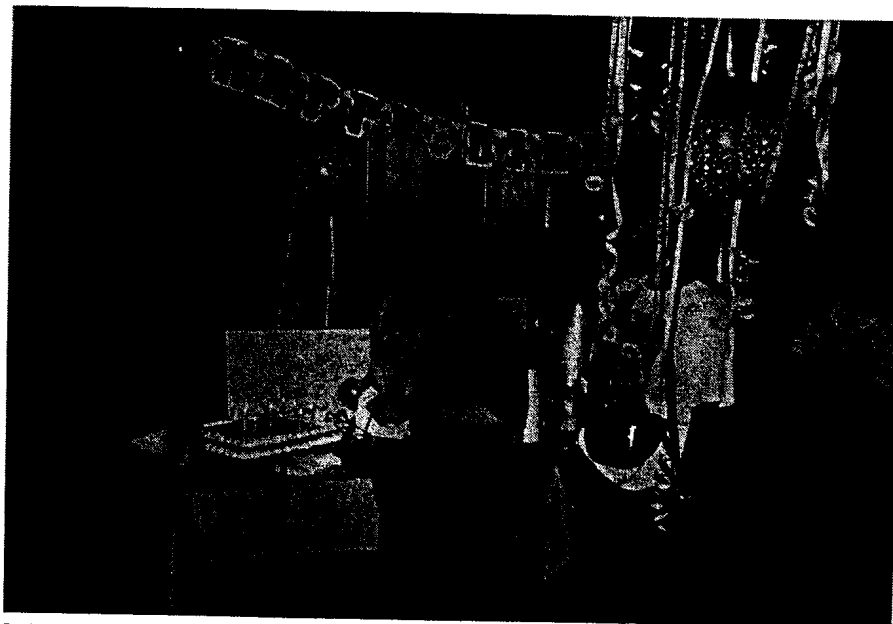

Happy
Birthday,
Wanda!



Surprise!

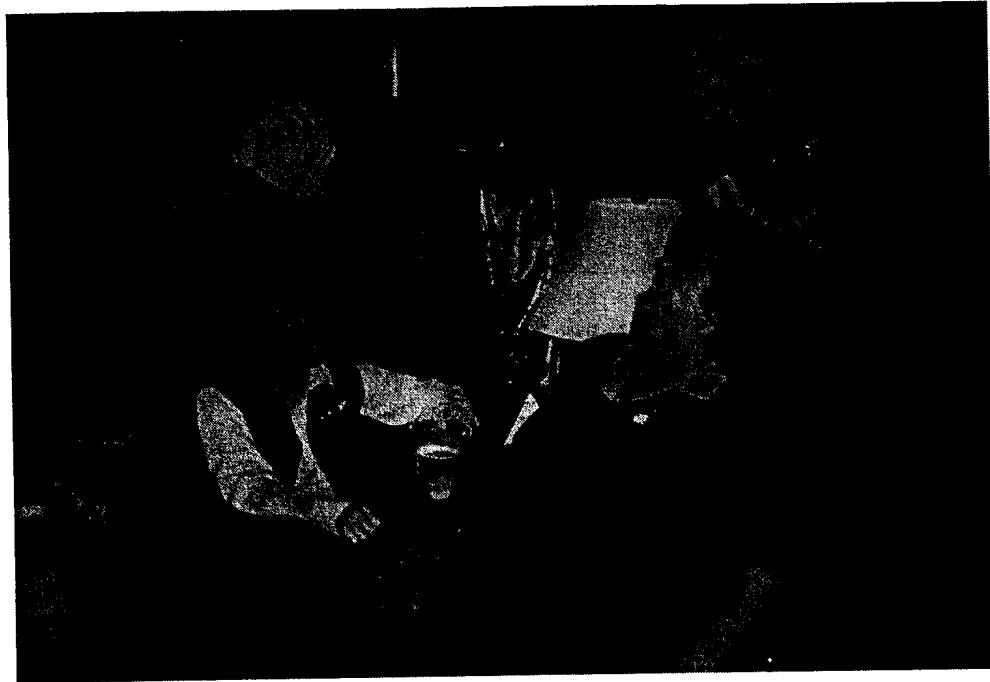
(photo by Maggie Nowakowska)



Marti Schuller, Wanda Lybarger,
Barbara Anderson and Marcia Brin

(photo by Maggie Nowakowska)

MEDIA WEST SHOTS



Friday Night Star Wars Party — (photo by Maggie Nowakowska)
(foreground) M. J. Mink, Carolyn Golledge, Susan Matthews, Judith Yuenger;
(background) Debbie Kittle, Sheryl Haven, Marti Schuller



Friday Night Star Wars Party — (photo by Debbie Kittle)
Barbara Anderson and friend



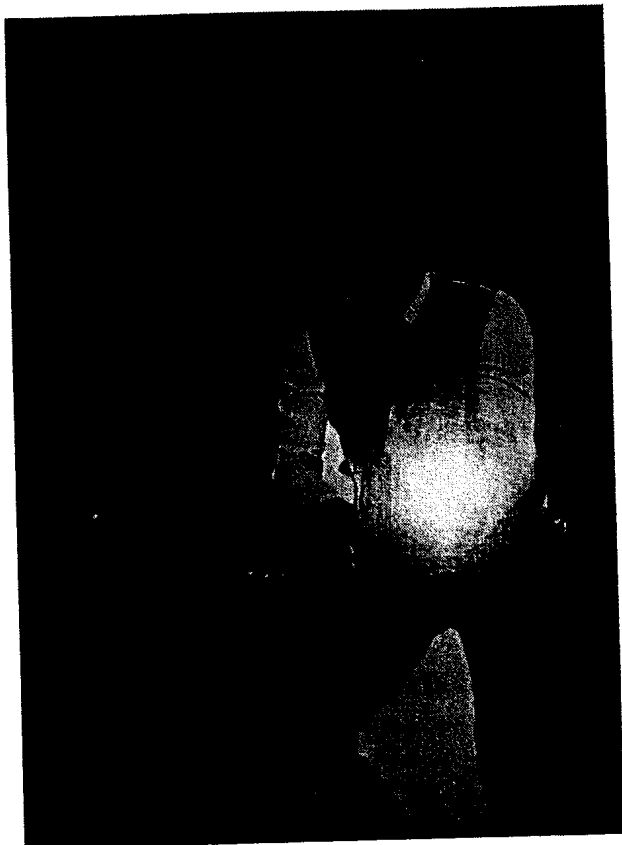
Friday Night Star Wars Party —
Belea Keeney, M. J. Mink, Carolyn Golledge

(photo by Debbie Kittle)



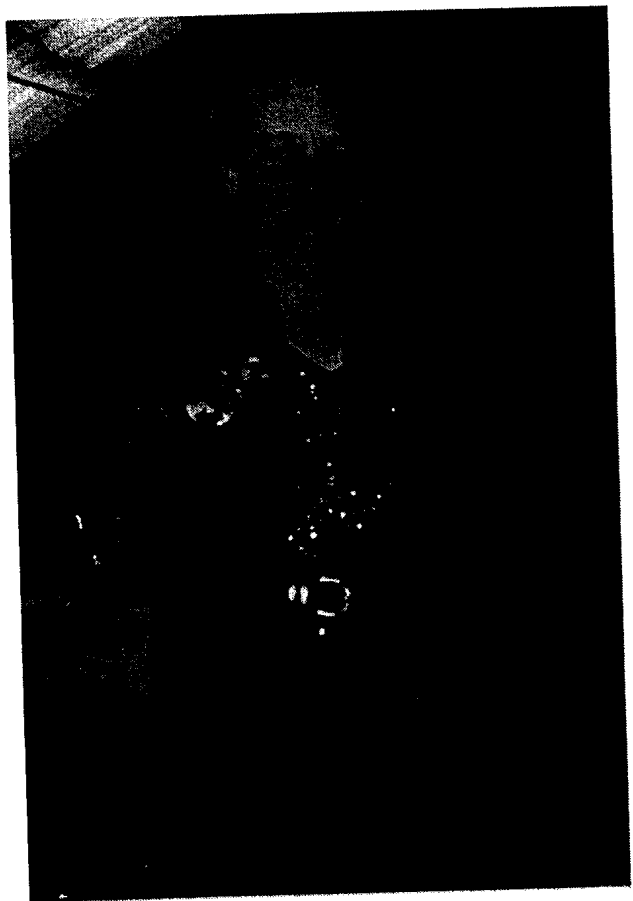
Friday Night Star Wars Party —
Carolyn Golledge, Barbara Anderson, Samia Martz

(photo by Maggie Nowakowska)

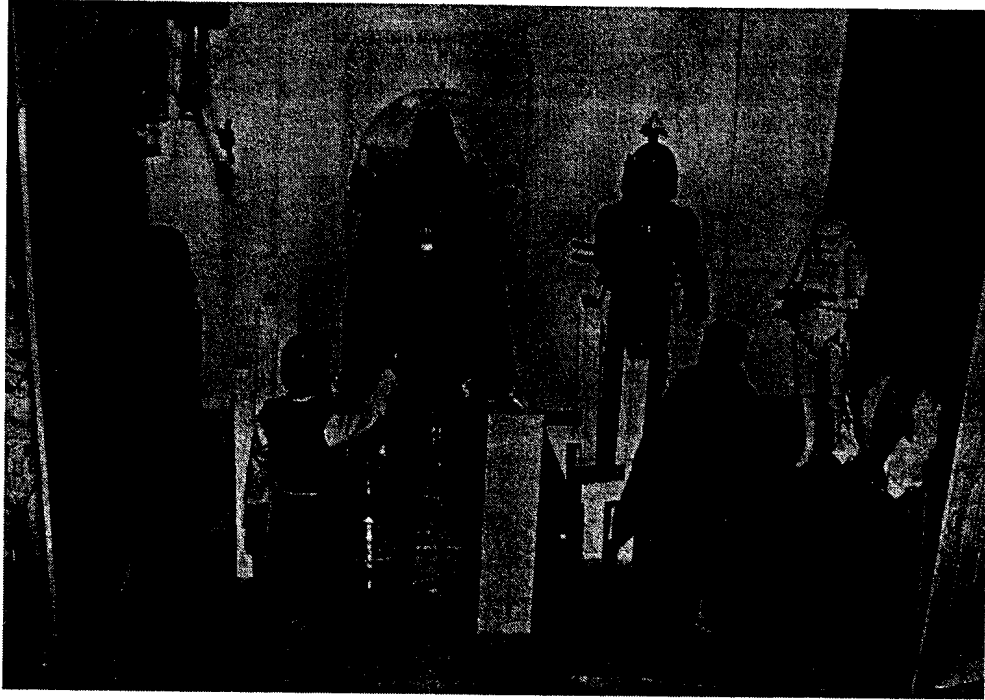


If you would like reprints
of Debbie Kittle's photos,
please contact Debbie.

