



Lisa Cowan

"But these are my friends!" said Princess Leia to the Ewoks as they were preparing Han, Luke, and Chewbacca for dinner.

"My friends" is how Lisa Cowan describes many of the people who have been involved in the STAR WARS films and other Lucasfilm projects, as well as the many thousands of ardent fans that love these movies.

"I literally grew up in and around the movie and media industry in Southern California. My childhood friends were the sons and daughters of producers, directors, actors and technicians. Hollywood studios and movie sets were places we went to after school. As a teenager I babysat for Sonny and Cher, and hung out with Mickey Dolenz and Davy Jones of The Monkees and their friends and fans. To me these famous people were just people - nice, zany, creative people to be sure, but not people to be stared at in awe."

However, STAR WARS was something awesome, even for a jaded "movie kid" like Lisa. "My interests in Myth and Fantasy and Science Fiction had introduced me to Science Fiction Fans, and "Fandom" during my college days in the early 1970's, so when STAR WARS came along in 1977, I was well primed to become a fellow STAR WARS fan. When THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK came out in 1980, I was right there in line on opening day, and I lost my heart to a young Luke Skywalker. A friend, LeeAnn Vibber, and I decided to start a fan club for actor Mark Hamill, mainly to friend and befriend other Hamill fans. I must add that our husbands and children were very patient with us during the next six years.

"After some months of planning, I used my media connections to contact Mark Hamill, and he gave us permission to officially launch the fan club the day before he left for England to begin filming RETURN OF THE JEDI. The first issue of 'ON THE MARK: The Newsletter for Mark Hamill Fans' came out in March 1982.

"I first met Mark a couple of months later in the Sand Hills of California where Jabba the Hutt's huge Sand Barge was parked. The first thought that ran through my head when Mark walked up to me was, 'Black! He's wearing black clothes! He really IS a Jedi.' However, he didn't know that as we sat on the sand and calmly talked about the fan club, his family, and the movie.

"ON THE MARK was a success with over 800 members by the time RETURN OF THE JEDI came out in 1983. George Lucas' company, Lucasfilm Ltd. had their own Official Star Wars Fan Club (with over 100,000 members), and I got to know the club officers as well as Lucasfilm's marketing director, Sidney Ganis, and other company executives. ON THE MARK did as

much publicity for Lucasfilm's projects as we did for Mark Hamill's projects."

Ganis was impressed with Lisa Cowan's communication abilities with the public. In 1987 Lucasfilm and Paramount Pictures joined forces on the movie TUCKER: A MAN AND HIS DREAM, and Ganis, then Vice President of Film Production at Paramount, encouraged Lisa to research the automobile industry to find the best ways to market the Lucasfilm/Paramount movie to the 5 million auto fans in the United States.

"I wrote over twenty articles on the film and the Tucker car for many automotive magazines and newspapers, including USA Today, The New York Times, and

the San Francisco Chronicle. I interviewed Francis Coppola, Jeff Bridges, and Martin Landau, as well as the members of the actual Tucker family. I worked with the owners of the Tucker cars, and lined up Tucker exhibits at several major Auto Shows, including one in Los Angeles, where I got to ride around in George Lucas' personal Tucker car.

When TUCKER: A MAN AND HIS DREAM was released in August 1988, Lisa Cowan became the official liaison between the Tucker car owners and the press. "I worked with Television shows including The Today Show, CNN News, ABC News, and

NPR Radio. Many times I was on the sets supervising the interviews."

Lisa's automotive ventures never overrode her science fiction and fantasy interests, nor her active involvement with other Lucasfilm projects.

"Some of the TUCKER articles I wrote were for a new Official Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine. Editor Dan Madson liked my style and I soon was named a staff writer. I usually have at least one article per issue. I recently finished writing an article on the different parodies, satires and humour done to the STAR WARS and INDIANA JONES movies. The article relates to the 20th anniversary of the formation of Lucasfilm Ltd. that is being celebrated this year.

What has allowed Lucasfilm to live and prosper for the past twenty years is not a string of successful movies, computer games and projects; it is the people behind them, around them, and especially the people who love them. These are the people who are, and I hope always will be, my friends.

We at Star Walking Inc welcome Lisa and her husband Bob to the convention and sincerely hope that they both have a wonderful time and take back with them some good memories of their stay Down Under as we all 'celebrate the love'.



Lisa Cowan & Film Producer Howard Kazanjian at "The Egg Company" - former home of Lucasfilm. Spring 1991

Background:

(See the bio sheet from 1993 Skywalking convention on the previous page) Married 22 years to Robert Cowan, 20 year old son, Steve. Three horses, 9 guinea pigs, 1 cat, 1 rabbit. Not active in Hollywood anymore.

Years in Fandom:

26 years — discovered Tolkien in high school (1968), Trek in 1972

Fannish Activities:

Many in the past, few at present. Went to cons, on panels, did Hour 25 radio spots, ran Mark Hamill's fan club 1981-1987. Wrote LoCs, articles for fanzines, newsletters, Lucasfilm.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Active in Tolkien fandom, Mythopoeic Society member, GROO fan. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fan (TV show).

Interests Outside Fandom:

Horses, hiking, riding, gardening, politics, talk radio. Travelling overseas when possible (went to Costa Rico in 1998).

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Via Tolkien clubs. Friends took me to Bjo Trimble's Equicon II. Discovered fanzines via *Star Wars* fandom.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Too many to list. Friendships, working with Mark Hamill, meeting fans. Meeting George Lucas. Going to Australia as GoH and rep for Lucasfilm fan club. Meeting other fans and making lasting friendships, with *real neat people*.

Antoinette (Toni) DiMaria

1115 - 73 St., Brooklyn, NY 11228, (work) (212) 525-6674

Occupation:

Banking

Education:

B.A. at Hunter College, major in Italian

Personal:

I'm 45 years old, 5'3", never married

Background:

I'm born and bred in Brooklyn. I have one sister. My mom came from Rome, Italy as a war bride after WWII. My Dad (now deceased) met her in Rome while there as an American soldier and called her to America to wed. That's how I came to be!

Years in Fandom:

11 years in fandom but a SW fan for 21 years.

Fannish Activities:

Mostly reading SW zines and books and buying merchandise on occasion. I try to keep abreast of the latest news.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

I've been to several *Star Trek* conventions in the past and one for *Beauty & the Beast* (the TV show). I would love it if there would be a *Stargate SG1* convention.

