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## NEUROTIC JEDI

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Hi everyone, and a happy New Year to all of you! Although with the Special Edition's release only a few weeks away, I trust that everyone's as happily excited about it as I am. Seems like the proper way to start the new year. :)

Z. P. Florian: Curious, that you found the ROTJ finale depressing — I felt the same way, but nobody else seemed to have that kind of reaction. I think you're right: it's the struggle and the conflict that inspire, not the ultimate victory. And in this case some solutions came about a little too smoothly — as if someone had chosen to ignore rather than answer a number of intricate questions raised in the trilogy.

I'm not sure about the impossibility of friendship between teachers and students (personal bias involved here: two of my closest friends used to be my students). Anyway, I always assumed that Obi-Wan and Anakin had been friends *before* Kenobi became Anakin's teacher. I can imagine a young (reckless and passionate) Anakin who can't start the training fast enough and keeps pleading with his older friend — already a full Jedi — to teach him, appealing, perhaps, to a streak of arrogance in Kenobi's personality.

I never thought of the black clothes Luke wears in ROTJ as something of a traditional Jedi uniform. Maybe the prequels will establish a background for it, but I think the black color itself is too reminiscent of Vader. My answer is that Luke is making a statement by choosing black: he acknowledges his descent with it, and the very fact that he deals with it openly points to his determination to make a difference. (And, after being raised within the symbolic systems of Western culture, I can't help but see black as the color of mourning.)

Goodness, I hope you'll lose control of the horses again soon! That storyline you've drafted in your answer to Amanda sounds like a whole bunch of fascinating stories could come from it...

Marlene Karkoska: Thanks for all the Internet info. (I wish I had more time to search the net for SW material — there seems to be so much.) Interesting, that net writers use characters from the pro novels while fanzine writers generally don't. Do you have any explanation for that?

Lando: Actually, I always found it surprising that Leia and Luke were almost instantly ready to forgive him. Although we never really saw Luke and Lando interact anywhere in the movies (excepting the brief moment at the end of TESB when Luke says good-bye to Chewbacca and Lando over the comlink), so we don't really know how Luke feels about Lando's betrayal.

I couldn't help noticing that all your comments regarding an unmarried Luke finished on “-less” (childless, loveless etc.) — which makes it sound as if singlehood by definition involved the loss or lack of something. What about the things to gain by staying single (and in Luke's case, I suppose the Force has a few rewards of its own to offer)? Reverse, how about the things you give up getting married, having children? I don't think that without a wife and children, Luke must necessarily be a “slave to duty”, and I certainly wouldn't equate *unmarried* with *loveless*. Luke is walking the borders between... well, the spiritual and the material world, I suppose, and he probably needs attachments that will keep him moored to a human level of reality — but who says that the person offering that kind of balance must necessarily be a wife?

I agree with your comments on Luke having a somewhat unfavorable self image, and I don't think that's surprising. After being totally caught up in developing his Jedi abilities since he was — what? eighteen? — his perception of himself must be totally dominated by it. While experiences acquired through Jedi training could lend him tremendous confidence, this also makes him different, and he must be very aware of it. Few people are going to approach him like the guy next door, many will implicitly or explicitly treat him like a curiosity, with worship or mistrust, never on a “normal” level. All of which could contribute to a sense of deficiency wherever ordinary human communication is concerned.

I wonder about your characterization of Luke as “likable, open, optimistic”... Well, likable is beyond dispute, I think, but for the rest I'm not too sure. Even in ANH, Luke didn't come across as someone with a generally optimistic attitude. (What about lines like “I'll never get off this rock” / “I can't go with you to Alderaan” — ?) He's optimistic about his piloting skills, but Leia's show of affection bewilders him (obviously, he'd never expected her to like him). Actually, it struck me that Luke has an amazing degree of confidence in some areas, and little or none in others. (Which ties into the above, re his personal self image.) The optimism he displays when he tries to convince Yoda of his readiness to begin the Jedi training always seemed a little desperate to me. And doesn't Yoda censure his lack of optimism later on (“I don't believe this” / “That is why you fail”)? Not to mention the “soon I will be dead” line in ROTJ.

As for “open”: By ROTJ, Luke is definitely keeping his

own agenda. When he decides to seek out Vader he doesn't tell anyone except Leia. In fact, after TESB he never tells anyone anything about his recent discoveries. I think this is a major instance of Luke's development (and a plausible one at that): Vader's revelation on Bespin must have shattered his trust in appearances and other people's advice. Additionally, he finds himself in a unique situation even Leia can't share entirely.

Am I beginning to make him sound neurotic? I didn't mean to... still, his teachers pretty much tied him up in a nasty double bind: "You must never become like your father." / "You must be like your father" (in order to confront and kill him). Palpatine obviously got the hang of that, too; he keeps pointing out that whatever Luke does will lead him to the dark side. Luke's ultimate solution then is to do *nothing*. (There's enough there to breed neurosis...) What the ultimate effects will be depends on whether you want to consider the Force a healing power or an additionally disturbing factor in Luke's life, I think.

Matthew Whitney: To show that Greedo fired first is a major cop-out! Somebody's trying to turn Han into a PC hero, no matter how much this deforms the original character. And you're totally right: that scene *was* a defining moment for Han. I positively loathe the notion of any tampering with it! Incidentally, if you've read *The New Rebellion*, you may have noticed that the author's pushing hard to bring the same idea across: On *Smuggler's Run*, all those grungy smugglers keep saying what a nice, decent, essentially *good* guy Han has always been. Even Lando joins the chorus after a while — and I began to picture a rather sickening, sugar-coated Han... (Apart from that, I did enjoy the book.)

Marti Schuller: By now, everybody will have said it — but I didn't see Luke kill any Gamorreans either. He just choked them a little, violated their minds so they'd let him pass — nothing *seriously* nasty. ;) I don't know if anybody else got the same notion, but I used to think that Luke privately enjoys this opportunity to finally put his powers to use in Jabba's palace. I thought I could see the occasional flash of arrogance filter through his humble repose when he goes to confront Jabba.

Gerald Crotty: No, it wouldn't have improved Han's character if they'd killed him off in ROTJ, but I suppose the pure shock of such an event would have wiped out the memory of his lapse. Emasculated? Now here's a helpful thought to explain what happened to Han during the torture session... ;) In any case, I'm glad they let him live, emasculated or not.

I had a laughing fit over your suggestions for an alternate pronunciation of Jerjerrod. (Which reminded me that there's a droid named *Bollux* in Daley's Han Solo-novels. And here's me thinking I'm the only one with a warped mind.) Seriously though, I think you were right

to point out Jerjerrod's looks: he had a strangely melancholic air about himself and could have been made into an interesting character.

John Fredericks: I've already said a lot about Luke's hypothetical family life, so I'll keep this short... I think there are basically two possibilities of looking at it: either Luke will absolutely want children of his own to be the father he never had for himself, or his rather traumatic experiences will prevent him from having children. Personally, I can't imagine Luke becoming a dad, simply because he seems so self-sufficient by the end of the trilogy. I'm afraid I never found his desire for female companionship very prominent either. He worshipped Leia (I suppose the entire Rebellion worshipped her), but he doesn't even bother to say good-bye on Hoth (he's leaving for Dagobah and apparently doesn't tell anyone). After that, the question doesn't really arise again.

Suzanne Godsalve: Your comments about Vader not noticing Leia's Force potential on the Death Star made me reconsider the issue. As Gerald Crotty mentioned, it was never established that Leia is indeed the "other" Yoda refers to: this is merely Luke's inference, and Leia never displayed any Force talents in the trilogy. What if she doesn't have any? Okay, Luke tells her she does, but he never discussed that with Ben, he only brings it up on Endor (and rather obviously to soften the blow to come: "my sister has it" is Luke's way of telling her she's Darth Vader's daughter). So, has Luke felt her Force potential, or does the kinship merely suggest to him that she *should* have it? (To take speculation even further: what if Leia isn't his sister at all? All Ben had to say to Luke's sudden insight was something like "your feelings do you credit" — whatever that means. Alright, but now I'm shutting up about this.)

Any general opinions on whether Force abilities are necessarily passed on within families — anybody? I tend to think of a Force talent as something more volatile than a DNA code being passed on according to the general genetic laws. And here's another (related) question: Does the Force need to be passed on genetically exclusively? Couldn't such a talent simply "pop up" without (biologically) tracable origins? Or, for a more moderate view, could it lie dormant and skip several generations? (Where do all those new Force-talents in the pro novels come from anyway?) And how do we know Anakin was actually married to the mother of Luke and Leia? Chris Graham mentions that Lucas said so in an interview — but does everyone here consider Lucas' statements canonic? Okay, I have no doubts whatsoever that the prequels will have them married — I guess I'm just opposing the assumption that if a couple has children, they must necessarily be married.

Chris Graham: I enjoyed reading your thoughts on

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celibacy. I don't think there could be a general rule for Jedi to stay celibate either, although there is a strong ascetic streak in the teachings of the Force. It simply seems as if some Jedi — like Ben and Yoda — chose a secluded (apparently celibate) life due to their very particular paths and experiences. And who's to say the same couldn't be true for Luke?

The more I think about the fall of the Old Republic, the Jedi purge, etc., the more the time scale escapes me. The movies always made me feel as if these things had happened many generations ago, while now the Empire seems to have been established within Anakin's lifetime. (I don't suppose we can assume longer life-spans for these people, can we?)

If Ben decided against training Leia as a Jedi (assuming she does have the potential), perhaps the very instances you mentioned prompted that decision. Unlike Luke, Leia has already developed a distinct personality which might make her less susceptible to Jedi training ("unlearn what you have learned"). She's highly passionate about her ideals and totally determined to do whatever it takes to bring down the Empire — all of which might place her in greater danger of falling to the dark side, in Ben's perception.

