster process to write Han/Leia, etc., as I did not have to stop to create characters' backgrounds and explain to the reader what was going on as much as I have had to do with my West End characters.

In this regard, I found Sue Zahn's (Hiya, Peggy Sue!) comments somewhat unfair. I don't think Sue meant to sound so harsh. Truly, writing for West End is not "color-by-number stories" nor does it "suffocate", or "kill creativity." In fact, I've found it quite the opposite. Yes, it's correct to say that fanzines allow more freedom to go with your muse and try "what if" scenarios and more personalized explorations of the main characters' motivations and backgrounds. By the same token, creating your own SW characters and situations for West End gives you another kind of freedom. Yes, Maggie Nowakowska and others have created amazingly detailed, fascinating and completely original characters for SW within the fanzine realm, but that was not my original interest when I began writing SW fanfic. West End forced me to (as Wanda and others have been telling me for some time!) get out of the rut I'd created for myself with my "trash Han" stories. And I'm enjoying the new horizons.

All of which is not to say I'm giving up my fanzine writing. No way! As soon as I think of some nasty accident to befall Solo, you all will be the first to know! Actually, I am presently working on a story based on the idea of having Han and Leia handcuffed together and on the run "through the jungle" from the Imperials. Is Han injured, I hear you ask? Read and find out — but how many of you think Hannsidums will come through without a scratch? :] Wicked grin!

To summarize my rambling — I feel greatly humbled to be the first fan writer to be paid to write SW. Any number of others could have done so, I was just needy enough and lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time. Such a "pro" contract is not in my mind, nor should it be in anyone else's, any sort of gauge of talent among fan writers. I hope I have never given the impression that I consider myself to be superior to other fan writers because of my lucky break. Personally, I am awed by the SW fanfic of Maggie N., Pat Nussman, Anne Elizabeth Zeek, Liz Sharpe, Martie Benedict, Cypher, Marcia Brin, Carole Hines-Stroede, Wanda Lybarger ... well, the list would take pages to complete!

I just happened to hear about West End thanks to Kathy Tyers. It is not a secret, or an exclusive club, anyone who wants to give it a try can apply. The address is available in any copy of *The Adventure Journal*. The last thing I want to see is any kind of class division among SW writers/fen. As many MediaWest attendees described, this past year has seen a wonderful coming together of formerly disparate

and perhaps isolated groups. Let's keep it that way. I am excited as much by my West End success because it opens a new avenue for *all* SW writers and creators an even bigger playground for us all to explore and enjoy. End of speech.

On to other matters. (Sighs of relief all around!) And I will have to be very brief.

Jacqueline Taero: Agree re Alliance's attitude re Jedi. However, Luke was not a Jedi in their eyes, at least at the time he was lost on Hoth. Kenobi's calling the lightsaber "an elegant weapon" — perhaps he meant in the sense of forcing personal combat? You have to get closer to use a lightsaber than a blaster. Neat idea about Mrs. Skywalker possibly being corrupt. A story there for sure!

A. G. Steyn: Love the Locos name! Hey, I'm bored with the sunshine and light Jedi children routine in pro fic, too.

Marti Schuller: Agree Palpatine was born evil.

Mary Jo Fox: Three cheers for your comments re pro character references in fan fic! Such does not a bad story make! Oh, and by the way, that bandaged Han doll was Z.P.'s creation, not mine.

Debbie Kittle: Congratulations re "your" wolf cub baby's shot at fame and glory. Do keep us informed.

Barbara Anderson: I think maybe several of us shared your MWC "epiphany". 'Twas a great convention. Love your SW/pizza analogy!

Matthew Whitney: Great to hear from you again! I will answer your letter some day, honest! Again I applaud your comments re alien terms for earth references being often unnecessary and intrusive. We are using English, after all.

Maggie Nowakowska: Great elaboration on the do/do not quote. Yes, I too feel that's what Yoda was trying to tell Luke.

Louise Turner: Agree re *Babylon 5*. Amazingly real characters and settings. I like Garibaldi best, too.

Liz Sharpe: Thanks for some great reminiscing! (Not to mention the free accommodation and very Corellian piloting!). Also thanks for describing the definitely fannish atmosphere and welcome at West End.

MJ Mink: Ditto re your praise of Judy and Marti's *Smelly*. A real fun read! My favorite *Smelly* story is Z.P.'s "Rancor Delivery."

Gerald Crotty: Ditto re your appraisal of *Ambush at Corellia*. I've just started *Assault...* — why can't this author just get to the point and keep the action moving? It's quite a good believable post-ROTJ political setting, but please, move it along!

Donna Frayser: Thank you.

Tim Blaes: I doubt I'll get around to writing another cross-universe SW anytime soon, but you're welcome to reprint my "Raiders of the Lost Carbonite" if you want it. So, how's Leia recovering from her ... umm ... traumatic

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injury? Oh, hey, I think I can empathize with your feeling "out of the loop" being one of the few men at MWC. I went to an Aussie SW convention in Melbourne in April this year and I'd say 80% of the attendees were male!

Z. P. Florian: Wonderful review of *Children of the Jedi*. I agree. Oh, a secondhand 386 IBM would cost at least \$1,000 here.

Marlene Karkoska: Welcome! And anyone who wants to know my opinion on the various pro SW novles can take your comments as relating my impressions, too. Well said. I also agree re Ellen Randolph's SW stories. Yes, Timothy Zahn's books are looking better to me all the time, especially after *The Crystal Star*. Hey, if everyone liked a trashed Luke in *Children of the Jedi*, I'd love the opportunity to do the same to Han! Heh heh...

Until next time, everyone fly casual!

## Vader Vamp

Cheryl Pryor  
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September 29, 1995

Hello, all!

