
SILLY PUTTY

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Did anyone catch the episode of *Friends* concerning Ross' ROTJ fantasy?

Some of you might be interested in this year's Eisner Awards, issued each year at the San Diego Comic Convention. The winner for Best Short Story was "The Eltingville Comic-Book, Science-Fiction, Fantasy, Horror, and Role-Playing Club in Bring Me the Head of Boba Fett" in *Instant Piano* #3. Regretably, I haven't seen this comic.

Nora Mayers: I'm at a loss to explain how or in what way, but my expectations are very different regarding fanzines and pro novels. Well, maybe I can explain one thing; I can read and enjoy radically different takes on the characters and world in a zine. But I might freak if a pro novel tried to pull some of the wild stuff I've seen in zines. Fanzines are like Silly Putty. I expect pro novels to be somewhat firmer.

Z. P. Florian: I hope you did try again with West End and were able to get your foot in the door.

But what about us poor slobs who haven't seen *Frantic* or the Lybarger cartoon? It looked like Han was doing something weird with that Ewok.

Veronica Wilson: Well, I think we *do* need myths to live by, stories to give as moral examples to children, and even patriotism and a sense of one's own society's basic goodness. George Washington wasn't the sort of person I'd advise to let do your taxes, but it isn't a stretch to consider him a hero. A WWII ace whose name escapes me once said, "Show me a hero and I'll prove to you he's a bum. Show me a bum and I'll prove to you he's a hero." Our media seem to worship the anti-hero nowadays.

John Fredericks: The Tyers interview was from *Overstreet's Fan* #5, October 1995. It was my first issue, won in a drawing at the local comics shop. I consider this an excellent magazine that covers a broad range of media (there is a regular *SW Futures* column that covers the latest products and publications) but it's coverage of comics I find particularly informative.

Eric Shanower did a series of graphic novels about Oz in the mid-80's. They were very enjoyable and true to the spirit of Baum, but besides Shanower's own characters, they were *always* about Dorothy and the Scarecrow. He just didn't seem inclined to do anything with the rest of the cast, which is a shame. Shanower is the editor of *Oz Story* magazine, a bi-annual publication filled with old and new Oz fiction and Baum-related stuff.

I've often fantasized What If most of civilization were

to be wiped out, but my belongings miraculously were preserved from the holocaust. All my books and magazines, but especially my zines and filk tapes. What would they make of such things, especially if the movies and TV shows the zines were based on didn't survive? What (mis)conceptions might they reach from my typical (heh heh) possessions? ((Ed: Ever read *A Canticle for Leibowitz*??))

Marti Schuller: I've never had any problem with Han in ROTJ. Perhaps because I'm a guy, I never completely bought into the image Han was projecting in ANH. The near death of carbon freeze and "the love of a good woman" are bound to change a man. I don't give a damn about him snapping that stupid twig! Could happen to anybody.

A. G. Steyn: Someone asked if there was going to be an official SW convention in *SW Galaxy Magazine* #8. The response was, "There was talk of an official *Star Wars* convention but the folks at Lucasfilm have decided to hold off since there is so much *Star Wars* activity happening at fan conventions already." What I heard, however, was that the prospective convention organizers couldn't come to a business agreement with Lucasfilm. Money is the reason there will be no 20th Anniversary SW Con.

Because of the presence of fog, and because Han and Leia could exit the *Falcon* without pressure suits, I assumed there must be some sort of atmosphere on the asteroid (or at least inside the space slug's gut). Yeah, I know George has sound in space, but until he clearly refutes a law of the universe, I'm going to assume they're still in action.

If Coruscant is completely covered with buildings, how does it replenish its oxygen without plant life? Yeah, one-note planets are unimaginative. Sure, it's plausible for a planet to be all desert or ice-locked, but weather systems and ecology on an all-plains or all-swamp world sounds precariously delicate to me. I do seem to remember seeing significant amounts of blue on Dagobah, so it probably has oceans, and I also remember seeing storyboards/pre-production artwork of Yoda among hilly plains covered with huge mushrooms.

If Leia had been sent to Tatooine instead of Luke, I wonder how she would have gotten along with Camie? Or Biggs?

Pat Grant: Your *Highlander* RPG sounds intriguing. If you're thinking of running a game next MWC, I'm interested. Do you think it could be expanded to include other compatible fandoms? Are there any player characters besides Immortals or Watchers? Any room for maverick FBI agents, intrepid tabloid reporters, or sword swinging Warrior Nuns?

Harlan Ellison had a severe heart attack not long ago necessitating quadruple bypass surgery, so I feel obligated

to say a few words in defense of the bastard. I've some idea why you dislike Ellison. He's kicked a few of my Sacred Cows (which will remain anonymous but for their initials, SW and ST). Being in the same room with a neutron bomb with a big red button that says "push me" might be less dangerous than disagreeing with him. But he *is* a wonderful writer and the world would be a lot less interesting without him.

As for David Gerrold, Cheree may be right about him. Years back, a friend of mine spotted him in the lobby of a hotel at the end of a con and asked him, "Excuse me, I know you have something to do with *Star Trek*, but I can't quite remember your name." Gerrold identified himself as Harlan Ellison. "I know who Harlan Ellison is and you're not him. I'm sorry I can't remember your name, but I would like to know who you are." Gerrold still insisted he was Ellison. Twisted, huh?

I hope you get that Oz/SW play finished in time for next MWC and I want a part in it!

Yes, I knew about the Dark Horse adaption of *Splinter*. Their way of fixing it was to simply *ignore* the klunky parts. As for my writing any sort of sequel, I might try a vignette or short story, but not until I've finished a few other things.

Matthew Whitney: I wonder if there are any haunted lightsabers? Most of the last generation of Jedi met violent ends and their souls might latch onto their weapon. I remember a neat old issue of *Marvel Team-Up*; Spiderman was getting his clock cleaned by the spirit of an ancient wizard that had been accidentally awakened one night in a museum. Mary Jane Watson was also on the scene, her attention drawn away from the battle to a strangely glowing sword, a sword that compelled her to pick it up from its smashed display case. Next thing you know, Spidy has Red Sonja lending much needed assistance! If a Force sensitive were to pick up the right (or wrong) lightsaber, a similar meld/possession might take place. Who knows how many lightsabers are out there, in private collections (Vader's?) or museums.

I suspect that Leia might not even allow herself emotional relief in a moment of privacy. The stress and grief she must have bottled up must be incredible, and it *will* come out eventually, whether she lets it out herself or not. Anything could trigger a catharsis — a song, a familiar face, the sight of an animal native to Alderaan. The release might not necessarily be tears or hysterics, either. I'd just hope she'd be with friends and out of the public eye when it happens.

The primary payoff for me in a *SW/Voyager* crossover would be Leia telling Janeway where she can insert her Prime Directive.

My regret is that I can't always give every LoCer some sort of response. But just saying "I agree/disagree with

you" or "Your comments were very interesting" seem unsatisfying.

Marlene Karkoska: It could be that Anakin's fall to the Dark won't be the only story of the first trilogy and we may find emotional payoffs in other characters and plot-lines.

Somehow, the idea of Anakin playing "Topper" to his grandkids just doesn't appeal to me.

Yeah, I'm full of ideas. But I'm also a very slow writer and pulling and stretching and beating an idea into an actual story doesn't come to be that easily. So, lazy bum that I am, I toss them out and hope they grow in someone else's mind. For example: The exact cause of multiple personality syndrome is unknown (though it could be linked to childhood trauma) but what if there was a drug that could *induce* it? Spike the punchbowl and the entire Rebel Alliance/New Republic leadership could become ... somebody else. Developing the full implications of this idea is not something I'm up to right now. It would probably make a better RPG scenario than fanfic, anyway. But too late for that now. Oh, and what if they dripped it into the Imperials' punchbowl? Darth could think he's an opera singer.