I keep wondering about the general knowledge of the Jedi, too. Like you said: several instances make it sound as if Jedi knighthood were considered esoteric and quaint. If the New Republic were to reinstate the order, I suppose they'd have to start a major campaign first.

Did Luke say "teleport"? Gee, I never noticed. That would mean he'd been watching *Blake's 7* rather than *Star Trek*, however. (I know I would have noticed if he'd said "I wish someone would *beam* me off this rock"!)

Since you brought it up: How do we know Jabba can't have sex with a humanoid female? Perhaps Hutts use their tongue to... well, never mind. But there are sexual undertones in Jabba's interaction with Oona and Leia.

Luke's failure at the cave: What an interesting question... I guess Luke was supposed to confront "Vader" unarmed — then again, if he'd gone in unarmed, perhaps his vision would have been something else entirely. In any case, I keep thinking that Yoda was trying to determine whether Luke was ready to confront the truth about his father and himself.

Tim Blaes: Personally, I'm not much of a continuity freak, regarding the consistency of the pro novels and comic books. If that's what it takes to raise the standard of writing, I'd gladly do without continuity. I think the imperative to keep all the novels consistent within a given timeframe severely limits the writer's imagination (both Barbara Hambly and Vonda McIntyre have written interesting material outside SW, for instance, while I found their SW novels disappointing). But I suppose you're right,

and the pro novels have acquired an authority of their own, whatever Lucasfilm says — at least outside the fandom. Within, nobody seems to accept them without reservations.

Rich Gawel: I'm sure there will be lots of suggestions for Han's heroic death in ROTJ which, fortunately, never came to pass... Here's mine: Han could have gone after Luke when he surrendered himself to Vader — to get even after the rescue from Jabba's palace — and Palpatine would have used his death to turn Luke to the dark side. (Probably the reason Luke never told Han where he was going. :)

On a different subject altogether: I agree that guiding students towards independent thought is the greatest challenge in teaching, but I don't really consider such independence of thought a matter of intuition alone. The point for me is to waken people's curiosity, encourage them to ask questions rather than expect definite solutions to every problem — which seems to be a matter of cultural restrictions more than anything. Or maybe I just want to believe that, to keep up the optimism...

Maggie Nowakowska: I think the reason why our present gender stereotypes sometimes get transferred to SW is that we saw so precious few women in the trilogy (and, to be sure, Han's machismo adds its share). Leia is more or less a woman on her own, and the mere fact seems to speak for itself. That is to say, if all the women of that galaxy (or even only Alderaani women) had Leia's toughness, self-assurance, and fiery temperament, we could expect to see more female pilots, mechanics, political leaders. All the more I was disappointed to see Leia slide back towards a more traditional image of femininity by ROTJ. But perhaps we can blame it all on the Empire and assume that Imperial policies actively blocked women's paths into traditionally male domains — ?

Cheree: I honestly don't see any reason why you shouldn't add your comments to the conversation — and I'm sure everybody would love to hear them!

Planning the 50th issue of SE for MediaWest '98 sounds like a great idea. Hope I'll be able to attend again....

BACK AGAIN!

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February 2, 1997

Hi Cheree and all, hey, I am back — well sort of. The doctors think (well they think they think) it is a generalized neurological disorder akin to arthritis. In other words I hurt!!! Enough that I have been spending about half of my

time curled on a couch or in bed. Not exactly conducive to keeping older muscles or bones in good condition. Bottom line is I will have to have a series of injections. The addendum to that is the injections can have some bad side effects — so this has to be handled verrrrrry carefully. (OK — with me this is not a new problems — this is what has become known as the Ming syndrome.) Anyhow just wanted to let you know why I have been slow to answer letters and such, and in hopes I can do better in the future. ((Ed: *We're so sorry to hear that you've been ill, Ming! Best wishes for a good recovery!*))

First, as of this writing have not seen the new film release. I was in a small town on Maui when it came out. And the local movie did not have it to show — and nearest place was several towns away. So I just watched the TV ads and salivated.

Nora: Okay, let's blame Debbie — And I am going to put a curse — eternal snow and cold weather where she goes and she can have my portion. I think she is to blame for the unending rain we have had here. I have to have someone to blame. I hate cold wet weather.

Lucas and the technicalities. Well, I do not think any of us believe Lucas is going to settle on the story idea in the new pics. From the squibs of ideas that have been dropped, we are back to developing juveniles (a twelve year old girl). After all Luke was a cute kid, but Luke was 20 years old and we went from there.

Going back a bit, fandom being a breeding ground for hatred... Well hatred usually does not really need a breeding ground — the underlying problem is lack of understanding in most cases. And that unfortunately does not mean understanding the person, but understanding where that person is coming from. Which is an entirely different thing.

I am not going to get involved in the child name and such again. I have developed such a dislike for the pro books I have to admit I am really biased. I am definitely fed up with cardboard-nanny Hans, humorless and continual angst Lukes and idiot Leias as well as Mary Sues who rescue the hero and bed him. I often wonder if the people who wrote these have ever seen the movies!

Well enough for my little note this time. In hopes I can catch up next issue, keep well all and enjoy the remakes.



## ON-LINE FAN FICTION

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January 6, 1997

I hope everyone enjoyed a healthy, happy holiday season. Sincerest condolences to all those who lost loved ones during the past year. There is another SW/Ford fan that was not mentioned who suffered her mother's death in Oct. Janet Madden of Boston is not an artist or writer or regular participant of SE, but many of you may know her nonetheless. Again, deepest sympathy to all of you.

Marlene Karkoska: Go ahead, pour salt into my wounds. I already feel like a dinosaur because I don't yet own a computer, but to learn that there's actually fanfiction online and I can't access it is adding insult to injury. : (I'd love to read some of the SW humor out there that you mentioned, for example.

It is intriguing that you say most online writers of post-ROTJ tend to use the novels, while most fanzine authors seldom do. Perhaps that reflects an age difference or the length of time the writer has been involved in SW fandom. It would be quite interesting to learn the statistics.

Matthew Whitney: Congratulations on your job development. May you find fulfillment and security and may all your students prove worthy, apt learners.

Suzanne Godsolve: Welcome to SE! I look forward to meeting you at MWC in May, also.

Judith Klinger: Good to see you in the pages of SE. Hope you'll be back in Lansing this year. Though there's never enough time to visit with everyone properly, maybe we can sneak out for a smoke- and gabfest together.

No apologies necessary for not writing to me sooner. Life gets in the way of our fun for all of us. I am eagerly hoping for a copy of that incredible Luke picture, however, whenever you get time to send it. It is so good!

Uh, er, well, yes, I *did* sterilize Luke in an early story called "The Emperor's Revenge". It was published in *Wookiee Commode #4*. Given the opportunity, I'd do a massive rewrite of that particular story, but I would not change the sterilization. To be honest, I wrote it in response to all the sugary sweet, sickeningly schmaltzy stories of "Luke and family" that were so prevalent at that time. However, I do like the basic premise of the story — that Luke had to suffer some side-effect of the Emperor's torturous attack aboard the second Death Star — and I've stood by Luke's inability to father children in all my stories since then. So, scandalous or not, in my SW galaxy, Luke is permanently, irreversibly sterile.

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I definitely agree that the Han we see in ROTJ is not the same man he would eventually be. I sincerely believe Han's ultimate personality would be somewhere between that of his in ROTJ and ANH, with some of his old cynicism and cockiness rising to the fore once more. For one, I'd be happy to see it, too.

To Everyone Else: Take care, and perhaps next time I'll have more to say. (See, Judy, I can be shorter winded, after all.)

By the way, I absolutely loved the "Top Ten . . ." SW vs. ST list!

Happy, warm springtime to all. See you in May!!

## WAS HARRISON RESPONSIBLE?

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February 2, 1997

First, I also wanted to express my deepest sympathies to all who lost loved ones this past year. Believe me, I know how you feel. It will be three years on May 7 since my brother Bob died, yet it seems like just yesterday. It just broke my parents' hearts to lose their only son, but I do feel we are closer now as a family than we have ever been. Condolences also to pet owners who have suffered a loss. Our beagle, Susie, has been gone 20 years and we still talk about her!

My compliments to Maggie Nowakowska on her defense of Ben Kenobi. Ultimately, Anakin Skywalker was responsible for his own actions.

Interesting comment by Gerald Crotty that Harrison might bear some responsibility for his performance in ROTJ. Sometimes just *how* one's lines are delivered can make all the difference. *If* you didn't like Han in ROTJ (I did), you might consider that perhaps Harrison was already looking past his SW experience to the larger, rewarding career ahead of him. As for the notion of Han dying, I didn't think that would have gone over well either, no matter how nobly it was done.

Where was I when SW opened? Not paying much attention, actually! We went to see it a few weeks after it opened and just before it really took off. Little did we know!

This time, of course, is different. We won't even be able to get *near* a theater until February 1st. There were people lined up on Thursday, January 30, camping out, evening shows sold out by 10 a.m., etc.

That's all for now!

## INKBLOT TEST

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"The difference between entertainment and art is that entertainment gives you what you want, and art gives you what you didn't even know you needed." I can't remember who said this, but I think it was somewhere in *TV Guide*.

Z. P. Florian: Perhaps Old Pruneface eventually killed Palpatine and took his identity? He was always addressed by title and not by name.

Your first name is Zsuzsa, as in 2001's theme music, *Also Sprach Zsuzsa*? It must be cool, having your own theme music.

Marlene Karkoska: Why don't you try to make it to MediaWest this year? We'd all be glad to see you there.

I usually go over my copy of SE with a highlighter, marking paragraphs or sentences I wish to comment on, occasionally making notes in the margins. Not exactly term paper stuff, but it does save me a lot of re-reading.