Here I am a whole day before the deadline. And slightly overwhelmed by all the new merchandise available and on the way. Remember the days when you could own every SW t-shirt, every toy? Now I'm having to be selective and it's agony. My husband actually offered to buy me the lifesize Yoda doll but I got kind of creeped out by the idea of Yoda staring at me ... wait, did he move one ear? Now if it had been a life-sized Vader...

Favorite new product — the C3PO and R2D2 talking bank. I'm surprised I haven't worn out the battery!

Many thanks for Charyl Perry for sharing her photos of her visit to Steve Sansweet's house. You lucky girl! Do you have to walk through a "toy detector" when you leave?

Enjoyed reading the "Seven Deadly Sins of Fandom." Unfortunately, I come across a lot of these at work, so I could practically put faces to a lot of the sins.

Jacqueline Taero: Fencing with a rapier is more "elegant" than hacking and slashing but both can kill. I think it must be so with a lightsaber. It must take more training to be good with a saber and to be able to kill at close range. A blaster is more impersonal and you can kill from a distance.

Also on the concept of children growing up with the knowledge that their planet can be vaporized by a Death Star, I think children grow up with the concept today and the effects are already visible. It doesn't take a Death Star,

just some dictator with a nuclear device.

Marti Schuller: Glad you enjoyed our door. Now, if we can only figure out something to top it next year... Anytime you wanna discuss father and son, I'm willing. It's my favorite relationship in the Saga and endlessly complicated and fascinating.

Mary Jo: Why didn't I think of having my picture on Vader's nightstand? You are brilliant! Now I just need to find the right frame — heartshaped? Or should I go for the "holocube" effect?

Debbie Kittle: I never said your hair-brained schemes weren't fun! Thanks for guiding me to Barbie Heaven — aka FAO Schwartz. Gotta get that Circus Barbie.

Barbara Anderson: Loved your comment that SW is like pizza!

I was sorry to hear that you and Becky are rooming at the hotel for Eclecticon. I was looking forward to paying tribute at the Shrine of Ford. I missed out last year. If I promise not to put anything under my shirt, do you think you can squeeze me in?

Michelle Malkin: If Luke and Leia were the product of rape, it wouldn't change my feelings about them. But it would change my feelings about Darth — my number one lust object. I want him to have loved their mother, even for a little while, even if circumstances didn't permit them to marry/stay together. It's the hopeless romantic in me, I suppose, and the same reason I can't watch *Beauty and the Beast*, the series, anymore. When CBS killed off the love and made the baby an unremembered act, it ruined all the episodes before it. I couldn't stand it if the same thing happened to SW.

Maggie Nowakowska: Loved your idea of Sean Pertwee as Young Obi-Wan. He was great on *Mystery*!

Nancy Stasulis: Great to meet you at MWC and to be able to worship at your feet. Loved your cartoon and thanks for the expression "Vader vamp." Whether it's from the old days or you just made it up, I have taken it as my own. Wonder if I could get my name changed to Vader-Vamp?

Tim Blaes: Glad you liked my Dead Bothan t-shirts. They're available for a modest fee...

I loathed Winter (the Zahn character) because she was just so darn flawless. Perfect hair, perfect memory, perfect friend of Leia's. Who wouldn't want someone like that to die horribly? Now she's Miss Perfect Nanny. Kill her! Kill her!

Master Yoda Z. P. Florian: What's this "just in case there's a *Garbage #2*"? How can you leave a huge void in fandom by not producing more *Garbage*?

Amanda Palumbo: Lin's hat did win a prize! At Liz Sharpe's silly hat party!

Oh, and a tiny 1/3 of the doll exhibit was mine. Just a tiny little Honeymoon Hut — not the most dolls, not the

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biggest display but I had a lot of fun doing it. Look for Darth's Boudoir next year!

And on that note...

## Con Revenge

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Please forgive me for tagging along three months after the rest, everyone, but I'd just like to say a big "thank you" to everyone who supported my efforts in the Star Awards. I only found out the day after I sent my LoC away, when I got this excited phone call from Catriona Campbell (yeah, remember her?) telling me all about it. She got her Award first, then unwittingly spoilt it for me! Actually, I thought the short story award was a wind-up on her part, and I told her I wasn't going to believe it until I found out for myself. To say I was "gobsmacked" was an understatement! So THANK YOU to all of you who voted for "Groundstaff Blues". As Cheree mentioned in her editorial last time, it's one thing to get a vote of confidence in a 'zine, where as editor you're only really a small part of a larger effort, and something else to actually gain one for something which is all your own work. I still don't think I've quite recovered from the surprise! I only wish I could have been at MediaWest to be stunned in person!

Anyway, talking of Deck Officers, has anyone seen that TESB widescreen card? I kind of hoped they'd have a shot of that scene in the hangar! Well, since the Wedge Antilles Appreciation Campaign has been so spectacular, then maybe it's time for a new Deck Officer campaign ...

Now, I think it's time for my con revenge... Since you've all been going about how wonderful MediaWest was, I'll take this opportunity to tell you that Worldcon was fantastic! I met loads of new people, including Arwen Rosenbaum (hi, Arwen!), and generally had a great time. Incidentally, there were a few official representatives of the *Star Wars* universe about, including McBride, Anderson and Wolverton. Their presence did not do much to change my attitudes towards the current pro-novels, I'm afraid. Some came across a lot better than others, and one in particular did much to consolidate my opinions of his *Star Wars* novels. This individual in fact admitted that he only wrote *Star Wars* novels to get people to read his other books, and, while on the one hand he bemoaned the fact that SW material was not taken seriously, on the other he was rather dismissive of it. Aw, come on! It is surely not impossible to at least *aspire* to writing decent SW novels,

so why can't they at least put a little more effort into it? Probably because they don't bother to spend much time in writing it, that's why! So I'm sorry, all you current pro-novel fans, I just cannot treat works by those who have that kind of attitude with any respect. I'm happy to say, though, that not everyone came across so negatively. The other two were really great, which in one case was perhaps quite surprising judging from the reactions his work has received. I'm mentioning no names; the riddle is to decide which is which!