Catrina Campbell: If you liked *Truce at Bakura*, you'll probably like *Children of the Jedi*. I may be in the minority, but I've enjoyed the *Young Jedi Series* by Anderson & Moesta (soon to be collected in one volume by the SF Book Club) even though I do have some bones to pick with them. At times they make the mistake of talking down to the "young adult" audience. I get tired of constantly being retold things, such as Jaina and Jacen's eyes being "brandy brown." "Blaster bolts!" is a really lame expletive. And I dislike stupid and obnoxious characters like Raynar, who exist only to make lead characters look good.

The Imperials killed Luke's family, imprisoned and scheduled for termination a woman he has the hots for (even though they haven't met yet) and all and all acted in a rude manner. Things like that can lessen one's sensitivity to violence. And I was under the impression that Luke only gagged the Gamorrean guards a little so they'd get out of his way. I really don't think he killed them.

And by the way, welcome back. When are you going to send me "May the Force Be With Q"?

Gerold Crotty: I was under the assumption that Coruscant didn't fall immediately into Rebel Alliance control, so celebrations right after the Emperor's death seem odd. And how would they know it happened so soon? Was there an Eye Witness News crew in orbit with the DS2 taking live pictures? I don't buy it.

Your reaction to *The Essential Guide to SW Characters* is much the same as mine. I wish I hadn't bought it. Lucasfilm may have dropped the policy of making a

distinction between canon and non-canon material because maybe *they* can't tell anymore. If the books remain consistent, they take on an authority of their own (despite the fact that George could up and say it's all wrong at any time). But how would we feel if there was *no* continuity between any of the novels and comics? It's a "catch-22" for both us and Lucasfilm.

Nowhere Man/The Prisoner? Ooo, that's a good one. How about this: at the request of Phoebe Green, Scully and Mulder investigate sheep mutilations in the UK. Whatever the true nature of the trouble (naughty UFO's, Cthuluesque horrors, or the local chapter of Conspiracys-R-Us), they really step in it, and only a little pig named Babe can pull their bacon out of the fire.

Rich Gawel: There have been a few times when I've had to try and explain fandom/fanzines to family or acquaintances and I worry if I should try to explain "slash". I don't think I ever have to anyone mundane, but one friend and contributor to my zine, who I finally talked into coming to a MediaWest, got an eyeful in the dealer's room and hasn't been back again.

Unless I totally slack off, I'll get back to you about some ideas for a round robin. Do you think you could get your English class interested in something like that? Perhaps you could get them to do a zine as a class project.

I know one thing both SW and *X-Files* have in common — a GBG (Great Babe of the Galaxy). Some may object to the term "babe" but I assure you, there are no bimbos among the GBG.

Louise Turner: Regarding lil' Anakin, we have two choices. Either we ignore the character or we find some justification for Leia giving him that name. Though I don't consider it beyond possibility, even I would like to know how Leia came to accept her parentage and decide to name him after Anakin. The Fox network is chewing at Lucas' heels to do a Young Jedi Knights series for them, so Jacen, Jaina and lil' Anakin inch closer to "canon". (Maybe Han wanted the kid named after an old uncle of his? No telling how common the name is.)

Metaphors be with you...



JOHN WILLIAMS & BOSTON POPS

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September 23, 1996

Hopefully all of you out there had a fun summer and that you are all looking forward to a peaceful autumn. I would also like to congratulate everyone who won STAR aWARDs, with special congrats to Cheree on the new house and to Catriona Campbell on her engagement. And, best wishes and a speedy recovery to Pat Grant and Catherine Churko. Hope you're feeling better soon!

As for myself, summer wound itself down rather peacefully. I spent a weekend in Massachusetts and enjoyed the honor of seeing John Williams conduct the Boston Pops live at the Great Woods Amphitheater. All of my concert experiences seem to be SW related, right? Anyway, it was a wonderful evening of film music, with Mr. Williams conducting both his own pieces and his favorites by other composers. The set included *Fiddler on the Roof* (killer violin solo), *Schindler's List* (very moving), *Jurassic Park* (very underrated), and the show closer, *Star Wars*. It was almost anticlimactic since I've played the soundtrack a million times, but it was nonetheless brilliant. Also, he performed a medley of his "hits", including *E.T.*, *Raiders*, *Jaws*, and *SW*, accompanied by film clips on a giant video screen. He did this to demonstrate how a good film score can really add suspense and drama to a film (he played a clip of *Jaws* without and then again with the music and the difference was remarkable!). Mr. Williams is truly a genius and today's movies are infinitely better because of his work.

On to the commentary. I noticed that most letters ask things like "Why does Ben wait so long to send Luke to Dagobah?" or "Why does Han change so much in ROTJ?" Everyone has great, thought-provoking answers, placing themselves in the points of view of these characters and figuring out the personal motivations. Maybe I've been an English major too long, but I tend to look for other abstract, symbolic reasons behind these things. For example, Ben's decision can be mapped against the mythic patterns established by Joseph Campbell and researched by Lucas. According to Campbell, the hero must orient himself within a society, that is, figure out his external roles and mature as an adult, before he can begin the internal journey of self-discovery. In other words, he had to grow up a bit before he would have been able to tangle with that dark mess called the unconscious mind. The farmboy from ANH wouldn't have been able to confront

the dark without firm roots in the light; he wasn't even quite ready in TESB, but Ben and Yoda weren't counting on him leaving early. His three years of work with the rebels prior to TESB gave him some kind of foundation, though, maybe enough to have resisted Vader's temptations during the duel. It's not a perfect match, but Lucas was careful to follow Campbell's patterns, and these patterns can help decode a lot of what happens in the trilogy.

Okay, I'll get off the lecture podium now. On to specific letters.

Z. P.: I also remember this rumor of Harrison Ford wanting to kill Han off, but that would have countered Lucas' general theme of character growth, redemption and integration into society. Still, it would make an interesting alternate-ROTJ. How would Han have died? Eaten up by the Ewoks? Stepped on by a scout walker? Perhaps during the "I love you/I know" reversal at the bunker door, Leia could have missed, the stormtrooper shoots back, Han dives in front to save her, and gets hit instead. That might work, since Han would still be giving up his life, this time literally, to society. It would be a progression from the mercenary who rescued Leia "only for the money" to someone who sacrifices himself for someone he loves. Any other possibilities?

Veronica: Hey, a fellow New Brunswickian! Are you a Scarlet Knight, too? Go RU! I totally agree with your extensive comments about the Jedi and society's need to mythologize itself. Paradoxically, these fictional myths are what give a society its legitimacy. Everyone in a society can believe in this common, glorious (though debatable) past and take comfort in the fact that whatever goes on today *must* be okay, since it has roots in the great stuff of so long ago. Every culture in our world does it. Naturally, the Old Republic would, too.

John: Your comments about your students are, unfortunately, too easy to relate to; "can't think their way out of a paper bag." How can teachers teach something, like thinking, that is primarily intuitive? It's the biggest educational challenge of all. Anyway, Bradbury has always been a favorite of mine and even a couple of my staunchest non-reading students enjoyed *Fahrenheit 451*. Hopefully, they looked past the cool action and saw the real message, the value of books. As for fanfic about minor characters, I definitely accept your challenge. It would add *depth* to the universe. In fact, I like taking minor characters and creating my own backgrounds for them. There's so much more room for creativity than with the "Big 3." Lando, for example, has lots of potential for this. Call me crazy, but I loved the Neil Smith books. They had this subversive, libertarian, screw-the-bureaucracy tone that was quite refreshing.