Friday Night Star Wars (photo by Maggie Nowakowska)
Party — Susan Matthews and Corellian

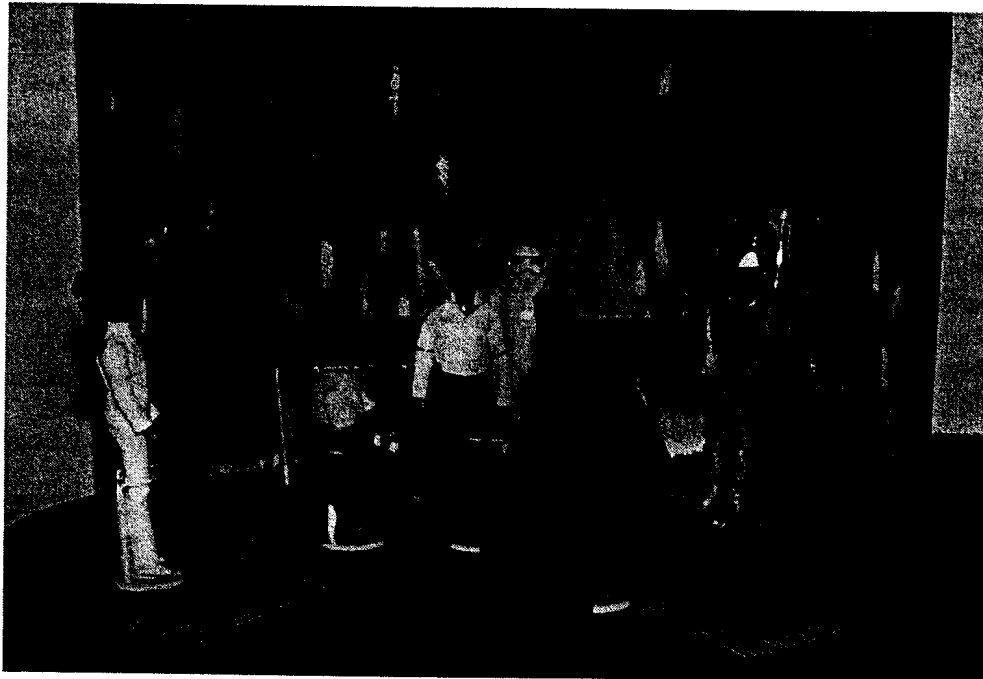


Friday Night Star Wars (photo by Maggie Nowakowska)
Party — Judith Klinger



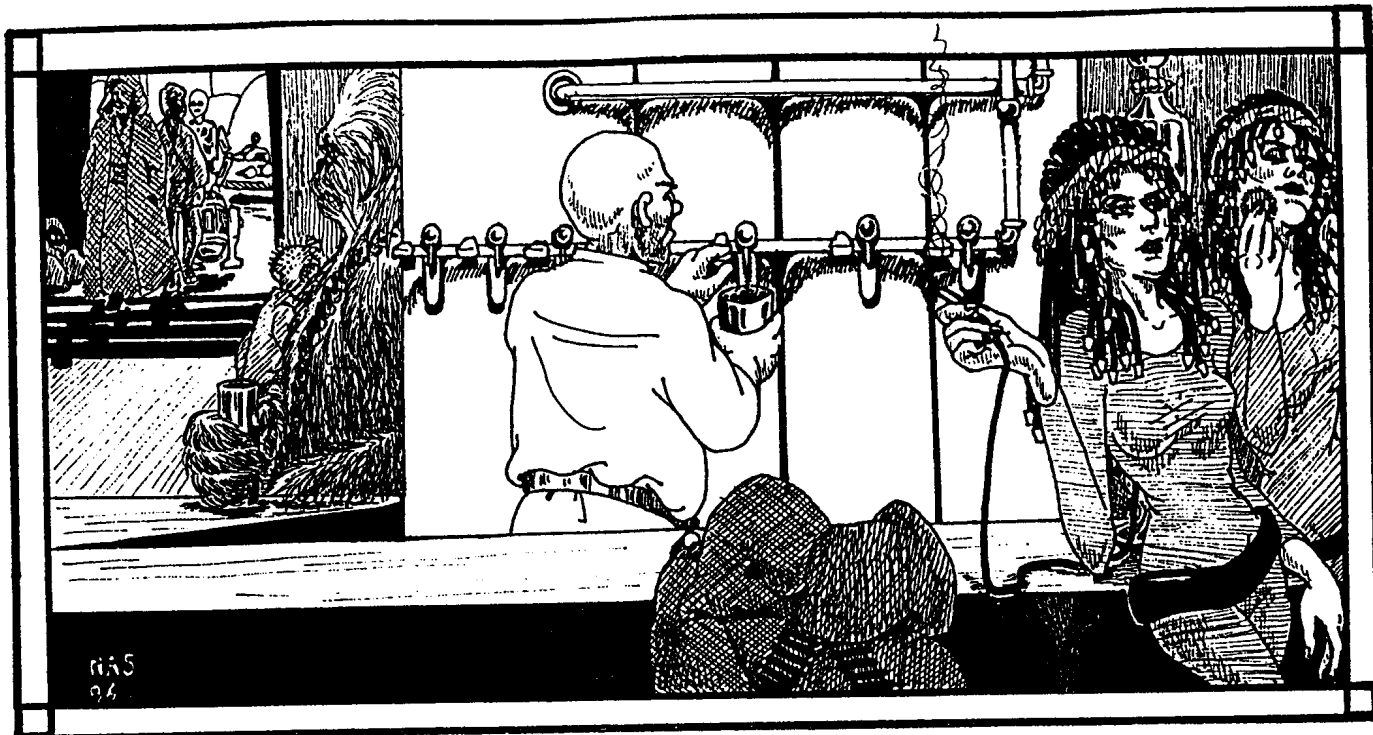
Back to Bospin — “We would be pleased if you would join us!”

(photo by Debbie Kittle)



Back to Bospin — The Carbon Freeze Chamber

(photo by Debbie Kittle)



FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

NOT MRS. YODA!

Z. P. Florian
6214 Waterway Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22044

Cheree: SE 47 was just magnificent. And, I definitely favor having your italics added to our Locs. It's almost as good as talking to you in person.

Graham: Re, how many people knew that a guy named Skywalker might have been the son of Vader or that Vader was once Skywalker? I go by the theory that the name Skywalker is the same as Kennedy. We have Kennedys all over the place, but nobody is asking them if they are related to JFK. If Tarkin knows that Vader was a Jedi, and he talks about it openly in front of all those commanders, I presume it couldn't have been such a big secret in the right circles. Like Madeleine Albright's Jewish origins. Those who were close, knew. Average Joe didn't know. And in the course of her career, it didn't matter. As for the Vader/Palpie ROTJ novelization, sure such a deep, powerful relationship carried some possessive sexual overtones. Not that I can imagine Palpie actually doing anything as mundane as a physical relationship. He was all mind — matter didn't matter for him. But he sure had an orgasm watching Luke writhing on the floor. I love the ROTJ novelization, especially the part when Luke says, "let go of your hate" and the novel says "Vader hated no one, he only lusted too blindly". Those are the words I based my Anakin on.

Whitney: I agree. The Imperial Academy was the only game in town, just as in the communist Hungary where I grew up, the only way to study was to study at the state-run universities. They gave you ideology and propaganda, but also a solid classical education, and one knew what to believe and what to dismiss. Han got his pilot license there, Luke would do the same.

Steyn: I've heard, too, that on the Internet, people circulate stories written by others, stories they change at will and put on the net. Who else knows anything about this? Re: what if Kenobi lusted after Anakin? What if it was the other way around? What if the student wanted to possess the teacher completely and Kenobi refused the bond, not wishing to be both father and lover for the boy who could accept anything less than everything?

Grant: You mention *Forever Knight*. The right choice for SW fans. Nick and LaCroix are in a way very much like Luke and Vader in another reality. Similar struggle between light and dark, human relationship and ultimate power.

Klinger: Yes, Luke used the word "teleport" but I think it was in the same sense as we use "beam up", a sort of hoped-for but nonexistent way to go.

Crotty: I hate the Fabio-shouldered new action figures. Small heads, big muscles. Re: Can Jabba have sex with Leia? He certainly thinks so. Doesn't he say Leia will soon learn to appreciate him? Certainly he doesn't mean being appreciated as her accountant or something equally innocent. Whether Jabba has the same equipment as a human, I doubt it, but he must have something, unless all

Hutts are clones. Re Cheree's comment that the guys should step aside to discuss this kind of stuff when ladies are present, some of the ladies will perhaps resort to eavesdropping in that case. What's next after bathrooms and Jabba's anatomy? Ok, better curb it, or we are going to sound like prime time advertising about adult diapers, absorbent pads, period bloating, unwanted hair, athlete's foot, mouth odor, masculine and feminine itching, denture glue, perspiration, hemorrhoid remedies and diarrhea medicine ads. And to think that where I grew up, a lady or a gentlemen would rather die than mention those things, and here they put them on TV to make us feel like a gluey, sticky, filthy creature whose only hope to cleanliness lies in a mountain of clinically proven products. Waaah... I wanna be a cyborg like Darth Vader, I bet he never sweats.