I also met a great bunch of Imperials. I was dressed up as an Imperial Commander at the time, happily thinking that I was at the top of the hierarchy, when suddenly a Grand Admiral, an Admiral and a Vice-Admiral came cruising past. Yikes! I jumped up, sprang to attention, and my bloomin' belt goes SPROING, and flips apart! I was hideously embarrassed (yes, it's time to go on a diet, Louise!). I was given a very large number of demerits by the G.A., who, luckily, was in a good mood ...

Well, following on from my babbling over *Babylon 5* in my last LoC, I'd just like to quote a line from U2: "I still haven't found what I'm looking for". I've read two of the novels, and they make Timothy Zahn, *et al*, seem like contenders for the Booker prize in comparison. To say I was disappointed was an understatement. I was really looking forward to reading *Voices* and it just seemed to be presented in such a flippant and offhand style! It just didn't suit B5. Why on earth can't people try treating media SF with at least a little respect? So much effort goes into doing the original works, yet the novels are just churned out like so much bantha fodder!

Jacqueline Taero: Wow! What a stream of problems and Interesting Points you covered last time! I think you presented enough intellectual fodder for a year's mental rumination in that one LoC! Pardon me for not commenting on any of it — there was so much that one doesn't really know where to start! I especially liked your comments re the fact that everyone seems to wash their hands of Luke on Hoth! With comrades like that, who needs enemies, huh?

A. G. Steyn: I think the reason why SW has worked so well as late twentieth-century myth is precisely because Lucas dabbled into all sorts of bits and bobs from history, literature, myth etc., swished them around a bit and presented them in this entirely new way. It was novel enough to appear unconventional, while at the same time remaining familiar enough to give the audience a firm reference point. One thing that struck me about the pro-authors at Worldcon was their apparent ignorance of this fact. They spent one panel arguing how the next films should be constructed, while at the same time completely disregarding the origins of the first Trilogy! I personally feel that the two should be indivisible — I think the next

films won't work if Lucas doesn't use this same sense of historical and mythical eclecticism to address new problems, like the fall of the Hero into Darkness, etc. If, however, he does, then the result could and should be spectacular. We shall see...

**Tim Blaes:** Following the comments of your last LoC, I have to admit that I would love to get lots and lots of cheaper copies run off in the U.S. but unfortunately the couple of hundred dollars or whatever required would be far too great a chunk of *my* take-home pay! I have come to the conclusion that you guys have got it made when it comes to paper and printing costs, because I really can't get production costs any lower without buying myself photocopier. And the initial cost of that makes it quite prohibitive. As it is, I would have thought it better to get a 'zine sent via snail-mail than not sent at all... What I can't really understand, though, is how all the copies of *Bad Feeling* were swept up in moments at MediaWest this year for exactly the same price as I sell them from here! I would have liked to offer a discount for the con, but they had to be sent airmail just the same in order to arrive in time. However, despite this rumored interest, I've really had very few inquiries about it. This does strike me as odd, as it only takes five days or so for a letter to cross the Atlantic, and what could be easier than just writing out a U.S. cheque in dollars? Things have been so slow that I did consider not producing any more 'zines — I can cover the costs on my novels quite easily (yes, *The Ormand Factor* actually supports *Bad Feeling* — weird, or what?), but when you're not getting much back to help you pay for contributors' copies, then it does make you wonder if it's really worth it. 'Zine production does get addictive, though... However, the comparative apathy has had its advantages. At one point I was running a loss of about four dollars per 'zine thanks to bank charges, so maybe it was good that no-one was interested! There is one problem which I am sensitive to, though, and that is the fact that I cannot promise to have cheques cashed immediately, as they have to be signed over to someone else, etc.

(And at this point, may I sing the praises of the great, the wonderful, the unique **Debbie Kittle**, who has saved *Bad Feeling* from an ignominious end, with her generous help with financial transactions. Thanks to her, costs can happily be kept down. If she hadn't stepped in, then I would have had to charge an extra eight dollars per transaction to cover monetary exchange, and that really would have been the end... Thou art the Patron Saint of Scottish 'Zine production, Debs!)

**Marlene Karkoska:** Hi there! Your name is now indelibly inscribed on my memory, you'll be pleased to hear! I just read through my last edition of SE, and there you were! Wow! I thought, I know that name! About

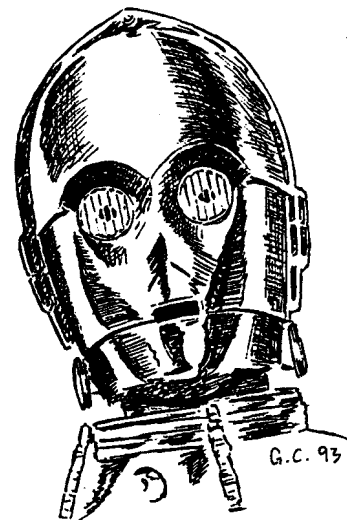
time, I hear you mutter... All I can say is grovel, grovel, grovel. *Please forgive me!!!!* And welcome to SE, too!

**Amanda Palumbo:** Just call me the Twisted Sister of the Unholy Spandex, Amanda! I'm now saving up for a beautiful, beautiful racing bike, so I can break my neck/ graze my extremities (!) and generally get my kicks out of a "thoroughbred" two-wheeled stallion that does not require feeding, mucking-out, vet's bills, etc. Next week I hope to join a cycling club, which could be interesting. "Are there any girls?" I asked. To be told, "Well, there's whatsername. And there's you. That makes two, doesn't it?" Ulp! I have a Bad Feeling About this!! Actually the ultimate rejection for poor Squire occurred when I took one of his grooming brushes and used it for cleaning my bicycle's tyres! To say I'm neglecting him is not strictly true — I'm going to be wading through a muddy field in the dark tonight out looking for my monstrous horse, because it's p\*\*\*ing it down with rain right now. If that's not true love, I don't know what is.