A. G. Steyn: Here's a tidbit for you and all the other

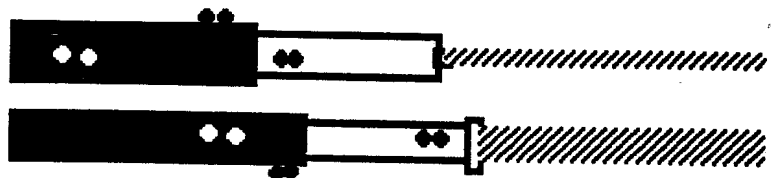
Ford fans out there. The local drive-time radio show did a call-in piece called "Peeing with the Celebrities." Callers related anecdotes about sharing bathrooms with famous people. Well, one caller stood next to Harrison's urinal back when they filmed *Working Girl* in the caller's office building. And, the caller said, Harrison doesn't "wiggle" when he's done; he "taps" it. Yes, it's gross and meaningless, but I couldn't resist. ((Ed: Gee, thanks, Rich. I'm sure that we're all better people for having learned that little piece of info.))

Pat Grant: I'm a fan of the *Highlander* TV show, too, and my sister is a recent convert as well. She caught a scene of Adrian Paul doing karate while shirtless and has been hooked ever since. (She even taped his Victoria's Secret commercial!) And, how about an obscure Gene Kelly reference? At least, I hope I'm not mixing him up with someone else. Didn't he play Starbuck's dad in an episode of everyone's favorite SW ripoff, *Battlestar Galatica*? He was a con man on the run from a bunch of bad guys he double-crossed. Yes, definitely very Han Solo like, very charming, witty, and able to project innocence when he's far from it! ((Ed: I think that was *Fred Astaire*..))

Matt Whitney: Hello to another fellow teacher! I'll have to see if the dress code at the Catholic school I teach at allows SW ties, though I do have a poster from the Topps Galaxy series on my bulletin board, along with a picture of Vader. It's the classic shot of him pointing at the camera in ROTJ. I added a word balloon saying "Don't forget..." and posted it next to where I write their homework assignments on the blackboard.

Gerald Crotty: An *X-Files/Kolchak* crossover? Chris Carter has looked into this but there are all kinds of logistical and copyright complications to sift through before it gets done. It would be great, though. Mulder could be a fan of his work and finally get to meet him as they team up to investigate something. Scully's reactions would be priceless as she watches these two kindred spirits feed off each other's enthusiasm. And, it would be fun to see Darren McGavin again (his personality really carried that show!).

I'm sure I've rambled on long enough. Poor Cheree now has to type all this up! But, one more thing before I go; I've been collecting the Topps Finest cards and, despite lots of doubles, I'm nowhere near a full set. If anyone has any to trade, please contact me at the address above.



SW SHOPPING SERVICE

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September 26, 1996

I must say that 1996 has been the best year for me when it comes to the weather. Not only do I get several Hoth blizzards but my summer is the coolest since 1946!!! No temps over 100 at all! And just a few 90 + days but mostly 70 and 80's. Someone must really love me! I can only hope 1997 is colder and snowier! Pray with me now...!

The new Hallmark Christmas *Millennium Falcon* ornament is out and it is beautiful. Can't believe Christmas is right around the corner. Lots of stuff coming out. For us collectors out there it's flood time!

I saw the Sansweet SW presentation and loved it. And right after that, Mary Jo Fox and I went to the IMAX theater and saw the film "Special Effects" which has SW footage. It blew us away. They refilmed the opening sequence of ANH for the new screen and it was breathtaking. I urge everyone to try and see it.

Nora: It's all my fault! Blame me for the snow please! Hope your new digs are working for you.

Z.P.: Interesting response to your WEG submissions. Agree with your thoughts on MW — well put.

Veronica: Welcome back!

John: Smiling Dead Bothans? That's a scary thought. Actually, it's very hard to get them to pose at all. I think they're tired of all the exposure.

I see Luke and Leia telling the top brass everything or most everything depending on time constraint. Their first priority was planning Han's rescue and since he was paired with Chewie, Lando knew he couldn't even think of any double-cross. Besides, Lando got stung very badly by the Empire — all the promises made by DV meant zilch so he had nothing to lose. Certainly the Alliance would treat him better than the Empire any day of the week.

After Han's rescue and recovery, I can see Leia, Chewie and Han discussing Lando's actions (I think Han knew about the Battle of Tanaab. Perhaps that's where they first met) and offered him a position which he accepted to give back to the Empire that which he was given by them.

A.G.: We ran out of room and people for the 1996 doll show so Han's cabin couldn't be included in that one. We're gonna try for "Back To Bepin" in 1997 actually and I'm going for the entire carbon freeze chamber!

We always take you seriously or at least I do :)!

Never enough snow for me, thanks!

Pat: Good to see you up and about at MW. TRU stands for Toys R Us. The 3-D MF puzzle is there in abundance. If you still need help with getting it when this reaches you, please contact me and I'll help you out.

Deb's Buying Service and Deb's Shopping Network is available in the USA and overseas...

Per your response to Matthew: OWK couldn't just kill DV and be done with it. That could amount to him going to the Dark Side. Besides, I agree that OWK used his "death" to keep Luke and DV separated.

Agree with your Harlan comments. I've never met him (I don't want to!) but watch him on the Sci Fi Buzz show on the Sci Fi Channel. He is everything you said and more.

Matthew: The 3-D MF puzzle is very gorgeous and a ton of hard work but worth it as is the Steel Tec MF. I just put my MF together and it was very frustrating in parts but it is beautiful.

No, you did mention the calendar but there is also a Hallmark puzzle that is very nice. Did you get the ESB Hallmark calendar?

Maggie: I enjoyed reading Lucas's comments regarding his rework of the Trilogy. However, I have to agree. I'm a perfectionist at heart and everything has to be done a certain way. I'd like to go back and change a few of my early stories now that I have some experience under my belt. And I plan (when time allows) to re-sew some of my early doll clothes that aren't quite as nice as I know I could make them now.

Just think that if George had had a few major hits by 1976, the studio would probably have given him the budget he wanted (and added from his own funds as he has done), the SW we'll see next year would be the one that we'll have talked about for the past 20 years.

Besides, I'm just *so* looking forward to seeing the Trilogy on the big screen — it's been so long (yeah, Liz, I know we saw it in 1994 but one showing is not enough) and since I only saw ANH that once on the big screen, I have to make up for lost time!

Minky: So, are you gonna kill me?

Treena: Howdy and welcome home! Congrats on the engagement and the happiness you've seem to have found. I'm looking forward to reading more of your stories.

I don't think Luke killed those G. Guards in ROTJ. Yes, they blocked his path and he gave them a little choke so they'd move out of his way but I see him rendering them unconscious only.

Gerald: Great photos from the Con!

Liz: The con description you gave was great. I'd forgotten half the stuff they talked about as I was working on getting my photos.

Rich: Hello and welcome.

Wedgie Sue: Hiya! You *hate* your video art and love ours?!? Let's trade! Yeah, but you love that Breyer horse, don't you?!?

Glad you enjoyed shopping so much. I love to watch others plunk down a lot of \$\$ — it gives me a warm feeling inside! Besides, I shop for 1/2 of fandom, so it's nice to see others do it for a change.

Catherine: Glad to hear you're improving. Here's a wave back.