It seems to me that some questions that cycle through fandom, such as "should Luke have a lover/wife/family?" serve as a kind of fannish Rorschach test. Well, in regard to the ink-blot of the day, I'd rather not see Luke grow old and alone, but it's all too likely a possibility. There are plenty of good people who are relationship impaired, and Luke could be one of them. But he *does* have a family, in Leia and Han and their children.

After chewing over the debate about the Special Editions in fandom and genre mags, I don't think they'll upset me much. With one exception; it seems that they'll revise the scene with Han and Greedo, with Greedo shooting first, at a sitting target at point-blank range, and he misses. And here I thought only Imperial Stormtroopers were that precise. This isn't a FX shot that needs cleaning up, this is just George knuckling under to somebody's idea of political correctness.

Cheree: I have no problem with you inserting comments into the LoCs, and I might even like you to do more of it. You do a lot of work to get SE out, and I don't see why you shouldn't be able to have your say just like the rest of us. It's only if your inserts start looking like complete LoCs themselves that I'll start worrying.

I do like *Dark Skies*, and watch it when I can, but the show does require heaping helpings of suspension of disbelief. It's hard for me to believe that *everything* in history, from Roswell on, has been leavened with aliens. I'm waiting for them to fold Elvis and Gene Roddenberry into the pot. ((Ed: After a promising start, I quickly got

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bored with this show and haven't watched it in quite a while.))

Matthew Whitney: I read Babara Hambly's *Children of the Jedi* in a house without power by the light of two lamps. This I think added greatly to the atmosphere of the novel. I really liked Hambly's Leia, but I'd just as soon not see Roganda or Irek again. Her next SW novel, *Planet of Twilight*, should be out by the time this sees print.

Marti Schuller: Perhaps Cheree can find someone with a panoramic camera and take a group photo after the STAR aWARDs of the winners, "honorable", and attendant SE regulars. I'm envisioning a double fold out photo section for SE50. Is this possible, Cheree? ((Ed: Anything's possible, I suppose. Anyone got a camera they'd like to volunteer? In lieu of that, I'd love to run photos of all the SE regulars and short bios.))

A local station has only recently picked up *Hercules and Xena*, and I think they're both wonderful! What torques me off is that Herc gets a prime 7p.m. Saturday spot, but Xena get stuck with 1 a.m. later that night! I understand that Xena's per-episode budget is less than what they spend on Herc's show. There is some satisfaction to be found, however; Xena is getting higher ratings than Hercules. Anyway, Gabrielle is my favorite character. She's cute, a fast talker, and wields a mean staff — my kind of woman.

Gerald Crotty: If SW:ANH had been released originally with really bad FX, do you think it would have had the same impact? The FX *do* matter. But so do the "imperfections". The Japanese word for it is *wabi*: A flawed detail that creates an elegant whole. A mistake or imperfection distinguishes the spirit of the moment in which a work of art was created from all other moments in time. *Star Wars* could lose it's identity if it is "improved" too much.

John Fredericks: Actually, *ST: The Motion Picture* serves as an example of a movie that *was* helped by a "special edition". The ABC broadcast restored much needed character scenes and replaced some of the "awesome" FX with slightly less awesome commercials.

I haven't read *Shadows* yet. I'm not too impressed with this Dash Rendar guy. The Topps card makes him look like a brainless jock. Would you want any daughter of yours dating a guy with a name like that?

Suzanne Godsalve: It's beginning to look like the UK will have to come up with its own enclave name. Hope you make it to Mediawest. What is *Moons of Yavin*?

Chris Graham: One of the things I like about *Deep Space 9* is that Bajoran priests have no silly hangup about celibacy. I hope the Jedi as a whole share that attitude as well. If a person's like leads them away from family or lovers, fine, but I just don't see the point of making it a requirement.

What if there was another lightsaber in Ben's chest? "Your mother wanted you to have this when you were older." Oh, probably not. But there must have been some reason. Perhaps Ben, Yoda, or some other Jedi foresaw that training Leia might be counter productive in some way, such as making her even more of a target for Vader.

Perhaps the weapon used on C3PO in TESB was not a blaster but some sort of concussion weapon? Or it was set on stun, and it stuns by walloping you really hard?

As for the troopers by the pod in ANH, what I'd like to know is which droid lost what part, and why they didn't notice?

Perhaps Luke picked up the term "teleport" from reading SF? Or Mos Eisley TV shows *Star Trek* reruns?

What if Lobot is a Borg defector?

I really liked your SW/*X-Files* parallels. Where might Leia fit in here? Scully's sister Melissa would be a good candidate, but they had to go and kill her off in her second appearance (I'm still mad about that). Do Chewie and Skinner compare well? Granted, Mulder and Skinner are not as close as Han and Chewie, but do they have to have the exact same relationship? If we toss reincarnation into this discussion, the theory is that we meet many of the same souls in each life, but we try different relationships each time. Anyway, I'm still trying to fit Wedge, Lando, and the Emperor into it.

Pat Grant: I tried to send a couple of my artist friends your way to help with your Highlander RPG, only to hear you are abandoning it due to a pro RPG coming out soon. I'd hate to think of all the work you did going to waste, and hope you'll still consider running a game at MWC anyway.

Maggie Nowakowska: Perhaps the Alliance makes a habit of cleaning up people whose pasts are messy. The Rebellion may have a catalytic effect on people like Han, enabling them to change without forcing them to.

Judith Klinger: Perceiving a person's identity with the Force may be easier than perceiving their bloodline. Recognizing someone you know may be automatic but recognizing even a close relation might take more skill and focus.

Catherine Churko: The military has computer programs designed to flag artificial structures on surveillance photos. It can percieve even camouflaged structures in almost any terrain, from rain forests to arid deserts. This program has been used on the "Face on Mars" photos. Not only did it flag the "Face" as being artificial, it flagged a number of structures around it also. NASA is full of beans when they tell us it's just a trick of light. They know.

Metaphors be with you...

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF LUKE SKYWALKER

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Hello everyone. Why am I so totally uninterested in the pro novels and comics? I can only say that they just don't seem to capture any of the spirit of SW. Now I'm not blaming the writers necessarily since they are handicapped in that they can't use Vader or the Empire very much. But I would say that most of the stuff I've read is rather ponderous, there's not much zing to it. There should be more of the cliffhanger element in these stories. Actually, I'm not really sure. I keep trying to analyze why I'm not interested in them but I can't come to any conclusion.

Catriona: You've disappeared again.

Suzanne Godsolve: Welcome to SE. I agree with you that Lucas didn't know, when making ANH, that Leia would be related to Vader. I wonder when he did decide. I'm not entirely sure that he meant Leia to be the "other" when they were filming TESB.

A few SE's ago, I was suggesting possible connections between SW and King Arthur. Well, I recently thought of another possible connection — I was talking with someone about the rather strange names in the SW universe not least Leia Organa. And then I realized — Morgana. Morgana was Arthur's half sister, same mother, different fathers. If Ben is to be believed, then Luke and Leia have the same mother and father. But what if they don't? What if they're not twins? ((Ed: *What if they're twins with different fathers? Mrs. Skywalker may have been a swingin' chick!*))

Chris Graham: "Is 3PO sentient?" Well, I'd always assumed that sentient meant a human sort of intelligence, that which is distinguished from animals. But I just looked it up in the dictionary and it simply says, "That feels or is capable of feeling." So 3PO must be extremely sentient!

My assumption regarding Luke's remark about teleportation is that it means that teleportation does *not* exist in the SW universe because he talks about it in the same context as altering time. It's a wish for the impossible. Which makes me wonder if LFL tells all writers to avoid teleportation? Has anyone ever noticed teleportation being used in a SW story? ((Ed: *Martie Benedict O'Brien used it in "On the Side of Light" in Tremor #9 but it struck me as a little out of place in the SW*

*universe. Still, if starships can fly through hyperspace and energy beams can be built that are powerful enough to evaporate entire planets, who's to say teleportation doesn't exist?))*

A T-16 is a Skyhopper. You can see Luke playing with a model of it in his garage. In the radio play, we hear him flying it. I don't think it's such a big deal for a farm boy to own a plane in the SW universe. He probably bought a kit version and built it himself.

John Hollis (Lobot) recently said at a convention that he understood Lobot to be short for Lobotomy. He also said that he had some dialogue which was cut from the film.

When Yoda refers to Luke's failure at the cave, I think he's trying to tell him that he hasn't yet fully understood what happened. It's not so much an issue of success or failure, but a matter of understanding and learning from experience. Luke doesn't yet understand what it meant.

Can Jabba have sex with Leia? I've always wondered that myself. According to the ROTJ script, he does have a "lustful gleam in his eye" regarding Oola. In the *Jedi Academy* trilogy, Wedge falls in love with a blue-skinned woman (whatever happened to her?) so I guess if you choose to believe it, he could have sex with her. Does he have a dick? That's the real question. I'm sure Cheree is pleased to see us debating these important philosophical issues! ((Ed: *Oh, you know it. First it's how Harrison Ford does his business in the men's room, now it's Jabba's anatomy. What next? Oh, no! I'd better not ask that question! If this keeps up, I'm gonna have to ask you guys to step outside when there are ladies present!*))

As for Yoda, I don't believe he was celibate. He strikes me as a randy old goat.

Well, by the time this issue of SE comes out, you U.S. fans will know if George has improved or spoiled a classic. We won't know until March. I've seen a photo of Boba Fett in the new Jabba scene, as usual he's just standing there not doing much. Does anyone know who provided Jabba's voice? I wonder if it'll be the same guy doing it in ANH. Who provided Boba Fett's voice? We should be told.

