

mathematical. (Did I just sense a collective sigh of relief through the Force?)

RE: Planets with only one sort of environment. Venus and Mars have pretty uniform climates, but neither would support the sort of beings we see in the SW films. My guess is that any "uniform climate" planet would be of the inhospitable sort. Maybe our problem with such locales for settings is the shorthand language used (from Lucas on down) to describe them. During a press conference it is probably far easier to describe Dagobah as a jungle planet than it would be to describe it as a realistic world with many climate zones, in which our characters will just so happen to be restricted to a zone which is rain forest/swampy. In George's mind, Dagobah may have vast oceans and a polar region — we've just never been there. ((*Ed: For instance, Endor, while shown in ROTJ as a forest planet, was depicted in the two Ewok TV movies as having vast plains and mountains.*)) Though, George's brand of SF has its roots in the pulp serials like Flash Gordon, where ice planets or jungle planets were staples. That may still be influencing him.

A. G. Steyn: Boba is certainly a cool character, and Jeremy is just great (I love his Edward of Wickham in RoS), but yes, I stand by my comment that I would have gone ballistic if the SpEd of ROTJ showed him crawling out of the Sarlacc. We'll just have to settle this in that foggy meadow at dawn. Choice of weapons? How about PEZ dispensers at thirty paces?

Tim Blaes: The lightsaber/glow-in-the-dark condom skit you are remembering is from a John Ritter movie. I've seen the scene but not the entire film (and can't recall the title). It is hilarious.

Speaking of hilarious, my brother got me an off-the-radio dub of a "filk." It's to "Copacabana," but is about SW, with the link "Star Wars Cantina." My nieces love it, and it gets me into stitches. Whoever made it certainly knew the Saga. ((*Ed: Matthew sent me a copy and it's WONDERFUL. Write or email me if you'd like a copy and I'll give you details. Meanwhile, I'm printing the words elsewhere in this issue. Enjoy!*))

Well, gang, thanks again for all the hours of joy SE has brought this humble LoCer. May you all Walk the Skies!



PANTING FOR PANTS

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Another day, another LoC ...

"Many Bothans died to bring us these PANTS!"

OK, you "Dead Bothans" ... next time you pull a stunt like that, give a warning first. I made the bad mistake of reading this "By the seat of your pants" bit, after which the surgeon needed to close my split sides with about 500 stitches! I shall send you the hospital bill. Uh, not that I couldn't play that tune, too... How about:

"You can waste time with your pants after your chores are done!"

"He'd better have those pants repaired by midday, or there'll be hell to pay!"

"Pants do not concern me, Admiral!"

"These pants are crude, but they should be adequate to freeze Skywalker for his journey to the Emperor!"

"Pants can have a strong influence on the weak minded!"

"Dead pants are not an easy thing to live with!"

"Don't try to frighten us with your sorcerer's pants, Lord Vader!"

"We'll have those pants down in moments!"

"I've come for the bounty on these pants!"

"Capt. Needa — the pants no longer appear on our scopes!"

"Those pants are too strong for blasters!"

"The Emperor knew, if Anakin were to have any pants, they would be a threat to him!"

"We shall double our pants!"

"That was never an agreement of ours, nor was giving my pants to this bountyhunter!"

"Rise, my pants!"

"It's possible these pants are not entirely stable!"

"Chewie, take the professor in the back and plug him into the pants!"

"I don't know where your pants learned to communicate, but they have a most peculiar dialect!"

"I think it's better if I stay here and guard the pants!"

"They've encased him in pants!"

"Pants or no pants — there is no try!"

"I merely commented that it was freezing in the princess's pants!"

"I can't see a thing in these pants!"

"With the pants down I can't even see!"

"The Emperor is coming here?" "That is correct, and he is most displeased with your lack of pants!"

Fiorenzo: Good to see, uh, read you again, old pirate. Where have you been so long? Yeah, I get it: hanging out with the high and the mighty. But that's no excuse for denying us the pleasure of reading your LoCs. Seems you had quite a good time in the shadow of the Empire (i.e. Lucas and company). Way to go...

Gerald: I told you before, but I'll do it again: CONGRATS! You've made it. The first step into a larger world has been taken.

I tend to believe that the hapless droid being tortured in Jabba's dungeons was being disciplined (remember 9D9 indicating to the frightened 3PO, that Jabba got angry with the last interpreter and ordered him to be disintegrated).

Regarding BF: There can never be enough "spare dicks" — at weddings or otherwise. (OK, now I'll go and eat a bar of soap. Satisfied, dear Ed.?)

