

FOR a man whose name is synonymous with technology and the future, Star Wars writer-director George Lucas lives a remarkably uncomplicated life.

To discuss the special high-quality re-release of his Star Wars trilogy on video, the Oscar-winning filmmaker talks to TV WEEK by a satellite video hook-up from his home in San Rafael, northern California - appropriate for a man who runs his multi-million-dollar company, Lucasfilm, far from Hollywood.

"My offices here are in an old Victorian house and I am a history buff, so I'd rather spend time in the past than in the future," he says, grinning at the obvious irony of his confession.

"But, obviously, I work in a very technological medium, and when I am trying to create I don't like roadblocks to stop me from saying what I want to say or creating

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● George Lucas ... the man behind the Star Wars movies and such fantastic characters as R2D2 and C3PO (left).

what I want to create. I think frustration makes me involved in the technological side of things for them to advance to the point of easing that creative process for me.

"When I come across a stream, I don't wade through it, I like to build a bridge over it."

Since his debut as a director with the 1971 film THX-1138 (which starred Robert Duvall and Donald Pleasence), George has been busy building many bridges between audiences and movie screens.

But it was his 1977 classic, Star Wars, that really put him into the history books, followed by its sequels - The Empire Strikes Back and The

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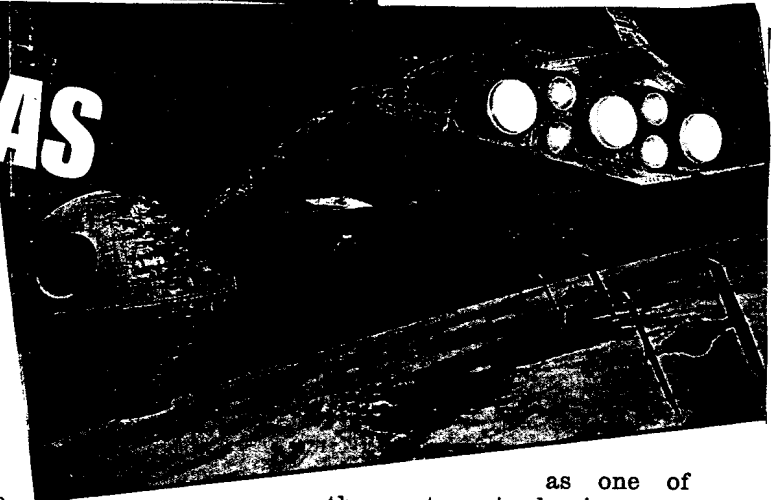
Return Of The Jedi.

With 16 Academy Awards and 40 nominations under his belt for films he has been associated with, George has also made a significant contribution to the technology of filmmaking with Lucasfilm's THX Division, which set new standards for sound and now shows off the new high-quality digital mastering process that

has given Star Wars fans a pristine version of that film on video for the first time.

As always, while Lucas is looking forward - currently writing the next trilogy of Star Wars films to begin production in 1997 and preparing a special 20th anniversary cinema release of Star Wars next year that will include never-before-seen footage - he is also looking back. The limited release of The Star Wars Trilogy: The Definitive Collection takes off in Australia on October 30, through 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment International. After January 31, 1996, the original Star Wars film will be permanently taken off the video market.

THE LUCAS EMPIRE STRIKES BACK!



"While we were working on the special theatrical edition of Star Wars, I started a discussion about trying to bring the video out in a very high-quality version with THX," George says. "It wasn't a marketing plan but just a result of my disappointment that there wasn't a high-quality version out there."

"Obviously the quality has a lot to do with how much you enjoy it."

"Star Wars was originally released on video in the beginning of the whole VCR evolution, and over the years a lot has happened. I really wanted to have a better version out there."

Star Wars has long been regarded

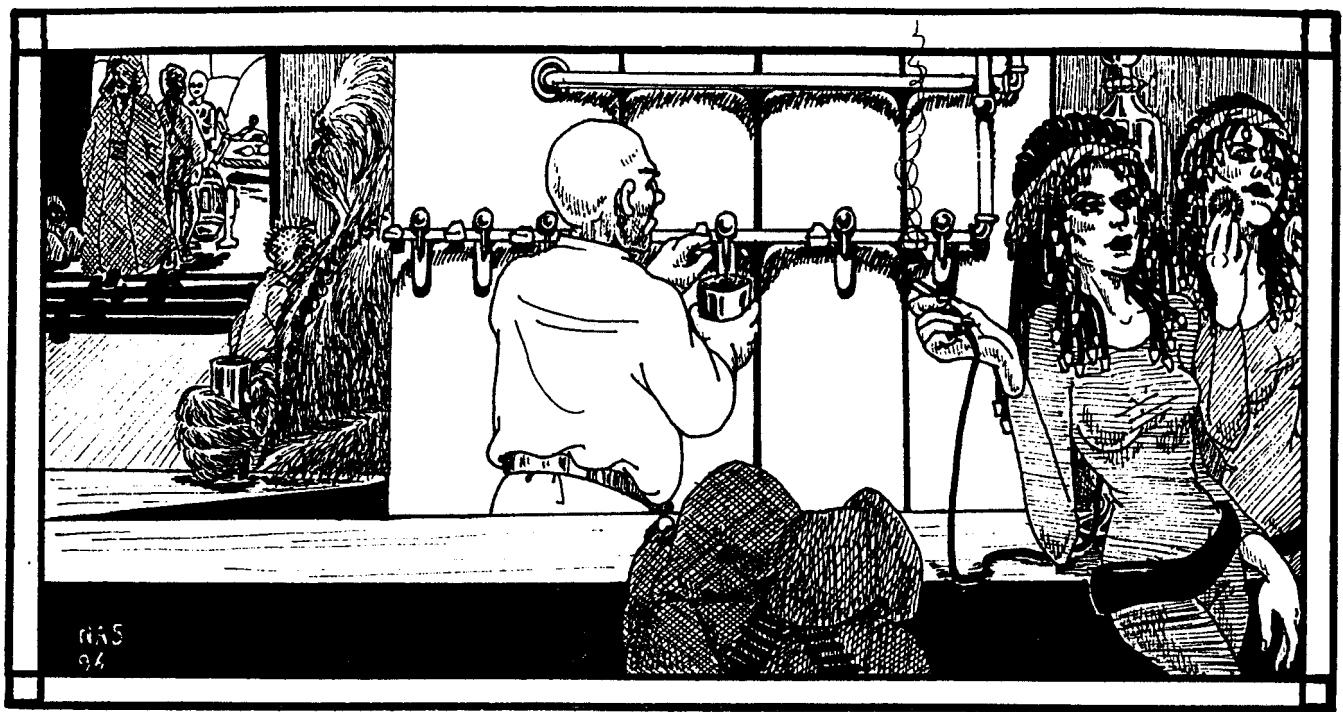
as one of the great movie classics, combining mythology, space fantasy, adventure and romance with groundbreaking special effects and extraordinary space creatures.

"I was trying for a modern mythology," George says.

Successful beyond his wildest dreams, George is now finally writing the second trilogy 20 years later. "They take place before the three that are out on video," he says of the new storyline. "It really has to do with the rise of Darth Vader. It's Darth Vader's story more than anything else, and deals with the character many years before Star Wars and how he became what he was in that film."

From Jenny Cooney in Los Angeles

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FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

WAS PALPATINE THE EMPEROR?

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First, a deep bow and thank you for voting for *The Rest of the Garbage* — didn't even think it'd be on the ballot, let alone get honorable mention. I was kinda hoping to score with "Rancor Delivery", but not the zine. (Yes, the glazed look in my eyes was tears.)

Mayers: What do you mean two people played Wedge? I missed that. Couldn't agree more, a whole lot of fan writing is really superb. Hey, just count how many fan writers are already published authors.

Wilson: I did think you'd gafiated or something. Loved your reasoning about the Jedi Knighthood in comparison of the US. Yes, this is the freest and best country in the world, but it can still be a horrible place for some on the inside and definitely looks like the Great Satan for others on the outside. Any power is bound to make mistakes. The Empire couldn't exterminate the Jedi without a good number of people cooperating with the effort.

Fredericks: So Lucas will make the sequel, if he is already looking for actors to play Anakin. And actresses, to play a "young queen?" That's fascinating. I just think no matter what he does, it'll be hard to please most of us, because we are already formed Anakins in our minds. Re: what the Rebels knew of Lando to make him a general — yeah, that's a story here... and I think Maggie Nowakowska

did something about it.

Schuller: Yeah, Leia's son wouldn't be called Anakin, tell me again! Excellent explanation on Luke's training that Yoda thought "no more training you require" because the boy *did* confront Vader, learned of his parentage and came out of it quite sane.

Stevn: I agree with your compatriots: *Sabrina* was boring. Can't wait for the Ford+Pitt movie, though. No, Lucas doesn't want Luke to be a monk. In his original story version way back when, Luke was 52 years old, Jedi and had at least a dozen kids, if I remember well. And as for the alien life-forms, yeah, Lucas is no zoologist ... tell me about the space slug... Re: Han or Haan, I think it depends on what language you speak, what planet you are on etc. We should call him as he calls himself. The way Lando says it, I keep thinking of a hen. (I should know about names... my first name is Zsuzsa, and guess why I like Z.P. better!)

Grant: Carrie Fisher helping to write Luke's Mom? Huh? I'm not surprised Hamill didn't like the Ewoks. Ford didn't like ROTJ either. ROTJ sort of let Han float off into a characterless netherworld. ROTJ did a good job with Palpie, Luke, Lando, but the rest of the characters were a lot less than they could have been. And *yes* — I took it for granted, too, that the Empire was about human supremacy and the Rebellion was about diversity and all species being equal. If it is any different in the pro novels it's because they are just fodder for the role-playing games. Re: the SW book's comments on how Palpatine was controlled by his advisors ... someone noted already that in the movies,

nobody said the Emperor was Palpatine. (Maybe there were a series of Palpatines, like Louis XV and XVI etc.)

Whitney: I agree, Leia is probably too royal and too much of a leader to allow herself to collapse after her planet is destroyed. I usually write her as someone who has had a trauma so deep she didn't even manage to confront it — perhaps she'll have a total mental collapse after the victory.