**Donna Frayser:** Ah, you're right. Your name is spelled funny. I only just noticed the "y". I've not been very good with names the past month or so. Ask Marlene... I was checking out an old map of Scotland yesterday, and looking for the Fraser lands. They're very much to the northeast, aren't they? Around Caithness. Down here, we're in Cunningham and Houston territory, and lying just to the south of Campbell country. And thanks for your help in the "Hawkes-Hunt!"

Now it's "where are you" time — **Fiorenzo, Judy, and Veronica**, come back! We miss you!!! (Forget the thesis, Veronica — get your priorities right, would you?)

I'm sorry for the brevity of this letter — real life is calling. I'm supposed to have had my thesis finished by, um, today, actually. It hasn't happened. Oh, well. Have a good Christmas, everyone!



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## A Terrific Surprise

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October 2, 1995

The manila envelope arrived in the mail, send by Sue Depping. I opened it and took out, an award. An award! For my "Han's Asteroid" filk song. Wow, what a terrific surprise! I had no idea the song was even nominated for a STAR aWARD! I would like to thank momma and Elvis ... (oops, too much *Pinky and the Brain*). No really, I would like to thank all of you SE readers who liked by "little ditty" enough to vote for it. I really appreciate the award. And I was really surprised!

I originally wrote the song way back in 1982 at 3:00 in the morning (when else are filks written?). It was popular at conventions and parties. When the fanzine *On a Clear Day You Can See Dagobah* wanted filks, I dusted "Han" off and rewrote parts of it and sent it off. The award it earned was a nice little unexpected bonus! Ain't the Force (and all you great SW fans) grand?

I enjoy each issue of SE. I wish I had more free time to LoC more often. My husband, Bob, and I own a small manufacturing company that makes heating products, mainly outdoor patio heaters that mostly sell to restaurants, resorts, hotels, and the like. Hollywood loves them and uses them both behind the scenes and sometimes in front of the camera. The big party scene in the movie *The Player* hosts over a dozen of our SUNGLO heaters. I'd love it if our somewhat spacey-looking heaters made it into the new SW films. Both Lucas and Coppola own our heaters, so they are familiar with them. Anyway, the company keeps us far too busy, but hey, it pays the bills.

One of the bills we pay is "feed and board" for our horses. Just since July, we are a two-horse family with the new addition of Amber Lace, a 12-year-old Paint mare. She is a lovely, easy-going horse and she belongs to Bob. My own "kid" is my 29-year-old Arabian, Prince Allahsaun. We've been a team since 1972! For the non-horse crowd here, yes, 29 is old for a horse. Because "Ali" has had the best TLC I can give, he is still fit and eager to hit the trails any time. He can outwalk Amber who is a lot bigger with a longer stride. I know this is not SW, but I know several of you are also horse folk, so I wanted to share the news with you.

Have any of you seen any of the actual new Kenner SW figures in the stores yet? I have only seen the color photos of them in various magazine articles. Yuck! *Why* did they make "our heroes" into mega-muscle men like Arnold or

Stallone? And how about that bosom on Princess Leia! I mean, George Lucas made poor Carrie Fisher tape down her not overly-endowed bustline for SW, and here is her action figure looking like a mini Barbie doll! One of the things I liked about Luke, Han and Leia was that they looked so much like average folk, and not super heroes with capes and tights. We could identify with our heroes, not just admire them (or their pecs or boobs) from afar. I hope this "biffing up" of the action figures is not a dark foreshadowing of what we will see in the new SW films! What do the rest of you think of these new action figures?

## Factual Errors

Liz Sharpe  
10046 Marguerita Avenue  
Glenn Dale, MD 20769

October 9, 1995

First and most wonderfully, congratulations, Judith Yuenger, on the arrival of your grand-twins! Best wishes for the continued good health and rapid progress of all concerned.

Secondly, commiseration to Cheree on various recent setbacks. On the work front, well, maybe this will be a golden opportunity for you to regroup and reposition yourself, and find some new and exciting field where your hard-won skills will be properly appreciated. On the personal front, it sounds like you're in expert and knowledgeable hands. Use this chance to grab a little well-deserved R&R, huh? You're due for some time off. ((*Ed: I'm facing a little minor surgery on Oct. 26 and will be off work for a couple of weeks recuperating.*))

This LOC is latelatate, and I promised to be brief, ergo:

Sue Zahn: I'm sure it was merely post-MWC blues that made your comments regarding West End Games/Carolyn Golledge sound so (IMO) ... ingracious.

The tone of Sue's remarks is Sue's affair, though I am puzzled by whatever impulse it was that led her to take her bow in public, instead of in a private letter to Carolyn (which would probably have been more appropriate). But, because Sue did choose the open forum of SE's pages, I would like to clear up some factual errors she made, to prevent further misunderstandings.

At the time Sue wrote, she did not have in her possession a copy of the actual West End Games submissions guidelines. Her comments in the last issue of SE on the contents of the guidelines were not, therefore (in the strict academic sense) based on first hand knowledge. That may explain the inaccuracy of some of her statements.