Zippy: Let's just hope your "Space Opera" will not follow in the footsteps of "Parzival" or other fine Wagner compositions: 5 hours and they keep carrying the dying Anakin off and on and off and on stage, while the whole congregation of singers keeps screaming, screeching, bellowing and droning "He's dying! He's dying!" at the tops of their lungs. Hey, it's bad enough ole Kevin Costner can't find an end to his "Energizer Bunny" movies (they keep going, and going, and going...)

Tim: So, you too noticed that Dengar looks like Johnny Cash (after he got run over by the Orange Blossom Special)?! Hm, that makes two of us. And it's not just the action figure. Look at the rare stills of Dengar. A striking resemblance. Guess we'll know for sure the minute he trades his blaster for a guitar and starts plunking away.

Sorry, no idea where to find a draft of Carrie's *Young Indy* script. There's a store in North Hollywood that deals in movie and tv scripts, stills etc. that might have one — but I'll have to dig around for the address (if I can still find it at all).

Ah, yes. That (in)famous light "saber" duel. I've seen that movie. It has John Ritter in the lead, but I just cannot remember the title of this flicker... No, it's not my age, it's the mileage.

Say WHAT??? Steve Martin as Han's old man? To quote Indy: Now you're getting nasty! May the Force have mercy on us when GL decides on who his parents will be. I have a baaaaad feeling (and so on).

Hm, talking casting problems here. Watching *Robin of Sherwood*, I always thought that Robbie Bulloch (the kid who played Matthew, son of Edward of Wickham) would have been perfect to play young Boba. He looked so much like his old man... But now that Robbie's turning 25 it might be too late. (No idea what he looks like these days).

Mrs. Vader (you know who you are): Just between us "Groupies to the Empire": Yes, I think under the given circumstances it is ok to use that piece of artwork in your zine, even if the artist doesn't know. And if the artist is (tho'

I shouldn't know why) not satisfied with this, then use your divine influence and send the Sithlord to this person for some intimate talks. (If added support is needed, I could always send my "husband" along for good measure). Yours truly — Mrs. Fett!

And now go and clean that DV showcase at the Smithsonian of all the little greasy spots your nosetip left.

Pat: No, dearie — a fate worse than death is *not* an allergy to choc, but an allergy to Corellian pirates and Mandalorean bounty hunters. If I ever develop *that* sort of allergy ... well, there's a nice bridge (across the Rhine River) just 10 minutes on foot from where I live. Splash!

On a general note: From what Dave P. told me in one of his letters earlier this year, John Barrett (Galactic Entertainment) went bust. The checks he owed Dave and Jeremy for the last con in 1997 bounced! Cons at Honolulu and Raleigh, NC have been cancelled.

Upon my request, John Barrett wrote me that he is trying to get a big con going with the help of some other con organizer. No news yet whether this attempt was successful.

In late January, JB and DP gave me their schedule, with updates to follow. The boys went to Texas (Houston, Austin, San Antonio) and to Australia earlier this year. The next fixed dates, according to JB's latest letter are:

Date	Place	SW Guest Stars
May		
01 - 03	Malmö, Sweden	Prowse
15 - 17	Detroit, MI Motor City Con	Bulloch, Blakiston, Brown, Hollis
21 - 24	L.A., CA Bulloch store signings	
June		
06	Wilkes-Barre, PA 1 day con	Bulloch
20 - 21	Oklahoma [unconfirmed]	Bulloch, Baker, Sheard
27 - 28	Wichita, KS	Bulloch, Prowse, Baker, Mayhew
July		
02 - 05	Columbus, OH Origins Show	Bulloch, Prowse
10 - 12	Chicago, IL Comic Con	Bulloch, Prowse, Baker, Mayhew
Aug.	not yet known	
Sep.	not yet known	
Oct.		
16 - 17	Eindhoven, Netherlands	Bulloch, Prowse,
Nov.	not yet known	
Dec.		
date ???	near Stuttgart, Germany	Bulloch, others yet unknown

Should he be invited again, then JB will appear at FantastiCon, L.A. sometimes in August ... but no

confirmation yet.

No idea who's in charge of the upcoming events. Hope there will be a con happening between second week of August and early September somewhere in the US, preferably on the West coast. I shall go to Eindhoven, tho'. It's not far from where I live. Stuttgart is several tiresome hours on the Autobahn south of here. Still, there's hardly a thing I wouldn't do for a chance to hug my sweetie.