Karkoska: My favorite is TESB and it didn't leave me missing the upbeat note. In fact, the opera finale of ROTJ was kinda depressing. Perhaps it's not winning the fight, but continuing the struggle is what really inspires. I'm beginning to think that if Lucas portrays a very corrupt, very bad empire, the mere idea that at the end of the third episode a bunch of people decide to take up arms would be a happy ending.

Nowakowska: I wouldn't take anything Kenobi said as the truth, especially not what he said about Anakin being a good friend and a cunning warrior. Mind you, he didn't say Anakin was his apprentice... he said Vader was his pupil. Correct me if I am wrong, but when I first saw the movie, I thought Anakin was Kenobi's friend and fellow fighter, and there was one guy among the students who turned to evil... I can't see teacher and student being friends. I had teachers who were my mentors, my Gods, my surrogate parents, even one whom I ended up dating, but the fact that they were "my masters" precluded friendship in the sense as I have friends now.

Mink: Oh, yes, let's contemplate where the heck did Luke get the black Jedi uniform from?

Campbell: Re: *Braveheart*. In case The Wallace rides again, you will see a little old Hungarian woman with unruly gray hair in the front lines. Would Scots welcome me? I always dreamed of carrying the banner in a just fight ... let me know when war starts. I am not kidding. Looking at it from Hungary, Great Britain was all right, looking at it from the Colonies made me side with anyone who wanted out! Whenever I drive my car, I have Scottish war songs blaring from my cassette player ... who wouldna fetch for Charlie?

Crotty: I think we can safely assume that Owen was about as force-sensitive as your left shoe. I never bought the idea that either Owen or Beru was related to Anakin or Ben or Luke's mom. Owen wasn't anything else but a farmer, unless he was the Galaxy's best actor, able to fool a Force-sensitive kid.

Kittle: One more comment on my door and I will zap you with the Force. There were some mysterious characters at MWC last year and this year, who started a marvelous Yoda-door behind my back in front of my face, and all the credit should go to them, God bless their heart and their creative soul.

Churko: Glad to hear you're back. Wish you well. Yes,

you gotta read the Hambly book.

Palumbo: Oh, what a splendid suggestion to say that perhaps Vader was not a Skywalker? I hope someone will do a story on that ... what if Kenobi was *not* lying at first, and Vader is someone else whom Palpie manipulated into believing that he was Anakin just to catch Luke with the bait? Who knows, maybe Kenobi's ghost was Palpie's Force-projection ... sending Luke to Dagobah so that Palpie can follow the Force-trail to find Yoda ... why did Yoda die? Palpie's assassins poisoned him. Then came the second fake Kenobi apparition, telling Luke that Leia was his twin so he wouldn't marry her and father strong Jedi with her ... plus if Luke can be made to think that he had killed his own father, the trauma would make him easier to manipulate. Stop me, I think I lost control of the horses...

STAR WARS ON THE INTERNET

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August 23, 1996

It's hard to believe that summer is nearly over! School starts in just a little more than a week. Where did the time go?

It was nice to find SE in my mailbox again! Cheree, congratulations on your new house! Enjoyed seeing the pictures. As we near the 50th issue of your letterzine, it occurs to me that, except for a rare italicized comment in a person's letter, you have never written a LoC yourself, at least not during the years I've been involved. I would like to make a request that you please join us by writing a LoC now and then. I know that I would enjoy "listening" to your ideas. How about it, Cheree? I don't think there's any rule that says the editor of a letterzine can't or shouldn't participate. (And if there is, let's change it!) As I see it, the more people sharing ideas, the better! ((Ed: I did a LoC for the very first issue of SE, mostly to fill space, with my thoughts on ROTJ, which had just debuted. I've always sort of felt that the editor should stay in the background as a moderator and not dominate the conversation. I even feel guilty sometimes by interjecting my comments into letters because I feel that people are probably thinking, "Why doesn't she shut up and let the LoCer talk?"))

This brings me to the main topic that I wanted to discuss today, which is exchanging ideas and sharing SW stories with even more people. During the past few months, I discovered SW fans and SW fan fiction on the

Internet. I would very much like to bridge the gap between the two fandoms. Many of the online fans had never heard of fanzines and I, at least, did not realize that there was a whole library of fan fiction on the Internet. I recently wrote a very short piece for Dunc's online newsletter that MJ Mink mentioned last issue. In it, I listed fanzines and fanzine editors for the online fans to contact and I posted the address of Ming's fanzine library. Some of these fans were very excited to learn about the existence of fanzines. I know that I felt like a kid in a candy store when I first found the fan fiction page online. I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to try some of the online fan fiction for yourselves. The address for one of the major fan fiction sites is:

<http://www.ftech.net/~monark/starwars/sw.htm>.

That site also has links to several other fiction sites. When you get to the above address, click on the "library" link. That in turn will give you a number of categories to choose from. Some of these include: The Old Republic, The Empire, New Republic, SW Humor, X-Files/SW stories, ST/SW stories, and series stories. You can click on "Showcase" to find the most recent offerings. Another fan fiction address is:

<http://www2.psyber.com/~debra/sw.htm>

I really suggest that you give some of the stories a try. The nice thing about online stories is that they are totally free if you have free Internet access and only cost a few minutes of download time if you don't. If you like a story, you can print it out for yourself. If you don't like it, you can simply delete it. The other nice thing is that you can contact the author directly through e-mail as soon as you finish reading it if you wish, while ideas and reactions are still fresh in your mind. Every author that I have contacted so far has sent back a response. As with all other authors, they enjoy and appreciate feedback. Some of these authors now share chapters of works in progress or whole stories as they complete them. It is really nice to find the surprise of a story, a chapter of a story, or even a whole novel attached to a piece of e-mail now and then!

A few of the online stories that I recommend are: "Three of a Kind" by Kelly, "Stuff" (a silly title, but a well-written novel) by Gheorghe2, "Shooting Stars" (a Tank and Luke story), and "X-Jedi" by Jackee C. (This is a cross between the *X-Files* and SW, and although I had not seen the *X-Files*, it didn't keep me from enjoying this story.) For those of you who like stories in which Luke falls to the Dark (definitely *not* my kind of story, but I must admit that this is well done), there is "A Dark Path" and its sequel "Striving for the Light" by Ali Hadden. A work to look for that is currently in production is "Samizdat" by Shura. That one I highly recommend! There are many, many more stories available. There is something for every SW fan, I think. As with fanzine fiction, some of the

stories are better than others. The only drawback to online fan fiction is the absence of artwork. I'm glad that I've had the opportunity to read both online and fanzine SW fiction.

For those of you who would like to "chat" with other SW fans, a group meets every Tuesday evening from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in a private room on AOL called "Star Ladies". Despite the name (which may be changed soon), *all* fans are welcome, so Tim, Matthew, Gerald, John, Rich and any other guys out there, don't be shy! Novels, fan fiction, new merchandise, and anything else involving SW is discussed. Some sessions are saner than others, but there are some good people here, and it's generally a fun place to be. Give it a try!

I *do* find it interesting that many of the authors of the online fiction that write post ROTJ tales *do* use some of the events and characters introduced in the pro novels in their stories, while most of the authors who write for fanzines use only the events and characters of the films themselves usually. Please don't let that fact stop you from reading these stories! You will be missing out on some truly fine and very enjoyable SW fiction.

This brings me to something else I wanted to discuss today — *the pro fiction books*. A lot of people, online and off (myself included a number of times), have been highly critical of the pro books. Even many of the authors of online fiction who have utilized characters and situations from the pro fiction have criticized much of it. Yet I'm glad that the pro fiction exists and I'm glad that a lot of other people are interested in reading stories about the SW characters that I love. I also must admit that with only one exception (*The Crystal Star*, which in my opinion has *no* redeeming qualities!), I *have* found something enjoyable or creative or interesting or well-done about all of the pro novels. All (with the exception noted above!) have been worth reading. It's true that I often find that I wish the pro authors would have done something differently or had done a better job with a characterization, but I'd rather have the books available than not, and I'd rather read them than not.

With that said, I also *don't* think that the pro books are canon. I think that if George Lucas ever decided to make his third trilogy someday, he will do things *his* way and ignore what has been written in the novels. (I actually doubt that he has read any of them himself.) I look at the pro books as another SW universe to enjoy. Ellen Randolph had one universe. Maggie Nowakowska wrote her own totally different and complete universe. Jeanine Hennig had another, Marti Schuller has yet another, as does Louise Turner, as does Carolyn Golledge, as does Mary Jean Holmes, and so on. All of them have been unique and, while I have liked some better than others, I have gotten enjoyment from reading all of these universes and many other ones. None of them were or are totally

perfect, but I'm still glad that I had the opportunity to read them. I feel the same way about the pro books. I have heard some people in SE mention that they have not read the pro books and that they don't care to do so. That is, of course, your right. I'd just like to humbly suggest that you keep an open mind and not totally dismiss them without even giving them a try. If you can afford the time and the money, you might find yourself pleasantly surprised to discover that many of them are fairly good. Some of them may even give you other ideas for writing your own stories, which may end up being vastly better than what some of the books have to offer. This has been the case with some of the stories written by online SW fans.

While I'm on the topic of the pro books, I liked *Shield of Lies* better than Kube-McDowell's first book. He has a nasty, fascinating villain in Nil Sparr, and the main story about the conquest of the Yevetha is intriguing. The ending was exciting and rather surprising. I'm looking forward to the third book. K-Mac writes a great Lando! Luke's characterization was a lot better in this one. (He's far more normal and he even has a sense of humor!), but I still don't understand why he wants to search for a mother he never knew or why he allows that untrustworthy Akanah to boss him around.

I enjoyed Judith Yuenger's report on MediaWest*Con. I have never attended a Con but I always enjoy hearing about them. Congratulations to all of the winners of the STAR aWARDs. I'd like to thank you and all other SW authors, artists, and zine editors for providing many hours of SW reading enjoyment.

Z. P. Florian: I liked your artwork in the last issue of SE, particularly your drawing of Luke on p. 52. K-Mac wrote a good chapter in *Shield of Lies* with Lobot and Lando. Did you read it? Please *do* write more stories of Luke's two dozen sons! I'm glad that you like the idea of Luke married ... and with children.