Interests Outside Fandom:

I enjoy going to theater and restaurants. I like to bike ride and travel.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

I discovered my first *Star Wars* zine at the LA SW convention in 1987. That opened the floodgates.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

I got my picture taken with Mark Hamill on his opening night in *The Elephant Man* on Broadway. Through a connection, I was able to meet him in his dressing room when he did *Amadeus*. I got Carrie Fisher's autograph 3 times when she was in NY.

Judy Ebberley

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Occupation:

Teacher

Education:

M.A., Education

Personal:

Age 47, married, no children but two cats.

Years in Fandom:

9 years in fandom

Fannish Activities:

Collecting zines, cards, figures, paintings, writing

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Big Harrison Ford fan

Interests Outside Fandom:

Music, wine, movies, reading

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Through a child at school who kept asking about Indiana Jones; I had to rent the video so I could talk to him about it and I was hooked!

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Making friends across the world. Having a story accepted for publication in a zine. It was a great thrill!

Pat Grant

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(517) 694-0961

Occupation:

Traffic Dept. Scheduler — I tell truck drivers where to go — :)

Education:

College Degree in Communication Arts and English

Personal:

Single (divorced), no kids, 2 cats — Princess Leia and Tasha Yar

Background:

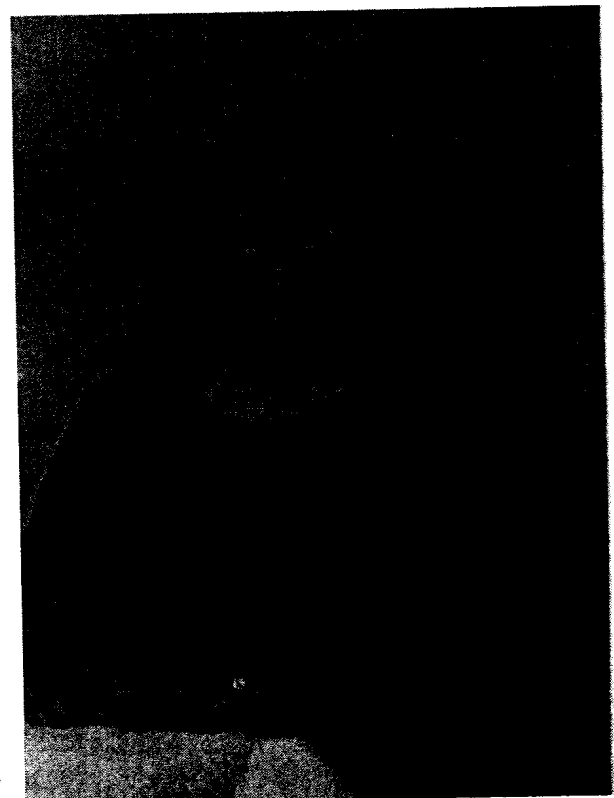
Born in Cincinnati, Ohio; had a traveling job for 2 years in New York and New England states; lived in Delaware for 1-1/2 years; moved to Michigan where I've finally grown roots. I think...

Years in Fandom:

24 (since my first con in 1973)

Fannish Activities:

Joined a *Star Trek* club in 1977 and became officer; joined Royal Order of the Rebel Forces in 1978; started Supreme Order of the Imperial Forces, the first name for Forces of the Empire in 1980; member of various *Star Trek* writing groups, during 80's and early 90's, created a *Highlander* RPG in 1996; have attended many



Pat Grant

conventions; have published two zines — *Imperium* and *Tales from the Cantina* and publish a quarterly newsletter for FOE. Also, have read many books and seen many movies, too numerous to count. Am into role playing games and enjoy AD&D, DC, Marvel, *Amber*, *Vampire: The Masquerade*, *Chill*, and *Highlander* (although it's only been play tested once).

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Highlander, *Star Trek*, *Babylon 5*, *X-Files*, *Amber*, vampires, *Lois & Clark*, anything with Harrison Ford or Alan Rickman, and lots more.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Baha'i faith, RPG gaming, working on first pro novel, my two cats

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Was a closet *Star Trek* fan for years, then discovered the world of *Star Trek* conventions and clubs in 1973 and haven't stopped since then!

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Making so many friends from all over the world.

Belea T. Keeney

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Occupation:

Office work full time, pet sitter
part-time

Education:

M.A. - Criminology

Personal:

1 cat, Ginger, marmalade tabby;
single, live alone; 1 niece, Jordan;
age 37

Background:

Born and raised in Florida; a true
woman of the tropics; no temps
below 65°

Years in Fandom:

Since Fall 93

Fannish Activities:

Zines only so far

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Lou Diamond Phillips fandom,
misc. obscure stuff, too

Interests Outside Fandom:

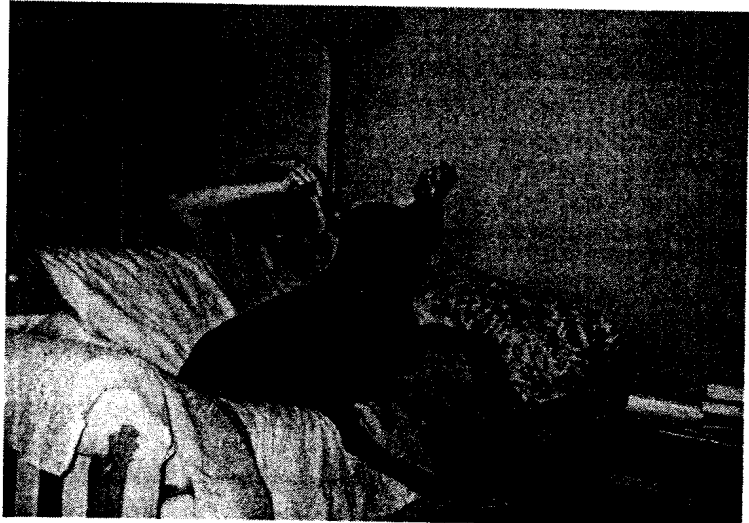
Animals, reading (of course), gardening, writing for fandom and freelance

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Z. P. Florian via *Jedi Masters* fanzine listing, bless her generous soul :)

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Meeting *fabulous* friends, great stories, wonderful ideas, sense of community and "not being alone"!



Belea Keeney
and special friend
Maxwell Gator Von Wantman

Deborah (Debbie) Kittle

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DeadBothan@WebTV.net

Occupation:

Veterinary Technician

Education:

B.S. in Animal Science

Personal:

Single, have 3 cats, 1 brother and 1 sister and 3 nephews

Background:

Born and raised in Maryland, hate the summers here — my trip to Alaska in 1990 opened me up to my goal — living there before I die!