Toys — Will someone please produce a model kit or decent sized toy version of the Sail Barge? I heard that they spent several million \$ constructing it for the movie. You'd think they'd get some more merchandising potential out of it.

Here's a question — does anyone out there know what "digitally remastered" means? What do they actually do? It implies that they transfer every frame onto a computer for a clean up job, but that would cost a fortune and take a long time. I daresay that Lucas might do it with the SW films but I can't imagine anyone else having the resources.

As I understand it the first of the prequels will feature an Anakin in his early teens and then episodes II and III

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will feature an adult Anakin, thereby necessitating 2 actors for the role. Or maybe the young actor will only play him for part of Part I and then we'll jump forward in time. Whatever the case, it seems that the pace of the first trilogy will be slower and cover more history than IV, V and VI. One of the most interesting aspects of ANH for me is the length of time it occurs in: it's about 4 days, but most of the action happens on the 3rd day — Luke gets up, goes looking for R2, is attacked by sandpeople, meets Ben, learns about the rebels, Leia, his father, Jedis, etc. Goes home, foster parents dead. Decides to become a Jedi. Goes to Mos Eisley, gets in a fight, sees a Jedi in action, sells his car, chased by Star Destroyer. Lunch. Learns how to use a lightsaber. Captured by the biggest ship in history, kills some troopers, meets Leia, nearly crushed to death, chased by troopers, swings across a chasm, sees Ben killed, kills some more troopers. Destroys a couple of TIEs. Yavin. Supper. Shoots down a few more TIEs and blows up the Death Star, killing thousands of people. Home, medal. Cocoa, bed.

That's quite a day by anyone's standards! As adventures go, I can't see it ever being topped. Luke begins the day a nobody and ends it as savior of the galaxy. But my point is that the length of time covered in an adventure story seems to be very important. ROTJ has about the same time frame. TESB is a bit different, the middle section is ambiguous. And most other adventure movies have a very short time frame: Indy movies, *Die Hard*, *Terminator*, etc. Lucas is obviously aware of these matters and although SW is more than just adventure, the "speed" of these films is important. However — Lucas has previously said that the first trilogy is more plot, history, etc., so will he be able to keep the events of each movie in a short time frame?

Finally — does *anyone* like those steroid Action Figures? I can't stand them but they seem to sell big numbers.

### WHO SHOT FIRST?

Maggie Nowakowska  
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February 1, 1997

Good lord, did I forget to LoC SE this time? Here it is, the end of January, and I'm beginning to think I did indeed ... something about the holiday break being spent buried in snow/mud and then the overtime of January started. It also didn't help that I actually began to clean up the basement office and therefor tucked SE tidily away...

So, quickly, I rescue issue 46 from bookcase and start rereading...

Marlene Karkoska: Very good discussion about pro fiction and fan fiction! Congratulations! And thank you for all your kind references to my work. I sat down and reread my files of old LoCs on *ThousandWorlds* the other night (whilst snowbound), and was quite astounded and humbled by all the comments and excellent commentary, good and bad, and all the good suggestions that fans shared with me. I even sat down at the typewriter, er, the keyboard, and started playing with a story or two. Thanks!

Oh, please forgive me, but I had to laugh when I read that Luke needs a partner to "tell him not to worry about everything..." Marlene, I don't know about your partner, but mine is a first-class worrier and brooder and telling/begging/trying to help her to lighten up, in however many different ways I've explored over the last nearly 20 years, hasn't helped or changed her one iota. In fact, it gets me in trouble every time I try. Did again tonight.

On a more serious note, I can easily see Luke as one of those people for whom the Force becomes a mystical experience and who derives all the satisfaction he needs from such a relationship with the Greater Energies. However much our current day does not believe in such a life experience. There have been and still are many people for whom the ecstasy of life, and of the giving to and loving of one's community, is more than sufficient to "lighten" the days. Luke is still very young, still very intense. He'll get older. He'll gain perspective.

Matthew Whitney: By now, we'll all know how the Han/Greedo exchange was handled, however the controversy can still be discussed. My impression, which I admit is prejudiced, was that it was not a PC thing but rather a development of "mundane" influence on the saga chased with a changing attitude what defines a good guy. I talked about the different reactions to Han's behavior among the younger friends I have in an earlier letter. The "mundane" influence I see is the application of more stereotypical expectations to a character that a genre audience would be more willing to allow greater latitude. It's the old "the Cartwright boys would never shoot first" syndrome. In fact, during a review of old *Bonanzas*, I saw a scene set up very much like the SW exchange, in which Adam C. shot from under a table to disarm the bad guy (even the arm movements were similar). It's similar to the way — to me — the pro books have introduced too many "suburban" aspects of family life to what I think should be a more exotic exploration of possibilities in that realm.

Ah, reading the *Time* article on the redo, I see that Lucas is inclined himself toward the family values version of the Han/Greedo encounter. *Time* makes a connection between that change and Lucas' comments on the experience/perspective of being a father during the last 20



years.

Related to that, when the FOX special on the redo referred to the new trilogy, they used the discussion between OWK and Luke in the hut, which surprised me. Perhaps Lucas intends to deal with the problem of what OWK told Luke vs. the apparent sequence of events? It will be interesting to see what other changes in Lucas' perspectives come out in the new trilogy.

**Gerald Crotty:** As a child I liked all the violent scenes, too, although I've always tied that to having grown up in a fairly repressive, somewhat abusive household: anger engenders violence. However, I wanted my violence tied to very specific reasons; I wanted to know, in great detail, why the character needed killing/maiming/whatever. Wide-scale, gratuitous violence was wasted on me. As for Indy and the swordsman, the Swedes did indeed complain and banned the movie, citing that scene as unnecessary violence. I thought there were some comments in England as well, or am I misremembering? And, again referring to that *Time* article, Lucas himself has voiced regret over the scene: "...and with a little prodding, he even criticizes himself for the scene, played for laughs..."

More thoughts on the "Why Did the Jedi Blow It" question: maybe the Jedi just became "unnecessary" or "old-fashioned" in the public eye. Maybe galactic society had grown so pervasive and so technologically adept that people no longer really believed that the Jedi were necessary. Oh, they were handy one last time during the Clone Wars, but we got past that, didn't we? And maybe now the Jedi were just reminders of old times, old ways, and old values. Maybe Palpatine came along as a spiffy, cool new Way of Thinking; modern, hip, scientific and in support of Noninterference with Personal Profit. Maybe the Jedi were thought of as reactionary; maybe they were considered fundamentalists; maybe they objected to new economic and fleet and social/political practices. Maybe people were glad to get the Jedi out of their hair; and if they were a bit surprised by the means, well, that's the way things are in the Big Galaxy. Sure, kids out on the Rim would still go Gosh and Wow over old war stories; and old geezers would pontificate on Ye Old Days. But, no group survives long without social support, whether the group is good/affirmative or not, and even the Jedi, with all their forcefulness, fell in the face of disinterest and disdain.

Well, it's now Feb. 10. Cheree has graciously extended the deadline so people could inject their reactions to the movie rerelease. Unfortunately, because of overtime and Major Plumbing problems in the house, I haven't yet seen the redo and this needs to get out in the mail pronto. (In fact, the plumber just called and is on his way down, which is a relief, 'cause it ain't no fun having the toilet backing up into the basement...)

All I can add to the debate is that the local Seattle

coverage has been very good and not at all glitzy or silly. The Sunday paper solicited stories on "Where Were You 20 Years Ago?" and the ones they printed were across the board in variety of experiences/consequences of the movie. It's reported that Lucas was surprised by the incredible response and even lost the office pool on what the returns would be. It's a cliché that the originators of major reactions don't realize the depth of effect they've had on their audience; maybe we've just had a major reaffirmation of the foundation for that cliché!

I have indeed enjoyed some of the collateral material, especially the new *MAD Magazine* cartoons, even if some of them are quite outrageous. The drawing in the SW Macarena bit was priceless, but, after all, Mort Drucker is priceless. I also liked the "SW Playsets You May Have Missed"; I definitely want "The Dizzy Droid Drag Cantina..."

An interesting quote from that *Time* article was, "In this vein, Lucas' most memorable invention was his notion of the Force— 'an energy field created by all living things,' as Obi-Wan Kenobi puts it. 'It's a distillation of a lot of mythological religious teachings,' Lucas says. 'Not that I'm promoting a particular idea or anything. I believe in God and I guess that's reflected in the movie, but that's about as far as it goes.' A Judeo-Christian god? 'I wouldn't go that far. My spiritual perspective, I think, is broader than the Judeo-Christian. But I hate to get into putting a label on it, because I think what I feel hasn't been labeled yet, at least not to my knowledge..."

All in all, I'm enjoying watching the greater show, especially the ways in which SW is perceived differently and the same as before. There are some aspects of it all I don't care for, but the sum total is not yet as irritating to me as the development of the Trek universe was. I guess 1999 will be the stiffer test...

Oh, before I sign off ... Susan's book, *An Exchange of Hostages* (AvoNova) is out! It will start shipping in early March and should be in the bookstores, including Dalton's and Barnes & Noble, by April 1st. Susan's standard line to people has been, "You don't have to read it; just buy it. And, for heaven's sake, keep it away from the younger readers!"

I know I'm shamelessly promoting the book, but what the heck. How is Susan to be able to support me in the style to which I long to become accustomed if she doesn't make a go of this venture? (snicker)

Gotta run!



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## SEX AND VIOLENCE

Z. P. Florian  
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Ok, so it's official, they are looking for a heartbreakingly handsome boy to play Anakin — good. Perhaps it was my stories that inspired them??? huh?

Karkoska: Dark Lukes are problematic in a sense, because Luke is the guy who won't turn. This is the whole point of his existence. Yet, in *Twin Suns* I read Anne Elizabeth Zeek's magnificent "Revenant" with Han defrosted thirty years later and that Emperor Luke was really great in a very sad way.