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I did obtain a copy of the guidelines. And, contrary to Sue's words, "I mean, what a way to kill creativity. I don't want to write color-by-number stories," would-be contributors will find that the West End Guidelines require a daunting level of complete and fundamental originality. For instance, authors are not allowed to use (except in rare instances, and only by special permission) any of the canonical characters, nor the situations actually shown in the movies. You must invent totally new, independent characters and situations, within very wide boundaries. Apart from the usual requirements about grammar, usage, and appropriate style for this particular publication, the only restrictions appear to exist for the purpose of making sure contributions remain distinctly SW-flavored SF (and not indistinguishable general science fiction); that submissions are of a manageable length; and that reasonable space is allotted for a suitable work-up for role-playing statistics (the *Journal* is primarily directed at role-players, after all). This hardly constitutes "color by numbers." That is a category I would be more inclined to place Sue Z's own work in. (With absolutely no intention whatsoever of denigrating Sue's work — there's plenty of room for her type of material; fandom is the true home for promising young journeyman writers of Sue's caliber who are still in the process of honing their skills.) Sue herself, in her letter, explicitly characterizes her own work as "filling a gap," so her own words support this view. IMO, Sue's characterization does not do justice to the actual standards of West End Games. But (since she's apparently just going by word-of-mouth description) maybe that really is what it sounded like to her and she felt compelled to pass her version along.

West End's payment for a first submission (if a story does get accepted) is \$400, not \$600. This could be viewed as a mercenary incentive, I suppose. But I've done a little freelance writing myself, and frankly, that's a low price. (Even \$600 ain't much.) At that rate of payment, the writer's in it for the thrill (seeing your name in print on a shelf — outside a convention!), or else perhaps as a step along the way to assembling a bona fide professional CV. Or maybe that's just the kind of fiction your personal creative daemon drives you to produce, and you happen to have found a market for what you'd be doing anyway. There is no reason for anyone to imply negative things about such motives. Writing which happens to result in a paycheck composed of dollars is in no way intrinsically more crass than writing to elicit the intense emotional excitement of "egoboo," or in order to obtain free zines, both of which are (also) perfectly acceptable reasons for going through a creative workout.

Carolyn Gollidge did not convey West End information to "everyone in fandom" as Sue mistakenly asserts. Far from being treated like everybody else (hardly

a slight, even if it were true), Sue was being offered a chance to avail herself of a rather special opportunity: the advantage of an introduction to a publisher by a person whose work is already known to, and approved of, by the publisher. (Though to be fair, Carolyn herself was first to point out that this introduction was *absolutely no guarantee* of success with West End, by the way.) I don't know all of the people to whom Carolyn made this offer (which was immensely generous — doing so potentially puts Carolyn's own reputation/credibility with her editor on the line). But I do know that it's a group in which it's an accolade to have been included. Undeniably, Sue has the right to turn down such an opportunity if it's not her cup of tea (for whatever reason). Maybe she simply didn't realize how much it sounded as though she was saying that them there grapes (which many other people value very highly, and consider rewarding to toil after) are too sour for anybody in their proper mind to try for.

Finally, while Sue herself made clear her disinterest in reading or writing stories (however well-crafted) which do not involve the SW "canon" characters, some of us do strive intentionally for diversity. Personally, although I enjoy SW very much, I am firmly convinced that never seeking to absorb or create material of a broader scope is a quick route to becoming a bored (and possibly even boring) individual.

In answer to Sue's somewhat gusty demand, "Which would *you* rather I write?" well... Personally, I prefer authors who have the courage to follow their own muse: the readers' opinion about subject matter, or the publications a writer chooses to appear in, should not govern artistic decisions. A writer should write whatever gives her/him satisfaction, to the very best of his/her abilities. As a reader, I know that I am excited when I encounter *good writing*, almost exclusive of topic. It's the quality of the craft itself that holds my attention and makes all the difference. (Or I wouldn't have a collection of wonderful old Henry Manney columns about automotive matters from *Road & Track* magazine cluttering up my files ... autos being, with this one exception, a dead bore to yours truly, with due respect to any car buffs reading this.)

Speaking of writerly skills — it is very easy to miscommunicate emotional overtones in cold black and white, as many a newcomer to letterzines or e-mail has discovered.

Perhaps Sue did not intend to come across as such a, um, er, ah, well, candidly (always merely IMO), a sourpuss, on the subject of writing for West End Games. However (if that is the case) purely as a matter of technical accomplishment, perhaps she'll re-evaluate her success (in light of this feedback) in getting her ideas across the way she intends to on paper. As an exercise in expressing polite regret, the part of her last letter dealing with Carolyn and

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West End Games did not succeed at all well.

IMO.

If Sue Z. did *not* mean what (IMO) her letter appears to say with great clarity, I do apologize. Most sincerely.

\*AHEM\*

We will return to our usual programming at the next regularly-scheduled broadcast. 'Til then, take care everybody, and watch this space!

## Star Wars Collector's Day

Gerald Crotty  
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September 16, 1995

Hello, everyone.

On July 30th, we had a one-day SW con called The Star Wars Collector's Day. It was held in Cheshunt, near London. It was a good venue, big hall and other rooms. There was a video room where they were showing various SW clips including the THX show reel. I don't know if it was a THX sound system but it was very powerful. In another room there was a display of rare and unusual toys including the R2 cookie jar, the speeder bike pedal car, etc. Plus a recreation of the Emperor's arrival on the Death Star with hundreds of Imperial action figures.

There was a dealer's room. I just don't bother trying to buy the old stuff. I just look at the prices on items I already have. One item which seems to be very valuable is exercise books, about £15, some of them, which is a lot for what they are.

The guests were Caroline Blakiston, Bruce Boa, Jeremy Bulloch, Kenny Baker, Warwick Davis, and Dermot Crowley. They did a Q&A session from 12-2 p.m. Caroline still looks and sounds just like Mon Mothma: very regal! She said that her character's name sounded like Moon-Mother, and that much of her dialogue was changed on the day of shooting. Warwick Davis was funny. He said that when he heard the movie was called *Blue Harvest*, he thought it was a farmer's porno movie. I asked Jeremy how he came to play the Imperial officer in TESB and he said it was an accident. The guy who was meant to play him hadn't turned up so they asked Jeremy to try on the uniform. It fit so he played it instead. They were all asked to give their opinion of Lucas. The general opinion was that he's intelligent, polite but very private. Bruce Boa said he never met Lucas.