Years in Fandom:

Since 1984

Fannish Activities:

Read and collect SW zines, do some writing, collect SW memorabilia

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Xena, Hercules, Trek, Days of Our Lives soap opera, *ER, Pretender*, Perm/Anne McCaffrey, Harrison Ford

Interests Outside Fandom:

Reading romance novels — though haven't had time lately to do that! — and photography

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Saw an ad for *Wookiee Commode* in *Starlog*, ordered it and have been hooked ever since.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

The best thing that's ever happened is all the friends I've met locally and beyond. Knowing and writing to other friends in other countries is just fascinating. Being part of this "extended family" is truly special to me.



Debbie Kittle and frozen friend

Judith Klinger

Scheffelstr. 1, 10367 Berlin, Germany, jklinger@rz.uni-potsdam.de

Occupation:

Assistant professor for Medieval Literature

Education:

Studies in German and English literature, film school, Ph.D. in Medieval Literature

Personal:

Living single with a 15 year old feline companion

Years in Fandom:

Five, strictly counting

Fannish Activities:

Writing/editing, illustration art, occasional films and round-the-clock fantasizing

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Where would I find the time for that???

Interests Outside Fandom:

Books, especially on Literature, History, Art.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Step by little step. Until another encounter with the SW trilogy five years ago just blew me away.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Far too many to count. But for the sake of brevity: MediaWest 96, 97 and 98, and Friendship. There's nothing more beautiful than sharing the love of SW.

Maree Looby

18 Monread Court, Naos, County Kildare, Ireland, 353-045-879384

Occupation:

Systems Analyst

Background:

Married, no children, but I do have a cat! Born 1967. Work for large company in Dublin.

Years in Fandom:

One

Fannish Activities:

Member of Organa-zation List. Buying any zine I can get my hands on and reading fanfic on WWW.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Harrison Ford, *X-Files*, reading and movies. Socializing (in true Irish fashion!)

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Through the Internet

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Getting in touch with people all over the world who love *Star Wars* as much as I do. Living in Ireland, this realization was a complete and wonderful surprise to me!

Wanda Lybarger

4151 Anglin Road #6A, Columbus, GA 31907

Occupation:

Artist

Education:

College, 4 years; B.A.

Background:

Army brat, went to Japan at 6 mos, 32 moves in U.S. and Europe before school age then took root in Columbus, GA from 3rd grade when Dad retired to Fort Benning.

Years in Fandom:

19+

Fannish Activities:

Zine art, stories, paintings, costuming, con-going

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Sherlock Holmes, Brother Cadfael, Harrison Ford, SF, fantasy, Jim Henson

Interests Outside Fandom:

Old movies, especially silent films, puppetry, mask and doll making, dinosaurs, Egyptology, pre-400 B.C. archaeology especially Minoan, sightseeing, reading, sf & fantasy, painting sf & fantasy

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Aware of Trek fandom peripherally from beginning, came into active fandom with SW:ANH, located zines, began to illo.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Sense of community and "counter/alternate" culture, sense of belonging, discovering friends, places to share interests not usual in my locality; sources of information on products, supplies, process ideas for art and craft.



Maggie M. Nowakowska

(aka Pam Kowalski, circa late 70's to late 80s)

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Occupation:

Graphic illustrator (electronic art, web design) for The Boeing Company since 10/1978; before that, was in radio, advertising, publishing (promotion, editing, production)

Education:

BA in Communications (minor in Film), 1970, Ohio State University; some post-grad work in journalism and art

Personal:

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, May 15, 1949; escaped to Seattle in 1970 after a summer's check out in 1969

Background:

23 active years in fandom. (First Golden books were on astronomy and first library book taken out on my very own card in first grade was SF: *Space Cat on Venus*. Read through the standard juveniles by end of 3rd grade; moved upstairs to the adult section and kept on reading.)

Fannish Activities:

Fan writer (mainstream Trek, SW, and the *ThousandWorlds* SW universe), illustrator (as Pam A. Kowalski), publisher and editor (*JediStarDarkFalconKnight*, 1978-ish), LoCer (from *Halkan Council* to *Southern Enclave*)

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Started out as a Tolkien fan, then a Trek fan, moved onto SW, not terribly active in other fandoms, although I consider myself a B&B fan, *Robin of Sherwood* fan, a western (especially *Rawhide*) fan, and an enthusiast for VR5, Cadfael, and other short-lived shows ... also am a Parrothead! (Jimmy Buffet fan)

Interests Outside Fandom:

I garden big time, I read mainly nonfiction in History, Religion and Philosophy, Mythology, Cultural Anthropology, I really like dogs (particularly Pomeranians), collect music (mainly world and folk)

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Hunted down fandom after reading so many references to it in the early 70's. Didn't actually find IT until the early to mid 70's, through local Trek fan group.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

I met my adult best friends through fandom, met my life partner through fandom, ended up doing a lot of travelling, including outside the USA because of fandom, and have had a RIPPING GOOD TIME because of fandom. Also, was able to avoid all social pressure to blindly conform because of fandom!

Amanda Palumbo

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Occupation:

Senior Bookseller; piano teacher

Education:

Mucho life experiences, Associates Degree, restaurant management and health code certifications

Personal:

Married, 2 kids; reading, writing, corresponding, drawing, outdoors, astronomy, composing music, singing, playing piano and faking guitar; cooking and baking; old style archery, martial arts, Monty Python, Celtic history/legends/magick — especially Scottish; old sci-fi movies, fan-run conventions, *Dr. Who*, *Space: 1999*; bicycling, being *silly*, horses; Christian Holy Bible; watching Ford doing TV interviews; espousing women's needs for far more extensive health research and care; linguistics, costuming, theater, listening to wide variety of music; Egyptian and Italian cultures, Medieval history, Asian aspects, etc., etc.