Pryor and Cargill: I'm *not* Yoda's wife. Never his wife I was. And if you want to know why, I'll let you know. I was not green enough for him! So there. He was very keen on marrying someone properly green. I was short enough, my hair was wispy enough, my wrinkles were deep enough, and he was ready to forgive that I don't have chicken feet, and he said it's ok if I have my ears surgically enhanced, but I was *not* green enough. I tried to contact Michael Jackson's dermatologist, but he wouldn't take out-of-galaxy credit cards.

Nowakowska: Susan might say that she doesn't need people reading her book, it's enough if they buy it, which is about the coolest arrogant thing I've ever heard from anyone (my Anakin couldn't do it better), but hey, those books are for reading. Preferably late at night, in bed, with a glass of warm milk and Kahlua at hand when the emotions get out of control.

RE: MOVIE RELEASE

Most of us seem to agree that Han not shooting first is a sick idea. He's staying alive in places that Kenobi calls "a little rough", and for God's sake, if you are facing a hit man who has made very clear that he's there to (a) rob you (Greedo was ready to take the money and let him go or shoot him anyway?) and (b) kill you — shooting first is the only sensible option. Han's hand-play high on the wall was an obvious ploy to distract Greedo's attention from his other hand on his blaster. They don't want to show the kiddies someone who shoots first, but that's what a Jedi is for, to show that it's the good way, using the Force only for defense. Han is not a Jedi. At the beginning, he's "quite a mercenary", the *whole story* is that he evolves into something better. *Show* to the kiddies that it is possible to *become* something better than what you started out with. If all characters start out as angels, what is the message to those who *need* to know that good is not *born* but *develops*. You have children there in the theaters who think of themselves as criminals: they need a hero who's not much better but *gets* much better.

Sorry for shouting, but this is a very emotional point with me.

A NERVOUS MARKSMAN

Nancy Stasulis
P. O. Box 5219
Laytonsville, MD 20882

All: First off, I shall apologize in advance for not addressing everyone and everything I should; there are just too many questions, excellent comments, and information to do so.

I, personally, didn't think the changes were all that big a deal in the "new & improved" SW — certainly not worth standing in the freezing cold for 3 1/2 hours. I did that when I was a kid; I'm too old for that now, but such is the price for seeing it at the Uptown, on a 45" curving screen.

I did like the new critters, although none of those life forms would "fly" in an actual desert environment, let alone evolve there (too much exposure to ultraviolet; not enough moisture to support mass tissue of that bulk) — but what the hey. I also enjoyed the little throwaways in the Jabba/Han scene, especially the linguistic details of Huttese: "crispa" for "fry, shoot, kill" for instance, as well as Fett's little silent walk-through at the end of the scene.

Regarding Greedo's lack of aim, as a former gun-carrying IRS agent, I can tell you that if you are scared, nervous, excited, overeager, or all of the above, your hand can/will likely shake and ruin your aim, even if you are an experienced ~~marksman~~ marksthing. Consider also the possibility (although unlikely) that Han may have been reluctant to shoot first, even in self-defense, than when he is older and wiser in the later films, since he seems [at the time of SW] more used to bluffing his way out of situations (witness his "attack" on the stormtroopers) although he certainly can fight when he wants to. At times he seems to have an innate — though erratic — sense of gallantry under fire, so to speak.

Being a Vaderke, I was rather disappointed they didn't do more with him, of course. I was especially disappointed they didn't fix the bit in his scene with Tarkin where he continues gesturing after his line(s) have stopped. I was glad they did put back the line "close the blast doors — close the blast doors" to counter the following "open the blast doors — OPEN the blast doors!", without which the later comment made sense, but wasn't nearly as funny, and I don't know why they cut it in later showings.

The scene with Biggs helped the continuity of the story somewhat, but its inclusion was not as earth-shaking as I thought it might be, although I was glad to see a common-sense passage where someone in authority questioned

Luke's ability to handle an X-wing he'd never flown before, even if it *is* apparently a model that anyone can fly if they can fly the family 'hopper, which makes sense since it would certainly help the rebels by cutting the need for expensive and time-consuming specialized flight training.

Regarding inconsistencies in the Canon, Lucas did say, after all, in one of his early interviews (a comment echoed later by another H. Ford character) that he was making this up (so to speak) as he went along. I think he had a more-than-general idea what he wanted to do, but not every little detail worked out: there are too many discrepancies. The books bother me. Mainly from what I've read they seem innocuous, since they deal with action "off screen", so to speak; but I don't care for the proliferation since it smacks of novels churned out for the sake of profit, and not plot. The early Foster book, *Splinter*, for example, was just dreadful, a travesty. I have seldom read worse writing, it was so packed with clichés. Vader did everything but twirl his moustaches in that one. I must be crazy — of *course* they're For Profit Only: Lucas does want to make money, after all, and while he has an admirable broad film vision, he ain't no author, himself, nor does he have the sense of character development of, say, Mr. Kirchner. As far as the novels being Canon, well ... we can only wait and see. Only the entire series will make it known — although it *is* fun to second-guess; but I would warn anyone against taking this all too seriously and creating hard feelings. We've been there and done that.

Online fanfic bothers me, too, but mainly due to self-interest: online fanfic has no need for illustrations and artists. Otherwise, it bothers me because it is too much: an onslaught of information/stories, etc. I can't keep up with the zines; I certainly can't handle mountains of online fanfic.

Tim: Why shouldn't Cheree put commentary in her own zine? Her P.O.V. is interesting and well-thought-out, as are her comments. I would suggest she put in a regular LOC, in fact, just like everyone else, if she has time ... do I hear the echo of crazed laughter from Texas? *I*, for one, would be interested in what she has to say. Bet others would be, too. ((Ed: *Crazed laughter? You mean I'm laughing loud enough to be heard outside of my padded cell? Picture this — I work full time (and they just fired the other word processor so it's all mine now), I'm going to school working on a certificate in computer applications, I'm launching a collectibles business, I do zines, I have two dogs, a new house, a 10-year-old Girl Scout, and a husband who leaves a trail of debris in his wake. SURE, I have time to do LOCs! I'll pencil it in for 2:47 a.m. on Tuesdays! Now, 'scuse me while I go over into the corner and twitch for a while!))*

Marlene: I like your questions. I can never keep track of mine, so I lose them. You come up with items I'd

wondered about but forgotten. Has anyone ever considered the possibility that Obi-Wan is Vader/Anakin's father-in-law? He speaks in the extreme familiar form to someone ["Darth"] very few people are on a first-name basis with, who in turn addresses him with familiar contempt, more so, it seems to me, than just a former student/teacher relationship which properly is more formal. Could he have been related to "Darth" by other ties than tutorship? And if Kenobi knew him so well When — when he was Anakin, that is — then why call him "Darth" at all? Why not call him "Anakin" or "Skywalker" and try to recall him to his true self? This cannot be a new idea: what were the prior arguments for/against, if any?

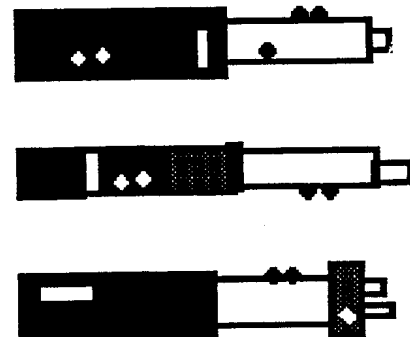
ZiP: Is that a threat or a promise? Insult was never intended; consider it a hamhanded compliment ... if that doesn't do, well ... it was all Cheryl Pryor's idea: It was *her* fault! Glad to hear they're looking for someone "breathtakingly handsome" to play Anakin. Maybe that will do a little to mollify me for making him the Pillsbury Doughboy in ROTJ!

Deb Kittle: You work two miles away from my work but I can never catch up with you. I feel terrible; you'll think I'm avoiding you, but whenever I have time and energy I have to get ready to move, and when you have time and energy, it's past 11 p.m. (and I turn into a pumpkin at 9). What to do?! Have you developed those photos yet of Han et al in Bothan beach drag ... or did Kodak confiscate them?

Cheryl: Has been promoted to GRAND SUPER VADER SLUT and High Priestess of the Vader Cult for her *intense*, up-close and *personal* research on His Lordship. Keep up the good work, and thanks for the personally autographed Priestess of the Temple picture. Why didn't you sign it, too? I shall bring Jewelry to the Con, and we'll deck you out in Priestess garb, how's that?

D. B.'s: I was so happy to see everyone at Liz' party; my only complaint was, it was too short, and MW*C will be too hectic for a long schmooze on all the questions, pros, cons, and issues raised in S.E. We need a mini-Con somewhere, sometime. Why is a day only 24 hours ... ?!

That will have to be all for now. Ciao & see yuz.



THE NOVELS AS CANON

Matthew Whitney
1003 Allen Street
Springfield, MA 01118

((Ed: See Matthew's commentary on the Special Editions on the front page of this issue.))

Chris Graham, your LoC was full of comments/questions I'd like to respond to.

How many knew Vader to be a Force-user? You can bet Bail Organa, for one, and the upper echelon of the Imperial ranks as well. General knowledge might be that he had extra powers, but they might not be connected to the Force. Also, some who grew up after the fall of the Jedi may think of Vader as a representative Force-user, equating the Force with evil (for lack of positive role models).

RE: "Thank the Maker." That's a topic that's long intrigued me, the droid belief in a divine creator. The capital letter clearly marks 3PO's intent as something other than an assembly line worker.

Where does Leia get her clothes in TESB? I finally noticed that her dress aboard the medical frigate is the one from ANH. Either I'm unobservant or Carrie being so much slimmer in TESB really threw me off.

A small ship using a cloaking device: We have no idea what sort of machinery/power source is necessary. It could be possible that the energy demands to cloak even a little ship requires more power than even the Death Stars could muster. If you'd like a readable discussion of sci-fi physics, I strongly recommend *The Physics of ST*. Their "universe" is different, but enough crosses over to SW to make it worth it. And you don't need a Ph.D. to decipher it.

Pat Grant: I too feel "lost in this new SW galaxy..." I am partially envious of those with time and will power to read the pro-novels. Sometimes I feel I'm being left out of the loop, wondering if I'll end up a grumpy old dinosaur lamenting for the good ole days of fandom when we had only the novelizations and *Splinter*.