John Fredericks: I *do* think that we will eventually see the prequels, though I wouldn't count on them before the year 2000! As I've said before, though, I would much prefer to see the sequels and those I *very* much doubt we'll ever see. I agree that story and characters are what's important to me. I can do without fancy special effects. Unfortunately, Lucas seems far more concerned with the look of a picture than with its content or characters. The kinds of changes that he is making to the Special Editions prove that.

I must admit that I prefer to read SW stories that include Luke, Han and Leia as the main characters in both pro and fan fiction. I enjoy stories in which other characters play major roles as long as the Big Three have major parts, too. I liked Louise Turner's *The Ormand Factor* for instance, in which Wedge is a major character, because Leia, Han and especially Luke were involved, too.

Even though the first two pro X-wing novels were not bad stories, I didn't enjoy them as much because those three characters were *not* included. Those novels didn't have the same attraction or the same SW feel to them, in my opinion. I really miss those characters when they are absent or when they have only very minor roles. You will probably like *Shield of Lies* with Lando's expanded role.

Speaking of Lando, he was probably accepted by the Rebel Alliance because he was instrumental in helping Luke and Leia return safely to the Rebel Fleet. Lando really didn't have a whole lot of choice about helping Vader. He did regret helping to set the trap for Luke, and the pain he caused Han and Leia, and he did try to make amends. If Luke and Leia were willing to forgive him and trust him, the rest of the Alliance was probably willing to accept him too. As you said, most of the Rebels probably joined under "strange circumstances" and many members of the Alliance may even have been Imperials at one time, like Biggs, who jumped ship and defected after graduation. I don't think Luke or Leia told the Alliance about the "Battle of Tanaab". They probably didn't know anything about it. It was probably Han who mentioned that to the brass at the time that he volunteered for the Endor mission, after his Tatooine rescue. Han was the one who knew Lando in the past. Luke and Leia never met him before Bespin.

A. G. Steyn: I just wanted to say that I *very* much enjoyed your story "Surprise, Surprise" in *I Don't Care What You Smell #2*. It was a nice portrait of the Lars family and their relationship with one another. It was a cute, funny, folksy piece!

I can't quite imagine Leia repairing vaporators on Tatooine either. You could be right though that she may have gotten along better with Uncle Owen. She would have been less prone to daydreaming than Luke. On the other hand, Leia has the same Skywalker stubbornness, she *can* have a temper, and she likes to be in charge, so there may still have been plenty of rather heated arguments.

Pat Grant: I hope your surgery went very well and that you are now in good health. TRU, as I'm sure many people will tell you, is short for "Toys R Us", the big toy store chain where many SW toys and the 3-D *Falcon* puzzle can be purchased.

Interesting that Carrie Fisher will be involved in helping to write the prequel movies!

Your idea of Ben Kenobi manipulating Luke into wanting to "take on Vader" one day not only because of the deaths of his aunt and uncle, but also because he personally witnessed Ben's death at the hands of Vader, is a very interesting one, and it *is* possible. You mentioned though that perhaps Kenobi didn't just kill Vader himself on the Death Star because he felt it wasn't the "right time." I would think that *any* time that you can rid the Galaxy of

a villain like Vader would be the *right* time! Just think of how many deaths Vader caused in the next three years of his life! If he could have been killed on the first Death Star, those people would probably have been very grateful! ((Ed: *On the other hand, perhaps Kenobi and Yoda were seeing farther into the future and realized that only Vader could kill the Emperor; Luke would never be strong enough. Or that the two of them together would be necessary to kill the Emperor; neither would be strong enough alone. Killing Vader too soon would have only prolonged a horrible situation by removing the only chance they had of remedying it.*))

I still think that Tatooine was a remote rimworld. There certainly didn't seem to be very many people actually living there. Mos Eisley seemed to be the most crowded place on the planet, which makes sense since it was the spaceport. Many smugglers and people who were at least marginally outside the law seemed to be there. Remember that Ben told Luke they needed to be cautious. A remote planet *would* attract those who might be involved in illegal activities, because it would be less likely that they would be caught if they were on a planet out at the edge of the Galaxy (sort of in the middle of nowhere). Even Jabba had quite an operation going on Tatooine. I think that the stormtroopers arrived *after* the space battle above Tatooine, as they landed to try to locate the droids. (...and according to the radio version of ANH, it was Leia who led them to the planet as she was going there to enlist Kenobi's help. Luke witnessed the space battle that took place near Tatooine in which Leia was captured.)

I don't want Luke to settle for just anyone either. However, who's to say he won't find the perfect person to be a mate for him? I hope he *can* find the right person and then *my* advice to him would be: Go for it, Luke!

Matthew Whitney: When someone is dying, it is a rather strange time to be giving that person commands. You are probably right. Ben was probably trying to help Luke focus his mind on something so he wouldn't fall asleep in the snow and die. He was trying to keep the kid alive until help (in the form of his best friend, Han) could get to him. This latest near death experience of Luke's may have also convinced Kenobi that the boy needed Jedi training as soon as possible to at least give him an edge in staying alive. Jedi skills would improve his chances of surviving the war. Only if he survived himself would he be able to restore the Order.

Unfortunately, I don't approach my LoCs in the scholarly way in which you do. If I *did*, I would probably never turn in a LoC. There are so many things that I *must* do every day and so many things that I enjoy doing, that there simply wouldn't be time to write one if I wrote them as I used to write term papers. I figure that a LoC that jumps wildly from topic to topic with very little

organization is better than no LoC at all. I just hope I'll be forgiven if I don't use fancy prose or well-constructed sentences, or if my letters aren't always totally coherent. I *do* stick a tiny 1½" x 2" Post-It Note next to something I want to respond to later as I'm reading SE. That *does* help.

I bet your students *love* your ties!

Maggie Nowakowska: I enjoyed your Lucas quotes from *Cinefex*. Thanks for sharing them! As long as she would make *Luke* happy and would be good for him, I wouldn't care who Luke chose for a wife. I wouldn't care whether his friends or family approved of his choice either. There is an interesting story by an online author called "Successor to the Dark Side" in which Luke gets a lot of grief from Mon Mothma and everyone else in the Galaxy because he wants to marry Mara Jade. It's really an excellent story.

All of the timelines that I have seen for the last 6 months proclaim Luke to be 18 in ANH. All of the pro fiction books use this benchmark to calculate his age in each succeeding book.

I agree with you about Ben and the lightsaber. I also *very definitely* agree with you about Vader. It was *not* Ben's fault that Anakin became Vader. It was Anakin Skywalker who "caused Vader to happen." He chose the Dark. No one did that for him. I also agree that although Ben was flawed and imperfect (and what human being isn't?), he was basically a good man.

M. J. Mink: As Marti Schuller said, it's obvious that I'm not going to be able to convince those of you who feel Luke should remain a loveless, childless, single person, a slave to duty and the Force only, that it would be better if he married and had children, in addition to his duties and the Force. Likewise, there's no way you will change *my* mind about this. Therefore, I won't even attempt to change your mind anymore. However, I did want to discuss the comment that you made: "...though for someone lovelorn, he certainly made very few efforts to find and hold onto a woman." That's very true. Luke does not initiate relationships very often in the novels or in fan fiction. Actually, that's very much in character for the way most authors have been writing Luke. In my opinion, for all of his many Jedi gifts and talents, Luke Skywalker does *not* seem to have a really good *personal* self image. He doesn't seem to recognize his own charms and attractiveness to women, both physically and in his character traits. Instead, he lacks self-confidence. He worries about whether he's good enough or worthy enough, or whether he is like his father, or if he will make the same mistakes with another generation. In some of the fiction, he doesn't seem to think that anyone could be interested in him. As just an example, in Ellen Randolph's universe, Luke once said to Ben Kenobi, "Who would want me? I'm Darth Vader's son!" This slightly unsure-of-

himself Luke *wouldn't* initiate a relationship unless someone showed an interest first, and wouldn't push the issue if a person broke off the relationship. (Like Callista.) I think a host of psychiatrists would have a field day if there really were a Luke Skywalker! Between his relationships with women and his relationship with his father and his uncertainties about the Force and the Jedi, his fear of the Dark Side and of unleashing a Dark Jedi on the Galaxy, the poor boy could keep them all busy for several lifetimes! (On more than one occasion, after a space battle with other fighters, Luke even worried about the integrity of killing opponents in self-defense while using the Force because he felt it gave him an unfair advantage. This is one major reason why I think Luke needs a wife in his life. He needs someone to tell him not to worry about everything and not to be so hard on himself all the time, to trust his instincts and not brood about every decision afterwards. He needs someone to remind him to "lighten up" now and then.)

Catriona Campbell: Welcome back! You were missed! Congratulations on your engagement! I really enjoyed reading both "Missing" and "Legitimate Target". You are a very good writer and I'm looking forward to more SW stories from you in the near future. I only hope that you will write one in which poor Luke finally completes a successful mission. I'm afraid that if he has one more failure, he's going to need a psychiatrist in your universe, too. (If he doesn't already!)

I agree with your comments to M. J. Mink about Vader attacking Luke on Bespin and about Vader being clearly outmatched by Luke in ROTJ.

Luke didn't kill the Gamorrean guards when he entered Jabba's Palace. The novelization (which is canon material), says: "Two Gamorreans stepped up, blocking his path. Luke raised his hand and pointed at the guards. Before either could draw a weapon, they were both clutching their own throats, choking, gasping. They fell to their knees. Luke lowered his hand and walked on. The guards, suddenly able to breathe again, slumped to the sand-drifted steps. They did not follow." He made sure that they didn't interfere with his mission, but he didn't kill them.

Tim Blaes: Enjoyed your comment: "...maybe Luke uses the Kaiburr crystal as a paperweight on his desk at the Jedi Academy." Maybe it helps to keep the students in line! (Obviously, he didn't have it on his desk when he was training Kyp Durrone.) Also enjoyed your comment about making predictions for the *National Enquirer*. Agree that if we forget the past, we're doomed to repeat it.

Gerald Crotty: I agreed with all of the items on your wish list for the Special Editions. I chuckled over your comment: "...there will be more scenes with Max Rebo, et al. Haven't we suffered enough?" Yes! I think we have!