Background:

Star Wars poster featuring Luke; fan since 1977. Fav memory? Standing on line for several hours for TESB at a new movie theater, excitedly wondering what would happen next with many others. Sore feet, happy brain. SW BK drink glasses then POW! Movie of the *Millennium Falcon*. Didn't get much better than back then. Woo-hoo! Loved them biceps, Sky *wink, nudge*

Years in Fandom:

10 years SW; 30 years Trek

Fannish Activities:

Contributing stories, art, poetry and original songs and music, buying zines and fannish art repros, publishing *Echo 3* zine, corresponding with other fans, waxing obsessive when words *Star Wars* are heard; applying Secret Lives of Waldo Mitty philosophy to fannish pursuits :0); promoting Her Royalness' more sterling qualities, introducing new and younger fans to wonderful world of SW at store; drawing lightsaber on snow-covered vehicle and then driving around with it; conventions. (B.K. — before kids except 1x)

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Blade Runner, retros, Trek

Interests Outside Fandom:

Book series — Anita Blake, Darkover, Pern, Armies of Daylight, Silicon Mage, Wiccan texts, *Dr. Who*, locating best pizza and chocolate chip cookies in area, making wine old Italian method, etc.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Searched old issues of *Starlog* magazine for connections

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Close friends made, creative muscles stretched to heights previously thought unattainable, horizons expanded, deeper understanding of this SW universe I love so well, especially my fav characters; opportunity to assist on face-to-face interview with Mark Hamill; read so many wonderful expressions of affection of our fav universe by other fans in all forms; talk with various "pro" SW authors re their viewpoints, then inquire tactfully after obvious character assassination; free-lancing mag writing gigs.

Cheryl Pryor

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Occupation:

Owner (with husband) of Stories Comics

Education:

College degree in Mass Communications

Personal:

Married 12 years to Barry Pryor

Background:

2 cats — Asta and Spooky. Two comic stores keep us busy.

Years in Fandom:

Over 20

Fannish Activities:

Attending conventions, writing Darth/Anakin fan fiction. Together with co-editor Belea Keeney, publish *Dark Master/Dark Servant*

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Star Trek — not a rabid fan, but enjoy the shows

Interests Outside Fandom:

Renaissance Faires (in costume!), Broadway



Cheryl Pryor

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Through Trek — watching with my Dad in the 60's, then read about cons and zines during the 70's in David Gerrold's *The World of Star Trek*.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

That's easy — meeting David Prowse, the actor who played Darth Vader!

Denise Roper

7586 Main Street, Houma, LA 70360, (504) 872-4604

Occupation:

Music teacher

Education:

B.M.E., 1991; M.M. 1996 — both from Louisiana State University

Personal:

Single and searching for my Jedi Knight in shining armor!

Background:

I'm 29 years old and have been a music teacher for the past 7 years. I first saw SW when I was 8 years old and I was totally blown away by John Williams' awesome score. I began collecting symphonic recordings at age 10 because of SW's profound impact on my musical tastes.

Years in Fandom:

I've been a SW fan for 21 years, but only discovered fandom last year.

Fannish Activities:

Reading and collecting SW fanzines, writing poetry, pen pals, collecting all kinds of SW memorabilia

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

None

Interests Outside Fandom:

Music. I perform, teach and enjoy going to classical music concerts. I collect movie soundtracks and enjoy Broadway musicals. I read a lot of SF, fantasy, psychology, and religious works.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

I've been a SW fan since 1977, but didn't know about SW fandom until I started writing to pen pals last year.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

I've gathered lots of new pen pals in the past year. I really enjoy hearing from other SW fans who share my interests. I feel fortunate to have made so many new acquaintances through SW fandom.

Bea (Beatrix) Schmidt

P. O. Box 1076, Farmington, NM 87499-1076

Occupation:

Emergency Services Dispatcher (police, fire, ambulance)

Education:

B. A. - European history, M.A. - Library Science

Personal:

Single

Background:

Navy veteran, ex-reference librarian, deliberately and happily single, love cats, hate dogs, hate computers.

Years in Fandom:

24

Fannish Activities:

Collect fanzines, read fanzines, attend the occasional convention (when I can afford them).

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Star Trek (all), *Blake's 7*, *Professionals*, *V*, *Babylon 5*, *Miami Vice*, *Highlander*

Interests Outside Fandom:

History of women in Europe, history of reading, embroidery, cosmology, poetry, military technology, folk music (especially Celtic).

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Sandy Hall — author of the B7 novel “World Turned Upside Down” — was in the same Navy unit I was. She asked me if I liked *Star Trek* and then showed me a fanzine — I was hooked!

Best Things That’s Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

See above. Nothing like finding an enjoyable, life-long obsession!

Marti Schuller

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Occupation:

Seasonal employee of the Empire (a/k/a IRS)

Education:

High school graduate and resident student of the school of hard knocks.

Personal:

Married since October 1969 to my Polish teddy bear; lover of dogs; feeder of wild birds; and general overall nature lover.

Background:

Born in Kansas City, MO, but I’ve also lived briefly in California (I was a Valley Girl before they had a title) and Oregon.

Years in Fandom:

Since ‘85, I think. First published fanfic in *Wookiee Commode 3*.

Fannish Activities:

Writing, writing, writing. Attending MWC. Co-editing *I Don’t Care What You Smell* with Judy Yuenger.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

SW is my only active fandom, but I do like *X-Files*, *Hercules*, *Xena*, *B5*, *Trek*, *Dragonlance*, etc.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Old movies, mainly 40’s and 50’s; friends, humor.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

I met Veronica Wilson and Samia Martz at the now defunct KC Con, got a couple of pen friends thru the Official SW Fan Club, one of whom sent me a zine to read. That started me writing my own SW fanfic. The rest just followed and I’ll be forever grateful.

Best Things That’s Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

This is tough since so much has happened. I’d say meeting all the terrific people it’s been my good fortune to get to meet and know. Fandom definitely made the world a more intimate place for me. Aside from that, I’d have to say winning the Star Award for “Lord Vader’s Ordeal.” Coming on the heels of my parents’ deaths, the award, MWC, and the loving support I received from so many was incredible beyond my ability to adequately praise. SW fandom and those in it have been the greatest blessing of my existence!

Caroline Seitz

3450 Reedy Drive, Annandale, VA 22003, (703) 560-0257 (office)

Occupation:

Herpetologist/Education/Reptile Rehabilitation

Education:

B.A. Speech Communication, grad studies in Herpetology at George Mason University

Personal:

Single

Background:

Always lived here in Northern Virginia, a true "Washingtonian"

Years in Fandom:

About 10

Fannish Activities:

Read zines

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

X-Files, *Xena* fan, love *Superman*!

Interests Outside Fandom:

Travelling along America's highways and searching for snakes, fishing, music.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Friend had a zine that listed *Star Wars* zines — I thought "wow! cool!" and I ordered some.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Finding out that fanzines existed and that there were other people who had the same interests in *Star Wars* that I did. (Especially discovering that others were as into Han Solo as I was!)