Crotty: Liked your ideas for the prequel, but I must argue on one point. I don't think such a trivial thing as his wife's real or presumed infidelity is a good reason for Anakin to turn. Give the man a bit of credit. He turned because he thought the Jedi had no chance to win, and it was still better to stand with the winners, gain power and then make a grab for the throne to "end this destructive conflict and bring order to the galaxy". I mean, would a man suddenly become a nazi or a communist just because his wife was screwing around? I'm not a man, mind you, so tell me — is this a powerful reason to change philosophies and political beliefs?

Fredericks: So, don't sleep. Sleep is just a silly habit. Spend your time working on the Lobot story.

Pryor: Yoda I look like say you, snake stew you will eat. Stasulis me as Yoda draws, stew snake will eat Nancy. Distinction you see clearly? I'm delighted to hear you're making an all-Vader zine. It's in good hands. As for me giving up housework for SW, it's true, but whenever you guys visit me, I clean house beforehand. Drop in uninvited just once and you can feed carrots to the dust bunnies.

Graham: Sure, Owen lied to Luke non-stop (Kenobi is dead etc.). Everybody lied to Luke. I agree, Leia was a much better candidate to become a Jedi, she was knowledgeable about politics, she was already a dedicated rebel, so why would Kenobi hang around a farmboy who was deliberately kept in the dark about everything? The T-16 bugged me, too. Yeah, what is a poor farmboy doing with a plane? Perhaps he was dusting crops, as Han said??? What crops??? Moisture doesn't need dusting. Re the Ewoks speaking a primitive dialect of what? A primitive dialect of the common Ewokese language that is spoken in the entire Endor system. As for the *Falcon* having a peculiar dialect, well, it's like a weird Rimworld version of DOS, I presume. You have good questions — what would the result have been if Luke "succeeded" in the cave? Luke should've gone in without any weapons, met

Vader in there, had tea and scones, talked over the fate of the Galaxy like two civilized guys and parted with a friendly hug.

Gawel: If Ford got his wish and Han was killed off in ROTJ — how would he have died? Shortly after the Death Star was blown up, Han and Leia are going up the hanging bridge to the Ewok village, and a stray stormtrooper shoots at them. Han shields Leia with his body and receives a fatal wound. He'd drop to the ground and die in Leia's arms, sort of ashamed of the fact that he has to die in the dirt of a planet instead of in space, blown up with the *Falcon*.

Klinger: Yes, nobody worries too much about kids seeing explosions, murder and blood being spilled, but try to show them a tender love scene and the whole world is up in arms. It's ok to make war, it's not ok to make love. The result is pretty visible: we have a new generation of young "super predators" who think nothing of taking a life. I never cease wondering why people think that sex is more dangerous than violence.

## LITTLE ANAKIN

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January 15, 1997

Happy New Year everyone. I hope you had a good Christmas.

Thanks for the latest issue of SE. It gave me something to read in the run-up to Christmas and took my mind off the shopping and general preparations.

In the general discussion about the naming of Leia and Han's second son Anakin, I came across an interesting paragraph in Kristine Kathryn Rusch's *The New Rebellion*. She wrote, "He (Luke) understood what Leia had been doing in naming Anakin after her father — she had been trying to reclaim a good part of her past — but the name made Luke give extra attention to the recklessness behind Anakin's fierceness. Recklessness that Anakin shared with his uncle at times." (p.33). I take this as proof that someone else out there considers the naming not too inappropriate, naming the child after the good part of his grandfather, before Anakin Senior is tempted to the Dark Side. As I said last time, the naming should be seen as a sign of the better part of the Skywalker past. The middle generation is trying to look to the future and the naming of Anakin is a reflection of that. Han and Leia obviously knew that comparison could be made between Vader and their son

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but do not want to dwell on the possibility that their child may follow a similar path. They might not have chosen the best of names but it shows that they have put the past behind them and are sure that their son will not make the same mistakes.

Gerald Crotty: Interesting view of the prequels. The second film premise reminds me of *Othello*. Othello had his thoughts of love for Desdemona turn to jealousy because of one man's hate (Iago). Anakin could be the Othello character, while Iago could be Palpatine. It would certainly be an interesting way of tempting Anakin to the Dark Side by focusing on a weakness (*i.e.*, his love for his wife) and twisting that love so that he believes her to be in love with another. Maybe he is told that she loves another, that the child she carries is not his. I am sure Lucas will surprise us. I hope so at any rate.

Chris Graham: A couple of points. First, in the novelisation of ANH, Chewie did get a medal, so I don't know why he was ignored in the film, after all he did play a big part as Han or Luke. As for the question of the cave in TESB, I think that if Luke had entered the cave without his lightsaber, he would have shown that he was prepared to face anything without a weapon or show of fear. In entering the cave with his lightsaber, Luke was showing that he was not prepared to face the future. He had not mastered the Force and when he saw himself, it was a warning to beware of himself, as he is his own greatest enemy. It could also be seen as a reflection that he would face part of himself (*i.e.*, his own father) in confrontation in the future. Whichever reason you want to take, Luke was not ready to face Vader at the end of TESB but he also fought himself by fighting his father.

I also liked your parallels between SW and *X-Files*.

Tim Blaes: Another fan of the *Young Jedi Knight* novels series. No one else I know has been brave enough to admit to enjoy reading them. As I buy all of the novelizations, whatever the age group they are aimed at, I have been pleasantly surprised by the first six. Yes, there is plot repetition and the recap can be quite annoying but for the age group, they are an easy link into the SW universe. As most of the pro novels do not come in junior versions, Moesta has produced a credible series which has a continual story arc and introduces us to Jacen and Jaina in more detail, not difficult when these novels are based around them. Luke makes the most appearances from the original cast as Jedi Master of the Jedi Academy, but Han, Lando and Leia make appearances when appropriate.

There is also the *Junior Jedi Knights* series which centers around Anakin and I do not feel that these are anywhere as well written. For the age group, I am sure that they are fine but for myself I much prefer the *Young Jedi Knights* series.

With all of the pro novels, there are the ones I have

liked and the ones I absolutely hate. I hate *The Black Fleet Crisis* trilogy (although "Tyrant's Nest" did help to redress the balance) and am not too keen on *Truce at Bakura* but liked all of the others, my personal favourites being *Children of the Jedi* and *The New Rebellion*. Everyone has their likes and dislikes and the fact that we have the forum that SE gives us, means that we are fortunate in living in a free society. Thank you, Cheree, for giving us this opportunity.

I have just fallen in with one aspect of the pro-novels which I have tried to put out of my mind. Does anyone feel swindled that Wedge and Capt. Antilles of the *Tantive* are not father and son? I know Louise Turner has linked the two in her stories but even before I had read those, I thought to myself that they were probably father and son. I know that it is a big universe and there are bound to be more than one Antilles family but I thought it quite a romantic idea of having the pair of them as father and son. Mind you, I am now thinking what about Vance, Wedge's brother, and I have to draw myself up short. That is Louise's character but just shows how true to life she has written these characters that you can start to believe that they actually existed in the SW history. Anyway, apologies if this idea of being swindled out of another father/son relationship has already been thrashed about. I'm sure someone will put me right.

There is a rumour in England that at the start of May, there could be a three day SW convention in London. There is nothing definite as yet, but if it does it could be one of the most exciting things to happen this year.

Anyway I will sign off now, you've had enough of me.

## A MAGICAL MOMENT

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January 29, 1997

I'm typing this on January 29, just a mere 48 hours before the release of the Special Edition of ANH. At first, I thought about going to see it on the 31st, writing a quick letter containing all of my comments on February 1, and getting it off to Cheree as fast as possible. But, I didn't want to sloppily rush through something as important as the SpEd, nor did I want to test Cheree's patience with deadlines. So, some brief comments about what I hope to see (and not to see) in the SpEd this Friday. Hopefully I won't be disappointed.

First, it will be good to see a lot of little kids going to

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see ANH. Granted, many of them probably have seen it on video already, but seeing it on the big screen will truly be a magical moment for them. It will be even more powerful for those blessed few who haven't seen it at all yet. I almost envy them for their fresh perspective, seeing it for the very first time. I can barely remember the first time I saw it. That feeling of total amazement and wonder is a vague memory now.

Second, there are two things that I hope Lucas includes. Chewie should get a medal at the end of the movie as well. He put just as much at risk as Luke and Han did. How hard would it be to just digitally draw one hanging around his neck? The other thing is more of a detail he shouldn't change — that stormtrooper that bangs his head on the top of the hangar bay control room door. My friends and I still get a kick out of that part! Right before it happens, one of us will invariably say, "Hey, look out for that—" followed by a Homer Simpson-like "Doh!" just a little bit of comic relief.

And, there is one other thing that I completely disagree with — having Greedo shoot first. What's the point of that? Softening Han's image? Making him less of a bad guy so kids can look up to him more? Ridiculous! The trilogy is just as much about Han's character's growth as it is Luke's. Han is transformed from, let's face it, a criminal, to a fully reformed member of society. The cold-blooded manner in which he shoots Greedo helps emphasize this point. It also sets up the contrast between him and Luke. When Luke gets pushed around by thugs (Dr. Evazan and Walrus Man), he is helpless, and needs Ben's help. Han, on the other hand, isn't even flustered. By the end of the trilogy, Luke isn't so helpless and Han isn't so ruthless anymore. So, in terms of character development, this is truly a pivotal scene.

Enough ranting. On to the comments.