In my opinion, I think increasing the screen time for the aliens is going to slow the films down. Slowing down the pace of the films is something which George Lucas seems to worry about. That's why he says he won't include the Biggs scenes. Actually, I'd be willing to pay extra just to see those scenes! Maybe if Lucas feels there's money to be gained from those scenes, he'll make a special video edition that includes them. I wouldn't even care if they didn't include music and if they were a little unpolished.

Last I heard, the films, the radio shows and novelizations of the films are *still* the only canon material.

I certainly agree with you about Luke! I'm tired of the Dark Luke characterizations too! (I really never did like *Dark Empire*.) The Luke of the films *is* a likeable, open, optimistic person and being a Jedi *shouldn't* entirely change his personality. I too think Luke would have a sense of humor and would continue to care about the friends that he made before he became a Jedi. I agree that he doesn't have to spend every minute of his life "focused on Jedi Knight business". It would make him a *very* boring, one-dimensional person.

The new Jabba doesn't look fat enough or ugly enough. There are some good SW/X-Files crossovers in the fanzine library if you have Internet access. As I said before, a story called "X-Jedi" is particularly well-written and enjoyable.

Debbie Kittle: Please tell Mary Jo Fox to return to SE. I miss her and, from the comments from other folks, it appears I'm not alone. I agree that we all need to respect one another's views and we need to be a little more tolerant. I think it's great that SW appeals to so many people of so many ages. I welcome all new and newly returned fans. I think there is a place for all of us. Most fans seem to agree.

Rich Gawel: Welcome to SE! I enjoyed your LoC. Check out the SW/X-Files section on the online zine library. I think you'll be happy!

Louise Turner: I enjoyed reading your new story, "A.W.O.L." I'm looking forward to the sequel. Where will it be published? Will Luke be involved in your new novel? Please say "yes"! Who is Deenie? Maggie's universe *is* good, isn't it? Did you ever read Ellen Randolph's *Sanctuary* universe? I think you'd like it. Have you read the X-wing novels and the X-wing comics? What do you, the biggest Wedge fan in this or any other galaxy, think of them?

Catherine Churko: Welcome back to you, too! Hope you're feeling better!

Amanda Palumbo: I agree with you about Luke's growth. I wish more authors, both pro and fan authors, would reflect this growth in their stories. Sometimes the Jedi Master is still portrayed as a rather immature, dumb little boy who sometimes seems to forget he *can* use the

Force! Often the Solo kids are portrayed as a lot more talented, mature, and practical than their supposedly gifted uncle!

Nancy Stasulis: I really liked your Cantina drawing on page 18. Your LoC seemed to be missing though. Maybe we'll get to read it next issue. ((Ed: Nancy's Yoda cartoon WAS her LoC!))

To Everyone: Until next time, GO WITH THE FORCE!

DEVELOPMENTS

Matthew Whitney
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August 27, 1996

A new issue of SE and WOW ... have there been developments in my life (though mostly on a "mundane" level). First, after eleven years of teaching in the same school, I got laid off due to declining enrollment at the 90 year old dilapidated building they call a high school. The school took an overall 40% reduction in staff, with my old department (Business Ed.) going down from about 25 to 8 teachers. Fortunately for me, I've been taking courses to get certified to teach math. While I still have a couple of classes to go to finish my undergrad math degree, certification requirements differ, thus I applied for — and got — certified. So, I was able to be rehired as a math teacher in the same building.

Meanwhile, several other teachers with more experience and degrees than I transferred to a newly opened "High School of Science and Technology", so I landed the "top" schedule in the Math Department — teaching AP Calculus and Algebra 2 (regular and honors divisions). I even volunteered to take on department chairperson duties — quite a leap from being out on my butt without a job. And this was not the routine teacher layoff notice ... the job was eliminated! There were promises to try and place the ousted Business teachers, but in the teaching game, certification is the key to any job.

So, that was quite a harrowing time to go through even though I was very confident that I would land the Math job. There was a distinct chance of getting shipped down to Middle School, and working one's way back up is usually extremely difficult, so I'm very lucky.

On a rewarding note, I was delighted to be informed that a student from a couple of years back named me as an inspirational teacher on his "Who's Who Among American HS Students" paperwork — thus my being recognized in the 1995-96 "Who's Who Among American Teachers."

I'm thrilled enough to toot my own horn over this, though the honor boils down to the privilege of being able to *buy* a fancy book with my name in mirco type plus a wall plaque. But, heck, us teachers are so desperate for those pats on the back that we'll take whatever comes within reach.

So, I'm breathing a great sigh of relief at returning to school this autumn and am actually looking forward to the classes I'll be teaching.

Turning to the *fun* stuff...

Reaction to reading Barbara Hamby's *Children of the Jedi*: I was disappointed. It never flowed, rather it seemed very disjointed and uneven. Much of it was a catalog of alien creatures, which hardly interests me at all. As many say, it's not the FX that makes the Saga so appealing, so too is it not merely a parade of exotic creatures. Yes, they are fun on screen, but when the story has to be pushed aside to explain an alien who really does not add to the plot — something is wrong. I've read worse, but I've read much, much better.

John Fredericks: Your suspicion that the prequels will never be made is one I've shared for a long while, sometimes hoping maybe they will, other times doubting it severely. It is delightful, however, that SW is back in the public's attention and seeing the trilogy on the big screen again will be a blast. Yes, even if the motive is more \$\$\$ for the LFL coffers. As for the FX emphasis on the special editions, it probably won't harm them too much, and it'll no doubt be only us dinosaurs who do the griping at any problems. And as much as I'll enjoy the theater experience again, I think half the fun will be watching a new generation of kids get as inspired as I was back in those days.

How would Luke and Leia have introduced Lando to the rebels? Actually, I think Chewbacca might have been the one. Luke took quite a beating in TESB and I doubt the leaders would have let Leia go chasing Boba Fett, putting herself in danger, at least not right off. Chewbacca was going right back after Han, and Lando probably talked them into trusting him enough to go with Chewie. That would probably serve as his proving grounds. Chewie would probably not have taken keenly to that, for he still blamed Calrissian for Han's capture, but there must be something in Lando's past with Han that said he wasn't all bad (or Chewie really would have ripped him to pieces). Once they'd tailed Boba to Jabba's, Lando would have had to have done something to renew that trust, so it may well have been Chewie's testimony that brought him into the fold.

General comment on the naming of the kids: The negative reactions to the choices in the pro novels reminds me of a discussion with a pen pal in re Catherine and Vincent's son in *Beauty and the Beast*. The choice there

was "Jacob", after Father, but my pal said an even more appropriate choice would have been "Jacob Chandler", to honor Catherine as well. But then, 3rd season of that series was such a hash job, the naming of the child was actually a good moment (though I don't despise that season as many fans do).

Anyone looking for a good read (non-SW)? May I suggest *The Physics of Star Trek*. The science is *real*, not a lot of techno-babble that means nothing. It shows how close/far from real issues many ST topics are, and is exceptionally readable. I even used it as a research source for a geometry paper last term (topic: Dimensions/Curved Spacetime). Also, Barnes & Noble have a great series of classic mysteries, gorgeously bound and at a \$4.98 price that is a steal, including *The Maltese Falcon*, one of my all-time faves!

Pat Grant: Re the quotes you cited from the ANH novelization dealing with the Emperor v. Imperial Governors. I reckon that to be the author's attempt to paint Moff Tarkin as a substantial villain rather than a bloke just following his superior's orders. With the Emperor not on the scene, the shift of control to the governors did not take away from other characters who were established on screen. This is another reason why I feel the novelizations aren't canon, for the authors were fleshing out material in a way that might not mesh with Lucas' plan (much like my goal in many a fanfic story was to elaborate on a scene here and there).

If SW were done in the 50's and with tacky FX ... didn't we see the result with *Flash Gordon*? Sorry to those who like it, but that movie was a BOMB by my standards (except for some fun performances by Von Sydow, Blessed, and Dalton).

Maggie Nowakowska: Greedo fired first, you say, according to info from LFL and the ANH-sp. ed... Definitely a bad move. Is this a politically correct inspired backing off? That was a defining moment for Han. I don't even think this action made Han "ambiguous." His motive was clear as crystal. He was fighting for his life with a hired gun who was about to waste him. The only thing that even gave Han a chance was that Greedo had wanted to gloat first.

By the by, we need an abbreviation for Special Edition. SE won't really fit for these pages, for obvious reasons. Suggestions? ((Ed: How about "sped"??))

Gerald Crotty: Re Kenneth Branagh. I'd not say he is the only possible choice to play OWK (though he'd be a good one, IMHO), I must disagree with your rejection of his acting ability. I think he is brilliant and the best thing to happen to Shakespeare in our generation. An English teacher and I bump heads on this from time to time: we both like his films but my colleague agrees with you on his acting. I'm a bit befuddled why he chose *Hamlet* for his

next Shakespearean project. So few Shakespeare plays are adapted to the big screen and, what with Mel Gibson's wonderful version only a few years ago, I'd have opted for something different.

I quite agree with your observation that if the ending of the Sp. Ed. of ROTJ features celebration scenes on Coruscant, they had better establish early in the film what the location is.

Liz Sharpe: You praised a pro convention called Visions that brought Dave Prowse and Peter Mayhew to your area. Could the full name of the group be "Infinite Visions" and no relation to "Visions", the annual con in Chicago during Thanksgiving weekend (bringing in a large number of Brit media celebrities from DW, B7, *Red Dwarf*, RoS, etc.)? I attended an "Infinite Visions" show in Boston, 8/24, and was *very* disappointed. Not that I was expecting the greatest con ever, it being a pro-endeavor, but this was also the first con that ever inspired me to write a letter of complaint (while I often send the Chicago folk a letter of thanks for the tremendous job they do).

The problem with this Boston show as false/insufficient advertising. The guest line up was D. Prowse, P. Mayhew, Jeremy Bulloch, Kenny Baker, Warwick Davis, and ST's Armin Shimerman, Robert Duncan McNeil (and some others). They did *not* advertise that the SW guys would be charging for their autographs. This was a first for me in over a decade of cons and some of my group did not budget for this added expense. Next, they had those regular v. preferred admission ticket scales. I've seen them before and have always opted for the regular because preferred is usually only marginally better (in terms of seating) and, while regular admission does not "guarantee" autographs, usually if the celebrity starts signing, only if the lines are ridiculously long does anyone lose out. Were we in for a shock!