Caroline said she had to do some looping after the shoot and Lucas was supervising the session. Apparently

he asked her if she could try and sound a little less English!

Kenny Baker talked about Koo Stark playing Camie, but I don't think many of the audience believed him. It is true, though.

The subject of action figures came up. Caroline was unaware that she's not an action figure. She asked if there was any money in it. Jeremy said "no."

But the big event of the day was my Biggs petition. Yes, I organized a petition to get Lucas to reconsider restoring Biggs into the SW Special Edition. "Bring Back Biggs!" Unfortunately, I didn't have a lot of time to take it around because I was helping out with the con as well, but everyone I approached was eager to sign. A lot of people were under the impression that Biggs was already being restored. I got around 150 signatures.

I know I've said this before but if you want to see Biggs restored then write to Lucas. All the letters are read, I can assure you of that. It'll only cost you the price of a stamp. What have you got to lose?

From about 3-6 p.m., the guests signed autographs at £2 each. The money went to charity. I sat with Kenny Baker while he signed. He draws each signature very carefully.

It was a great day. I got to meet and talk to lots of fans. I also got to find out the answer to a question I've wondered about for many years: did Rieekan have a death scene? It's always seemed odd to me the way Leia takes charge and Rieekan is nowhere to be seen. So I asked Bruce Boa. He said he thought it was strange, too, but there was no death scene shot at the time.

The only disappointing part was that as soon as they'd gotten their autographs, most fans left, even though there was a fancy dress and disco planned for the evening.

I've just read the latest *Star Wars Insider*. Some very interesting stuff. Rick McCallum says that Biggs isn't being restored. At first I thought this was very bad news but at least it clarifies the situation. Now all the readers know that Biggs isn't going back in. Hopefully, a lot of them will write in. Also, Lucas reveals the timeline and ages Anakin and Ben in the first trilogy. This makes much more sense than the ages given in the *Guide to the SW Universe*.

*The Ormand Factor, Vol. 2* is now available but I must inform you that Threepio isn't in any of the illos. I did try and convince Louise to move the focus of the story away from Wedge and Luke to Threepio's point of view, but she wouldn't have it.

I think Rick McCallum is a good producer but when it comes to SW, I think there's only one guy who should be producing them: Gary Kurtz. He never seems to get mentioned in the *Insider* or *Galaxy* magazines. That guy's contributions can never be overestimated.

Films: *Batman Forever*, very slick, flashy and colorful but boring. Tommy Lee Jones gives one of the laziest

performances ever. Kilmer looked good as Batman but didn't know what to do with Bruce Wayne.

*Waterworld*, quite good. Great action scenes. Some very funny moments, too. It does owe a lot to the Mad Max films, though.

*Casper* — I really enjoyed this. Christina Ricci is very good and the ghost animation is excellent.

Carrie Fisher just did a 2 part documentary about life in Hollywood called "Carrie on Hollywood" for the BBC. The first part concentrated on the problems of maintaining relationships amongst show business people. The second part looked at parents who push their kids into show biz. She spoke to George Lucas at one point about his three adopted children, but he didn't say anything very interesting.

Jacqueline Taero: I've always been fascinated by the Arthurian legend. After seeing TESB in 1980, then *Excalibur* in 1982, I really felt that Lucas had borrowed a lot from Arthur. I figured Luke was Arthur, Han was Lancelot, and Leia was Guinivere. Then Leia turned out to be Luke's sister so that spoiled that theory. I still think Lucas has used elements from Arthur. He's just changed them about a bit.

Mary Jo: I received *Blue Harvest* #6. It's excellent, not just the articles but the layout and graphics, too.

Marti Schuller: Re Palpatine, I must admit I was surprised when I first saw TESB to learn that the Emperor was a Force user. From SW, I'd assumed that Vader was the only one in the Empire who used the Force. I base this on what Motti says to Vader, mocking the Force and Tarkin's observations about the Jedi being extinct.

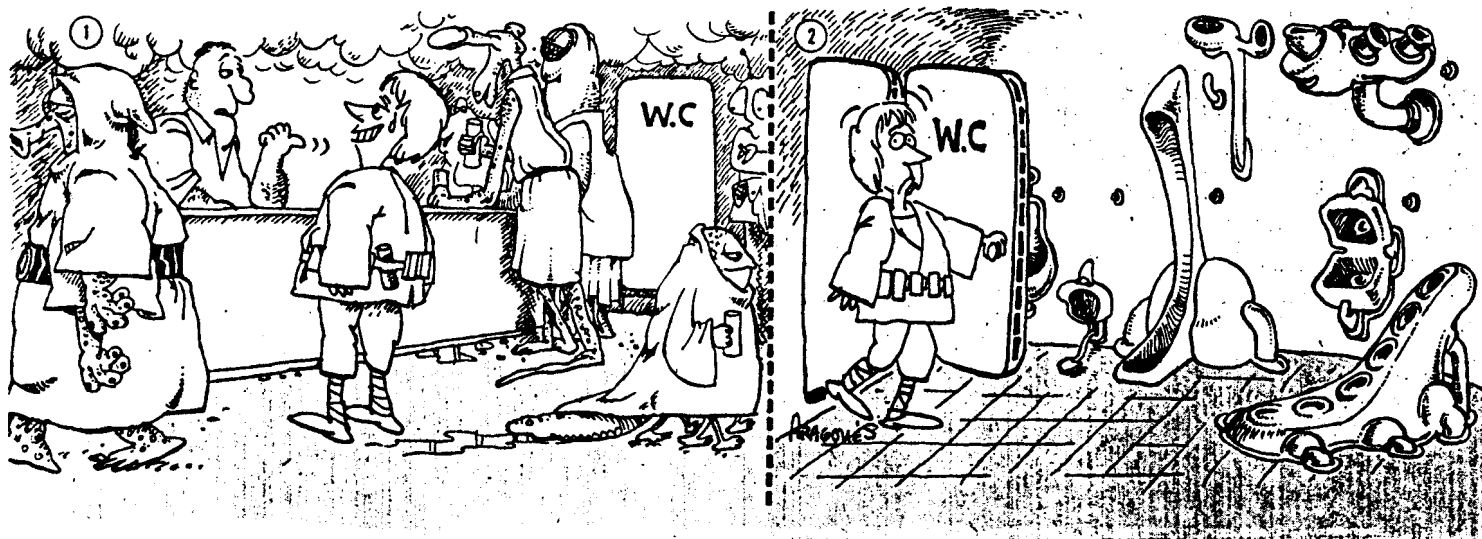
Barbara Anderson: Hate to spoil your day but the full size *Millennium Falcon* was not preserved. Bits of it were sold off years ago.