Speaking of novelizations, my reasons for not considering them canon springs mostly from my understanding of the process by which they are written. Since that process inevitably leads to inconsistencies, I toss them out completely and look on only the films as canon (at least for my purposes — in story writing, and the like).

My take on the process is that an author is selected at some point in the production of a film, given a script and maybe some production drawings or photos, and assigned the task of completing the novelization of that script in time for it to be released in conjunction with the finished

film. I chose to say the author novelizes the *script* rather than the film on purpose, since the chances are that there will be rewrites, editing changes, and the like which renders the script the writer received somewhat different from the final film. In a perfect world the author would be informed of any changes and be allowed to incorporate them into his/her work. In the corporate Hollywood world, the author is probably not even contacted again after receiving the script, with little care given toward how close the book turns out.

Just to point out a single change in the SW novelizations: in TESB, Han's last words before being carbon frozen are, "Just remember that, because I'll be back," which was the reading of the original script. Harrison's "I know" was a last minute, on the set change, decided on by him and Kirshner. A small, but significant change, and this is just one where the circumstances are known. Thus, I look on the novelizations not as adaptations of the final product with minor additions, but rather as early, rough drafts and no more canon than are early drafts of the script (though, we normally do not see those, thus they don't enter the canon debate). To my mind, it matters little that an idea was in the shooting script if it was ultimately rejected or reworked and did not make it to the final film.

Now, that doesn't prevent a novelization from being a fun read or providing fodder for fanfic. Some are quite good, some even better than the film (ST:TMP and Shatner's ST5), and are often neat from a "historical" sense to see how the project might have evolved. Now, with the SpEds, the question of canon will probably never be satisfactorily agreed upon. So, in the spirit of fannish harmony, I fervently hope you won't read the above as my "drawing a line in the Tatooine sand" on the matter of canon. I only meant to carefully explain my 2¢ opinion on the novelization process in response to your question.

On a smaller point, I thought it was public knowledge that Alan Dean Foster ghost-wrote the novelization for ANH. Does anyone have a confirmation on this? This is the basis for my dismissal of even that novelization.

Cheryl Pryor: Re Harrison's *Devil's Own*: I was also unimpressed with the trailers, but found the film quite enjoyable (far better than the abysmal *Sabrina*). But now I'm skeptical on *Air Force One*. If an actor I was ambivalent about were starring in it, I'd bypass it for sure.

Glad you (and others) enjoyed my retelling of my Dave Prowse story, as well as my naming Dave as the "ambassador" for the Saga in terms of going above and beyond to be a symbol and connection to the fans. But, what's this? Keep my genes in circulation?? Easy now, let's not start any *clone wars*! ;)

Thanks to any who stayed with this over-long LoC.
MTFBWY!

WHY SAVE BOBA FETT?

A. G. Steyn
Paul-Ruecker-St. 69
47059 Duisburg
Germany

April 28, 1997

((Ed: See Anette's commentary on the Special Editions on the front page of this issue.))

Cons: If there's a bright center to the universe, I live on the planet that is farthest from. There is *nothing* happening here. If I don't luck out while in the US or the UK, I might as well forget that there is actually such a thing as a SW con, or a "Men Behind the Mask" tour. Do I have to relocate?

And now (ta-DAAAA!): the LoC's

Dear Ed: If the boys have to leave the room to discuss the *fun* stuff, please allow me to go outside with them. Thank you.

Jabba ("Call me the Tongue") and the girls. Of course he can! The question is: do the girls survive the onslaught of 5 tons of drooling blubber? And wouldn't they rather select someone else from the Hutt's entourage for hand-to-hand combat? Considering who used to frequent the palace on a more or less regular basis, Jabba would not have been *my* first choice. Ah, the possibilities ... ("Let's get something cooking here. Do we thaw up the frozen Corellian beefcake or grab the can-opener and see what's inside the Mandalorean tin?")

And on that note...

Chris Graham: SW chocolates? Hm, I'm a bit allergic to choc. How about something else? I'm still waiting for Kenner to come out with lifesize, lifelike, fully "functional" SW "action"-figures. SIGH!!! (Would that weirdo back in the cheap rows of the theater please shut up about SW condoms? After all, what would that be like: black for Imperials, gray for Rebels, white for misplaced Tatooinians, with "bloodstripes" for Corellians, and with holes in 'em for bounty hunters?)

Lobot a droid? Maybe Lobot *is* short for lobotomy, as John Hollis stated. That, of course, would then qualify him (a) for a re-appearance in ROTJ, and (b) for being Corellian.

Yes, I have been wondering about Leia, the quick-change artist myself. Especially in Cloud City. First she runs around in that awful red harem's suit with the grayish-white cloak — up to the point where Vader (Guess who's coming to dinner? ... uh, how are two certain characters gonna eat anything, with half a ton of metal in front of their snoots?) invites his daughter plus future son-in-law to

join him. Next thing we see is the door to Chewie's cell opening, and voila! There's Her Highness all in innocent white Hoth gear again. Wow.

And yeah, *that* infamous quote from the novelization, about Palpie and Darthie. Chuckle! I've had a knee slappin' good time with that years ago. Good to read someone else made the same assumptions (however sick they may be). Goes right along with such gems (from the movie scripts) as: Han and Luke exchange warm glances (Hoth hangar scene) — hilarious, considering that in German "warm", has, besides the obvious, also the meaning of "gay"! And what about "Chewie covered Leia"? oops ... wouldn't you like to rephrase that, Georgie???

Oh, yes. And I still wonder about Ben's remark to the cutthroats in the Mos Eisley cantina: "That little one isn't worth the effort!" Aww, how sweet of you, Obi-Wan. You sure do hold the baby in high regards, don't you?

Matthew Whitney: Haunted lightsabers??? I think they already had those while filming the trilogy. I remember reading that in some duels Vader and company were left holding only the hilt, because the "blade of light" had broken off and taken wings.

Agree fully with you re your statements about the Academy/Luke/supposed evilness of the Empire, etc.

Pat Grant: Heard the rumor too 'bout Carrie writing for Lucas. But considering how she writes and how pious and up-tight Lucas is, I guess most of what she will put to paper will be scratched from the script by Father "Not-in-my-galaxy,-aardvark" George. He did, after all, edit all the sleazy fun-stuff out of Carrie's script for this one Young Indy episode where the boy "earns his spurs" in Mata Hari's parlor.

I want a SW pro-novel (or *sequel* script) done in a joint effort by Carrie Fisher and Tony Daniels. *UNEDITED!!* It should be a riot!

How can I boycott a con if I don't even get close to one??? Besides, have you ever tried reaching a celeb by mail? Easier said than done. Did you ever send a letter from Europe via the US to Europe (Germany - Aurora/CO London), just to tell someone you liked his movie performances? Heck, I'm not even sure Lucasfilm does (as they claim they do) forward all the mail they get.

And maybe "Uncle Palpie" was ugly to begin with (some, like moi, are born that way), and poor ole Palpie felt deprived and depressed by this, and constantly mobbed and ridiculed — turned to the Dark Side. (Mother of Corellia, Tatooine and surrounding villages — that actually sounds as if I'm taking to the man's side. Proves once again: the mind is the *second* thing to go!)

No, Ben was a "male chauvinist pig" and never ever considered Leia worthy Jedi material. The way I know the old wizard he'd rather have tried to teach Wicket the Ewok

or Salacious Crumb the ways of the Force. Kenobi was, as we all know, very good at misjudging people and situations.

Judith Klinger: You said you wondered about how Luke felt about Lando's betrayal. Question is: did Luke *know* anything about the betrayal? I don't think so. At least not during TESB. Remember: Lando betrayed Han, Leia, Chewie, and him (and Vader, and the droids ...) long before Luke landed at Cloud City. He wasn't there when it happened, and I doubt he knew by ways of the Force that a betrayal was the cause for his friends' suffering. After all, not even Dark Daddy did recognize being double crossed by Baron-Administrator Calrissian.

The time scale (Clone Wars, Jedi purge, fall of the Old Republic, establishment of the new order all happening within 40/50 years prior to ANH) was always ok with me, considering what happened here on our planet within this century. What bugs me is that we now get secondary SW literature with stories set 3,000 years or so before ANH. C'mon, *who cares?* The appeal of SW, to me, is directly linked to the characters, places and happenings we first came to know and love 20 years ago. I couldn't care less what happened *before* Yoda was born or *after* Luke joins the everlasting Force. What I would have liked far better (a *lot* better than prequels, and almost as good as sequels) would have been spin-offs of the original SW saga (the new adventures of Wedge/Boba/anybody but Wicket).

Gerald Crotty: I *loved* your description of "a day in the life of L.S.": Home, medal, cocoa, bed! What a riot.

No, I don't see why anyone should like these steroid action figures. Why can't they make action figures that really *look* like the people they're supposedly depicting?

Maggie Nowakowska: "Why did the Jedi blow it?" Hm, what if the Jedi did get a bad rap — partially well deserved, partially mean-spirited humbug the way the Knights Templar did? After all, there are eerie similarities to these groups. As we all remember, the Knights Templar were monk-warriors, going on "foolish idealistic crusades" all in the name of their religion (that they more often than not bent and interpreted at will) and who were considered the most powerful force (and considered themselves "protectors of law and order" as they saw it) during the Middle Ages. What brought on their downfall was their yen for orgies and questionable religious rites, and the rumor of their immense wealth. Is it possible that something similar held true for our o-so-holy Jedi warriors? Oh, Obi, oh, Obi.... I have a bad feeling about you and your ilk.

Zippy: I remember reading (in pro-lit) that the Tatooinian sandfarmers use their moisture vaporators to coax down water for their underground crops. And Han's remark about "dustin' crops": hey, maybe Han's mind was on Corellia when he said that. They might dust crops

there. Who knows?

Ewokese: Listening to Goldenrod I get the uncanny feeling that he doesn't really understand Ewokese that well. He is actually playing a guessing game ("I think...", "I believe...", "It could be...") and leaves me wondering whether he is really capable of over 6 million forms of communication.