The security really enforced not moving up to the vast empty spaces reserved for the "preferred" ticket holders (even when the SW guys were taking to rows of empty seats) and then the two ST guests signed *only* for those who had paid extra. The "not guaranteed" disclaimer turned out to be a hollow lie, for it was obvious there would not be even an attempt made to get autographs for those with regular admissions. Talk about not being fan friendly! They outdid Creation's dreadful track record in being interested in the almighty dollar. They'll not get my business again (and it really tarnished finally getting to meet Kenny). I do not fault the SW guests for charging, by the way. Most guests are paid fees these days and, if they want to structure the deal that way, fine. But, inform the fans that they'll need an extra \$5 per guest per autograph. That adds up very quickly.

On a positive note, let me add my praises to yours in regards to Dave Prowse, a great ambassador for SW. If

anyone recalls a photo I had reproduced in SE years ago, where Dave took me into a Vaderish choke hold for a hilarious photo ... well, when I met him again a couple of years ago, I had an 8x10 of that shot. He enjoyed it so much he asked me to send him a copy and even offered to pay the expense I'd incur by getting a reprint. Naturally, I refused that wonderful gesture and sent him an extra 8x10, tickled that he'd even asked. And anyone who has seen his slide shows on his career and world travels knows what a delightful speaker he is. Bravo, Dave!

I just realized, by the next issue of SE, we'll possibly have already seen the special edition of ANH. SW films in theaters again ... ahhh, all is right with the world!

Follow the Force!

WARM MEMORIES

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Well, having sent my last LoC in prior to attending MWC, allow me a moment to say how wonderful it was to see you all again. I look forward each year to this all-too-brief respite and to visiting with SW friends. This last con was definitely "off", but being with so many friends can never be completely tainted. It was especially fun to meet our overseas attendees and I hope to see you all again next year.

Congrats to all the STAR aWARDs winners and honorable mentions. A special "well done" to Cheree and Judy on their individual recognition awards. No two deserve it more.

I've been suggesting to Debbie Kittle that at next MWC she should get a group photo of all the medal winners (and another of the "honorable") that could possibly be printed in the following SE. We both love the idea and hope to get Judy to make the request formally next year. Out of curiosity, does everyone else like this notion as well?

As always, I loved seeing the photos (myself excluded!) in SE. Your home is lovely, Cheree, and I wish you only peace and joy there for many years to come. Seeing the MWC pix brought back warm memories, too. Too bad the Vader's bedroom photo came out too dark to use because it was marvelous, as was the entire doll display. You gals responsible top yourselves every year.

Pat Grant: I was so sorry to read of your surgery. I sincerely hope that by now you're fully recovered and doing well, with no further operations looming.

I dearly adore your marvelous idea for a SW bake sale, though Cheree's point is, unfortunately, quite valid. (Wouldn't want to poison any loyal fans.) But if it can be

worked out, put me down for a purchase! Seems there's a lot of chocolate/SW lovers out there and I'm sure you'd sell out rapidly.

"SWans"? Personally, I describe myself as a "Force Follower" but I suppose that name wouldn't really suit Han fans well.

I, too, am a long time Danny Kaye fan! What a great talent! Thank goodness for film where those we love never die. I'm also a giant fan of John Wayne and Gregory Peck.

Matthew Whitney: I really like your comparison of SW fans to archaeological researchers, though I have no expertise in the field.

Maggie Nowakowska: I look forward to seeing you again at MWC '97.

Thank you so much for your comments re Kenobi "making" Anakin turn to the Dark Side. Your words stated my beliefs magnificently.

M. J. Mink: Thanks for your kind comment on my son. No takers yet, but I've decided I'm not ready for mother-in-law or grandmother status yet anyway.

Are you and Z. P. working on your alternate stories yet? If not, why not?! We're waiting!

Catriona Campbell: Welcome back, lady! I've sorely missed you. No apology is necessary to me either. I've had enough younger friends in my life to realize how all-consuming and blinding first love can be. I was lucky (?) to get into fandom at the stage of life I did, when few distractions so completely absorbed my attention and fandom merely provided the best outlet I could ever hope to find. Be happy, my friend. I look forward to seeing your wonderful writing again most of all. Say "hi" to David for me.

Oops, who says Luke killed those two Gamorrean guards in ROTJ? I've always thought he only choked them into unconsciousness so they wouldn't interfere. Am I alone in this evaluation?

Gerald Crotty: Thanks for sharing those wonderful photos from that con. It was marvelous to see the actors again.

Debbie Kittle: Ditto thanks for sharing the pix with Mr. Prowse. My, my, what a steamy embrace Cheryl has him — or is it vice versa? — locked in. Cold showers, anyone? :)

Thanks also for the congrats on *Smelly's* Fan Q. Judy and I appreciate everyone who voted for us and we treasure the award.

Rich Gawel: Welcome to SE! I know you're gonna love it here.

I, too, am an *X Files* fan, but I've never considered any connection between that interest and SW. I tend to really enjoy any good sci-fi or fantasy related programs. Reality was made by Hoover and sucks with industrial strength, so any plausible escape is more than welcome for me. I also

adore *Hercules*, *Xena*, the ST programs, etc., and am eagerly awaiting the promising-looking fall TV lineup. ((*Ed*: What did everyone think of *Dark Skies*? I was blown away! Like a combination of *XF*, *The Fugitive*, *The Invaders*, *Aliens*, etc., all rolled up into one! Looks like it's going to be a great show!))

Louise Turner: Hello, again. It was terrific getting to meet you in Lansing, in spite of our delayed recognition of each other. I hope to see you there again next year.

This is definitely a short reply for me and I apologize to all I missed. Catch you next issue? I wish everyone good health, joy, autumnal beauty and inner peace. 'Til next time...

PREQUEL SPECULATIONS

Gerald Crotty
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Hello, everyone.

Z. P.: That quote you mentioned about Ford saying he wanted to die in ROTJ appeared in *Time* magazine in May 1983. Actually, I'm not sure that by dying it would've made Han's character "better". I certainly agree with the general idea that Han was less interesting in ROTJ, but I'm not sure Ford is completely blameless. Sure, Lucas is responsible ultimately but I think the actor has a number of opportunities to improve on the script. Ford did this in the first two but didn't seem that eager to in ROTJ. He does seem a bit emasculated in ROTJ, too. I'm thinking of the scene where Mon Mothma is giving her talk and Han is sitting with Leia. The whole scene makes Han look like a good little schoolboy who sits at the front with his girlfriend and sheepishly raises his hand when the "teacher" asks for a volunteer. Han should stand at the back with "the guys". Well, actually, no, he shouldn't do that either. A character should grow, I suppose, but did he have to be such a drip?

Veronica Wilson: On the subject of Kenobi, I have to say that most of my reactions to him are not colored by what he did or said, but more by the simple fact that Alec Guinness was playing the part. By that I mean that it seemed more Guinness than Kenobi. I just felt that he wasn't taking it seriously. I'm not saying it's a bad performance, just that he comes across as a bit of a snob. He's one of those actors that seem to have achieved the status of Great Actor, but I'm not sure why. He's quite good in some things but never great.

John Fredericks: You're right about Lando. LFL

doesn't seem to know what to do with him. His character was given no development at all in ROTJ. But he's a good character. I'm surprised they haven't used him more in the novels or a comic mini-series would be good.

A. G.: Hey, now waitaminnit — you said that most of the Imps were lacking in the "looks" dept. Most of those characters were played by British actors. What are you saying? You're right, of course. What about Jerjerrod? Actually, I worry about some of these names that Lucas comes up with or maybe I just have a filthy mind. But I've always wondered how Jerjerrod's name is pronounced — I mean, if the second "j" is spoken like a "k"...

Pat Grant: Your mention of those time travel books reminded me of a book that I've been trying to find for a couple of years now. And if Cheree doesn't mind, I'd like to enlist the help of the SE readers in identifying it. A friend described the plot to me of this book he'd read about 10 years ago, but he couldn't remember the title or author. So, if this synopsis rings a bell, please let me know. It's basically a time loop story, sort of like *Groundhog Day*, but in this case the loop covers about 20 years, the 60's and 70's. The main character remembers each previous loop. Eventually he meets a young girl who is also conscious of the loop. Sometimes they change history or get involved in famous events. Does this sound familiar to anyone? I've always loved time loop stories. If anyone has read any other good ones, please let me know. ((*Ed*: One of my all time favorite time loop stories is Heinlein's "By His Bootstraps". You can find it in some of his anthologies.))

Re the Emperor — I think he developed his ugly features as a result of overusing the Dark Side of the Force. Speaking of Palpatine, Louise and I were discussing whether Ian McDiarmid will be cast as the Emperor in the prequels. I hope so.

A Headmaster from a school in Invergorden, Scotland, was on the radio a couple of weeks ago saying that Lucasfilm had used his school to do a casting call for a young teenage boy and girl to appear in the SW prequels.

Matthew Whitney: Like you, I was 15 when I first saw SW. The film didn't open here until January '78 but the previous Autumn I kept hearing about this SF movie that had broken all box office records, etc. But I was skeptical. SF movies often promised more than they could deliver. Up until this point, my main passion had been DC Comics but I'd been bored with them for over a year. I think I was on the verge of growing up and then SW came along. I read the novel in the Autumn of '77 and was just knocked out by it. It was easily the best story I'd ever read. I could never understand why critics dismissed the story. I guess they were just too dazzled by the effects. I figured if the movie itself was half as good as the novel, it would be great. It was, of course. Mark Hamill surprised me most. I really liked his portrayal of Luke. I saw all three

performances on the first day and many more times after that.

Marlene: I don't think the prequels will be depressing. We know there'll be a certain amount of tragedy, but that's good. It's the tragic elements of TESB which give so much depth to the existing trilogy. It makes it more than just a set of adventure movies. Okay, let's speculate a little about the prequels:

1st film — we have a young Anakin, maybe an orphan. He has Force abilities but doesn't understand what they are. In typical Greek tragedy style, I imagine we'll get a scene showing how the seeds of his own destruction are already planted within him. I think he'll already have a lot of anger in him, unable to trust people. Along comes Ben who helps him to understand his power. Meanwhile, Palpatine is engineering a conflict between two peoples or races. Ben and the Jedi will resolve the conflict but Palpatine will exploit the situation to get a change in the structure of the government. And so begins his rise to power. Anakin meets the future Mrs. Skywalker. They fall in love.