Liz Sharpe

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Occupation:

Legal secretary/administrative assistant/lawyer herder

Education:

BA (early modern European history), smattering of grad school (no advance degree) (maybe no common sense, either)

Personal:

Human female from the Confused Middle Atlantic region of the USA. Single (due to ferociously independent temperament), with dogs and detached home. The pickup truck is getting on in years, but at least it's paid for.

Background:

100% Earthling. I don't get offworld much. I'm sure the other Corellians didn't *mean* to leave me behind as an infant. It was all just a terrible mistake during the emergency evacuation...

Years in Fandom:

26? I was a "literary" (book) SF fan and Trek fan before getting into SW, but SW was the first area where I got out of the armchair and actually started actively *doing* things. I became interested in SW between the original releases of ANH and TESB, and I started making contributions between TESB and ROTJ.

Fannish Activities:

I *used* to write a fair bit, in SW and elsewhere, but I haven't had time for anything much except the occasional email review of other folks' work, the past 6 years ... it's a mundane thing, alas. At one point, I co-edited a zine and I've done time as a gofer, and a Con Com member. Though I'm no longer as active as I once was, I haven't gafiated in my heart. I keep up with friends from fandom (as with other friends) and go to a couple of conventions a year where I greatly enjoy the conviviality. I missed MediaWest for the first time in eons this year. (Aaargh! and drat!) But I'll be going to WorldCon (Bucconeer) in Baltimore this coming August. Maybe I'll run into some of you there!

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Classic Trek, *Miami Vice*, *Blake's 7*, and my most recent love is *Babylon 5*, which I adore.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Reading and writing. Keeping a roof over my head, er, working for a living. Gardening. Being outdoors. Exploring my home state, which is turning out to be *much* more interesting than I ever acknowledged in my youth. Cooking. Agonizing over the disposal of free time I no longer have much of ... Sloooooowly getting my house decorated. (I've been here half a decade now, and I already got one whole room painted!) During the past two years, I've gotten more and more involved in the wonderful world of recreational dog training. In addition to playing with my current two permanent dogs (Mister McFly and Leaky Pete), I've been doing basic socialization training and fostering second-hand dogs on their way to new (permanent) homes. This spring I got

involved with the Australian Cattle Dog rescue group ... joined the local and national ACD clubs ... went to some shows, offered my inexperienced help, and became an official flunky ... it looks as though my next dog will probably be a registered ACD, if all my efforts at buttering up a couple of local breeders don't go to waste. Leaky Pete and I do beginners' flyball, agility, and sheep-herding, as well as practicing at the usual obedience and goofy silly tricks. (Sometimes I wish Pete would keep the categories better separated in his beady little brain — he's *quite* the humorist, sometimes, aarggh.) Pete and McFly both appear photogenically in a Warner Press book by Brian Kilcommons called *Mutts: America's Dogs* together with a letter from me, should anyone be curious...

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

I was dragged. Drugged. Whatever. Once I was shown how interesting and fun fandom can be, I was hooked. It just goes to show that peer pressure can sometimes have a *good* effect on the weak-minded, too.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Establishing a network of intelligent, creative, diverse, hard-working friends. Thanks to the support, experience and confidence I gained in fandom, I was able to go back to Mundania and succeed at tasks I would have not dared attempt, otherwise. And I taught my fannish friends useful stuff, too. What some of those words really mean. And which odds not to draw against in card games. But seriously, fandom has been very good to me and I'll always be grateful.

Karen D. Sorrell

513 E. Church St., Cambridge City, Indiana, (765) 478-3923

Occupation:

Assistant Manager

Education:

Some college (still attending)

Background:

A SW fan from the first frame of ANH. Only recently began collecting (for financial reasons) but definitely hooked!

Years in Fandom:

20 years

Fannish Activities:

Star Wars Fan Club member, Star Wars Galaxy Collector subscriber, SW collector, comic book reader, novels, etc.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Mark Hamill Fan Club

Interests Outside Fandom:

Movies, scifi collectibles, sewing crafts, cats!

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

I bought my first *Star Wars Insider* magazine and of course the movies.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

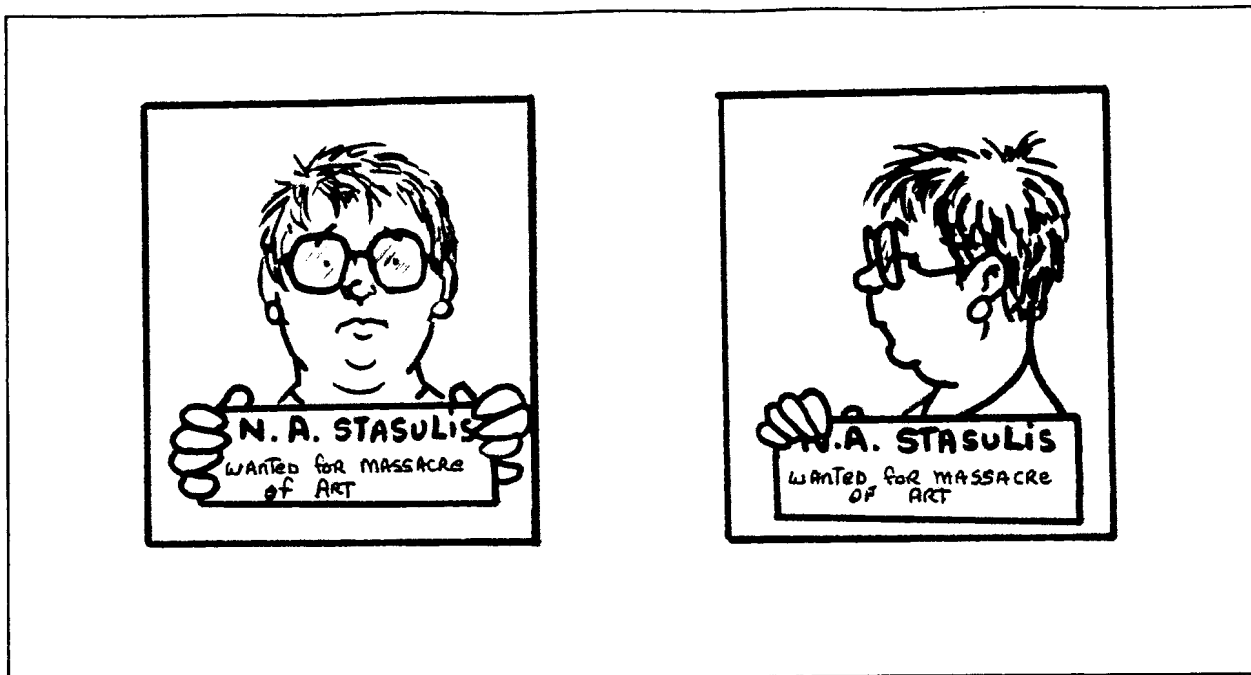
Meeting great pen pals and making new friends!