So, if anyone out there knows anything about upcoming cons, please let me know. I'll do likewise.

JB mentioned that he and the boys would spend the Easter weekend at the Edwardian Radisson at Heathrow, at a con called "Regeneration". I quote the bounty hunter: "My instinct tells me it is going to be awful!"

OK, now who of you Brits who attended the con, can confirm the BAAAD FEELINGS of everybody's fave skiptracer???

Oh, well — that's it I guess, for the moment. Take care, fellow maniacs, and have fun at MediaWest and other fine events. I'll be sitting at home, thinking of you and shedding a silent tear.

Fly casual...

SW 1000 RULES!

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May 29, 1998

I greatly enjoyed reading Fiorenzo Delle Rupi's account of events in Caserta. It was enlightening and delightfully written.

The "...pants" quotes were hilarious. Though I'd read these online, it was fun to see them in print and even more fun to share them with those who hadn't seen them before.

A.G. Steyn's article "The Con from Hell Featuring Looney Tunes" was wonderfully candid, with vivid descriptions. I enjoyed the photos as well.

The cartoon by Richard Thompson, "Overheard at the SW Exhibit" was very cute.

Z. P. Florian: I prefer your scenario for Anakin's turning over just that of an unfaithful wife driving him to the Dark Side. That seems entirely too far-fetched for my tastes and too mundane.

No, I don't expect everyone to agree with *my* version of the SW universe. I just fear anything that could cause a major rift in the fandom, I guess. I've seen the Trek fans splinter into so many groups that it concerns me. But change is inevitable in life and fandom isn't excluded — unfortunately.

Gerald Crotty: Thank you for expressing my own

conflicted emotions over the "rebirth" of SW interest. I, too, felt a tad disappointed at our fandom suddenly belonging to one and all again. Granted, SW has always been a part of our culture since its premiere, but this new phenomenon was something else. It reminded me a bit of, say, a friendship. One person is very popular, then for one reason or another falls into momentary disgrace. A handful of loyalists remain, staunchly defending their friend. Something else occurs, and once more the person is elevated to high standing and surrounded by the multitudes. It doesn't lessen the value of the loyalist friends by any means, but they aren't united by their solitude or solidarity in the face of adversity any longer. Does this make any sense? Perhaps, to be completely honest, I just don't like sharing. Our fandom has seemed an intimate little pond for some years now and suddenly we're in an ocean once more. (smile)

Cheryl Pryor and Lin Ward: How can I thank you gals for the incredible wench party at MWC? I haven't laughed that hard or had so much fun in a long time. I'm definitely going "Renaissance" and you'll get the photos to prove it as soon as I can get them developed. Thanks a million.

To All: Thanks for the comments on whether Vader knew Leia was Luke's twin sister. After much thought, I lean toward his *not* knowing until his death scene. I won't bore you with why I feel that way, but it might make an interesting vignette if anyone cares to write the Sith Lord's internal musings during those scenes.

Have a great summer/autumn and take good care of yourselves. 1999 SW Rules!!!

SMITHSONIAN SW EXHIBIT

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May 31, 1998

Another MW has come and gone. Had a wonderful time as always and it was great seeing everyone again. Congrats to the much deserved Star aWards winners.

As for the lousy stinking weather: I got one small dusting of snow all winter!!! I couldn't believe it!!! I am in the process of contacting Fett to put a contract out on El Nino!

I've been to the Exhibit now 4 times. Hoping to make it once a month proved too much so far. I'm running out of weekends!!! I hope to make up for it this summer.

Thanks Fiorenzo for the article on Caserta. I can hardly believe it's less than a year away!

Tina Bentrup: Good to see you and Dan at MW!!! ((Ed: It was really great to have Obi-Wan and the Blue Jawa with us again!))

Matthew: Thanks for sending that tape of the “SW Cantina” to Cheree. What a riot! A great way to open the Star aWards.

Agree with you about the potential fractures in fandom at this time next year. This is GL’s vision and though we have all taken it and made our own worlds out of it, I hope we’ve learned tolerance for each other’s views and opinions. I don’t want a repeat of history.

I am so anxious to see the first chapter. I know GL will give us hours of delight. And yes, Cheryl, I will be the first in line to see it!!! :)

Gerald: I can honestly say I am ecstatic that SW is once again in the limelight. My young nephews are in love with the Saga and their aunt Debbie loves shopping for SW toys for them and putting them all together :) It’s a wonderful time to be a fan!