2nd film — Anakin is an adult, very happy. The Republic seems more prosperous than ever. Materialism has intoxicated people, but it's rotten at the core. Palpatine is manipulating more and more politicians. Kenobi can see what's coming but everyone else seems blind to it. Anakin has become a Jedi "superstar". He's impatient too, but Ben's teaching is slow. Anakin is taken in by Palpatine who promises to teach him faster. Now, at some point, something big must happen to make Anakin want to kill Kenobi and the Jedi Knights. I can only imagine that it will involve Mrs. Skywalker. Perhaps she's unfaithful or Anakin is tricked into believing she is.

3rd film — The Jedi are slaughtered. The political system crumbles. Palpatine moves into power. Anakin and Kenobi battle. Anakin falls in the lava pit. The Emperor learns of Mrs. Skywalker's pregnancy and, in Biblical style, creates havoc and destruction in order to find her. Kenobi helping her escape will be the big action finale.

Epilogue: Anakin becomes Vader. Mrs. Skywalker has twins.

Or — if Lucas is thinking in very commercial terms, he may decide to bring Vader in earlier on.

Maggie Nowakowska: I read that interview with Lucas in *Cinefex* #65. It's interesting that Lucas says SW was 60 or 70 percent of what he wanted it to be. Back on 1977 in *Rolling Stone*, he said it was 25% of what he wanted. I've seen some more stills of Jabba in ANH and he looks wrong. Not the same as the ROTJ one. And all these other FX shots — what's the point in them? What do they add to the film?

Catriona: Welcome back! I do agree with you about

the materialistic side to Lucasfilm. It's the rip-off merchandise I can't stand. All the limited edition stuff that's designed to cause panic buying. We don't have to buy it, of course, but it does tarnish the saga somewhat. May the \$\$\$ be with you.

I never knew Wallace was in *Bravehart*. Was Gromit in it, too?

Tim: You're right, of course. It's never been conclusively established who Yoda meant by "there is another." We can't be positive that he meant Leia. After all, Ben knew about Leia, so why would Yoda need to remind him of her?

Louise Turner: Actually, I thought the artwork on the UK SW videos was okay. I haven't seen the US ones, though. Actually, I'm happy to see artwork of any kind on videos or movie posters these days. It's becoming very much a lost art. At least LFL is making a conscious effort to keep it alive. I just hate the lazy photo montages that are used as movie posters nowadays.

Catriona again: I think you're being a bit unfair to Luke concerning the Gamorrean guards. He didn't kill them. He just throttled them a bit. But on the ground subject of violence in the SW movies, well, it's open to a lot of interpretation. For instance, no other movie hero has ever killed as many people as Luke has and, if Ben could feel the deaths of Alderaan, would Luke feel the deaths of all those on the Death Star?

As for kids today enjoying screen violence, well, I think they always did. Violence on screen is such a hugely complex issue that I'm really not sure there could be any rules made. For instance, who didn't laugh when in *Raiders* Indy shot the Arab swordsman. Now that *was* callous. He could have just wounded him or fought him fairly, but he did it because it was *funny*. It was outrageous. It was a complete surprise because it's not what we expected. We're so well versed in movie conventions that when someone breaks them, it can be very entertaining. No one complained about that scene because it was undeniably funny, so any moral concerns were irrelevant.

Cheree: Well, you've done it again. I don't know how you do it, but you have. *A Tremor in the Force* #9 is another great zine.

Summer Movies: *Eraser*, pretty dull. *Twister*, good, great effects, good characters, not much story though. *Independence Day*... I must admit I was prepared to dislike this after all the hype but it is pretty good. It is very derivative but the story is put together with a lot of skill and those effects sequences are really spectacular. *Mission: Impossible*, okay, but it seemed even more dumb than the TV series.

Thanks to everyone who voted for me in the STAR aWARDs and particularly to Judith for organizing it all.

BEN HAD TO LIE

John Fredericks
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My apologies for the late reply. I had typed a wonderful LoC on my IBM compatible and the hard drive promptly died before I could send it. The company says it is sending us another mother board, but I feel like Jabba waiting for Solo to pay up. Technology; can't live with it, can't shoot it. Liked the pics of your new place and of the MediaWest folks.

Nora: Agree that effects can't improve the story. *ST: The Motion Picture* is a good example of effects which killed a fairly good story.

Z.P.: Thanks for the setting and time for a Lobot story. I'm working on it now. I just need more hours in the day so I could write and sleep from time to time.

Veronica Wilson: You're right. Lucas has a lot to clear up about why Ben lied to Luke and wanted Luke to kill Vader. Of course, George had had *fifteen years* to think up a solution.

Marti Schuller: I appreciated your statement of tolerance concerning the recent "pro" novels. I enjoy fanfic which references them and fanfic which doesn't. What makes good fanfic is good writing and attention to characters, not whether the author liked the Zahn books or not.

Pat Grant: Good luck with your recuperation. I agree that Kenobi could have killed Vader, but instead tried to distract him from Luke's presence. Just because OWK was holed up on Tatooine all those years doesn't mean he wasn't practicing. By the way, how long was OWK on Tatooine? Was he there all the while as Luke was growing up, or was he still actively working for the Rebellion until sometime shortly before ANH. He may have been hiding from the Empire and just waiting to train Luke, but I think he was wily enough to outsmart Vader and sneak some help to the Rebellion at least at the very beginning. Any thoughts? Obviously I have a soft spot for Ben. Look at Luke in ANH and TESB. Ben had to lie. Luke would have gone tearing after Vader and gotten himself turned long before there was any chance of training him. Yes, it was deceitful but is there anyone out there who has never had to tell a white lie?

Glad to hear that you met Bradbury. Wish I had. He's just about my favorite SF writer. I think a lot of an author's personality comes out in their writing. Bradbury's stuff can be critical and pointed without being cynical and jaded (unlike Mr. Ellison who you referenced also). I would have loved to have met Brian Daley.

Matthew Whitney: Glad to know you, fellow educator. No, I don't own any SW ties. My wife only buys me tasteful ties (not that SW ties aren't tasteful) and I never buy my own clothes. If I didn't have family, well, it wouldn't be a pretty sight.

Liked the idea of other beings living on Dagobah. Maybe they were other refugees whom Yoda kept hidden but didn't want to introduce to Luke in case Luke went bad. As for *ST: Voyager*, well, it is getting a little better but it is still missing something for me. I also didn't like the episode where they made Tuvok into a Vulcan agnostic. Vulcans were always depicted as being a highly spiritual people while they made him into a post-modern intellectual. Yeeechhhh.

Marlene Karkoska: I agree. The Black Fleet Crisis books really mischaracterize just about everyone. R2 and Threepio seemed to get the best deal over Luke and Leia and that shouldn't be the case. Leia is tough and not in any way gullible. ("They let us escape." "I don't trust Lando.") Leia deserves better.

Thanks for your comments about Luke having a family.

For the record, I have many friends who are single and lead quite fulfilling lives and applaud their lifestyles. I don't for a minute automatically equate marriage with fulfillment. I do need to say that I am blessed with a wonderful wife. She lets me buy almost all the SW and ST stuff that I want! Well, almost. We do need to eat. In Luke's case, I think he would desire to marry and especially to have children to train in the Force. And he was certainly portrayed as having the same desire for female companionship as any other young man (especially in ANH and TESB. Of course, it was directed at his sister.)

Maggie Nowakowska: Liked the idea of Jedi in other walks of life. Perhaps some of them even gave the order a bad name, which helped Palpatine gain support to hunt them all down. We'd all love to hunt and kill Jedi telemarketers and infomercial producers. Imagine Jedi lawyers. "You don't need to cross-examine the witness." "I don't need to cross-examine the witness." "Move along."

Catriona Campbell: Congrats on finding David. Glad to hear he supports your writing and just happy for you in general.

I'm not sure if Luke really killed those Gamorreans in Jabba's palace. Maybe he just cut off their air until they passed out. Comments?

Tim Blaas: Liked the idea for a cross-over between *Forever Knight/Touched by an Angel*. Maybe the vampires could eat those two angels. I mean, I appreciate the moral tone of the show (a drop of water in TV's utter wasteland) but does it have to be so sappy and sugary? I only saw one episode and couldn't watch another.

SW as epiphany? Couldn't agree more. I sometimes wonder how I would have grown up if I didn't have SW to escape to, and to help inspire me to study science. Maybe I'd be the Maytag guy.

Amen to Diane Duane doing a Leia trilogy.

Gerald Crotty: Thanks for the pics from the Collector's Day. Imagine a fandom so obsessed that they would want to meet an actor whose scene was cut out of the film (Declan Mulholland). Pretty neat. Spooky, but pretty neat.

Debbie Kittle: Really loved the pics with Dave Prowse. Thanks for sending them.

Rich Gawel: I thought "slash" meant violence, too. Guess that's what happens when you grow up in a small town. Another teacher? Great! Weird Al was just here in Pittsburgh and, though I didn't go to the concert, I actually saw him walking with folks in Squirrel Hill (a local neighborhood). Surreal, man.

As for *Shadows*, the novel was good but honestly I can't remember a lot of detail from it. Guess I need to re-read it. The musical score is kind of disjointed for SW. Rendar sucks. Hope he's dead for good. Stupid video game character leaving Lando, Leia and Chewie in the lurch. Hate him!!! Arghhhhh!

Catherine Churko: Best wishes and I'll keep you in my prayers for an eventual return to work. I like Brin, too, but haven't had the time to delve into books other than *Startide Rising*.

Bye for now, folks. Hope I made the deadline. Keep your eyes open...

WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

Cheryl Pryor
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September 19, 1996

Hey, I've been out of it for a little while — are there any, like, rumors floating around about me that I should know about?

Very much enjoyed the new masthead from Art Goddess Nancy Stasulis, as well as her cartoon-of-comment. How come when I say Z. P. looks like Yoda, she threatens to feed me snake stew, but it's okay for everyone else to do it?