Nancy A. Stasulis

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NancyLVFD@juno.com

Occupation:

When not obsessing about the decor of my new house, or writing to fellow Fen, I sporadically manage the finances, budget, etc., of the Laytonsville Fire Department.



Education:

B.S., Anthropology (physical Anth: human evolution) m.g.l. U. Mass, Amherst, Mass. M.S. same subject, different college. Minors in comparative anatomy, paleobotany, paleontology, geology, art history.

Personal:

2-1/2 cats, 1 long suffering roommate; no kids; marginal family by blood, extensive family by fanfriends. Married — only to fandom. Aging rapidly.

Background:

Born in New England; educated in Mass., then migrated to D.C. area to spend 2 years at Smithsonian Anthropology Dept., which was interesting but disillusioning. Transferred from there to IRS, where spent last 3 years as senior (supervisory/training) agent. Much action; too much. Quit and went into quieter field as financial/budget analyst and money manager. Been with fire department 7+ years as financial/budget manager, recently elected Secretary (big "S") of Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Association.

Years in Fandom:

Yes

Fannish Activities:

Drawing illos, corresponding with other Fen, nagging Carol Hines-Stroede to write more Vader/Patronis stories, hanging with Dead Bothans whenever possible.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Nice vampires (*Dark Shadows*, *Forever Knight*, etc.), DS9 (the Ferengi mafia, Odo, Chief O'Brien), ST:TNG — j'adore Jean-Luc, moi. Also fond of Worf, Data; *Highlander* (read: interested in scoping out Adrian Paul as often as possible).

Interests Outside Fandom:

Reading, fooling around with art-type stuff (lately into sculpture), gardening, criminal law and forensics — especially forensic anthropology, abnormal psych, toxicology/selected aspects of chem/biochem, selected and eclectic history, linguistics, botany, comparative religions, various crafts, costuming, hand-sewing and beading, lacemaking, cake decorating, anything I can make with my hands, anything else that catches my attention.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Born into it. Dad was into SF, went to cons, and took the baby (me) along when he went and it was his turn to mind the kid. Raised on Asimov, Clarke, Clement; started media fandom with original *Dark Shadows*.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Getting to know all of you.

A (Anette) G (Gisela) (Maria) Steyn

Paul-Ruecker-St. 69, D-47059 Duisburg, Germany,



Fannish Activities:

Buying *Star Wars* items.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

None, really.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Listening to music, going to movies, shopping, watching TV.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

I found Lisa Cowan's address in a *Star Wars Insider* magazine and I've been ordering items from her.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

I've gotten a lot of addresses of really great zines. I've never read any zines before and they are so good!

Skylar Alexis Walker

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Occupation:

Gardener

Education:

High school, some community college, a useless degree in offset printing, otherwise an autodidact.

Personal:

Spouse: Robert Sullivan. Black labrador: Bertie Woofter. 20 pound tuxedo cat: Orson

Background:

From Seattle, Washington; moved to the Long Beach Peninsula (where the Columbia River meets the Pacific Ocean) 5 years ago.

Years in Fandom:

Since 1980.

Fannish Activities:

At this time, due to financial constraints (I'm doing what I love, but big money has not followed!), I just read SE and watch ST and *Highlander* series on TV. (We don't get *Xena*!)

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Previously *Doctor Who*, *Avengers*, B7. I enjoy ST:TNG, ST:V and (my favorite ST) DS9. I have recently become obsessed with *Highlander* and would appreciate hearing from other *Highlander* fans. Since January '98, have watched *Babylon 5* in syndication and am impressed; after years of dissing it, it turns out to be excellent!

Interests Outside Fandom:

Gardening is my life. Also voracious reading (favorites: Iris Murdoch, Philip K. Dick, May Sarton, Ruth Rendell/Barbara Vine, Georgette Heyer). Also beachcombing and all aspects of my beloved Long Beach Peninsula.

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Became deeply smitten with TESB and had to discover fanzines, etc. or go mad! I saw an ad in the back of *Starlog* magazine and began to correspond with Nikki Caldwell and Gerald Crotty as pen pals.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Two awfully fun trips to MediaWest*Con (1982 and 1983, I believe), a fabulous *Dr. Who* con in Chicago with four doctors as guests, parties at Susan and Dragon's house. All these occasions were important to me because I learned I wasn't the only one with these strange obsessions.

Matthew Whitney

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orac214@aol.com

Occupation:

Teacher (high school math)

Education:

Bachelor degrees in Accounting and Mathematics; I have also been accepted in the Master of Science, Professional Master's Program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Personal:

Single, born 1961. Pets — two cats, Lucky and Thomas.

Background:

Lifelong resident of Springfield, MA (actually am still living with my parents — did I just hear Bill Shatner say, "Get a life"?).

Years in Fandom:

Active since 1980

Fannish Activities:

Sometime story writer; conventions

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Blake's 7, *Trek*, *Robin of Sherwood*, *Beauty and the Beast*, Tolkien, McCaffrey's *Dragonriders*, Katherine Kurtz' Deryni series.

Interests Outside Fandom:

General films, reading, history (medieval and American), science fact, Shakespeare, Renaissance Faires, golf, Red Sox baseball, and continuing my education

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Discovered *Starlog* magazine at the time of the release of TESB. This led to cons, zines, etc.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

There's no one "big moment" but I think the best thing to happen to me has been the long-time feeling of connection. Being able to share my interests with the fannish community, especially having stories printed and hearing how someone enjoyed them, or that someone thought a comment I made in a LoC was worthwhile — these little moments have added together to pick me up and strengthen my self-esteem. It has become part of my identity — the way I define myself more than as just a hobby.



Matthew Whitney

at King Richard's Faire

(We presume he doesn't usually dress like this!)

Judith G. Yuenger

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Occupation:

Horseback Riding Instructor

Education:

High school

Personal:

Married, three children, seven grandchildren

Background:

Was a legal secretary; had children and became a housewife. Got interested in *Star Trek* fandom and then *Star Wars*.

Years in Fandom:

14

Fannish Activities:

Publish *Imperium* and *I Don't Care What You Smell*; run the STAR aWARDs.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Run a photo club where we have horse shows with photos; also enjoy an on-line race club.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Horses and photography

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Saw the movies and later discovered fanzines.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Meeting wonderful people — many of whom are now friends.