Belea: Hi. Good to see you again! Re: fanfic on the Net. I haven’t personally gone there to read anything but I know several folks who do and it seems many writers are young and their writing styles show it. Besides, with zines still to read, I haven’t had time to cruise the sites. But what I hear is enough to make me not want to rush to the websites.

Catherine: Great to hear you got to go to E-Con. Glad you had a nice time. I hope we are able to do Worldcon!

Hope everyone has a nice summer. I’m going into hibernation now. Fly Casually in the Force.

A WHOLE NEW FANDOM

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MediaWest has come and gone again almost within the blink of an eye — or maybe more like a happy dream. And no matter how repetitive it may start to sound, it has been wonderful meeting so many of you, and the STAR aWArDS in particular were a total thrill. Heartfelt thanks to everyone for turning the con into another out-of-this-world experience for me! I can’t wait for next MediaWest to arrive! Well, but I’ll have to cut the general babble short this time since I have a lot of LoCs to catch up with after skipping one issue. (Not my fault — mundane work has such a nasty habit of imposing at the worst of times!)

Z. P. Florian: Judge you by your skin color, did Yoda? I can’t believe it...

Yeah, I always thought so too: Palpatine got some quasi-sexual satisfaction from electrocuting Luke. Not a notion I want to dwell on at any great length though, and rather rampantly homophobic.

I love your opera! And how about choreographing that

scene for the next dolls’ show at MWC?

Z. P./Amanda: As long as we can all have our alternates (and George can have his :), there’ll certainly be no rift in the fandom over the prequels. But maybe there’ll be an entirely new SW prequel fandom? Anakin fans with little interest in Vader (especially if A. should turn out to be blond)? Naturally, the prequels will influence our perception of the original trilogy, but if some of us don’t like them in part or in their entirety, it’s not going to stop anyone from sharing their ideas, writing their version of events, I hope. I guess I don’t quite see what the function of a ‘canon’ is, ultimately. If fan fiction deviates from the official storyline, it’s called ‘alternate universe’, but that doesn’t affect the quality of the writing or the enjoyment that can be derived from it. While we all love the first three movies, we also have our individual perception and preferences, and the same is going to be true of the new trilogy.

Well, whatever happens, the whole prequel thing is going to create some kind of cinematic time warp. A younger generation of fans attracted to the old-generation heroes, an Old Guard of characters portrayed by younger actors, the earliest parts of the story presented with 21st century FX etc. — sons giving birth to their fathers, so to speak. At least that part of it is mind-boggling already.

Nancy Stasulis: Best wishes — I hope you’ve fully recovered from surgery by now.

It is peculiar that Kenobi addresses Vader as “Darth” on the Death Star. Maybe in deliberate provocation? It implies familiarity and seems to slap it in the face at the same time. And it raises the question when and why Anakin assumed the new name for himself (if that’s what he did)... Any theories on this?

Matthew Whitney: Very good point about the pro novels and the way they are produced — I agree wholeheartedly. As for Alan Dean Foster ghost-writing the ANH novelization: I read about that in *Skywalking*.

Thanks for that remark about the Special Editions. Personally, I feel that it’s good to have them, but they’re not the movies that had such a huge impact on me and can never take their place. Apart from sentimental reasons, elements like Greedo’s little mishap snap me out of the fantasy, and it kind of ruins the fun when you sit in front of your TV muttering things like “this didn’t really happen”. (And I STILL WANT THE SANDSTORM SCENE, by the way. Can’t hurt repeating that from time to time.) Maybe for some of us, the Spec. Eds. have already assumed the place of the originals, but that doesn’t exactly create opposing factions. We all have our preferences, and why not handle the prequels in much the same way? We can focus on parts we like, exchange arguments, maybe make each other look at the new movies from all kinds of angles.

Re ‘ethics of open confrontation’: Well, that’s a nice explanation for Luke’s strategy of just walking into Jabba’s palace, Rancor pit and all... I’d like to think that, but when

you look at the overall set-up, the picture becomes more ambiguous. Leia, Lando (and Chewie?) are all operating undercover, and even if you assume that Luke disapproved of their tactics, we're left with the fact that he used R2 as a miniature Trojan horse himself. Okay, I confess that I still don't see what their ultimate plan was, or why Leia snuck in the way she did and hoped to get away with it. It makes sense to thaw Han before trying to get him out of there, but letting him crash down flat on his face—? Apparently, Leia knows about the effects of hibernation sickness, so is there no kind of medication to help Han recover a little faster? And what good is Chewie to anyone when he's locked up inside Jabba's dungeon? One more prisoner to rescue, even assuming that Han and Leia could have made a fast and quiet retreat. Obviously, Luke didn't quite count on that either (not that I mind seeing him stride in last to save the day — more or less), or he wouldn't have sent R2 away with his lightsaber. For all I can see, the rescue would have worked in much the same way if only Lando, Luke, and R2 had been involved. What do you think?