Amanda: I absolutely loved seeing Han on the cereal box as well as other SW stuff on those other cereal boxes.

Nancy: Loved your cartoon. However, I still missed you LoC.

Cheree: Thanks for printing the photos I sent. They came out well but I think a few people I know may try to kill me. That's all right since I'm already dead.

I hope everyone has a great rest of the year and a lovely Holiday Season. Fly Casually In The Force!

MYTHICAL ARCHETYPES

Maggie Nowakowska
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October 4, 1996

Oh oh, it's the end of September, er, the beginning of October. Time to get the SE LoC in.

First off, a great big thanks to everyone with offers of help and ideas for the 50th issue of SE. I'm mulling over the possibilities of auctions, flagrant donation spiels, etc. Are there any zines out there that folks think would make good silent auction items? Any donations possible from folks? Ms. Steyn, might there be something very interesting and very European in SW reaction or outlook that could be gotten either for an auction or sale now, or for inclusion in the special issue? I was thinking of seeing if I could run off a special edition copy of *JediStarDarkFalconKnight*; would that inspire any bidders? I'm guessing for the issue sometime in '98, right Cheree? ((Ed: I figured out that it should be due in Spring '98, so how about planning the 50th Issue for *MediaWest* '98?))

Folks, please write to me directly!

Hmmm. From Judy Yuenger's report on MWC16, it sounds like I missed some good SW panels in Michigan; either that, or I missed a chance to get into trouble, especially with the OWK panel. Well, I'll be looking forward to similar interesting panels next year!

Welcome back to Veronica Wilson! Good to hear from

you again. That was a good letter, too. Thank you for your thoughtful words on the various topics that have filled our letters recently. Your points about the difference between the message and the institution are well-taken. Another point to consider in these discussions is the sort of assumptions we bring to the talk. Do we view history in a linear fashion or as a more cyclical series of events? Do we view actions in moral terms (good/bad with appropriate consequences) or do we see cause and effect in less dramatic terms?

John Fredericks: I tend to agree with the idea that the rebellion is just chock full of people with pasts that don't bear much investigation, and therefore Lando would probably shine as a beacon of responsibility amidst the mob. After all, the rebellion took in Han who had far less substantial credentials than Lando who has stood the test of civic responsibility. Rieeken's casualness about the price on Han's head in TESB would seem to be an adequate marker of Alliance tolerance and awareness of the real world. Practical people, these.

Marti Schuller: No, no. Obi-wan becomes Gandalf as a penance! Hmm, or maybe rather Merlin and when that doesn't quite work out either, The Powers That Be put him on ice for a few centuries or more...

A. G. Steyn: I suspect the reason for the plain looks Imperials/good looks rebels is the fairy tale basis for the SW story. In archetypal tales, visuals are used to convey judgments, attitudes, etc., to a great extent. A person who acts ugly is physically ugly; a scary person is depicted as a scary monster or ferocious animal. A very good person is ethereal. It's a specific vocabulary that seems to work very well with children and in that specific genre, sort of a visual emphasis. Since the SW story is founded in so many other aspects of myth and archetypes, it stands to reason that it would meet the visual requirements as well. Hey, you even see it on TV daily where someone who is playing a sexual role has to be perfectly beautiful, despite the fact that in real life very ordinary people are sexual: the TV role must symbolize sex physically as well as represent it in action and word.

Hmmm, well, actually, the way I heard it in dojo was that the black belt is actually fairly easy to obtain (at least compared to the difficulty presented by stories such as your letter quoted). What was difficult to obtain was the return of the white belt by having worked at your martial art so long that the black belt frays into white once again.

Pat Grant: Somewhere, buried in all my 20-yr stack of SW trivia, is/was an article out of a serious magazine in which a comparison between Oz and SW was diligently undertaken. It appeared before TESB, even.

Matthew Whitney: Don't know about your English prof, but I tend not to see Leia's reactions to her sorrows as masculine. I've known way too many women who do

not fit the current stereotypes, both traditional and feminist, of the female as the naturally more feeling/expressive half of the human race. In fact, among our current group of friends, it's the males (all straight) who are far more expressive of feelings/joys/sorrows. The women are all of the stiff-upper lip school of thought. And I knew lots of women from the older generations who were that way even more so. I'd say it's more of a cultural reaction. My elder female relatives didn't expect anyone over the age of 18 to "get excited" (at least publicly) over Life's curve balls, which may reflect a stoic peasant background; my most reticent friends cite English-born grandfathers and the lessons they learned at an early age about not showing how they truly felt about things. Rather than generalize our cultural expectations of female/male behavior across non-Terran characters, I'd rather interpret Leia's reactions as either personal preference/temperment or as a reflection of one of Alderaan's culture's expectations of women/politicians/
Very Active People.

Ah yes, the classic scene where Kong pulls down the top of Faye's dress....

Gerald Crotty: I agree with your thoughts on Jedi humor and Luke having some interests beyond the Jedi world. If anything, for someone who has seen the Dark and survived it, and who deals with so many unfortunate aspects of sentient life, humor will be a release, a saving grace. Although the western religions have divested themselves of the Holy Fool, other religions recognize this aspect of life (I wonder if the one idea went out with the idea of dance as one way of sacred expression?)

Rich Gawel: Welcome to SE! Enjoyed your story about the Yoda filk. Somewhere here, in the piles of old fanzines, I've got one that has Yankovic's contribution on a fannish level. I remember how startled I was when I heard it actually performed. I went back and checked, and sure enough, his name was on the list of contributors.

Louise Turner: Thanks for the encouragement on the Lando stories. Your kind comments (and John's) are very welcome and caused me to open up those files and start thinking again.

All the comments about "Where I First Saw SW" got me wondering if anyone else had ever thought about where they'd be/what they'd be doing today if they *hadn't* gotten involved with SW fandom?

I know my life would be very different. In the late 70s, I had sort of gotten involved with Trek fandom, but slash was coming in big then and I wasn't interested in slash, either storywise or emotionally. Lost a couple of fannish friends over that. And my stories, reflecting my interests, weren't garnering any new contacts. I went to local cons and Trek get togethers, but the local social scene didn't quite click with me. I probably would have

drifted away from fandom altogether.

SW came out the last spring I worked in media, the last year of the young adult life I had established for myself. I was ripe for a Major Change. By the new year, I was on a 6 month health sabbatical; my father was beginning his final year and a half of life; my brother was in major crisis; and my mother was still crazy, but at least the tavern back in Ohio had been sold and she was out here where I could keep an eye on both her and Dad. Two good friends had moved out to Seattle, but the crowd I had run around with for most of my 20s — all my adult life — had moved on or moved out or married and moved away.

Something was going to give and although I'll never know which way I might have steered in a different quantum, I know that without SW, I would not have met Bev Clark, who became a dear and close friend and who introduced me to Susan Matthews, who, for some reason or another, has hung in there with me for nearly 18 years. (There would *never* have been any reason for Susan and me to cross paths save for SW, not with her just out of the military and me a boisterous media chick.) And, without Susan's contacts in fandom, we would never have met Steve Gallacci, who became another dear friend and who ended up marrying Bev.

Without SW, I would not have gone to England in 1979 for SeaCon; there would have been no reason to go to Italy for AllianceCon in 1991. SW gave me the support group I needed when the family disappeared into the next life, the friends who had moved out moved away again in the early 80s, and the job and its overtime became frightful. The friends who stayed, and who are with me still, are the SW friends I made over the last 20 years.

I sometimes wonder, "What if..."