Z.P. brought up the age-old question as to why Luke wears a black uniform in Jedi. One of the themes of the trilogy is that each and every one of us has the potential for both good and evil, and that it is up to each one of us to decide which one we will follow. And, even though we choose one of them, we must always remember that the other side is still there, waiting for us to change our minds, so to speak. The uniform in Jedi then is a visual reminder that Luke has the potential to become evil, like his father, who wears a similar costume. This connection is emphasized during their lightsaber duel in Jedi. After Luke chops Darth's mechanical gloved hand off, he pauses to look at his own gloved, mechanical hand. The look of horror on his face shows us that he is aware of how close he came to crossing that line between light and dark, and that's why he says, "You're wrong, Your Highness..." So, the costume choice is more symbolic than personal, I believe.

Congratulations to Matthew Whitney on the new teaching position. Good luck with all of your new responsibilities. You and several others commented on how Lando earned everyone's trust after TESB. Marvel Comics, I believe, tackled this topic a long time ago. I only have a couple of the issues, but they did a storyline about Lando and Chewie chasing Boba and Bossk around, looking for Han. Naturally, they didn't get along so well. It was more a partnership of necessity. But as they went through a lot together, they developed a sense of trust in each other eventually. Of course, the relation between these stories and *Shadows of the Empire* is another question entirely.

Speaking of canon and continuity, Marlene's letter mirrored a lot of my thoughts about the latest crop of profiction. Some good ones, some bad ones, but they all should be read before they are judged. Personally, I never had any trouble accepting any of them as canon, so I never understood the wholesale rejection that some members of fandom seem to have, until I read *Tales of the Bounty Hunters*. Let me qualify the upcoming rant with a statement that overall I enjoyed this book. A lot. One of my favorites of all the pro books. All the stories (except Bossk's) gave these one-dimensional bit parts depth and feeling. I especially loved the Boba Fett story. Brilliant! It had the right balance of character and action, and the cliffhanger ending was one of the most suspenseful stories (including non--SW fiction) I've ever read. My only problem is the explanation of Fett's origin. Aside from the cliched idea of the good cop forced to go to the wrong side of the law, giving Boba an "official" origin spoils the fun of speculating upon who he might be. Suddenly, I now understand a lot of the anti-pro feeling out there. (Again, I should repeat that I loved this story, so no one gets the idea that I am bashing Mr. Moran's talents). How should I resolve this quandary? I like Marlene's idea that these stories could be taken as "alternate" universes.

And now for something completely different. Cheree slapped an editor's note in Marti's letter speculating about how *Dark Skies* was going to turn out. I started watching the show from its premiere, but lost interest after a few weeks. It tries too hard to deal with the external aspects of UFOlogy, but lacks the internal depth. For example, by the end of the pilot episode, we had abductions, "grays," crop circles, the fabled Majestic group, black helicopters, and many other aspects of the UFO mythos. And yet, by explaining it all at once, it removed most of the mystery and anxiety that should accompany such a topic. Sure, there is a Hive out there, but somehow I don't feel threatened by it. The only suspense from week to week comes from trying to figure out which historical figure (RFK? The Beatles?) was going to make a cameo appearance. Will it last past its first season? I doubt it,

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though I do wish it luck.

Suzanne Goldsalve: Welcome to SE! I've been around for almost three whole issues now, so I'm practically an old-timer by comparison! Seriously, though, your story of entering Fandom after the debut of the Zahn novels sounded a lot like mine. So, love 'em or hate 'em (this seems to be a common theme in my letter — I didn't plan on this, honest!), they did give SW a timely shot of exposure, and brought fans like us into all of this craziness. As for your comments about *The Black Fleet Crisis*, I'm inclined to agree. The Yevetha political situation, with its policy of ethnic cleansing and the New Republic's debate over whether or not to get involved, is a lot like America's vascillation over Bosnia, Rwanda, Chechnya, etc. Political parallels like these can be effective, and McDowell was on the right track, but too many character problems (and that boring vagabond ship) got in the way. The Chewie/Lumpy bonding in "Tyrant's Nest" was excellent, though. Finally, a pro author treated Chewie as something more than a sidekick or a babysitter!

Tim Blaes: Yes, the *Friends* episode about Ross' Princess Leia fantasy was hilarious! Girls still had cooties back when ROTJ came out, but I've since learned to appreciate the slave girl costume. I'm surprised that Ross didn't say anything about the fact that Rachel had the ANH hairdo with the ROTJ costume. Then again, if Jennifer Aniston is wearing a skimpy bikini, and I'm nitpicking about hairdos, then I really need to get out more often!

Catherine Churko: A fan of the old *V* series! Wow! You must love the Sci-Fi channel these days. I taped their rebroadcast of the original miniseries last summer, which will always be one of my favorites. The TV series, however, suffered from lousy writing. The first few episodes were good, but by the end of its run, it was so thick with subplots about Kyle and Elizabeth and the Diana/Lydia rivalry, it seemed more like a soap opera. Oh well. At least last summer's blockbuster ID4 paid homage to it; a fleet of 50 giant ships hovering over the world's major cities in an attempt to take over the planet was too similar to ignore. And, while we're on the subject of ID4's ripoffs, how about that ending? A giant enemy supership with a doomsday laser closes in on a secret base full of rebels, who scramble their fightercraft in a last minute attempt to try and stop it, which can only happen if one of the fighters hits the megaship in its only vulnerable spot with a well-timed missile. Does this remind anyone of any other particular movie? ((Ed: As a matter of fact, when we finally checked the video out and viewed it a while back, we spent nearly the whole time heckling it with well-placed lines from you know what — "Use the Force, Luke!" "Look at the size of that thing!" "You've turned off your targeting computer — what's wrong?"))

Finally, I would like to publicly thank Debbie Kittle for

coming to my aid in completing my set of Topps Finest cards. She found and sent me several of the cards I needed, though I am still missing five or six more. Once again, if anyone else out there has any they are willing to trade, please get in touch with me through snail mail at the address above.

Until next time, Clear Skies and see ya on line!

## SW BUSTING OUT ALL OVER

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January 29, 1997

I can't believe I can say "I'm going to see *Star Wars* this weekend"! Wow! Ever hear that song from *Carousel*, you know, the one called "June Is Busting Out All Over"? Now, it feels like SW is busting out all over! Taco Bell is like Saga Central, Toys R Us has an awesome display, complete with lights and music. (Hey, who do you have to sleep with to get one of those huge plastic *Falcons*? And I notice I'm drinking a *lot* more Pepsi now that Darthie's on every bottle.

The commercials alone for all this stuff make the waiting worthwhile — love the one with the flashlight wielding usher.

As the Men Behind the Masks tour gears up, I've been lucky enough to see Dave Prowse and Jeremy Bulloch at various conventions. Best moment — when the concomm ran the trailer for the special edition — both guests hurried from backstage to see!

On to comments —

Cheree: Congrats on the new pup! Has the great name debate — Princess versus Honi — been settled yet? ((Ed: Yup — she's officially AKC registered German Shepherd Dog "Honi aus der Amburg".))

Z. P.: Have you seen the trailer for *The Devil's Own*, the Harrison Ford movie with Brad Pitt? It's unimpressive, most unimpressive. Hope it was just a crummy preview. (But aren't these things supposed to make you *want* to see the movie?)

Hey, I like Zsuzsa, even though I can only pronounce it half the time. "Master Zsuzsa" has a nice ring to it. ((Ed: Maybe that was Yoda's wife's name and maybe he lives in the woods because she ran him off. "Track mud into the house you will not! A maid think you I am? Pick up after yourself you will!"))

What? That Yoda door at MWC wasn't yours? I don't believe it for a second. I can't wait to see what you come up with this year...

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Marlene: Agree that it's great to have the pro novels out there, for the cover artwork if nothing else! (That counts as a redeeming quality, doesn't it?) Too many of them, though, give each of our heroes one piece of some galactic menace and send them each in a separate direction. I know everybody gripes about the characterization in the novels, but some of the best character development in the movies involves two or more characters in a scene. We don't get much of that in the novels.

I love Ellen Randolph's "Sanctuary" universe, too! Come to think of it, I haven't read them for several years now. Might be time to get them out again.

Matthew: Oooh! Oooh! I love your Dave Prowse anecdote! And love your description of him as the ambassador of SW. Can I marry you and have your children? You obviously have genes that *must* be kept in circulation!

Gerald: Did you get a chance to see Sir Alec at his latest book signing? I heard he was very disparaging about his role in SW and really didn't want anything to do with SW fans. And who's the villain of *that* piece?

John: Enjoyed your idea of Jedi lawyers! Weren't there some on the O.J. defense team? "You don't need to see the blood evidence." "We don't need to see the blood evidence."

Suzanne: Luke's relation to the Lars — aside from what the heck is a Sith, one of the enduring SW questions. Why does he call them Aunt and Uncle if he was adopted? Was he brought to them as a baby, or a young child? Is Owen Ben's brother? I think I'm getting a headache.

Chris: We don't know that Yoda and Ben never had families. We see each one near the end of their lives and in remote locations. In fan writing for awhile, there was a rash of Kenobi's daughter stories. (Mostly ending up with Luke, if I recall correctly.) And it would take a special woman to relate to Yoda, wouldn't it? She'd have to be short, tiny even. If she had an accent, maybe something middle European, they would communicate better. No wait, Z.P., put down that—

Seriously (sort of), I've always thought of Luke's failure at the cave as taking his weapons in despite his master's instruction not to. Since he was prepared for battle, that's what he found. If he'd been prepared for peace... I'd make a great zine story, Chris — start writing!

Tim: I'll send you a copy of "Bring Me the Head of Boba Fett" if you sent me a SASE. (That goes for everyone.) It's funny in a hey-I-know-guys-like-that sort of way.

Debbie: Dead Bothans tired of the exposure? Hah! We live for photographic glory! I'm ready for my close up now, Ms. DeKittle...

Hope to see everyone at cons this year. I'm hitting the trail again as soon as it warms up.