Rich Gawel (and other fans of a certain bounty hunter): Displeased with pro-fiction as ever, I would like to propose the following important questions:

"What was Dengar's motivation for saving the life of Boba Fett?" A closer look at the problem:

Pro-fic has it that Dengar went out to the Pit of Carkoon to look for the remains of Jabba the Hutt, hoping to find the chipcard that would open the treasure chest back in the palace. Instead of Jabba and the chipcard, all Dengar found was a half-digested Boba Fett.

Dengar, according to the pro-authors, took Boba to the palace and spent one month nursing Fett back to health. This strikes me as rather illogical, considering that Fett was (and is) the last word in skip tracing. Why would any bounty hunter worth his credits go out of his way to save the life of his worst competitor? What was in it for Dengar? Why waste one month of his valuable time without compensation of some sort to take care of a mighty sick puppy? Everyone who has ever taken care of a helpless, very sick or badly injured person knows how much trouble this is. Does Dengar look like Mother Theresa to you?

But not only that. It gets worse. After Boba gets his feet back under him, Dengar takes him to another planet where Boba's backup ship, *Slave II* is anchored. So far, so good. But why does he tag along when Boba goes after various vermin again? What's the deal? Is Dengar hoping that Fett will eventually capture Solo, so that he, Dengar, then can finish off Fett and cash in on Solo? Not in your lifetime. Not even Dengar can be so stupid as to really believe this stunt could be pulled. He'd find himself on the business end of Fett's sawed-off Blastech EE-3 quicker than he could spell R2! And mind you: this "tag along" business goes on for 6 years until they find and confront Solo again.

Are Dengar and Fett old buddies? Dengar was a promising race driver on Corellia, while Fett was either on Concord Down or Mandalore (whichever pro fiction you follow) at the time — and nowhere near Corellia. So it may be safe to assume that they are neither army buddies nor friends from schooldays. Business-wise, they were fierce competitors. What is it with the two? When did this unusual "friendship" start? Is Dengar "hot for the helmet"? *I have a very bad feeling about this....*

"How did Boba survive treatment at Jabba's palace?" A closer look at the problem:

Pro-fic has it that Dengar nursed Boba back to health at the medical facilities and with the assistance of the medical droids in Jabba's palace. Fine, but...

Knowing Jabba, he probably had the med facilities laid out for *his own* needs and certainly did not have humans in mind when he had the place designed. I suspect Jabba to dispose of sick Gamorreans, Twileks, Jawas etc. by means of the Rancor. Call that cutting health care costs. So what would the facilities look like? Hutts are large (3.6 meters) slugs, with very thick skin that is almost impenetrable by normal weapons and can withstand most acids — including the stomach fluids of the Sarlacc, who refuses to eat Hutts. Hutts have a thick layer of blubber and no skeleton. So try to imagine what the instruments will look like and how the meddroids will be programmed to cater to Jabba's needs. Poor Boba might as well have stayed inside the Sarlacc!

And watch out for future A.G. cartoons on the man. I've zeroed in on him lately, and if Jeremy B. sees what I've done to his character he'll have me for dessert (not that I'd mind ... he can also have me before and after dessert and in between ... and so can Harrison F.).

And on that note, I shall close my rumblings (and you thought I never would) and look forward to the next S.E.

May the Frost.. er... Forest... uh... Fork... hm... Frust... no, FORCE be with you, always.

PRO NOVELS HAVE NO HEART

M. J. Mink
8805 SW Cashmur Lane #1
Portland, OR 97225

June 2, 1997

What fun reading how other fans felt about the re-releases! The comments on what scenes were missing/added were intriguing ... I seemed to have totally overlooked some of them while watching the movies. SE's articles and cartoons were wonderful and nostalgic — and the artwork in the last issue was amazing! I don't know how everyone else feels, but for me, seeing SW in newspapers, magazines and stores doesn't seem the least bit strange — in fact, it seems quite normal. With the upcoming "release of the re-releases" on video, we'll probably be treated with public SW for a long time to come.

It was wonderful seeing many of you again at MWC — wish all of you could have been there. Lots of new zines — congratulations, Belea Keeney and Cheryl Pryor, on producing a Vader zine. We need more of the Dark Lord! Thanks to everyone who voted for both my stories and others in the STAR aWARDs and FanQ's. There were so

many wonderful contributions last year that it was difficult to decide what to vote for. Congratulations to all!

Chocolate: Chris Graham, if you'd been at MW, you would have enjoyed Sue Depping's Vader cake and Cheryl Pryor's character chocolates. Now that there are SW chocolates in Europe, maybe we can talk the ladies into mass producing more Dark (chocolate) Vaders and little green Yodas for us.

Internet: A.G., Internet stories have bigger problems than the possibility of being stolen or distorted by people other than the writer. With some exceptions, they haven't had the benefit of editors. They have no artwork, and you can't cuddle up with them! I read 'Net stories from different fandoms, but I prefer a zine every time. There's no comparison between sitting at your computer and reading stories (or even printing them) and holding onto a thick, solid zine, laughing at filks, admiring illos, flipping back to your favorite parts of the stories, etc.

Luke: Judith, Marlene and others re the "open and optimistic" remark. Interesting, isn't it, that Luke gives the impression of being open because he appears very young and naive. But when you actually listen to what he says in the trilogy — well, he says very little at all. In ANH, Han revealed a lot about himself and his personal philosophies while Luke shared practically nothing. Granted, he was young, but as he matured in the movies that followed, he still retained a tight grip on his thoughts and feelings.

Pro Novels: I think Gerald Crotty hit the problem right on its proverbial nose: they don't capture the spirit of SW. Fan fiction simply has the heart that isn't in pro works. Perhaps "heart" isn't welcome (or profitable) in the real world...

Cheree, it's great to read comments from you in SE — keep them coming!

WAS IT ART OR PROFIT?

Gerald Crotty
25 Woodridge
Birchfield, Birmingham 6
B6 6LN England

May 15, 1997

Hi, everyone.

There's really only one topic this time so let's get on with it:

The Special Editions. (See *Gerald's comments on the three films in the front section*.)

Was it all a good idea or not? God, I don't know. I reckon we'll be debating that for the next 20 years. Actually, I think Lucas did it too soon. A lot of it seems

like R&D work for the next trilogy.

Why did Lucas do it? Was it just one of those re-package deals to fleece us all of our money or was it a benevolent gesture to give us an improved trilogy? I think Lucas genuinely wanted to improve the films, but if ANH bothered him so much, why didn't he do a special edition back in the late 70's as Spielberg did with *Close Encounters*? There's a lot of bullshit surrounding all this. Rick McCallum says that it all began three years ago when Fox asked Lucasfilm if they had any plans for the 20th anniversary. Three years in advance seems a lot and how come they didn't do anything for the 10th anniversary?

I think this all started shortly after Zahn's novels. They realized what a hot property it was. And then we get McCallum saying how important it is to be seen on the big screen, that a whole generation has only ever seen it on video. Well, who's fault is that? Since '85 LFL and Fox have been very awkward about making prints available for the cinema.

And then there's the business about the film deteriorating. Again, whose fault is that? It's been well known for over 20 years that modern film stock fades and Lucas is very involved in the film preservation organizations. Back in '81, Gary Kurtz explained to *Starlog* how films can be preserved. How could they let it happen?

Chris Graham: Okay, here's another theory — what if Mrs. Skywalker has a child (before Luke & Leia) and the child is killed or dies due to Ben's negligence. Anakin's anger would turn to Ben and the Jedi Knights.

Z.P.: I think it would be a bit dull if Anakin turned for purely political reasons. His transformation requires something a bit more operatic. His chance was more spiritual than political. But I'm just suggesting theories to encourage debate.

Cheryl Pryor: No, I didn't get to meet Alec Guinness at his book signing. Sometimes he is very disparaging about SW but then at other times he says how great it is. I think he does believe it's rubbish but he makes so much money from it he has to be careful not to upset LFL and Fox.

Judith Klinger: Actually, the character Bollux was changed to Zollux in the British editions of the Han Solo books. But I remember in *Lost in Space*, there was a character called Capt. Bollux. It brings a smile to my face just thinking about it. What amazed me even more was when phrases like "He's got a lot of spunk" would turn up on things like *The Flintstones*. I used to choke on my dinner when that happened.

Amanda: Where did you get the idea that we've had multiple triple bills of the (original) trilogy? As far as I know, the triple bill of Elstree in '94 was the only one since the mid-'80s.

George Lucas: Is he still a great director? Does he still

have the talent? Well, if that dance sequence in ROTJ is anything to go by, I'd have to say "no." CGI is all very useful but films are still films. They mostly require good ideas, photography, editing, lighting, storytelling, etc., and in those areas I thought the changes in the special editions were rather lacking.

Then again, these special editions have been enormously successful so what do I know?

CGI SHIPS ARE BEAUTIFUL

Debbie Kittle
11521 Idlewood Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20906

June 11, 1997

It is so great to read all the news articles about SW. You can hardly pass a magazine rack without those two words stopping you.

MW was a blast this year, very much more upbeat and fun compared to last year. It was so good to see everyone again! Congrats to all the Star Awards winners and runners up.

Well, I fired all the Hoth elves. They did a lousy job! I got one snowfall this year for winter. One stinking, lousy snowfall! I'll be auditioning for this year's dance marathon...

Matthew: What did you think about George's CGI work on the Death Star run? I was floored at how good everything looked! The ships were absolutely beautiful and I had a hard time believing they were generated by a computer and not model done.

A.G.: Welcome to the world of DBS and all its purchasing benefits :)

Gerald: In regards to the steroid looking action figures, they are ok, IMO. I wish they were better looking and more in scale. Kenner is creating a variation paradise (saber sizes, vest colors) that it drives me crazy at times.

I know they did an old Sail Barge/Skiff (I can't remember off the top of my head) and it's going for \$400 or so!! Kenner is redoing many of its ships so maybe that will get some notice.

Suzanne: Good to finally meet you at MW. I really do like the Junior Jedi Knights and Young Jedi Knights books. I really find it interesting that the author has Anakin really contemplating and dwelling on the fact that he might turn to the dark side since he bears his grandfather's name.

Rich: You're very welcome on the cards. Glad I could help out!!

I also really enjoyed *V* and loved watching them repeated on the SF Channel. And I loved ID4 and its blend

of SF spoofing.