Stella Zear

4132 South Cedar Circle Drive, Dallas, Texas
75237-2026

Occupation:

Glorified clerk (all title and no pay!)

Education:

High school and BS in Library Science

Personal:

Not married; regular assortment of relatives except my father (deceased); menagerie of other-than-human relatives including Arabian horses, dogs, lots of cats, a raccoon, a bobcat, and always an assortment of visitors.

Background:

Homo sapien, born and raised in Dallas, Texas

Years in Fandom:

Since the "time of the fanatascism" after the cancellation of the original *Star Trek*.

Fannish Activities:

Enjoy reading and collecting zines, play AD&D, attend cons, slavishly read all the novelizations.

Fannish Activities Besides SW:

Beauty and the Beast, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Star Trek*, *The X-Men*, Barbara Hambly's books.

Interests Outside Fandom:

Mainly horses (raise, show and parade them), and all other animals (work with an animal rescue and rehabilitation group).

How Did You Get Into Fandom?

Through the "backdoor" by way of pen pals and word-of-mouth and fan-run cons.

Best Things That's Ever Happened To You in Fandom:

Simply put, the whole world of fandom makes for great friendships and the wonderful chance to leave behind, however temporarily, the mundane world!



Stella Zear and friend



FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW

DROID AUTOPROGRAMMING

Z. P. Florian
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Whitney: Yeah, Luke had no choice. I think, he had to go to the academy, Imperial or not. Maybe the Empire wouldn't give pilot licenses to people who didn't graduate there, or with a license you got on a backwater place, you couldn't even hope to get a decent job. I loved the speculations on whether when the *Falcon* was allowed to escape and the TIE's were sent on a suicide mission. I don't think so. My opinion was that they sent a couple of measly fighters after the *Falcon*, but they could have used some of the *big* guns that they surely had, or some other EMAW's (short for even more awesome weapons).

Crotty: I don't see the point of droids being tortured. I think it was just a cute idea of Lucas to do that, but if we are looking for a more complex explanation, how about this: very intelligent droids are capable of "learning" to conform to the habits of the people employing them. Let's say, observing torture more than a hundred times adds a self-installing command to the droid's program something like "master not pleased, torture is the right consequence," and so the droids themselves would adapt to their masters this way. That'd explain why Artoo is a little rebel himself. Re 3PO being kept in the dark about their mission in Jabba's palace, if he'd known that he was about to be given away as a present to a drooling slug, he'd probably short circuit on the spot, plus when Leia appears disguised as the bounty hunter he'd perhaps say: "How nice to see you, princess!" Artoo is the one whose programming allows cheating, lying,

lockpicking, data theft and who knows what else...

Grant: Re: "Thank the maker," as above, probably droids needed something to replace the commonly used human expression, "thank God". Since they were created by men, they wouldn't use "Thank God" as it'd seem arrogant from a cyborg, and some humans would take it as a grave offense, so in the appropriate situation, droids are programed to say Maker instead of God.

Steyn: Hi, but this is not for you. It's for the guy called Ed Italics. Chewie *was* tortured with the sound on Bespin. It's either in the script or the novelization that he was tortured with a sound that pained his sensitive ears. Besides, when on Dagobah, the suffering of Luke's friends was always in the plural, so you can assume that both Chewie and Leia was also made to suffer. What had happened to Leia, we can only guess, as she entered the dining room in a burgundy outfit and was brought to the cell in the white coverall... Now, as Han was not stripped for the torture scene (don't I wish he had been!!!) why don't we assume that the kind of suffering Leia was subjected to was psychological? Perhaps she was stripped of her clothes and displayed in front of a dozen soldiers.

Keeney: You wrote that the most controversial SW fan fiction tends to be sexual in nature... It's hard to write a Luke or a Vader who's controversial in some other way, partially because the characters are set in their beliefs so one cannot write a Luke who joins the Emperor because he's convinced that Palpie is right. Now, write me a Luke who sits down to talk to Palpie, understand his greatness, and decides to serve him because — hey, Palpie rocks! Write this and there will be controversy all over! But no one will write this, because it is impossible. It wouldn't be the Saga ... unless ... unless someone comes up with a viable alternate that explains why

Palpie is the good guy and everyone else is mistaken about him. Sex is a controversial topic in itself. One can stir up a lively conversation just by asking if Han could seduce the wife of Salacious Crumb, or Crumb himself. Try this on someone and see the controversy fly!

Churko: Yeah, I hate the Ramboized Luke comics or dolls. He has nice muscles as it is, needs no two-mile shoulders. Those usually come with a shrunken head ... yuck. ((Ed: If anyone has noticed, the action figures have gone back to a more natural contour. The message obviously got through that consumers were displeased with the hulked up figures.))

Endnote: Lucas said that after watching the first three movies, we'll look at the movies we had seen first, in an entirely different light. Wanna speculate? What does he mean by this?

Endnote number two: This is the last year, gentlebeings, that we can fool around with a variety of Anakins, so write as many as you can, because, Maker willing (oops, now you'll all know that I'm a droid) by 1999's MWC there will be a little Anakin carved into the stone of canon and we'll have to give up making our own Anakins, princes, beggars, soldiers. Maybe we should hold a funeral for our Anakins at MWC next year....

CANON OR NOT?

Lisa Cowan
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Orange, CA 92863-5276

SE 49 was one terrific issue. I really enjoyed Fiorenzo Delle Rupi's report on *Star Wars* filming in Italy. I had to chuckle at his taking a great photo of Lucas with the camera lens cap on. I'll bet all of us have done that (leave on the lens cap) at least once. Thank goodness Fiorenzo got the chance to take lots of other pictures of George and company. I have been to several press conferences where George Lucas was featured on the panel — he does a credible job at fielding hokey questions. However, some of those questions fielded by the Italian press were incredible! Yeesh! Hey, Fiorenzo, I'd love a copy of that photo of George looking appalled at the ugly statue!

I know what you mean about being tempted to grab the *Star Wars* Episode I notebook! Such control you had. Once when I was in the photo-lab at Skywalker Ranch, I too was sorely tempted. Here I was surrounded by hundreds of the most incredible slides, and stacks of 8x10 photos... Oh, how I wished to grab up hands full of treasure! But I too kept my cool (it was *not* easy!).

A pen-pal from Romania sent me some great magazine photos of the *Star Wars* desert set in Tunisia. They were

taken from a hot-air balloon. Terrific shots that I have not seen in the *Star Wars Insider* or other zines. There was also a nice aerial map of the entire set drawn by an artist. For once SW fans in Europe are having all the fun and getting the big scoops.