((Ed: My story is much the same, only my "illumination" was due to ST fandom. I grew up in a small, close-knit town and was considered somewhat of an oddball and/or nerd because I still enjoyed ST and science fiction in high school. I was terminally shy and self-conscious as a result of the criticism from family and schoolmates I received, so going to college and into a more open-minded crowd was liberating. But I still felt like the last living ST fan in the world, until one day I ran across a classified ad in Fantasy & Science Fiction magazine which said "Star Trek fan wants to hear from others." I immediately wrote to the address in Michigan and started a correspondence. That lady introduced me to Margaret Basta who introduced me to fanzines. I was enthralled! Never in my life had I seen anything like them! I began writing to every address I could find and that led me to Helen Young in Houston, who had just taken over the Star Trek Welcommittee. I also started a ST fan club in Dallas and wrote to the local newspaper

about it. I got about 40 responses from local people, including Laura Virgil, who it turned out strangely enough, was in one of my college classes! We've been best buds ever since. ST fandom eventually led me to SW fandom and the rest, as they say, is history. What sort of life would I be leading now if I'd never discovered fandom? I expect that I'd be a repressed housewife, probably divorced from a small town cowboy-type who would never understand my interests or longings, miserable, depressed and trying to pinpoint that yearning I kept feeling for "something else.")

I was thinking ... at an equinox get-together last month, we were talking about how 1996 seems to be speeding by, every month getting faster and faster until, by now, people's heads are spinning with their attempts to keep up with the changes. Someone mentioned this to a man who's a major influence in the group and Very Grounded. He blinked and said, well, no, he hadn't noticed that. The speaker described the discussion in a bit more detail, but Chuck still shook his head. The year hadn't affected him that way and he honestly didn't know what we were talking about. That got me musing on the ferry ride back from the island: maybe the Jedi, in their connection with the galactic energies, simply didn't notice the rising chaos. Maybe they were so at ease with the sometimes bumpy ride of Life that they didn't see that it was whirling out of control for others in a major way. Nothing sinister in this, and nothing really "wrong" on their part. Just a different perspective on things. Much the same way an older person doesn't "see" the turmoil an adolescent is going through, at least not in as gut level a way as the younger person does. Maybe the rise of Palpatine was simply an effect of the clash of realities.

Well, this really is short this time! But if I don't get this out tomorrow, I'll miss even the 7-day extension deadline. Sigh! A happy holiday season to everyone; talk with you all again come the new year.

A BRIEFBURST OF RAVING

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October 21, 1996

Hi, everyone...

I know the time for raving about MWC is officially over, but since I couldn't contribute to the last issue of SE

I hope a brief burst of enthusiasm can be tolerated... The days I spent in Lansing were out of this world, and here's a belated thanks to everyone who made me feel at home and turned my first trip to the States into a totally wonderful experience (thanks for the special welcome, Cheree!). And I still haven't read about half of the zines I bought (talk about dragging myself home with the heaviest suitcase ever). I hope I'll be able to finish before next year's MWC, because I certainly want to attend again.

And now I'll be brave and plunge myself headlong into the current discussions, fully aware of the hazard that I'll repeat things which have been brought up a hundred times or more. Yawn at me when you get bored, and I'll know better next time...

Z. P. Florian: Forget about embroidery! If West End won't appreciate a gifted writer, it's their loss. The policy of excluding fan writers altogether is irritating, of course: why not base decisions on quality alone, never mind the writer's background? Someone with paranoid inclinations might read a campaign against fan writing into this, or at least an attempt to stigmatize fan fiction as 'amateur' and worthless. Well, if it were a matter of choosing between pro and fan writing, I'd beg you to stick to the fandom — but, looking at your amazing output of stories and art, you'd certainly manage to prosper in both areas single-handed.

I loved your comments about time being suspended in Lansing: I know the feeling from similar events I've been attending regularly for years, and it always struck me as strange and wonderful that time just doesn't seem to pass in these places.

Veronica Wilson: I enjoyed reading your reflections about the role the Jedi played in the fall of the Old Republic and agree that Palpatine's Purge couldn't have been quite as successful if their position at the time had been beyond dispute. There's the possibility you mentioned: the Jedi might have declined (as an order, or individually), their treatment of 'Dark Siders' could have been perceived as too drastic. Apart from that, I can easily imagine that the Jedi's position and political influence might have generated envy or mistrust among other social groups. At least Ben and Yoda gave me the impression that the Jedi don't readily mix with 'mere mortals' and like to keep their wisdom to themselves (although their behavior can be explained by Palpatine's anti-Jedi policy). If the Jedi of the Old Republic acted like a secret lodge (living by their own rules and drawing on powers not accessible to everyone), doesn't that make them a slightly unpredictable factor in a (basically) democratic state? For these reasons, I've been wondering about the role of the Jedi in the newly emerging state, too. Assuming that Luke organizes a new order, it will still

take him a while. By then, the New Republic would have established its basic structures and institutions: How will politicians integrate the new Jedi (and would they even want to)? I hope you'll find the time to offer additional ideas about that someday.

John Fredericks: I'd never given it any thought before, but I suppose Lando must have been 'slipped in' with the Alliance (as opposed to being formally introduced). His collaboration with Vader would have created suspicions and objections, however contritious Lando's attitude. Additionally, he doesn't stay with the Rebels very long, does he? The entire rescue operation in ROTJ seems to suggest that Luke, Leia, and the rest are acting on their own agenda, and it isn't entirely clear how much of this is known to the Alliance leaders. Did they approve that everyone took a couple weeks off, to rescue a single man whose allegiance was rather temporary?

Marti Schuller: I owe you a letter and a copy of the Luke picture I promised you — and I promise it won't be long now. Please accept my humble apologies...

The resemblance between *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings* is really quite striking, even if part of me cringes at the inevitable comparison of Luke and Frodo. Just because they're both short... I don't see Ben as Bilbo though: Bilbo was never that shrewd. I think. Has the parallel between Saruman and Vader been mentioned already? It should be, especially since both are credited with an extremely seductive and powerful voice. And did anyone dare to liken Han to Sam Gamgee? No, I know, Han isn't short.

You sterilized Luke? Well, now I'm scandalized... Would you mind divulging a few details?

The missing ardent kiss of ROTJ: actually (this might lead up to heresy), Han doesn't come across as a very ardent kisser, so to speak. At least I didn't see a great degree of passion in those TESB kisses. Must be those PG restrictions. (But isn't it odd that a tremendous number of spaceships can be blown to shrapnel in front of little kids, while a kiss must not last longer than a second or two?)

Luke's (in)complete training: I guess I'll make this a bit more difficult. Although I can see your point (that 'training' might have to be understood in a more general sense), Yoda's attitude seemed to imply another possibility. To me, his comments sounded more as if he'd accepted that Luke had chosen his own path, and even if his decisions don't quite meet his teachers' original expectations, Yoda trusts in his personal strength. Does this make any sense to you?

Marti and everyone else concerned about the Reformed Solo of ROTJ: No, Han isn't quite himself in ROTJ, and the near-death experience can account for much of the change, no doubt. (I still wish the sandstorm scene hadn't been cut from the finished movie: judging

from the script, that scene would have made Han's changed attitude more plausible.) I wonder if the effect can be permanent though. The Solo of ANH seemed pretty much set in a very different pattern of living... Or is it just me, hoping to see the cynical spacer re-emerge from the persona of the reluctant, slightly dazed general?

A. G. Steyn: Well, yes, the sickbay kiss wasn't ardent either. But there's another instance which rarely ever gets mentioned, at the end of TESB: before returning to the *Falcon's* cockpit, Leia kisses Luke again (on the mouth for all I can see), in an almost casual way. I suppose the issue of incest simply didn't arise because there's no visible erotic tension between them, kissing or no kissing.