Cheryl: Some of us like photographic exposure more than others...

Judy: Yes, folks, if Judy can survive a Deb SW shopathon, you can, too! :)

Seriously though, Judy makes it sound as if we did nothing but shop. There were a few meals thrown in!

Cathy: I'm so glad I got to chat with you. Sorry we couldn't get together for lunch when you came to town. The staff meeting was as dull and boring as always. Would've preferred lunch with you any day of the week. Hope your visit was delightful and we'll definitely do WorldCon '98 in Baltimore!

Most of the Dead Bothan Society will be there in force (this would be my first) so hope to see some of you there.

And one last bit of news: Chewbacca the Wookiee was honored on June 12th 1997 with the MTV Lifetime Achievement Award during their broadcast of the MTV Movie Awards and it was presented by Carrie Fisher. It was really great and soooo long overdue! Congrats to Chewie!

'Til next ish, Fly Casually In The Force!

A FORCE-FUL YEAR

Chris Graham
1006 Independence Drive East
Elwood, IN 46036

June 1, 1997

It's certainly been a Force-ful year so far. I for one am giving thanks, as I've just moved from California to Indiana and am beginning to understand what Luke meant about being fartherest from the "bright center of the universe."

I enjoyed reading everyone's comments on the Special Editions in SE#47. Just seeing the Trilogy on the big screen again was thrill enough for me. As for the additions, I feel ambivalent; I never felt ANH needed improvement, and I'm not convinced now. I feel Lucas was aiming too much to children with the changes — more dramatic special effects, more critters, and of course the horrifying "P.C. Han Meets Greedo" scene.

I was glad the negatives were cleaned and the bluescreen "auras" around the ships were gone — not to mention being able to see the widescreen shots like R2 getting off Luke's landspeeder in Mos Eisley, or Han and Leia waiting by Luke's bacta tank in TESB. My question is, why in hell weren't these things fixed for the "wide screen" video release last year? Am I the only one who feels cheated?

I did enjoy the short scene with Biggs; it made his death scene more poignant, and it helped explain Luke's quick acceptance as a pilot. Also, as Debbie Kittie said, the overhead shot of the *Falcon* lifting off from Docking Bay 94 was *gorgeous*. On the other hand, the Jabba scene looked great but was very distracting. Han repeats lines from the cantina sequence and, more importantly, the fact that Jabba is so jolly took away the tension and threat over the price on Han's head.

I won't even go into how much I hated seeing Greedo shoot first, as that seems pretty well covered by everyone else!

TESB didn't have much added, but then, it didn't need it!

As for ROTJ, I liked the new song at the end. Did anyone else notice that Rebels can't dance? :) By the way, was that Jeremy Bulloch in the "new" Boba shots in ANH and ROTJ? Just curious. The new musical sequence in Jabba's Palace was downright scary.

Here's a weird question: what is that table with the large decanter and fruit doing in front of Han's frozen body? Is it an offering, or do Jabba's cronies have picnics in that room and enjoy the "view"?

By the way, in SE#47, I mentioned a sculpture seen in TESB, but it's actually seen later in the movie when Vader walks by. I also think the spiral thingy in the center of Han and Leia's room in Cloud City might be art.

Matthew Whitney: I liked your reasoning behind OWK's not killing Vader. However, didn't Luke "take a pot shot" at Vader? He was certainly aiming in Darth's direction when he saw DV kill Kenobi. Your discussion of why Luke would want to join the Academy made sense, too. A. C. Crispin gives Han similar motives for wanting to join the Imperial Academy in the new Solo novel.

Tim Blaes: Chewie has too much hair to be Skinner. Chewie=Queequeg — just kidding, Chewie! Leia would be Samantha, in the sense that both Luke and Mulder started their quests because their sisters needed help. (Okay, so Luke didn't know Leia was his sister yet — don't quibble! ha ha)

Z. P. Florian: I liked your idea of what Luke's success at the cave would have meant; would've shortened the movie quite a bit, though ... Suzanne Godsvalve's idea of Luke's success was very insightful, too!

Cheryl Pryor: We don't know that Palpatine didn't have a family, either. It surprised me that Palpatine, at least in the pro novels, had no heirs — or hairs, for that matter.

Anyone: Did the Empire ban the Jedi religion? And is that why the Rebels say "MTFBWY" — in defiance? Rebels wearing what look like Jedi robes and invoking the Force make it seem as if the Jedi religion had been an integral part of the Old Republic.

Why, in the detention cell, does Leia call Han "flyboy"?

Presumably they haven't been introduced yet, so how does she know he's a pilot? Or is "flyboy" a general insult?

The cantina bartender told Luke he didn't serve droids. What kind of bar does? Droids don't drink alcohol, do they?

I heard George Lucas say he listened to and was inspired by classical music as he wrote the trilogy. Does anyone know what pieces he listened to?

In ANH, Tarkin and Vader discuss the homing beacon they planted on the *Falcon*, so they obviously expected the *Falcon* to escape. Did they send those TIE fighters on a suicide mission, then, just to make the escape look good?

Between ANH and TESB, how many of you wished for Leia to choose Luke and how many Han? And why?

When Peter Mayhew was on the Oprah show February 18, Oprah asked him what he brought to the party of Chewie, since he didn't have any lines. As a fan of silent film, I was really annoyed by this. Does anyone accuse Chaplin of not evoking emotion with his portrayal of the Tramp because he didn't talk? Film, after all, is a visual medium, and a character's presence counts for a lot. After all, when Darth Vader first erupted onto the scene in ANH, you knew he wasn't there to serve tea!

How does a tree have a Dark Side?

I remember seeing something in an old SE about a history of SW fandom being written. Did this ever come out?

On *E! Uncut* in March, they showed a clip of a SW screen test with "Han" saying "Now wait a minute. She's on Alderaan. No, no that's impossible. Nobody, I mean nobody dares venture near the system of Alderaan. I'm a freebooter, boy, not a revolutionary. You're on the wrong ship." Does anyone have a copy of an early script that explains why one couldn't go near Alderaan?

Well, I'll keep this short and close with a quote from Patrick Stewart on SW: "I would like to be taken back to that Saturday night 20 years ago and have all of that same excitement and naivete and innocence reawakened. It's not a lot to ask, is it?"

TERRIFIC MEDIAWESTCON

Marti Schuller
415 SE Annette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

Before getting into the LoCs I must comment on this year's MediaWest*Con. As always, it was wonderful getting together with so many old friends, meeting new friends, and discussing SW and fanfic writing. This year seemed especially terrific as more fans seemed to intermingle instead of remaining only within given groups.

The few panels I attended were lively and energetic with the exchange of ideas and number of speakers. Congratulations to Wanda Lybarger on her surprise birthday party, also. Barbara Anderson and Company, you did a great job! Thanks to all who voted in the STAR aWARDs and congrats to all the honorable mentions and winners. Ditto for the FanQ winners. It was also great to see so many SW zines available this year. I wish continued success to all the editors/publishers. In spite of returning home with a raging case of acute bronchitis (and the consequential plane ride in torture), I'm eagerly awaiting next May already. Hope to see you all there.

Now to the letters.

Chris Graham: I seem to remember when SW chocolate molds were available years ago, along with a Vader helmet cake mold. I also saw a few SW chocolate lollipops circulating at the con, though I never learned where they'd come from.

Your comments regarding a Force-sensitive needing another to train them are interesting. I've always suspected that one might feel a difference internally that sets them apart, perhaps precognition, etc., and that one could work alone to hone certain skills. However, as in many facets of life, a wiser scholar could help one reach far beyond what one alone might accomplish. There would be exceptions, of course. For instance, and mundanely speaking, there are some fabulous self-taught artists and writers, while many more benefit enormously from higher education. Could a Force-sensitive be similar? Able to develop skills — levitation, vision, etc. — in one field while remaining ignorant of or rudimentary in others? I believe so.

As for 3PO's reference to the "Maker", I *do* think he is referring to a craftsperson literally, probably the very first creator of working droids without whom no droid would exist or would be radically different from those we know. Perhaps the reference is not to the physical creator but to the programmer.

I prefer to believe that Leia was adopted by Bail and his wife after her mother died and that she'd been told her real father died before her birth.

When Luke sees his face inside Vader's helmet during this test in the tree on Dagobah, Luke is unaware of his physical relationship with Vader. Therefore, the revelation has many possible meanings. It could be a warning that Luke could become as Vader, of their hidden blood ties, of the "good" within Vader, etc. Luke's reaction is alarmed but also confused by the symbolism, IMO.

I'm no scientist, but my best guess regarding a cloaking device for the *Falcon* is that it may require a large amount of room for a generator or power source capable of creating the effect. That would explain why only larger ships are so equipped, though I cannot recall a cloaked ship being mentioned in the films aside from that one remark.

Pat Grant: Unfortunately, I do see a rift of sorts developing in SW fandom over the prequel. It already exists on a lesser level with those who only accept the first films and those who accept the novels, role-playing material, and so on. However, I believe that if we maintain our tolerance for all aspects of SW fandom, we'll survive. For instance, I don't read the pro novels nor do I read the comics or roleplay, but I also don't have a problem with those that do or who incorporate that material into their fanfic writing — so long as they accept my right to follow only the films in my views and my writings. Where I see trouble looming is if we allow no room for individual expression, insisting that there is only one absolute "right" galaxy.

I liked your answer to John Fredericks re OWK on Tatooine. I agree, though I would add that in addition to being Luke's protector and eventual teacher, Obi-Wan also saw Luke as his chance to make up for the mistakes he'd made with Anakin, either real or perceived. This may make his lonely vigil less altruistic, but it's more believable to me.

I agree whole-heartedly with you about Leia's grief coming over her sooner or later. Ditto for Luke. But I think only those of us who have lost loved ones can really appreciate this truth.

By the way, I'm a former K-Mart slave myself.

Judith Klinger: I know I've said it before, but I want to thank you again for that gorgeous big Luke picture. I sure enjoyed our long talks at MWC and hope to see you again next year.

Your opinions/assessments of Luke's character all made perfectly logical sense to me and I applaud your insight.