Darksiding up a storm...

PLEASE VOTE!

Judith G. Yuenger  
13491 S. Silverleaf Road  
Plainfield, IL 60544

February 15, 1997

I survived!!!! Yes, folks, I managed to survive a Deb Kittle SW Shopathon. It's quite an experience and an accomplishment. I arrived on Wednesday afternoon and was met by Deb and Marie Treleaven (who, amazingly enough, survived also). That evening we were joined by Sheryl Haven and we sat around talking about SW.

The next day we shopped and shopped and shopped. Money flowed like water, the packages mounted to astronomical proportions and my shoes were worn to the nubs. That evening we went to a pizza joint and were joined by Z. P. Florian, Mary Jo Fox, Susan Zahn and Cheryl Pryor.

The next day we took a subway to Washington, DC where we went to Planet Hollywood. Deb, Marie, Cheryl Pryor, Sheryl Haven and I were joined by Mary Jo Fox and Liz Sharpe. This is the greatest thing about this area — so many SW fans living close enough to visit. Back at Deb's, Sheryl Haven returned home while the four of us clambered into Pryor's car for our trip to New Jersey. Of course, the trip took twice as long as it should have because we had to stop at *every* mall between Maryland and New Jersey. Ming Wathne met us at the hotel and was amazed when we came in with mountains of packages.

The next morning we went to Barbara Anderson's house where we were joined by Rebecca Carey, Susan Zahn and a girl whose name I've unfortunately forgotten. We took a ferry ride to New York City and did more shopping (are you beginning to see a pattern here?) and then lunch at a fun restaurant called Jekyll & Hyde's. More SW fans joined us — two girls whose names I never got and Todd Killinger. More shopping, another ferry ride and back to the hotel where we fell exhausted into bed.

The next day the whole group of us attended Chiller Con. We spent most of the day there shopping (what else!!!) and had a lovely champagne brunch. The return to Deb's was made quickly as most of the malls were closed. Marie and I contemplated how we were going to get all that merchandise into our suitcases for the return home.

A trip filled with lots of laughter, good conversation, great shopping and terrific food made all the better because it was done in the company of my friends. I am looking forward to doing this again next year.

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I suppose that by now everyone has seen SW:SE. I would have enjoyed it even without the added scenes. It was great to see it on the big screen again. It was awesome. It was a lot of fun listening to the teenagers in our horse barn talk about the movie — none of them had ever seen it on the big screen. It's funny but I've seen SW umpteen zillion times but I still found myself saying "was that in the original?" Am looking forward to TESB:SE.

Cheree will be putting the STAR aWARDs ballot with this. If you know someone who needs a copy, feel free to xerox it and give it to them. PLEASE VOTE!

By the way, if you are attending MWC this year, be sure and come by the con suite for Friday 6-8 PM for a SW party/get together. This is a get-to-know-you type party and all SW fans are welcome, not just the SE folks. ((Ed: I am not planning on having an SE party this year so don't miss Judy's SW-fest! Since Katy is coming up with me and Randy isn't, I plan to devote some fun time to her, which I hardly ever get to do. Can't wait to just be a guest at Judy's party! See you all there!))

## MEDIAWEST IN 00?

Catherine Churko  
590 Ft. Washington Avenue #1M  
New York, NY 10033

February 1, 1997

Hello. Happy New Year (and spring, by press time) to all!

Arg! SE#46 disappeared on me after I read it. I gave up trying to find it on Friday and started a general LoC. But I missed the Saturday mail, so I tried searching one more time. Found it in one pile of stuff I'd passed by. Now I can do some specific comments and *hope* the PO will slide this in under the wire.

Our Realm: Egads. I *hope* all who were affected by the very bad regional weather have gotten assistance or relief. Condolences to all who lost loved ones.

Thank you: Z.P., Marlene, John, Cheryl, Rich, Debbie and my friends in private correspondence for your good thoughts, prayers, and encouragements.

Having bad back and side muscle strain from a stubborn cold's coughing and reaching too much on a big banner design/paint project with disruptive sleep resulting gave me six weeks of semi-blitzedness for my start of 25 hr/wk rehab program in November. I was there mostly, but my mind half wasn't.

Now, it's better the past month plus I can do more than just basic errands after it — extra errands and fun stuff out

of the house (vs. reading or TV). But I find I'm still often too tired in daytime and my dexterity and concentration for crafts, art, letter writing is in short supply on weekday evenings. But such is a part of what I have to work on, adjust, improve. I can sometimes do more on weekends. Yoda has his "patience" sign on for me. (Do I *listen*? Sometimes yes.)

Other Realms: I try to avoid detailed reviews/info before I see movies. I enjoyed *ST:First Contact* even more than I expected/hoped to. And I found the redone original ST/DS9 tribble episode quite amusing in attempt and result.

Just started Brin's Book 2 — *Infinity's Shore* of Uplift trilogy. Oh, yeah — *good* stuff. But B5's season 5 is kaput? The last bunch of episodes are stunning (most are excellent in various ways throughout the series) but I'd hate to see compression of the story's details and nuances into the rest of the season. Give it your best, JMS. At least the TNT stuff is afloat. Better all of season 5 into 4, than just a cut off.

The Dead Bothans and other Eclecticon Afficianados: Hope I'll see a little report here. That Friday E-96, when the clinic doctor said x-ray shows "a little touch of pneumonia", that kinda smushed my modest goal of attending one day that Saturday or Sunday. I was very disappointed. I hope I'll get to Lunacon for a day.

So, Cheryl, MWC is not to be for me *yet*, dollar-wise, even maybe stamina-wise (yeah, I visited DC for 3 days last June but I was only in a 6 hr/wk rehab vs. 25 now). Even if I have the \$ for '98, I'm going to try for WorldCon in Baltimore. I've never yet made it to a WorldCon and Baltimore's close enough for an attempt of probably success at getting there. I'd give up MWC '98 for my first WorldCon. Maybe MWC '99, ;). (And premiere of Prequel I?)

Marlene: Thanks for the SW websites. The library computer couldn't unzip the archive files and I don't think I could get the new ones either. They also changed the setup in between the week I first tried it and later on. I got this SW list link site via a BBS site:

<http://paul.spu.edu/~kevnord/starwars/otherwww/>  
Haven't tried it yet. With limited access, I head to B5 or V first.

Matthew: How nice to have an official kudos. Some teachers really are not good, but so many do try/are good and receive little assistance/compensation for their efforts. Oh, yeah, I remember that photo.

Gerald: Sounds like a great time loop story. Could it be a *Pat Cardigan* story? She does some alt. history stuff usually set in "the 60's".

Time travel, time loops and alternative history are some of my favorite SF subgenres.

Re: Ugly Palpie. Real Hawaiian shamans say consistent

use of negative psychic energies ages the practitioner faster. Kinda like Dorian Gray's portrait.

Tim: I often get a kick out of your zany combo universes or seed ideas. Haunted lightsabers! Oooo!

I remember Harlan trashing SW at a mid-80's Creation Con (pre fan-run cons for me). He can be such a SOB, but I'm glad he pulled through okay.

Debbie: Carbon Freeze Doll Display? Oh, ambitious! Go, team! (That means you, "Zippy", et al!)

Maggie: OWK into Gandalf or Merlin? Hmmm ... how about way, way back. Like ... Lorien? (Ow! Do not hit me that that lightsaber!)

NPR/SW: Drats. I turned on the last fleeting credits of the ROTJ radio play. Than I forgot to listen over last several weeks to see if I'd caught beginning, middle or end of series of chapters. Hopefully, they'll run it later in year.

I really liked the filling in of some of the implied scenes or expanding on the dialogue when they did, contrasted to the movies.

Stupid Commercials: Was I annoyed that the ANH Special Edition TV commercials gave away a special effect addition I'd not heard about, or that they'd change. It'll still be an "oh, wow" visually, but the suspense is gone. If *Cinefantastique* does a B5 ish, it'll be the first I buy since they gave away most of ROTJ's secrets in pre-showing review.

I don't think I welcomed the newcomers (even if I was away for a while). Welcome! :)

I like your interjections, Cheree. They make SE closer to "real time". (And they're often funny.)

Have a grand soiree at MWC. MTFBW us all!

## INTO THE SARLACC PIT!

Amanda Palumbo  
PO Box 397  
Lake Peekskill, NY 10537

*Quite* the time to be a SW fan, eh? If one's on the destitute side of the Force, he/she is certain go from dangling by a cable into the financial Sarlaac Pit (read: slowly paying off Visa/MC the next 1000 yrs).

Do let us take comfort in the fact that our tithes will aid in underwriting the prequels.

Of course, we were there to see the re-release. See my comments in the opening section of this issue.

With all this hype, we'd been caught up in the media feeding frenzy; talk about 2 min. of fame! We'd been interviewed by both a few newspapers, and CNBC, which proved quite arduous, so I'd turned others down after, but not before seeing my girls and me sparring on the telly; they'll send Boba after me later for allowing them to

appear on national TV garbed as tiny Luke & Leia!

CAN'T WAIT FOR FEB. 21st!

Pat Grant: Hope you've recovered from your surgery, and are perhaps turning your idea re: Kenobi's further manipulation of Luke through his encouraged death at Vader's hands.

Naturally, solitude on Tatooine's an excellent way of examining the past, and future-spying, though IMO, Kenobi does *not* possess that particular talent, from nuances throughout novels and movies (canon).

Cheree Cargill: I also agree with *your* view, which mirrors mine, of both Luke's and Vader's concerted efforts required to destroy Palpatine. Though how this could've occurred in any other fashion except culmination of events, as opposed to direct chain — ideas? Yours, or anybody else's?