Matthew Whitney: This is how I see it: When Lucas made ANH, he had not decided that Luke and Leia were twins. I'm not even sure that he'd decided they were related. So it was okay for Darth to torture her and not sense anything. But once Leia is established as his daughter then the torture scene becomes highly questionable. I think that Lucas decided the paternal and sibling relationships when he came to write TESB. Which makes me wonder why he allowed Brian Daley to write such a graphic torture scene for the radio serial. In the film, we don't see the torture. Lucas could've exploited this and implied later that Vader had been unable to go through with it due to confused emotions. Logically, I think Vader would've sensed her Force ability and/or the biological link but would've been unable to assimilate the information.

Louise Turner: Well, thank you very much! You've revealed my secret shame. (Well, one of them anyway.) Those Americans don't know that I have a funny accent. They probably assumed that I speak like John Steed until you let the cat out of the bag. Susan Tully in the Human League? Does "Dirty Den" know?

Finally, can I ask just what all that Church of Ford, Cathedral of Luke (?) thing was all about? Was there a Synagogue of Leia? ((Ed: I'll let someone else handle this one — I don't have the strength!))

That'll do for now...





## A TREMOR IN THE FORCE 9

*Chewbacca Goes Shopping* by Z. P. Florian. The fair on Kashyyk always brought merchants and gypsies selling their various wares. This time, for some reason, the small naked human boy being abused by his gypsy "father" aroused Chewbacca's interest and he stepped in to alter the situation.

*The Planting* by MJ Mink. It is Planting Time on Tatooine and Luke must undergo an important ritual to insure harvest. Can he supply the all-important Fertilizer that will make the seed grow?

*Ashes* by Veronica Wilson, art by Z. P. Florian. You will *never* forget *this* Cinderella story about a Darkside witch and the Prince Charming she seduces!

*A.W.O.L.* by Louise Turner, art by Gerald Crotty. Luke has disappeared following the evacuation from Hoth. Was his ship destroyed in the mad scramble off the planet or — even more unthinkable — has he deserted? Wedge Antilles can't believe either one and he's sure that Luke will return. But meantime he has been thrust into the role of Red Leader.

*Career Choice* by Pat Nussman. Han and Leia have come to the realization that any children they have will be pawns of the New Republic and Luke's New Jedi Order. Together they reach a painful decision.

*Falling* by MJ Mink, art by Nancy Stasulis. Luke has been captured by Vader who undertakes his son's education regarding the Jedi and the Dark Side of the Force. The longer he listens, the more sense Vader begins to make and Luke realizes that his much-feared father has a lot more knowledge to impart than Obi-Wan or Yoda ever would have told him. Can he reach a balance without succumbing to evil?

*The House in the Woods* by Marti Schuller. Luke is on a much needed vacation on a pastoral planet and finds great peace in a small village. But there is a house in the woods shunned by the villagers and from it he senses pain and sadness. Unable to keep away, he finds a lonely young woman in need of love and the healing spirit of a gentle Jedi.

*Luke-a-Palooza* by Mary Jo Fox. The Jedi Academy has this cash flow problem, see, and Luke thinks he's found a way to raise capital. First you get all these great bands together, then you find an empty field...

*The Last of the Jedi* by Z. P. Florian, art by Laura Virgil. What would have happened if Kenobi hadn't been killed on the Death Star and had been able to continue Luke's training as a Jedi? What sort of Jedi Knight would Luke have become?

*Time* by MJ Mink. The Force was growing stronger in Luke but there was one aspect he hadn't expected — the ability to feel the pain and deaths of every pilot, either Imperial or Rebel, that was killed around him in battle. Could he learn to control this or would he be doomed to suffer this unexpectedly personal side of war forever?

*Shifting Sands* by Veronica Wilson. Vader has seen so much death and destruction that even he was beginning to crumble under its weight. Palpatine couldn't afford to lose his most valuable servant. Could he pull the Dark Lord back from the precipice of madness before it was too late?

*On the Side of Light* by Martie (Benedict) O'Brien, art by Dani. Optyl was not a nice place, a planet whose rotation caused one side to always face its sun, the other side to always face away. Life was only possible in a narrow strip between the two extremes. And now a religious war seemed ready to break out there as well. So, why had Han Solo accepted a consignment to haul a load of religious artifacts in to one of the warring sides while the other was fanatically determined to stop him? Well, being destitute had a way of making a man do some pretty desperate things to stay alive...