Your questions regarding Force abilities and family ties brings up some interesting possibilities. I think there are probably different levels of Force talent, like ESP or telekenisis. Some, including Leia, could have low levels, unable to do more than empathize or mind-link (for lack of a better term) with others more powerful. I also believe the ability probably does run strong in some families, but that it can appear in anyone.

Gerald Crotty: Perhaps teleporting was prohibited or outlawed after the Clone Wars, all technology destroyed. That would explain Luke's wistfulness when speaking of it. It could have been abused and then mutually annihilated by those *rare* few with the knowledge. Just a thought.

This is dreadfully short and I'm sure I've missed many things I wanted to address, but I'm still in the grips of my illness (under medication so forgive my errors, please) and suffering post-con withdrawal at the same time. I'll do better next time, I promise.

One question I'd like to throw out before I retire to my sickbed, however. This came up at one of the MWC

panels and I found it most intriguing. Did Vader know — at the end — who Luke's sister was? He never mentions Leia by name after all and one would think he should. Could he only have sensed that Luke had a twin sister without realizing that it was Leia? I look forward to your opinions.

'Til next time, good health and warm weather to all. Yes, even you, Kittle!

IN STAR WARS COUNTRY

Judith Klinger
Scheffelstr. 1
10367 Berlin
Germany
email: jklinger@rz.uni-potsdam.de

June 15, 1997

I'd been planning to send a last-minute report about seeing the Special Edition for SE 47 — now I'm glad I didn't. About everything I would have mentioned has been said (and said better) in the opening section, so I can keep my comments short. I was in New York at the time — though that trip truly felt like a journey into *Star Wars* country — and had a ball watching ANH in a huge theater packed with a totally excited crowd that kept cheering throughout the movie. I loved it, and I loved being there. Like Judy Yuenger said, I would have enjoyed it without any added scenes or revamped SFX, and although I'd seen ANH a hundred times before, lots of details kept surprising me, and they definitely weren't all new to the movie. Goes to show how much you miss watching movies on video only! The Greedo-shoots-first aberration really jolted me for a moment but couldn't ultimately spoil the fun. I still grieve over the missing Tatooine scenes, and I sorely missed Luke's reaction to Biggs's death. Perhaps someone inadvertently scratched or tore up the negative and quietly let that piece drop to the editing room floor? That would be the only plausible explanation for such a mindless omission.

I don't have too much to say about the Special Edition of TESB either, because earlier anxieties that my favorite in the trilogy could be disfigured by the face-lift proved to be unfounded, thank the Maker. Luke's added scream during his fall was unnecessary, and it sounded too much like Tarzan, too (wonder where they got *that* sound from...). I probably overlooked a lot of the added FX, because I always get so carried away watching that particular movie.

Meanwhile, I've been to MediaWest*Con again and spent another wonderful five days with a number of you in

Lansing. Thanks to everyone for making me feel so much at home! I hadn't thought it possible before, but this year was even better than the last ... if it keeps progressing at this rate, I might have severe difficulties readjusting to a bleaker reality after MWC next year. :)

But I'm late already, so on to the LOCs right away.

Chris Graham: I don't think that Force-talented infants would accidentally levitate their toys or nanny droids either, but there might be other ways in which the potential makes itself known — at least to them. Spontaneous empathy with other people's sentiments, if they're intense enough, for instance, dreams/visions, or simply a special sensitivity. It obviously takes extensive training to develop these abilities and allow someone to make active use of them, but I still find it odd that Luke should never have noticed anything peculiar about himself — unless, of course, his talents were blocked (for security reasons?) at an early age.

You think the Force kicks in together with rampaging hormones during puberty? Now *that* would turn every pubescent Force-sensitive into a walking hazard ... from using mind control on love interests to channeling some extra power into landspeeders — virtually nothing would be safe from them, at least if they're male. :)

Yes, there is that catch to Luke having to reorganize the Jedi with little or no knowledge of their history — which makes it particularly interesting. Where would he find that information? Imperial records would give only a very one-sided version, and if the Jedi's own records have survived the purge, they must have been extremely well hidden. Surely Palpatine realized that in order to wipe out Jedi philosophy, he would have to delete or rework their writings, too. But perhaps Vader indeed had plans of starting a new order with his son and salvaged some of the information for that purpose?

I enjoyed your speculations about a droid religion. It's obvious that at least some droids have complex personalities, so why should their thought processes exclude the belief in metaphysical entity? More than that, such a belief could help them cope with human irrationality and the general chaos around them. By all means, go on speculating...

I don't think Han was "doing without" all through those supposed three years between ANH and TESB (it still seems like a very long time for so few visible changes in either the characters or the Rebels' general situation), but I can't picture him "dating" either. He's so vocal about not getting involved with anything or anyone (although he gets himself neatly entangled at the same time), that dating would seem too much of a commitment already. He probably knew how to seize opportunities when they presented themselves, but didn't care enough to chase after them. Han seems to value self-sufficiency more than

anything. Apart from that, I don't think there was a budding relationship between him and Leia to speak of, rather an uneasy attraction across a distance.

Why would Palpatine keep Vader's former identity a secret? I think the publicity value of a mysterious, all-powerful, faceless figure is ultimately greater than that of a converted Jedi. The terror of something incalculable is always the most effective, and if someone were to look for Vader's hidden weaknesses, his origins, former attachments etc. would give them a place to start.

I have only the vaguest memory of thermodynamic laws and such, but here's my theory on cloaking devices nonetheless: what if a certain energy level must be reached to allow the generation of a distortion field, or projection, or whatever it is that creates the illusion of invisibility?

Matthew Whitney: Could Luke or Han ever shoot anyone in the back? Well, why not? (No hate mail here, sorry.) It depends entirely on the situation. These people don't act heroic all the time, they're not saints, or there'd be nothing human left in them for us to identify with. Anyone can panic or overreact, and if someone kills your friend/mentor right under your nose, you don't stand back to consider ethics. Luke looks so outraged when Kenobi dies, I think he could have done almost anything, given half a chance. In ANH as a whole, Luke clearly doesn't worry too much about the ethical implications to his actions — it's part of his personal development that he gradually begins to understand larger concerns and the consequences to every decision. Which makes it very easy for me to assume that in ANH Luke harbored only a vague resentment of the Empire which didn't keep him from applying to the Imperial academy, much like you suggested. He obviously considered joining the academy the (only) possibility to get off Tatooine, become a pilot etc.

I've never felt entirely comfortable with the notion of Han's military background — Han is about everything military discipline won't tolerate! — but I can imagine that he joined in the hope of using military education and training for his own purposes.

A. G. Steyn: Hope you got a chance to read the "50 Reasons Why We Hate ROTJ" cover story in *Sci-Fi Universe*. You'd love it.

Pat Grant: Like you, I feel kind of obliged to buy the pro books and find out what the official gossip is. But it's tough duty sometimes.

Hmm... Kenobi must have had a pretty exact vision of the future to foresee all those detailed consequences of his own death. It's quite possible that he believed Luke's interaction with his father would eventually bring about Palpatine's downfall, but in TESB he's against Luke's leaving Dagobah. Like Yoda, he considers it too early for Luke to confront Vader (and learn about his parentage). In

ROTJ, he objects to Luke's approach and explicitly refuses to see the good in Vader. It's also quite obvious that not even Yoda could predict future developments in such detail. All of which makes me think that Ben still took one hell of a risk when he let himself be killed by Vader in Luke's presence. It definitely strengthened Luke's perception of Vader as the arch-enemy — and how should he not react with anger, or even hatred?

Regarding Palpatine's original plans for the Jedi: Yes, and what about the visible friction between the Imperial military/technocrats and the Force-users in ANH? Perhaps at an earlier stage, Palpatine was forced (pardon the pun) to exclude the Jedi from political power: Vader's influence doesn't seem to sit well with at least some of the military leaders. It makes me wonder whether there was an opposition within the Empire, and how Palpatine managed to stabilize his rule. Electrocuting people at a distance really isn't enough to organize such a vast and complex political system...

Marti Schuller: Well, we certainly did make time for a smoke- and gabfest at MW. :) As for sterilizing Luke: You're not alone. I think the same happened in one of Ellen Randolph's stories. Still, it's a bit surprising that SW writers in general haven't explored the possible side- or after-effects of Palpatine's fireworks in greater detail. Okay, it came up in *Truce at Bakura*, but dropped from sight again within a paragraph or two. Or are there a hundred-odd fan stories I've missed?

Tim Blaes: Liked your comments on the "flawed detail that creates an elegant whole": I always felt that way about my favorite movies, books etc. but didn't realize there's a specific term for it. Good! Now I know why I feel so uncomfortable with Lucas's "improvement" policy. However, I suppose those added dinos in the Mos Eisley sequence will be visible as a newly inserted flaw within a year or two: it definitely points to another moment of creation, namely that of *Jurassic Park*. Now where's the elegance in *that*?

Gerald Crotty: I'm not sure I agree with your take at Luke's failure at the cave: Yoda's quite outspoken otherwise — which makes me think that if he says *failure*, then that's what he means. Failure to understand, sure, but perhaps the entire experience could have been quite different, if Luke hadn't insisted on a martial approach. I don't think he was supposed to have tea with Daddy, Z.P., but what if, for instance, he'd met Anakin instead of Vader? Just a thought.

The TESB time frame is interesting. It really gets ambiguous in the middle part, which at some point led me to wonder whether time passes at a different pace on Dagobah. While Han and Leia spend no more than a few days on Bespin (perhaps even less) before Luke arrives, his training period has the feel of a much longer duration

involving slow and subtle changes. Did anyone else get that impression?

Maggie Nowakowska: I very much enjoyed your comments on Luke's mystical Force experiences and the "ecstasy of life". You're right that such experiences are underestimated or considered esoteric at best in our culture, but if you've ever read mystical texts (such as those written by medieval religious women), you can virtually feel the joy of living and the tremendous energy generated by it. I like to think of Luke as someone who has access to a wider range of experiences than the average human being, although that may include a tremendous solitude at times.

On a more personal note: Being a notorious and dedicated brooder myself, I deeply sympathize with your efforts of lightening up your partner's mood. I guess it won't help much if I say this, but I think of brooding and worrying as getting rid of negative energy, and it usually stops in its own good time. There's little anyone else can do about it.