As always, *thanks* for continuing SE. So many new and old, but closeted fans walk into where I work seeking "substance" behind the marketing, and that's where fandom comes in! Were it not for you, and other "guardians of the flame", SW fandom would not be as tapestried a history as it firmly is!

Catherine Churko: Thanks for your continued kindness; yes, Mom's still with us, and has improved dramatically. The medical field is stunned, still insisting she should've been long dead, and will be soon. PAH! Hope your lifepath's moving through clearer skies; may Light ever be your companion!

Barb Anderson: Have you decided to do away with the boudoir in favor of expansion of Shrine? Or, *is* that where the main part resides? I mean, what with *Devil's Own*, *Airforce One*, SW Spec Ed ... didn't the Smithsonian contract you as consultant? <g>

Marlene Karkoska: That age 18 vs 20 re: Sky seems to be a product of conflicting old SW novels: the original puts him at 20, yet the NPR at 18?

I'm still sans computer; whom can I contact to obtain a hard copy of "Successor to the Dark Side"? Is this part of a zine I can purchase, or on its own?

Actually, Mara Jade and Luke's arguments within a relationship would cause Luke to think twice before provoking her to the point where she says, "I'm going to *kill* that Blondie!" Jade would mean it, ha ha!

Also, I much prefer the fanfic handling over mainstream of Luke in general, though both sides still tend to refrain from immersing Skywalker in a mutually satisfying romance. While those of us harboring opinions on that subject are *quite* set in our views, regardless which extreme, there's room for exploration there. Why should he be painted as emotionally distant from possible lovers, or friends, as seems to be the trend? According to canon material, his upbringing was actually a normal childhood in that he did have parental figures, with Beru coming



across as maternally supportive. Had friends as well.

Bearing this in mind, perhaps psychologically, Luke had sufficient foundation to ultimately cope with fated traumas. His friendships with Han, Leia, Wedge, Chewie are prime examples.

Leia's being his sister is no guarantor of remaining friends; biological commonality rarely does with this. And they'd been close since before the Ord Mantell days.

Do you regard NPR's ROTJ as canon as well?

Debbie: Um, Madamoiselle Shopping Mall, do you still carry life-sized Wings, Yodas, Darthie V's? If so... <g> BTW, what's with those Rebo Band T-shirts' backs that plagiarized yours and Cheryl P.'s "Igneous Rock Cafe" shirts? Lawsuit! Lawsuit! Uh, Mary Jo ... ?

To All Missed: Oh, my paws and whiskas, I'm LATE!!! Catch y'all on the flip side of the Force! In the interim, enjoy the rest of these halcyon Saga's Return to the Silver Screen days — we will!

A - way in a gal - ax - y far far a - way, the lit - tle Luke

Sky - walk - er ran off to play. His aunt and his unc - le were

sore - ly dis - tressed; then the stormtroopers torched 'em, and you know the rest!

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*We'd like to begin collecting information on our readers and contributors in preparation for the 50th Issue, due in May 1998. Please fill out this form (copy it if you don't want to mess up your SE) and return it to Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126 USA. Include a recent photograph if you'd like so we can see what each other looks like!*

### BIO SHEET FOR SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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PERSONAL INFO (married, family, pets, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE ARE YOU FROM? BACKGROUND INFO: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF YEARS IN FANDOM: \_\_\_\_\_

FANNISH ACTIVITIES (zines, role-playing, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

BESIDES STAR WARS, MAIN FANNISH INTERESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF FANDOM: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU GET INTO FANDOM: \_\_\_\_\_

BEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU IN FANDOM: \_\_\_\_\_



## CURRENTLY IN PORT

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #9. Material from Martie Benedict-O'Brien, Veronica Wilson, Marti Schuller, Pat Nussman, Z. P. Florian, Mary Jo Fox, Jacqueline Taero, Wanda Lybarger, MJ Mink, Donna Frayser, Susan Zahn, Maggie Nowakowska, and others. Color covers by Nancy Stasulis and Gerald Crotty. Other art by Wanda Lybarger, Gerald Crotty, Z. P. Florian, Laura Virgil, Mark and Melea Fisher, and more. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Please make checks payable to: Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Anson, Campbell, Cargill, Ghilan, Golledge, Hines-Stroede, Jones, Mayers, Schuller, Taero, Turner, Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Churko, Crotty, Florian, Lybarger, Guttierrez, Stasulis, and more! Includes several 1994 Star Award winners — Best Cover Art, Best Illo Artist, Best Cartoons, Best Filk, Best Vignette, Best Short Story, many others. Also Fan Q winner for Best SW story — "Mercy Mission". \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 114 Villanova Circle, Forney, TX 75126.

BLUE HARVEST #11. Dual reviews of the SW Special Edition, race and the SW saga, more Mission to Ord Mantell, our CCG column, rumors galore, and lots of other great stuff. \$4.75 ppd.; make checks payable to Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

CHILD OF DARKNESS: CHILD OF LIGHT 2 is now available. Authors are all English — J. Grant, J. Sales, J. Malcolm to name a few. Running to 135p, spiral bound, it is priced at \$18 (including airmail postage). Checks to Debbie Kittle. For further information or contributions to future issues write to Suzanne Godsolve, Flat 3, 353

Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex, IGI 4UG, England with an IRC.

ELUSIVE LOVER #1. First issue of a fanzine dedicated to Luke Skywalker and Han Solo: steamy and passionate, gentle and romantic, adventurous and playful. Discover what a great pair of lovers the Jedi and the scoundrel make... 180 pages, high quality artwork included. \$22 US Surface; Pound 11/DM 23 Europe (*Slash; Age statement required*). For info send SAE + IRC to: Anoot Press c/o Pfau, Cheruskerstr. 11, 10829 Berlin, Germany.

IDON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #1. Now available. A light-hearted comedy-adventure zine featuring stories by Florian, Steyn, Treleaven, Schuller, Fox, White, Kittle, Cargill, Palumbo, Mink, Mayers, Ebberley, Wilson, Zahn, Golledge and Kiser. Artwork by Florian, Stasulis, Lybarger, Crotty, Pearce, Palumbo and Swindle. A full color back cover by A. G. Steyn. Plus poems, filks, jokes and cartoons. All this for the incredibly low price of \$23.00. Overseas zines sent ground rate. 250 pp., GBC bound. Checks or money orders payable to Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

IDON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #2. Now available. Stories by Kittle, Mink, Golledge, Treleaven, Olsen, Schuller, White, Fox, Steyn, Florian, Ebberley, Pryor, Wilson. Artwork by Pearce, Florian, Stasulis, Whitham, and Lybarger. A full color back cover by Nancy Stasulis. Plus a special section that will tickle your funnybone and an added surprise. 210 pp. GBC bound. Overseas zines sent ground rate. SASE for price to Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS (TOO!): The Second "Bad Feeling" is now available, with stories by Campbell, Dutech, Fox, Florian, Godsolve, Grant, McBride, Schuller and Turner. With artwork by Lundin, Lybarger and Tidswell, non-fiction by Boyes, and filks by Kittle! 100

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pages, card cover, spiral bound. Now available for \$18.00, including airmail postage. Please make checks (U.S. dollars) to Deborah Kittle. For further information or to order, contact Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Please enclose an Internatinoal Reply Coupon with all inquiries about this and other zines.

SNOWFIRE #2. Still celebrating Princess Leia! This issue will feature a celebration of her relationship with Han, emphasizing *her* viewpoint. SASE for info to Mary Jo Fox, PO Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181.

STAR WARS BIBLIOGRAPHY. Have you ever wondered what MM zine has a SW story that you wanted to read? Does MM zine have enough SW stories in it to warrant your purchase? Have you ever wondered if an author has done further stories? Now there is a place to find that information. The SW Bibliography is available in two versions — listing by zines and listings by author, complete with updates through 1995. \$6.00 each or \$10.00 for both. Checks or money orders payable to: Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

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.

## COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #10. A special issue featuring a new installment of *Penumbra* from Catriona Campbell, two new stories from Marti Schuller, a new story by Martie Benedict-O'Brien, the sequel to "Balance of Power" by Veronica Wilson, and a new novelette by Z. P. Florian, as well as lots of other things. Nancy Stasulis has a wonderful color 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 Skywalkere or Darth Vader. Any time period, alternate universe, or original characters considered so long as Vader is the focus of the piece.

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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: Anoot Press c/o Pfau, Cheruskerstr. 11, 10829 Berlin, Germany.

IDON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #3. Now closed to submissions. It will be near 300 pages in length and will be debuting in May, 1997. SASE for final price to Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU SMELL #4. Yes, the insanity continues. We are now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork. For more information, SASE 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.

IMPERIUM #6 is now closed to submissions. It will be approximately 250 pages and will debut at MediaWest, May 1997. Edited by Judith Yuenger and Arwen Rosenbaum. SASE for final price to Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

IMPERIUM #7 is now accepting submissions. For submission guidelines, please SASE Judith Yuenger, 13491 S. Silverleaf Rd., Plainfield, IL 60544.

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 Klinger Scheffelstr. 1, 10367 Berlin, Germany.

REVENGE OF THE GARBAGE. A private collection of adult SW stories for readers over 18. Contains violence, sex (opposite and same), language and some explicit illoes.

Stories written by some of the best known pen names in fandom. Over 200 pages. Tentative price around 20 dollars. Copies printed as ordered, quantities limited, first come, first served. SASE Z.P. Florian, 6214 Waterway, Falls Church VA 22044, or fax (703) 642-1516. Available in May 1997. (The previous issue, *The Rest of The Garbage* will eventually appear at the Corellian Archives lending library, as it is officially out of print.)

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

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Thanks to Debbie Kittle, Chris Graham, Tim Blaes, Maggie Nowakowska, Lisa Cowan, Barbara Anderson, and all the others who sent clippings. We'll try to run more in the next issue.

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