Also enjoyed all the photos and news from MediaWest. Sorry Vader's Boudoir was too dark. And in case anyone else wants to know — it was Palpatine's bustier.

After MWC, I got to go to DragonCon in Atlanta. What a difference! In one panel the moderator asked if

anyone read zines — there were about 2 hands! The good news was I got to see the traveling Sansweet presentation as well as hear Mark Hamill speak. Both were lots of fun. Can't wait for next year. I hear they usually get one or two SW guests to drop by.

Nora Mayers: Congrats on the new digs! When do we get to christen it in true Bothan fashion? If we promise not to spray?

Z. P. Florian: Oh, please! You might say you gave up housework for SW (though I know it isn't true — I have to be frisked everytime I leave your house in case some little bauble ends up under my jacket), but you still have time to write, draw, do models, do crafts, do dolls, not to mention the responsibilities of work and family. I think you keep a little green Muse chained in your attic ... okay, I peaked!

And, hey, no polka dot underwear for *my* Sith! Only Palpie gets the kinky stuff.

Veronica Wilson: And here I was thinking, geez, Veronica hasn't written in lately. I'd hoped you were spending your time in saintly pursuits — worshiping His Lordship in prose. Sorry to hear it was more mundane pursuits.

Like your theory that Kenobi sends Luke to Dagobah only when it looks like Dad has a shot at finding him. He doesn't show up until after that probe droid hits Hoth, does he? Maybe that event was the Force afterlife equivalent of a beeper page "gotta run save the boy's butt" kind of thing.

John Fredericks: Ulp — I'm not doing a Luke zine. Probably one of the other Cheryls (our numbers are legion).

Have you seen the new dolls? Their clothes are lovely, not at all like the cheesy polyester of the originals. But who picked "bubble gum blond" as the color for Luke's hair?

A. G. Steyn: Had fun with your SW geography lesson. Since we're sticking to the USA make Cloud City = New York City. Tatooine could be Utah. And Endor, of course, has to be Northern California.

Pat Grant: Fandom and the age factor. I do think the attitude is changing. They aren't marketing SW checks for kids. Or those really expensive prop replicas for the just-getting-out-college crowd. You can tell a lot by how the new products are merchandised. We're seeing fewer "fuzzy as an Ewok" type of things — finally!

Love your idea of a bake sale! Lots of us drive to MWC and could bring goodies that would keep. Sunday night we eat the leftovers — yum!

Marlene Karkoska: Agree completely on *Before the Storm*. Who was that guy and what was he doing calling himself Luke? I did like the Lando bits, though — good to see Lobot back on the scene, even though the whole subplot seems lifted straight from Zahn.

About Vader's destiny — perhaps the Jedi had to be

purged. If the Republic they served was corrupt, perhaps they too needed an overhaul. I know that's not an original idea, but I picture Luke as starting from scratch with the New Order — no records, no convenient Old Jedis, no shimmering ghosts. Without preconceived notions, he could make an order that would better serve the Empire after Palpatine.

Catriona Campbell: Bless David (why do I like saying that so much?) for sending you back. And don't worry; we all have times like that. Just makes the coming home sweeter.

Liz Sharpe: Thanks for the great con report! Did all that stuff really happen? I was, er, distracted most of the day.

Debbie Kittle: Great bit of trick photography! Have you been taking darkroom lessons from Jennifer Moore? Thanks for trying...

Rich Gawel: Welcome! I'd have like to have seen a Lando-struggles-for-acceptance scene in *Shadow*, too. The Rebel Alliance, in the words of a great villain, are "far too trusting."

Louise Turner: Hey! "Anakin's" not a stupid name. It's lovely, it's original. People don't argue short "a" or long "a" over it. And there aren't 47 or so of them running around in fandom like there are Cheryl's.

Great to finally meet you at MWC. Mrs. Darth has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

Catherine Churko: Welcome back! Next step, MediaWest!

Amanda Palumbo: Oooo! Love your idea of Leia's necklace being inherited from her mother. Perhaps a gift from her husband...

Well, that's all for me this time. Thanks to everyone who helped make this summer especially memorable. Hope the rest of the year goes as well.

From the Dark Side...

FIRST LOC

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October 3, 1996

Thanks for the first issue of SE which I received last Friday. It gave me something interesting to read on the plane to Edinburgh that evening. As there is a deadline of 7 days after the deadline, I am sending this by email rather than by airmail.

I guess this letter will just be a quick means of saying Hi to everyone out there. I already know Louise Turner and Gerald Crotty and have been exchanging letters with Deb Kittle and Judy Yuenger for a while now, so thought that I would expand my field a bit and get to know other SW fans. This is pretty important as I intend to go to MWC '97 so even if I don't the faces I will know your names.

There was masses of comment in SE, more than I thought could be possible. I have an LOC page in a zine I edit for *Moons of Yavin* but the comments are only ever a few lines long. They never go into such detail as everyone does in SE, exchanging views, giving preferences, what they hate. It is usually a "Yes, I liked that" which can be a bit on the boring side after a while. I suppose it just proves that they do read the issue but maybe I will have to introduce a more controversial topic in the editorial page, possibly start a debate going as to what people think Leia's son Anakin should have been called or whether the name is fine.

I personally think that it is not too inappropriate, after all Han and Leia didn't call him Darth. Anakin was Vader's name before he turned to the Dark Side so maybe Han and Leia saw Anakin as a reflection of Anakin Skywalker's good side. I can see the danger that Anakin Jr. might turn to the Dark Side in the future but that is only might. It is not set in stone that if your name happens to be Anakin then you will automatically be marked as a candidate for the Dark Side. Han and Leia may have taken a chance with choosing Anakin's name but nothing in life is ever certain.

As for the debate on whether Vader knew that he had children. I don't think that he did. It would be impossible for every person to be monitored and Luke living on a Rim world was pretty safe. I also don't think that Luke is a blood relation to the Lars or Ben Kenobi. There have been documented cases where children have been brought up thinking that they are related to someone and later discovered that they were no relation. In a way Owen and Beru adopted Luke as the son they didn't have and they did their best to keep him away from danger. I believe that they knew Luke's real identity, son of Vader, hence their reluctance to let Luke go off to the Academy but they knew that they could not keep him on Tatooine forever. Taking a wild guess, I would say that Owen at least had known the young Anakin and knew what could become of Luke if Ben had taken over his tutorage. Owen had probably grown to love Luke and did not want him hurt, or placed in danger of switching to the Dark Side because he saw Ben as not being the best of Jedi masters.

In the matter of Leia, I cannot see how Vader did not sense the Force within her when she was on the Death Star. An oversight on his part possibly, but I think at that stage

George Lucas had not really thought about possible relationships between anyone other than Luke and Vader.

Away from relationships, I have to agree with Deb Kittle about *Before the Storm*, it was not brilliant. *Shield of Lies* was even worse although I did persevere and read it to the end. This trilogy is turning out to be the worst one written so far. The whole thing doesn't work but I expect that I will buy the final novel just to see what happens. It can only improve, I hope.

The trilogy shows that Kube-McDowell just does not know the SW universe. On the whole, I have enjoyed the pro-novels but this has to be one of the few exceptions. Kube-McDowell has over-reached himself with this ambitious project. It has an alien race which is taking control of one quadrant with Imperial technology and then you have the political intrigue on Coruscant. I was not happy with *Before the Storm* but at least it was not split into three distinct sections as its sequel was. I think that this was the main reason why I hated *Shield of Lies*, too much story division. The first section was Lando's tale, then Luke's and finally Leia's. All that you can guarantee is that come the final installment, everyone will conveniently be in one place.

As for where I was when SW first appeared, I was 8 years old and did not get to see the film until it was on a double bill with TESB. I bought the bubble gum cards, some of which I still have, but that was my only contact with the film. It was not until we moved and changed schools, that I found a copy of the novel in the library and I became hooked. I read the novel over and over again, pestering my parents to let me go and see TESB, which my father did take Caroline and me to. Then, SW and TESB were shown together and off we went, only my sister and I were to see it this time. Caroline left after SW but I stayed on my own to see TESB and enjoyed it all over again. After ROTJ, there was nothing much out there until Zahn's novels started to appear. I could not believe my eyes when *Heir to the Empire* appeared on a shelf. It was totally unexpected and reawakened my love for the trilogy which had gone into hiatus due to lack of material being available. I have been buying the pro-novels and some of the non-fiction guides ever since.

I think that this will be it this time round. Hopefully, I will get more time with the next issue to send a more detailed letter to you, picking up on more of the comments.

Until then, clear skies.



QUESTIONS AND MORE QUESTIONS

Chris Graham
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September 24, 1996

Issue #45 was the first SE I've read in years, so forgive me but I've saved up a lot of questions and "theories." Here goes:

Should Luke marry? There doesn't seem to be a precedent for Jedi celibacy, as Anakin was married (Lucas, in the interview on the widescreen video of ANH, mentions Anakin's "wife", not lover/girlfriend), and obviously, he reproduced. More importantly, the Jedi would be shooting themselves in their collective feet by requiring celibacy, as they need those whose families are strong in the Force, like the Skywalkers — and not permitting those who have strong Force abilities to reproduce would greatly diminish the future of the Jedi. As the "last of the Jedi", Luke almost has an *obligation* to reproduce (any volunteers, girls?) :) After all, Leia and Han can't repopulate the entire Jedi order, much as Han might like to try.

On the other hand, Ben and Yoda don't seem to have reproduced or even married. It's possible that the Jedi were like the celibate Shakers, who adopted and raised orphans in the Shaker traditions, but gave them the choice when they reached 18 years of age to stay or go. Not enough of them chose to stay, as history shows us; in this case, the Empire could've waited until the celibate Jedi order died out of its own accord, without bothering to wipe them out and risk making martyrs of them.

But let's go back a step. What would the purpose of celibacy be? I believe that modern religious celibates choose this way of life as a means of becoming close to God/spirituality/? through a transcendence of the material/physical world. We've heard Yoda say "Luminous beings are we. Not this crude matter [flesh]." So a case could be made for this. However, OWK also tells us that the Force, which of course is the central idea in the Jedi religion, is "an energy field, made up of all living things." Yoda adds, "Life creates it. Makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us." Now, what would be the point of trying to transcend a Force that is *created* by life? The Force is life, and life is the Force. I don't see anything in this philosophy that suggests the necessity of non-attachment to the physical world. There is no God to be got at behind the material world, no Nirvana to be attained.