I got lots of laughs from the "seat of your pants" article. Another zany game is to take bits of dialog (from any movie or TV show, or conversation) and add 2 simple words at the end the line: "in bed." The results can be hilarious, especially at a late night con party.

I also enjoyed A. G. Steyn's convention report. Jeremy Bullock is quite a guy. Glad you had such a great time at your first SF con, A.G.

Cheryl Pryor's Dilemma: I'd say yes, publish the art. The lost artist would probably enjoy seeing the art published (if they ever saw it), and the art was a gift to begin with.

I have a request from the *Southern Enclave* Group Mind: I have become a fan of the TV show *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*. I'd like to know if there are any Buffy fanzines in the works or in existence? I've got a couple story ideas. I'm also collecting any magazine articles on any and all cast members of the show. I'll trade for *Star Wars* clippings.

On March 4th I got to see most of the main cast of the show in person at an event of the Museum of Television and Radio. The event was at the Director's Guild in Hollywood — 2 hours of *Buffy* talk with the cast, crew, and creator! Anthony (Tony) Head (Giles) laughed so much he nearly fell off his chair. The cast is very much like their TV characters, especially Willow, Xander and Cordelia. I don't have any photos of the event, because cameras and recorders were not allowed. But a few days later, my friends and I visited some of the Hollywood memorabilia shops and I bought 15 photos of the cast. Living in Southern California does have its advantages.

I always enjoy reading each issue of SE. I regret that I don't always have the time to send in a LOC. The *Star Wars* discussions are always fascinating. It will be fun to read all of your reactions to the new SW films. I was a bit amazed at the mention that the new Prequels might not be considered "canon" by some fans. George Lucas wrote and produced them! How can they *not* be canon? Or are we talking about the prequel novelizations? If they are approved by Lucas, and taken from his scripts, then I'd consider the books to be canon as well, but I can see a debate forming on those lines.

Keep Skywalking everyone!



BIGGEST GANGSTERS

Matthew Whitney
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Springfield, MA 01118

April 4, 1998

Happy 50th! Thank you, Cheree! I value each issue of SE more than a mountain of licensed SW products. Pat yourself on the back — you've made a difference. Thank you to all that have contributed articles and LoCs over the years. I've enjoyed your points of views and they, too, have made a difference.

Before going into fannish topics, a quick real-life update: Last ish I mentioned my HS had moved to a temporary site while our dilapidated building got a \$40 million renovation. Well, in early January our superintendent delivered a blow like the blast that hit Alderaan. Due to a long spell of sagging standards and declining enrollment, coupled with increased dropout rates and skyrocketing absenteeism, he decided to disband my school as an institution. The "new" building would be re-christened as a "HS of Advanced Studies," our Business Ed component would be shipped off to the city's vocational HS, and none of our current staff would be guaranteed a job in the new building. Everyone, administrators included, would have to apply for positions. (Obviously they are hoping to move out the "dead wood.") The entire staff went into hyper-panic, but things have moderated since that news shook the building to its foundations. Most of the staff has already been assigned to the new building. The name change was shot down but there is a huge marketing campaign to sell the school to incoming freshman, boasting that the school will have a revamped, more-challenging curriculum. At this writing a new principal has not been selected (most point the finger of blame at the person who has held that post for the last several years). I know I'll be at the new building (WHEW!!!), and will soon have my master's degree under my belt. The next few years should be interesting.

Gerald Crotty: RE accepting the novelizations as canon except when they directly contradict the films. I can live with that. Like you, I always imagined the gang at Anchorhead as being canon — or maybe "canon, once removed."

RE: the line "Poor Lando and Chewbacca never returned from this awful place." It never set right with me. I took it as a shorthand to remind the casual fans in 1983 ("casual" meaning they'd seen TESB only 1 x, three years previously) of who was on whose side. It made for an awkward line for us die-hards but was tossed aside by the casual filmgoers who were there solely for the spectacular FX.

I agree about 75% with your puzzlement at the prequel's (apparent) focus on Tatooine (AKA the ultimate galactic nowhere-ville). It's a totally unimportant place we are told, but every critical member of the galaxy has visited. If this turns out so, it'd be a bit of a flaw. But, I'd not rate Jabba as the biggest gangster in the galaxy. He's certainly the most important one who we see in contact with our small cast of characters. Vader deals with him distantly, but I doubt DV thinks anything of this. Just another source of "talent" in hunting for the rebels, particularly Han, knowing that Jabba would already have a stake in finding him. Actually, I'd rate the Emperor as the biggest gangster in this galaxy. Like most dictators, they are murdering gangsters at the core — unfortunately, far more successful than most of their contemporaries.

Debbie Kittle: Thanks for the welcome to the on-line community. (To Cheree, you accidentally left my email address off the list in SE49. It's not big deal, in fact, I may be switching providers — teachers in Massachusetts are being offered unlimited access via Javanet for \$25 per year. I am considering it over AOL, though I've been very happy with that provider. I'll forward that new address if/when I do opt for this deal.) To answer your question, Debbie, I do enjoy the benefits of being on-line. I'm not addicted to surfing, but I have found some nice things (particularly for school). Even more, I actively dislike conversing on the phone (I find it hard to focus), so email is a nice compromise. At this stage I am far from a computer-geek, but at least I am familiar and moderately competent with the technology. This is in sad contrast to most of my colleagues who are woefully lacking in any computer skills. So, my superintendent's motivation in trying to break us up was not without cause.

RE: *Air Force One* — I enjoyed it. A fun, edge-of-your-seat adventure. Cliched, but far better than many other mainstream shoot 'em ups.

Pat Grant: Count me as another fan of *Splinter*. Most of my local friends also loved it. It does have its fans.

RE: A tree having a dark side. Some of the discussion got me thinking ... comparing the tree to a site where once a graveyard existed — or perhaps a massacre or betrayal occurred. The living things at the site could have been polluted by the dark side power and this haven for darkness has endured.

From there I started imagining some natural patterns of Force energy ... like the flow from a magnet (remember back in Physical Science, the "patterns" created with iron filings). This led my addled brain into the structure of matter, 10-dimensional hyperspace, and the idea that Lucas' universe could have currents, eddies of Force power. From there I imagined a fractal nature of these currents, particularly in terms of Mandelbrot sets. (If anyone has seen an Arthur C. Clarke hosted, PBS show called *Colours of Infinity*, you'll know what I mean.) I'll stop here before going too