The 'drop-dead gorgeous male flesh' of the Empire was probably summoned to Coruscant, to act as Palpatine's live decoration. Someone that ugly must be obsessed with beauty...

Haan vs. Han: Lando started this, and it proved to be contagious! I wouldn't bet my right hand on it, but I don't think Luke ever mixed pronunciations.

Pat Grant: When you say that Kenobi deliberately let himself be 'killed' by Vader to ensure Luke's vengeance, doesn't that imply he also gave Luke a nudge in the wrong direction, i.e. Dark Side? I mean, he would have calculated that the bereaved Luke was going to hate Vader, and hatred — as we all know — is the straight road to Sith hell... I'd never thought of it that way, but assuming Ben's reasoning ran along those lines, his philosophy must have departed from Yoda's in a major way (another reason for Anakin's fall?). Is there any proof in the trilogy at all that Ben's interpretation of Jedi Knighthood and the Dark Side follows Yoda's principles?

Interesting, that quote from the original novelization. On one level, it sounds as if Lucas's ideas about Palpatine's role were still rather sketchy at that point — however, I prefer to think there was a reason why bureaucrats and governors hunted down the Jedi, not Palpatine himself. Perhaps Palpatine originally didn't even intend the extinction of the Jedi but hoped to shape them into a new order according to his own ideas, while 'ordinary', Force-blind politicians and military leaders had become suspicious of the Jedi. And perhaps Palpatine let them go through with persecuting the Jedi, because his own plans to turn them into his tools didn't work out, or — alternatively — because his power wasn't quite as absolute at the time... I look forward to hearing what the rest of you make of that quote!

The idea that aggressive Jedi adepts turn into Sith straight away is appealing, although it makes me wonder about the ensuing chaos. If it happened frequently, wouldn't the Jedi masters necessarily despair of their own abilities and ultimately refrain from training anybody? If every Jedi adept with aggressive tendencies became a

Sith, their numbers must have been impressive.

Here's another thought on the subject: I've been wondering whether the definition of Jedi as passive, defensive in a fight, etc. isn't a reaction to Palpatine's (and Vader's) rise to power rather than the original concept. Ben praises Anakin as a "cunning warrior" after all, and he himself was a General in the Clone Wars (which seems to stretch the definition of passive resistance a little). To take the thought a bit further: perhaps there were different 'schools' of Force-users in the Old Republic, and if so, maybe the strict division between Light/Jedi and Darkness/Sith arose only in a climate of political crisis. Enough speculation... The prequels will probably inform us that things weren't quite as complex.

Matthew Whitney: I've never read the story you asked for, but I'd certainly love to: a 'master sword-maker' sounds like a most intriguing character!

SW/Voyager crossovers: I really like *Voyager*, but I can't quite picture the scenario. Leia and Janeway would probably get along fine as soon as they'd agreed on who's in command, I suppose, and maybe Han could talk a few ex-Maquis into leaving Starfleet again... Other than that, I don't really see potential convergences, but I'd love to hear your (and Tim's) ideas.

Marlene Karkoska: I totally agree with you: Luke in patchwork robes (in a better-not-named novel) makes me shudder, and it seems yet another proof that the pro writers have serious difficulties writing this character. However, I'm not so sure about the other instance you mentioned: Luke's explanation that he's forced to withdraw from the world for a while — lest it drive him insane — made sense to me (about the only idea I liked in this book). Apart from the weight of responsibility, I think being in contact with the Force and a different reality that most people cannot share must create quite an amount of mental strain.

Your comments about Ben made me wonder if he ever considered the consequences of the information he scattered about himself. You're quite right that he set Luke up for a devastating shock when he painted that heroic picture of his father. Did he assume that Vader would never disclose his former identity to his son? Or did he simply overlook the possibility?

Maggie Nowakowska: I hadn't heard that Anakin's supposed to be not much older than Luke in ANH by the end of the prequel-trilogy. It strikes me as a rather odd decision — as if the point were to explain (and diminish) Anakin's fall as a youthful mistake. For me, that would be a real disappointment. I tend to think of Anakin as a brilliant man of almost unlimited curiosity, not a wiz kid who accidentally stumbles into some Dark Side pit...

Marlene, Maggie, Amanda: Your comments made me wonder once again about the exact moment Vader

discovered he had children. Like you, I've always thought that he didn't know about a daughter before ROTJ, but in Luke's case, the trilogy leaves the question entirely unanswered (yet another occasion for high flights of speculation...). Vader could have found out about Luke's existence any time between ANH and TESB, of course, but just for the fun of it, how about this: Vader knew about his son's whereabouts all along, but didn't want to be bothered with bringing up a child, because Luke didn't seem to have any Force potential. Which would also explain why he sensed the Force, not the kinship first, during the Death Star attack. I'll readily admit that this is far-fetched, but on the other hand I've always found it hard to imagine that someone as strong in the Force as Vader could identify somebody else's Force aura and at the same time fail to recognize the familial tie. Unless he didn't expect this particular person to show any Force talent... In Yoda's opinion, Luke is "too old" to begin the Jedi training: Doesn't that imply that he should have displayed 'supernatural' abilities or inclinations at an earlier age, back on Tatooine? Yet ANH gives no hint that this was the case (Beru's line "there's too much of his father in him" indicates only a general restlessness and love of adventure), and Luke himself doesn't stir with recognition when Ben begins to explain about the Force. I wonder if Luke's abilities have been deliberately blocked at a very early age, for the sake of his security, and to ensure his father's disinterest. Under those circumstances, Luke could have freely used the name 'Skywalker', too. All highly hypothetical, I know...

Amanda Palumbo: On the subject of Luke's growth: I couldn't agree more — his stunning development (the major reason this character fascinates me) is overlooked too often. For better or worse, Luke is the character who changes the most in the course of the trilogy. However, I don't quite see his development as a straight path to perfection, rather it includes failure and misjudgments in several instances (the training sequence in TESB is also a sequence of failures), but that's what adds a realistic touch. Without the mistakes, the temptation, the doubts, Luke's story couldn't possibly move anyone. Well, at least it wouldn't have moved me...

M. J. Mink: Maybe Luke isn't the emotionally clinging type, but how about emotionally demanding? When he reproaches Han for deserting the Rebellion in ANH, or demands that his father renounce a life of decades in ROTJ, doesn't that demonstrate that he asks a lot of people he cares about? His cause may be just, but there's a very personal element in both situations.

Good point that the aggressive significance of using the Force is apparently more widely known than the religious or philosophical aspect. Again, that makes me wonder if Yoda's description of Jedi Knighthood is as universally

ON TO MARS

Hey, have mercy on Han...! :) Maybe the torture on Bespin did affect him in unfavorable ways, but there's no reason to think the damage is permanent.

Gerald Crotty: I have the same problem with CGI — real models always look much more convincing to me (and so did the original Jabba, for a fact — compared to the digital Hutt in the photo). Maybe it's a matter of getting used to another category of FX technology, but having been raised on model tricks and the like, I obviously have an adjustment problem.

Everyone who wondered about Anakin, Jr.: I'll agree that Leia has various reasons not to want her child named Anakin, and Anakin Skywalker was a non-entity in her life anyway. About Han, I'm not so sure. If one assumes that Han has a strong sense of dynasty or harbors superstitions, then I guess he'd oppose that choice of name. Personally, I wouldn't credit him with either. He was introduced a loner with no familial ties (and why else would he call himself Solo?), and although superstitions might be popular among spacers, Han seems the more down-to-earth type, with a tolerant, generous personality. All of which leads me to think that he wouldn't consider the name Anakin an ill omen (they're not calling the baby 'Darth', after all), he'd probably make his decision on the grounds of personal taste alone. I can see that Luke might feel strongly about this, and maybe that could sway Han's mind, too.