In other words, I agree that Luke should "get some." :)

On the question of whether Jedi are also doctors, scientists, politicians, and what have you: why not? But if not, there's no reason they couldn't have oblates. I recently read a non-fiction book by Kathleen Norris called *Dakota*, in which Norris talks about such a relationship she has with a Catholic monastery. After all, modern religions tend to have stratification: why can't the Jedi have celibate monastics *and* laypersons dedicated to their philosophy? Perhaps only those who wish to become "Masters" would be required to remain celibate? That would explain Yoda and Ben.

About Anakin and Ben: what is the time frame of Anakin's training/fall? When Obi-Wan meets Anakin, A. is a pilot in the Clone Wars. Is he married already? Ben "took it upon himself" to train A., but how long did it take? Presumably A. (unknowingly?) impregnated his wife before he turned to the Dark Side and presumably Mrs. Skywalker was hidden away before it became obvious to Anakin that she was carrying his children. Can we presume it took OWK less than 9 months to train Anakin? (We don't after all know the gestation period for these humanoids.) I'm guessing he didn't marry in the middle of his training? And, is it at all possible that OWK attempted to train Anakin himself because Yoda said A. was "too old"? Or perhaps "too married"? After all, A. probably wasn't much older than Luke was in TESB, and he didn't have the distinction of being the "penultimate hope" that his son did...

Also, had the Jedi purges already started when Anakin turned? Did he know in advance that he would have to help destroy the entire order? Oh, for the next trilogy to start...

I've read a lot of talk about Ben lying to Luke, but what about Owen? Owen says "[Obi-Wan] died about the same time as your father." Well, he sure as heck knows that's not true; brother or not, we know he's communicated with Ben, as Ben says of Anakin's lightsaber, "Your uncle didn't want you to have it." I interpret that to mean Ben *asked* him about it! And why does Owen, to Luke, call Ben a "wizard"? Is there talk on Tatooine of Ben having "powers"? Or of being a Jedi? Surely Owen would not want Luke to know about Ben being a Jedi, lest he follow him on "some damn fool idealistic crusade". Furthermore, Luke asks Ben how his father died; what did the Lars' tell him? Didn't Luke wonder how Owen knew that Obi-Wan and Anakin had "died about the same time" and not know how?

Whitney: I was intrigued by your questioning of why Obi-Wan would present Anakin's saber to his son and not his twin. OWK knew of Leia's existence and Leia of his — she even knows OWK is also called "Ben", because Luke tells her he's come with "Ben Kenobi" and she shows no surprise. Anyway, surely Bail wouldn't have objected

to Leia's training, as Owen appears to have done. She was already a Rebel and in danger; Jedi training could only have helped. Did Ben ever try, as he did with Owen, or did he have no intention of ever training Leia?

Karkoska: I disagree that Ben's being a friend of Luke's father was the *most* powerful reason for Luke's following him, though that certainly helped things along. I think Luke was willing to listen to and follow Ben because he was *bored* and primed for adventure. He was more than ready to get off Tatooine, having begged the Lars' to let him join the Academy. And in Kenobi's defense, everybody, he couldn't very well tell the kid that his father was Darth Vader at that point. Luke's had 19 years to create life histories of his father and I bet none of them included his being a "master of evil." I think Ben told Luke about Vader killing Anakin to soften the inevitable blow; it's like the old story of the cat falling off the roof: you have to tell the guy his cat was *on* the roof first. Luke didn't even know his father was a Jedi, much less that he had "turned". And what would the fact that his father had turned to the Dark Side mean to a kid who didn't know what the Force was, much less what the Dark Side of it was?

And this begs another question: what do the "common people" know about the Jedi, who have been nearly extinct for 20 years? Han calls it a "hokey religion" and that Imperial, Motti, chides Vader for his "sad devotion to that ancient religion." A Jedi can't get no respect in this era. Later when Vader says, "This will be a day long remembered. It has seen the end of Kenobi...", it sounds as if the Lord of the Sith is having delusions of grandeur; Luke and Han had never even heard of Kenobi, after all!

My C3PO questionnaire: Do any of the cartoons, comics, etc., explain why 3PO has one silver leg? I'm also curious about his "eyes"/photoreceptors. In ANH, they remain dark while he's outside in sunlight and lit when he's inside. In TESB and ROTJ, however, they're lit constantly, unless he is turned off (as by Leia) or blown apart (as by a stormtrooper). In fact, when Chewie's putting him back together in TESB, he whines about not being able to see — until Chewie switches the light on. Why the discrepancy? And while I'm on the subject of 3PO, why does he need to know how to drive? He drives Luke's landspeeder across the Jundland Wastes; and how does one steer a landspeeder, anyway? And while I'm on a roll, does anyone believe 3PO is sentient? He's certainly self-aware, even self-obsessed! :) He expresses emotion, friendship, etc., and he's obviously intelligent. Any takers? I'm also curious as to why in TESB, he calls Chewbacca "Chewie" as they're fleeing Cloud City ("Oh, no, Chewie, they're behind you!"). I know, I'm nitpicking, but from such an unfailingly formal droid, it sounds out of place. ((Ed: He also tells R2 that "we're trying to rescue

HAN [short a, like Lando pronounced it] from the bounty hunter.”) Also, how is it that the stormtrooper blast in TESA conveniently blows him precisely into his component parts rather than making a hole in his chest or melting him utterly? And my final note on Threepio: how does he pick R2 off of Luke’s landspeeder outside the Mos Eisley Cantina? Look closely at this scene: Ben and Luke are conversing, not moving; we know (?) R2 can’t get off by himself, so that leaves 3PO to get R2 out! I lied. One more: in TESA on the asteroid, Han tells Chewie to shut down all non-essential power systems on the *Falcon*. Why does 3PO ask if he needs to be shut down? He has an independent power source, hasn’t he?

Who runs this Academy that Luke wants to follow Biggs into? It sounds Imperial — in the *Premiere* script, Biggs says, “I’m not waiting for the Empire to draft me into service.” If Luke “hates” the Empire as he says he does, why would he want to join an Academy that leads to service in the Empire? And does Owen not want Luke to enlist there because he’s afraid Luke will turn Imperial?

Crotty: I agree; Chewie certainly did deserve a medal! It’s always bugged me that he didn’t get one.

Steyn: I loved your explanation of why Luke wears black! Thank you! It makes a lot of sense.

For the “Stormtroopers aren’t too bright, are they?” file: in ANH, when the stormtroopers land on Tatooine to look for the escape pod, Trooper #1 says, “Someone was in the pod. The tracks go off in this direction.” Trooper #2 holds up a metal ring and says, “Look, sir, droids.” Couldn’t they already tell that the tracks were made by droids and not humanoids?

Luke, speaking sarcastically of Tatooine, wishes for someone to “teleport me off this rock.” But we’ve never seen anyone teleport in the SW universe. Has Luke been watching too much *Star Trek* again?

What’s the deal with the Alliance flight helmets? Luke, a member of the “red team” in ANH, has a helmet with a red Rebel insignia on it — that makes perfect sense. But look at the other designs! They’re quite original: do the veteran pilots paint on their own designs? It might make an interesting zine story to explore what each design means to the pilot who painted it.

In ANH, in the Rebel briefing room, Luke boasts of killing womprats in his T-16 back home. Am I right in assuming a T-16 is a kind of plane? Then what’s a poor farmboy doing owning a plane?

What is Luke mouthing to himself after he destroyed the Death Star? Enquiring minds want to know...

C3PO tells Han his ship “has a most peculiar dialect.” Ships have dialects? Likewise, 3PO says the Ewoks are using a “very primitive dialect”. A very primitive dialect of what?

In TESA, the Emperor tells Vader of Luke, “We have

a new enemy...” So, whenever it was that Vader realized who Luke was, he must’ve kept it secret from the Emp. This argues (to me, anyway) that Vader “felt” Luke in the Force, because Imperial spies would’ve told Palpatine anything they told Vader, lest they risk the wrath of ol’ yellow eyes. Though it’s highly improbable, I submit to you the possibility that Vader complied in keeping Luke hidden from the Emperor, at least until he was old enough to be turned to the Dark Side. It’s a stretch, I know, but it would follow that OWK didn’t bother to change Luke’s name because he knew Vader wouldn’t be interested in Luke until he’d had some Jedi training.

Why does Yoda refer to Luke’s “failure” at the cave? What would the result have been if Luke had “succeeded”?

What is Lobot? Is he a very human-looking droid? Or is he like a Borg, a humanoid with computer implants?

How does Jabba know that Luke specifically would be coming to rescue Han and Chewie? He told Bib F. not to let “him” in, remember?

This falls into the “my TV is too small” category: In ROTJ, in the briefing room, is that a command insignia on Leia’s vest? Does she have a rank besides “Princess”?

Gawel: X and SW, huh? Some character similarities to chew on: #1: Deep Throat/Ben. DT, a former friend of Mulder’s dad, helps M in his quest, but also misleads him, telling him only parts of the truth. DT also dies so that M can continue his quest. #2: Cigarette Smoking Man/Vader. I haven’t seen the season premiere yet, but the horrible possibility that CSM could be M’s dad looms large. Anyway, CSM, like Vader, is a “(federal) agent of evil,” working for an Empire-like organization and believing that he is “keeping order.” And they’re both heavy breathers. #3: Mulder/Luke. Like you said. Plus, they both need to find out about their fathers in order to get the key to their own self-discovery. #4: Scully/Han. The skeptic, who nonetheless believes in her/his friend, if not in “little green men”/“hokey religions” and aids in his quest. #5: C3PO & R2/Lone Gunmen. Supply information, technology, and humor. I see a lot of possibilities in this subject...

Why would Jabba want Leia as his slavegirl? Perhaps this is too indelicate of me to bring up, but I will anyway: He can’t have sex with her, can he? I had an ominous thought when I rewatched ROTJ last night: Jabba licks Leia, as you all remember — could he be planning to eat her for dinner?? Either way, it’s a grim prospect.

Do Wedge’s friends call him Wedgie?

Good night, Gracie...