Like you, I'm not at all interested in the "suburban aspects of family life" or equally pedestrian concerns which sometimes seem to clog the pro novels. Not that these books shouldn't address contemporary issues (which would be near impossible to avoid anyway), but the advantage of science fiction and fantasy is that you have all the liberties of addressing them in a different way and opening new possibilities of thought through the combination with unexpected, possibly alien elements. Nanny droids and such sci-fi deco elements aren't quite enough to make a difference.

I'd have to stretch my imagination somewhat (always a useful exercise) to think of a younger Palpatine as "cool, modern, hip" ... he must have had a brilliant publicity strategist at the very least. Actually, I tend to think that Palpatine kept himself very much in the background of the political theater and used others to establish his "new order". On the other hand, it's easy to imagine that the Jedi could have been considered fundamentalists who only ever made public appearances to warn people against straying from the path of righteousness — in other words, querulous and tiresome in the eyes of a younger generation.

Z. P. Florian: I don't think the big SW revival of this year can ultimately turn it into mainstream. SW has always been part of mainstream culture, but there are elements by the plenty that will never fit into mainstream. Over here, SW is generally considered kid stuff: I've long gotten used to being frowned at in comic book shops, because the intellectual avantgarde buys hip underground comics. But I won't apologize, I won't.

A very succinct definition of Luke's character: "the guy who won't turn".

Probably the reason why some of us are so interested in

exploring his limits — it's approaching the core of Luke's identity.

I agree, a wife's (presumed) infidelity couldn't possibly explain or exhaust the reasons why Anakin turned to the dark. I find it hard to imagine that a single event could have caused such a development: surely there must be character complexities and a whole string of decisions involved?

I'm sure Han would be *extremely* ashamed to die in the dirt rather than go out in a blaze of glory ... if a character is destined to meet his end between the stars, it's Han. (I'm an incurable romantic, I fully realize that.)

I have no idea why people consider sex more dangerous for kids to see/hear about than violence. However, I remember that the ongoing debate about violence in the movies/on tv had reached another peak in 1977, resulting in my parents' decision that by no means should I go and see *Star Wars*. Tell that to a thirteen-year-old and make sure she's hooked for life...

Suzanne Godsalve: Interesting quote from *New Rebellion* — "Recklessness that Anakin shared with his uncle at times" ... I only wish Luke would show just a little bit of recklessness in the pro novels from time to time. At least he got to wear tight pants instead of patchwork robes in this one — a redeeming quality certainly worth the mention.

Rich Gawel: I don't know about Han transforming from criminal to a "fully reformed member of society" ... I keep thinking that was just a temporary lapse. Seriously, it makes him sound a little dull — takes the romantic edge off the character, so to speak. And why should his shooting Greedo be considered any more cold-blooded and cruel than X-wing pilots firing at TIEs before they get a chance to blast back at them?

The Marvel Comics storyline you mentioned (involving the troubled partnership between Lando and Chewie) sounds interesting. It probably doesn't tie in well with *Shadows of the Empire*, but then again, although that book had some very interesting ideas, it was also a let-down in other areas. Whoever expected explanations for the striking change in Luke must have been disappointed. At least I was.

Yes, let's consider all the pro novels alternate universes. That's how I can easily enjoy the better ones, despite pig-headedly disbelieving the general development of the major characters and the Rebel Alliance/New Republic in those books.

Cheryl Pryor: I agree, the pro novels are good to have for the cover artwork, some of which is really brilliant. Talking of cover artwork: great to see you and Vader finally featured on the cover of a major zine... :)

Did you get to see *Devil's Own* in the meantime? Nobody seems to like that movie much, and it disappeared

from the theaters again within two weeks, but I enjoyed it tremendously.

See you all next time!

∆ DISSERVICE TO BOUNTY HUNTERS

Pat Grant
2343 N. Cedar St. Apt. A
Holt, MI 48842-2154

May 18, 1997

Hi! Well, here it is, less than a week until MediaWest*Con, and I can't wait to see everyone!

OK, first I want to share my views on the Special Editions. WOW! I have to say that while I was avidly awaiting their releases, I was a bit teary as well. Well, I didn't have a problem with any of the new stuff at first, but I do find myself agreeing with everyone about the Greedo shooting first scene, although perhaps for different reasons. My feelings are that it makes Greedo look even worse than Han. Sure, he beats Han to the draw, but he *misses!* And at point blank range! Doesn't say much for him as a bounty hunter. I think the scene does a disservice to *both* characters. But, beyond that I loved everything new, and especially the singer at Jabba's palace flirting with Boba Fett — hysterical! And the finale showing all the celebrations going on was very emotional! (Did everyone catch in the scene on Coruscant where they were toppling the very large statue of Palpatine?)

sigh Three more tapes to buy...

Chris Graham: Hi! Just wanted to let you know they *do* make, or at least they did make, SW character candy molds. I've got a couple of them, although they're so old they're beginning to crack up. It would be nice if they would re-issue new ones though.

I also remember seeing copies of "Fall of the Republic." In fact I think I picked up a copy myself, but I can't find it now. If it should turn up I'd be glad to pass a copy on to you. It was a supposed script for movie #1, which we now know, and most of us were sure of at the time, was a bogus script. But it was interesting reading.

You asked about the difference between training a Light Jedi and Dark. Well, we've never really seen the training of a Dark side user, but I would imagine there would be many differences. Yoda stated that a Jedi's use of the Force works best when he is at peace at calm. I think Luke's training on Dagobah, all the running and such which would get the heart racing, was to teach him how to retain a sense of calm under any conditions. But with the Dark side, they draw from anger, hate, negative emotions. I imagine that they require much different circumstances

for training, circumstances where they are pushed into anger and aggression. It would be interesting to see some Dark side training in the next movies.

And technically, Ben never told Luke to kill Vader. He said he had to face him, which could mean a number of things. Perhaps he thought that in facing him, Luke might have a chance to turn him back to Anakin without killing him.

I think Luke saw his face under the Vader mask for a simple reason. Yoda told him he would not need his weapon inside, in fact he told him he would only face what he took in with him. So he takes in the weapon anyway. An aggressive weapon. I think when he saw his face it was the Dark side telling him that if he follows aggressive ways he will become his father.

I have a theory about the cloaking device. Perhaps they were in the beginnings of that technology. Remember our first computers that took up whole rooms? As technology grows things get smaller. So perhaps they could only fit the hardware aspect of the cloaking device on a very large vessel at this point in time.

Matthew Whitney: Why would Luke want to join the Academy Biggs went off to? Because all of his friends were there and he wanted to be with them. Aunt Beru says something about this to Owen, that all of Luke's friends had gone. I don't think Luke even thought as far as serving in the Empire some day, he just wanted to be with his friends.

A.G. Steyn: Jeremy Bulloch also played an Imperial Lieutenant!? Really? I didn't know that. Which one??? Oh, and what about Captain Needa? I always thought he was rather good looking.

Debbie Kittle: Hi! Well, I found the *Millenium Falcon* puzzle, but not until after I found the newer 3D puzzle of the Imperial Star Destroyer, which I did get. Phenomenal, although I did find it impossible to keep it together on its own. I finally bought some poster board, cut it into pieces fitting each section, and glued them together for support. Now I can practically play toss with the thing! I do still want to get the *Falcon* though.

I have to agree with you about the 3rd book of the Blackfleet Crisis. After all the support I gave the first two books, and I still think they were written well, the 3rd book did seem to let us down. He just didn't go where I thought he'd go with it. The part I liked least was having the people from the race of the woman who was with Luke turn out to be an "all-powerful" force, which Luke was relying on to "save the New Republic." I feel that this should be a role for the Jedi to play. And Leia never did really redeem herself. I was really disappointed. It had a lot of potential, but fell short.

Judith Klinger: Are Force abilities necessarily genetic? Good question. I don't believe that the ability to use the

Force itself is genetic, but possibly your potential strength in it may be. Similar to real-life talents and abilities. We all, unless mute, have voices and the ability to sing, but some are much better at it. And the same with artistic talents — we can all draw, but some can only do stick figures while others are named Monet, Rembrandt, and Picasso. There seems to be genetic connections with these talents. Although two siblings may not display the same talents, one may have inherited the father's genetic talents while the other got the mother's. It could be the same with the Force. We would all have the raw ability to tap into it, but some are just stronger than others.

Do we consider Lucas' statements canonic? Well, if not his, then whose? While he does change his mind alot and helps to spread misinformation and rumors to keep us off the track before a movie, he is still the creator of the series, which in essence makes him the god of the SW universe. So, yes, I believe his statements should be taken as canon.

Yes, the Empire did happen within Anakin's lifetime. Before the Empire there was the Old Republic and the Senate. Palpatine was elected in as President and later declared himself Emperor, creating the Empire at that time. It was Palpatine who brought Anakin over to the Dark side of the Force. Of course, a lot of this was only covered in the novelization of the first movie, and did not come out in the movie itself, but is still pretty much accepted as the general history of the Empire. It has been pointed out to me by Tim Blaes that Lucas did not actually write the first novelization, that is was ghost written by Alan Dean Foster. But I'm pretty sure that Lucas would not have allowed his name to go on its cover if he hadn't approved of everything in it.

Marti Schuller: I hate to say it, and I never really thought about it before, but your theory that as a result of the Emperor's attack on him would have made Luke sterile really does make sense. Poor Luke!

Tim Blaes: I thought it was funny reading about how you highlight sections in SE and make notes in the margins. I do the same thing. It helps me remember later what I wanted to comment on.

I hate to point it out, but the actual name of the music used in 2001 was *Also Sprach Zarathustra* (not Zsuzsa).

Sorry to hear about your station only just getting *Hercules and Xena* and putting *Xena* on only at 1 a.m. Yuck! I love both shows. We're lucky here in Lansing, channel 47 runs both shows about 3 times a week and each time they are back to back. And those of us with cable also get it on Saturday on WGN. I didn't like Gabrielle at first, but she grew on me and now I really like her. I also like the on-going characters that show up on both shows, such as the Prince of Thieves.

I haven't decided yet whether or not I'll run a