Everyone concerned about Luke (not) getting a family: The question never quite occurred to me, because the end of ROTJ seemed to emphasize his loneliness so much. Luke's experience sets him apart from the community, and I appreciated that as an honest touch to an overall happy ending: Luke has come through a lot, achieved a lot, but — let's face it — there's a price to be paid for such things (otherwise, we'd be looking at cardboard characters, not real people). In his case, the price is probably a measure of loneliness: how could he possibly even explain what he's been through, let alone share those extremely jarring experiences? By the end of ROTJ, it feels as if he carries an ultimate silence with him. Maybe Han and Leia who were close to Luke before and watched him grow and change will find a way of understanding, but for someone new, it's bound to get extremely difficult. (Even for another Jedi, since Luke's path is so unique.) While that doesn't mean he couldn't have a lover (although I think true intimacy and trust will never come easy), I have difficulties picturing him settled with a family. Also, Luke's feelings about having children of his own must by necessity be very mixed.

Well, there's a lot more I'd love to talk about — maybe next time. I look forward to reading you all in SE 46...

Catherine Churko
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Hi, everyone. From reading #45, I wasn't the only one absent from SE for unpleasant reasons. Better times ahead for us all, I hope.

Soon, next step for me will be full time rehab. Ups my tolerance for longer hours and 5 days under someone else's schedule of activities. I've been able to do most of my previous errands and recreations again. Now, I have to reroute them around the new schedule (mimicing what I've done previously around work).

I sure made up for last spring and summer's inability to do much of anything. Went to all my favorite gardens around the city, the Bronx Zoo, the beach, art museums, dining out, and time on the Library's Web access. While we in the NE didn't have the super-scorchers of the past 3 summers, I handled sustained averages of 85° with and without humidity well. (This was a major fear.) Recovery continues.

Cheree, your home looks lovely. May you all enjoy decades of a good life there.

Speaking of life ... on to Mars! Let's go get those rock analyzers, scoopers up there! Astronauts, too! Machines are very helpful but I want the poetry of the experience through human eyes/senses.

Other Realms: Oh, finally, we Statesiders will catch up to you Brits (hi!) after twisting in the wind for 12 weeks, while you saw the last five episodes of *Babylon 5*. Since I rarely even skim over pages in a novel, I avoided most hints, info on them (as tempting as it was).

Two weeks ago, I had a Media SF Day on the Web. Besides B5, I found my first fansite for *Alien Nation* (yea!), and *V* (wow!). While I still have big quibbles with certain character interactions (*V*), after an 11 year absence, it's great to see it again. With *Alien Nation*, we get reruns and new movies, as we get reruns with most SF series. But *V* went down a blackhole. Since I have enough fan activity/contact already in SW, the Web is an interesting curiosity. But with no contact to AN, B5 or *V* fandom, the Web is a gift.

On to LoCs, etc.: Thanks for the reprint of teletiquette. Enjoyed the MWC review and photos — the carbonite Han was wild (any tech notes on it?). Doll revue was fun, as always. Congrats to all award winners and honorees. I loved Nancy's masthead illo and end page cartoon.

Z. P. re Frayser: I remember going to my first MWC ('87) and being shocked that anyone took the Empire's

side. Personally, I still find it ... disagreeable — but we can agree to disagree. I'm glad folks are getting along well.

Veronica: Very interesting, enjoyable presentation.

John: One of my favorite SF sub-genres are stories of future archaeologists, etc., making awful gaffs in extrapolation of our lives, objects based on their lives, etc.

Pat: Hi. Know you a little through Wanda and Arwen. Hope you are recovering smoothly and experienced major relief from your difficulties. Re to A.G.: 25 year+ fandoms. Amen. Sports and cars are probably the few socially sanctioned non-work/recreational pursuits you "can" be publicly passionate about ... music, too, to a certain degree.

Maggie: Another "odd woman out" here, re: another possible interpretation of OWK's giving Luke "dad's" lightsaber, agreeing with at least the possibility of it.

Treena: Welcome back. :)

Tim: I heard a little about "Good Omens" somewhere, but you really make it sound really fully/interesting. Will try to catch it somewhere.

Re: Only Hope. True — never obviously stated. That was probably in my mind re: my Yoda future glimpses comments in #39.

Gerald: We *have* suffered enough! I do though tend to agree with Maggie's take on GL's action re: the redo's. I like your wish list, too.

Liz: Enjoyed your report on Visions and Mr. Prowse and Mr. Mayhew and the DB's gleeful adventures.

Who knows when I'll get back to MWC (I have a currently more modest goal re cons in the works). But if I *could*, no, I wouldn't want to have a separate smaller SW-only con the same weekend as MWC. First, as an artist/artisan, I want to see art and costumes in most fandoms. And re: my lack of official fandom connects on B5, AN and V — MWC is one place to try and find like-minded fen (and fanzines, stuff, etc.).

Rich: Welcome. I basically said what you said at the top of your LoC, back in '87 when SW fandom was about 10 years up and running (gee, and I thought I was getting in at near end — but that's because the lean years almost were on us then).

When I was a kid, a bunch of cousins and I would round-robin stories — oh, a few paragraphs each, on our uncle's portable 5" reel-to-reel tape recorder. We had a hoot of a time.

Louise: Glad you made it to MWC and that you and Catriona are in touch again.

Amanda: Hope your mother-in-law is still defying the odds. Good luck on your move.

May we all have a good autumn (and gentle winter). Until next time, MTFBWY.

TOP TEN REASONS WHY THE STAR WARS CHARACTERS WOULD KICK BUTT IN THE STAR TREK UNIVERSE

- 10 In the *Star Wars* universe, weapons rarely, if ever, set on "stun."
- 9 The *Enterprise* needs a huge engine room with an anti-matter unit and a crew of twenty just to go into warp—the *Millennium Falcon* does the same thing with R2-D2 and a Wookiee.
- 8 After resisting the Imperial torture droid and Darth Vader, Princess Leia still looked fresh and desirable—after pithy Cardassian starvation torture, Picard looked like hell.
- 7 One word: lightsabers.
- 6 Darth Vader could choke the entire Borg empire with one glance.
- 5 The Death Star doesn't care if a world is class "M" or not.
- 4 Luke Skywalker not obsessed with sleeping with every alien he encounters.
- 3 Jabba the Hutt would eat Harry Mudd for trying to cut in on his action.
- 2 The Federation would have to attempt to liberate any ship named *Slave I*.
- 1 Picard pilots *Enterprise* through asteroid belt at one-quarter impulse power. Han Solo floors it.



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

THE ORMAND FACTOR #1. 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 #2. 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.

THOUSANDWORLDS COLLECTED. This three volume set of Maggie Nowakowska's classic alternate universe adventure is still available. Price (including postage): #1 — \$18.00, #2 — \$23.00, #3 — \$11.00, or the entire set \$46.00. Please make checks payable to: Linda Deneroff, 704 East Thomas #103, Seattle, WA 98102.