Much much more! This issue also features material by Donna Frayser, John Fredericks, Rich Gawel, Yvette Ghilan, Jason Grant, Debbie Kittle, Tammy Olsen, Jacqueline Taero, and many more. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis. Back cover by Gerald Crotty. Additional art by Wanda Lybarger, Z. P. Florian, Laura Virgil, Melea Fisher, Donna Frayser, John Fredericks, and more. Coming for MediaWest\*Con 16 in May 1996. This promises to be another big issue! Send SASE for notification when ready to: Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.



## CURRENTLY IN PORT

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #2 is now available. 1994 Fan Q Winner for Best SW zine. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

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

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Anson, Campbell, Cargill, Ghilan, Golledge, Hines-Stroede, Jones, Mayers, Schuller, Taero, Turner, Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Lybarger, Guttierrez, Stasulis, and more! Includes several 1994 Star Award winners — Best Cover Art, Best Illo Artist, Best Cartoons, Best Filk, Best Vignette, Best Short Story, many others. Also Fan Q winner for Best SW story — "Mercy Mission". \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #7. 1993 Star Award Winner for Best SW Zine. The Vader Issue! Contains many other Star Award winners and runners-up — best cover artists,

best illo artists, best poem, best cartoons, best medium and long stories. More! "Designated Hitter" by Carol Hines-Stroede, illoed by Nancy Stasulis. A new chapter of Carol's Darth Vader/Alan Patronis series. Also stories by Campbell, Cargill, Florian, Ghilan, Golledge, Lybarger, Sapiento, Schuller, Treleaven, Wilson, and others. Poetry by Agel, Ghilan, Moore, Taero, and others. Color cover by Nancy Stasulis, color bacover by Dianne Smith. Interior art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Guttierrez, Lybarger, Stasulis, and others. Over 300 pp. \$28.00 priority mail; \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks or money orders payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043. Less than a dozen copies left!

BLUE HARVEST. Episode Seven. Part two of everything you ever wanted to know about Wedge/Denis Lawson, part two of the Marvel archives, the Donny and Marie SW spoof, what is it with Luke, reviews, and more. \$4.00 by U.S. First Class Mail, \$6.00 overseas. Issues 3-6 still available. Please make checks or money orders out 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 #5. The one that broke tradition. The Falcon is on the back, due to the beauty on the cover. The Editor did not want to spoil it with printing so look on the back for our usual Falcon. In mean time enjoy the color cover art by Dianne Smith, the 296 pages of stories and art by Golledge, Florian, Frayser, Fox, Steyn, Cole, Berger, Turner, Jeffords & others. 18 stories. Poems, Filks & cartoons, then add Locs and ads. A Feast for \$25.00 plus \$3.75 postage, and handling. Send checks or Money orders to Ming Wathne 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara CA 93110.

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**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. Only a few copies left!

**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.

**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.

**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 Wortham 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

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first class mail from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9445. Age statement required.

**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, Humpfrey, 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 ORMAND FACTOR.** Volume two is now available. Join Luke Skywalker and Wedge Antilles for the conclusion of Louise Turner's novel, where our intrepid heroes run into the kind of trouble that wouldn't seem out of place in a story by Golledge! With stunning artwork by the one and only Gerald Crotty. With 212 pages of text, xeroxed and spiral-comb bound, Volume Two of *The Ormand Factor* can be yours for \$30.00 including airmail postage. Payment by U.S. cheque is acceptable. For further inquiries, please write (including an International Reply Coupon) to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Special rates for surface mail or for bulk orders of more than one zine.

**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. Material 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, Melea Fisher, and more. Scheduled publication date: MWC 1996. SASE for info. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

**FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW** #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue. I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

**I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS (TOO!):** Yes, the second "Bad Feeling" is near to completion! With stories by Campbell, DuTech, Florian, Fox, McBride, Schuller, Turner and others. Artwork by Florian, Lundin, Lybarger, and Tidswell, plus filks by Kittle. The followup to the 1994 Star Award winner should run to around 120 pages in length, and will hopefully cost around \$20.00, including airmail postage. For further details of this and other Thin End publications, please send inquiries (plus International Reply Coupon) to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA11 3JD, Great Britain.

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**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.

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

**SEE YOU AT RENDEZVOUS** is now open for submissions of writing, art, filks, etc. This is most definitely a one-shot zine devoted to that inimitable X-wing pilot, Wedge Antilles, and I'm looking for stories, artwork, ec. focusing on Wedge. I'm looking for a wide variety of stories which celebrate Wedge in all his guises — from stories set in any official or unofficial or alternative universes. Stories should be from G-R rating, with no slash please. For further information, please contact: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland PA11 3JD, Great Britain.

**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.

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

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

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

## OTHER WORLDS

**ART PRINTS** — Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie 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.

**DARK HORSE BACK ISSUES.** Need to complete your collection? I might be able to help you out. SASE Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181 for a current list.

**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, 3166 Ross Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124.

FOR SALE: Library extra copies. Zines and magazines, mostly SW, but some multi and other universes. SASE to Ming Wathne, c/o Fanzine Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

LOOKING to buy/trade/sell movie/TV photos from SW, *Robin of Sherwood*, *Ladyhawke*, B&B, ST and *X-Files*. Looking to buy/trade copies of articles on SW movies, cast and crew and anything on George Lucas and Mark Hamill. Also looking for articles, books — anything — on *Ladyhawke*. Please contact: Sara E. Glasgow, 3166 Ross Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124.

SOARING WINGS PRESS reprints available on *Bright Center of the Universe* #1, 2, 3 4, plus *Renegade and the Rogue* and *Lair of the Blue Falcon*. Send SASE to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93310 for information.

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*, *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

Nora Mayers  
601 Forest Walk Lane #201  
Odenton, MD 21113

Susan Zahn  
3007 Hewitt Avenue #431  
Silver Spring, MD 20906



## SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

Cheree Cargill  
457 Meadowhill Drive  
Garland, TX 75043

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