ZINE INFO ADZINE. Quarterly adzine now accepting listings from all fandoms as well as classifieds, cons, merchandise, fan clubs and whatever other fandom related material you have to advertise. \$15.00 US/Canada; \$27.00 overseas airmail/\$20.00 surface. Single issues: \$6.00 US/Can., \$10.00 overseas airmail/\$7.00 surface. For more information, contact Brenda Cunningham, Box 123, Assiniboia, Saskatchewan S0H 0B0, Canada.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #10. Yep, I've decided to do at least one more issue of TF. Since this will be the 10th issue, I want it to be an extra special one. I want the best of the best for this one. I already have a new installment of *Penumbra* from Catriona Campbell as well as two new stories from Marti Schuller. Stories promised are a sequel to "Balance of Power" by Veronica Wilson and a new novelette by Z. P. Florian. Nancy Stasulis has a wonderful color anniversary grouping in the works for the cover. A special feature I'd like to have is a color portfolio from SW fandom's best artists. There are sure to be even more surprises. If you're a newer writer or artist, however, don't let this intimidate you. I'd still love to see what you have.

Newer contributors often come up with the best, freshest approaches to stories, poetry or art. If you are interested in submitting material, please SASE Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126, or e-mail me at ChereeC@AOL.com.

DARK MASTER/DARK SERVANT: A new Darth Vader zine is currently seeking submissions for its debut issue. We're looking for stories, filks, poetry, and artwork about the Dark Lord, either as Anakin Skywalker or Darth Vader. Any time period, alternate universe, or original characters considered so long as Vader is the focus of the piece. Please send submissions to: Cheryl Pryor and Belea Keeney, 2458 Stone Post Terrace, Richmond, VA 23233-1504.

ELUSIVE LOVER #2: Now open for submissions of fiction, poetry, art — we're looking for material exploring the passionate adventures of Han Solo and Luke Skywalker. We encourage characterization, original plots and variety in general. Explicit and romantic both welcome. Deadline Jan. 1997. Scheduled publication date: May 1997. For info and guidelines please send SAE + IRC to: Anoa Press c/o Pfau, Cheruserstr. 11, 10829 Berlin, Germany.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #3. Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork. We are predominantly a comedy, light-hearted adventure zine but would love to have "serious" stories also. Publication due May 1997. For further information, contact Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS #3 is now accepting submissions. With stories already accepted by Campbell, Mink and Turner. Stories should be G-R rated, though exceptions to this rule may be cleared with the editor. No slash, please. For submissions guidelines, please write — including an International Reply Coupon — to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain.

RENAISSANCE is open for submissions of SW fiction, art, filks, poetry and cartoons. We're looking for the weird, the offbeat, humor, tragedy, alternate universes or traditional adventures. Scheduled publication: MW 1997. For more information or guidelines, please SASE MJ Mink, 8805 SW Cashmur Lane #1, Portland OR 97225, or Judith Klingler Scheffelstr. 1, 10367 Berlin, Germany..

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,

etc., 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.

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.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS — Full color prints. Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. Luke by Melanie Guttierrez. Vader by Nancy Stasulis, bareback Han by Dianne Smith. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

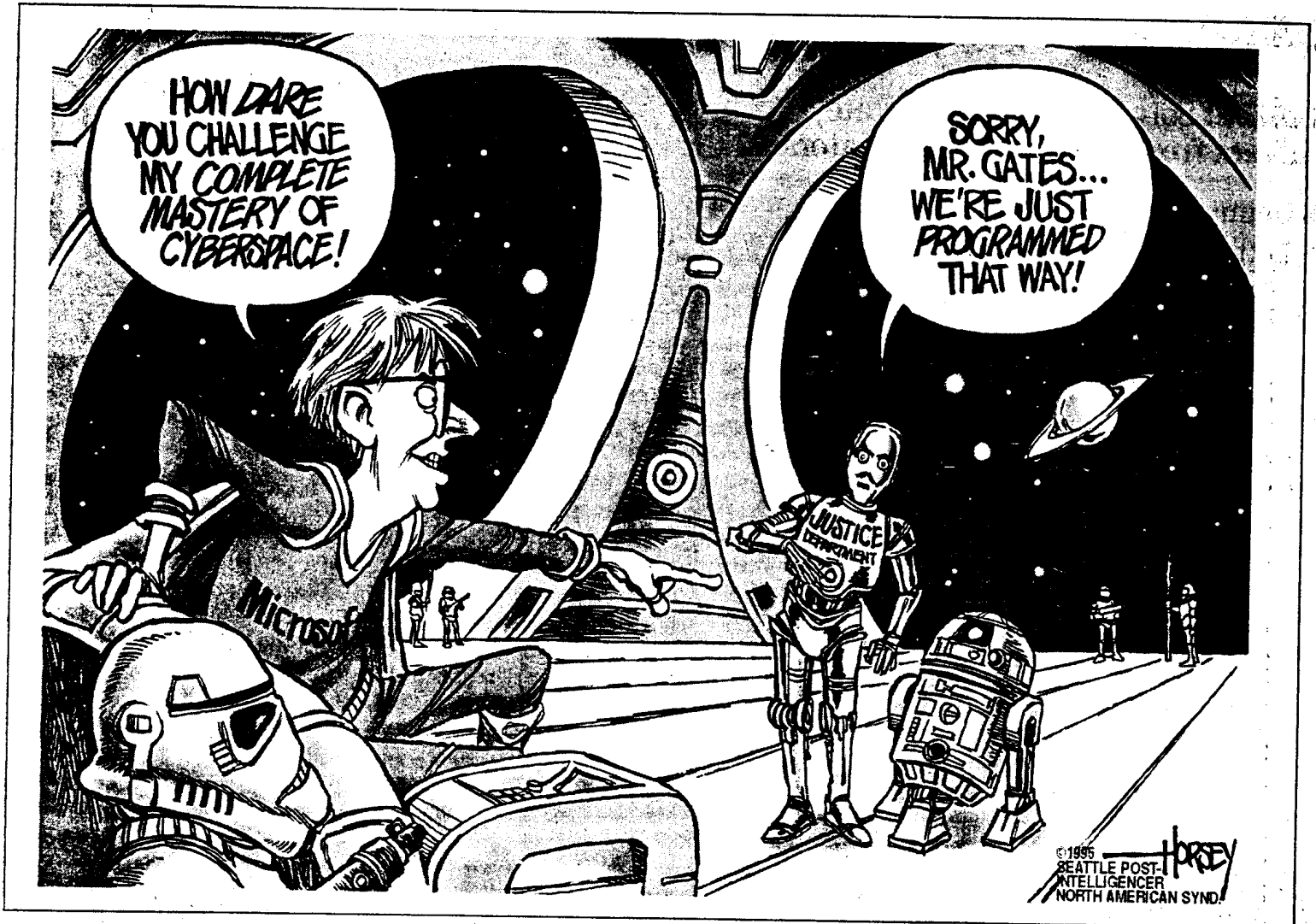
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ZINE SALE! Cleaned out my closet and I now have a large number of used zines for sale. SW, ST, B7, media, some dating back to the 70's. Titles include *Flip of a Coin*, *Facets*, *Warped Space*, *Skywalker*, *Southern Seven*, and more too numerous to name here. Some fairly recent titles, too. Most zines in excellent to mint condition. SASE for list of available zines to Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

ZINE SALE #10: Over 250 zines from ST, WOW, SW, UNCLE, EQ, B7, QL, B:G, XF, ST:TNG, and many multi-media zines! First come, first get! Send a large 2-stamped SASE for list to: Marilyn Reichman, 448 Neptune Avenue, Apt. 13H, Brooklyn, NY 11224.

ZINE (AND A FEW BOOKS) SALE: *Pros*, *Blake's 7*, multi-media, *Star Trek*, odds and ends; mostly adult or slash, some gen. SASE for list to Bea Schmidt, P. O. Box 1076, Farmington, NM 87499-1076.

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