Cheryl Pryor: Wish I could have left some smudge marks somewhere in the Smithsonian exhibit, too!!! Not fair.

As for your dilemma: if that homeless piece of artwork was intended for publication in a zine, I think you should use it for yours (unless you have any reason to assume that the artist would strongly object to the context in which it's published — not that I could think why). I wonder how Z.P., A.G., Wanda, Nancy or Gerald or any of the other artists feel about this — for myself, I can only say that if I gave a drawing to an editor and she didn't want to use it, I'd be flattered if someone else did.

A. G. Steyn: Yeah, let's petition Bantam books for a novel written by Carrie Fisher and Tony Daniels, I'd love it! Sure would add a different flavor to the written SW universe.

No, Luke wouldn't have known about Lando's involvement prior to his arrival on Bespin, but he must have found out afterwards. I find it hard to believe that the fact of Lando's betrayal wouldn't have put some strain on the relationship for a while. Does anyone recall any stories dealing with this? I'd love to read them.

I suspect that those comic books set thousands of years before the events in the trilogy are simply catering for a different audience. I've skimmed a few and they seemed to overflow with axe-skull-and-oozing-gore elements ... found them about as interesting as a treatise on the evolution of Rontos.

Well, the medieval Knights Templar were accused of orgies etc., but for all we know, that might have been a propaganda move when the Vatican grew nervous about their influence and power. Maybe Palpatine launched similar anti-Jedi propaganda on galactic com nets?

Gerald Crotty: If you prefer a small cult, move to Germany. Sure, the SW merchandise is everywhere, and in that sense SW is part of the mainstream, but most people still

consider it kids' stuff and reviews of the Special Ed. were generally unfriendly. Now that the Berlin Wall has come down, the Great Divide between High and Low Culture is our only bizarre tourist attraction, after all. Welcome to snob country.

I'd no idea 'Bollux' got changed (neutered?) to 'Zollux' in the British edition of Daley's books. Guess I was lucky to buy the American version, or I would've missed a laugh.

We'll all be a lot wiser soon, but while there's still time for speculation about Anakin's fall... What's dull about politics? They can come close enough to opera dramatics in our galaxy and certainly aren't limited to the cerebral sphere in any other. Just look at Z.P.'s delightful opera scenario... Besides, political may well coincide with personal reasons in this case, whether or not there's female interference involved in the fall-out between Anakin and Kenobi.

Re *Air Force One*: revamped cliché are cult, you snob you. :)

Pat Grant: On the same issue: certainly, jealousy is a powerful emotion, but Anakin didn't just turn against his hypothetical, presumably unfaithful wife; his allegiance to Palpatine seems to have involved a great deal more. If a private disappointment had been his only motive for embracing the Dark Side, the reaction still seems extremely exaggerated — close to pathological, if you ask me. But I must admit that I don't really like the idea of Anakin blindly stumbling across that line, only to find out later what he'd gotten himself into. You're right that jealousy might work much in the way of hatred/vengeance, which drove Luke towards the Dark Side at one point, but Luke didn't just succumb to a feeling — all of it happened in the middle of a pitched confrontation. Even if Luke had lost control long enough to kill his father, would that automatically have turned him into a dedicated Dark Sider with no memory of his former self and beliefs? Whatever the individual path that can lead someone towards the Dark Side, I can't imagine it like a split-second switch from pure white to pitch black.

I'd like to know why you'd prefer to see Anakin and the mystery woman married and why you'd consider any other kind of relationship less perfect on principle. (No rhetorical question, seriously!) What difference would a marriage make to the love, passion, tenderness, trust, mutual understanding or whatever the feelings were that drew them together? I understand the general value of marriage as a pledge of wanting to spend your life together and publicly acknowledging that, but in this case, we already know it didn't last. If Anakin gave such a promise and (presumably) still broke it, wouldn't that render the picture even gloomier?

If we don't consider Lucas's statements 'canonic', then whose? Simple enough: nobody's. Generally, I don't see why any form of commentary or voiced intention/interpretation is needed in addition to the movies (and novelizations, for everyone who wants to include them in the 'canon'). I'm under the impression that George Lucas has

changed his mind about the ‘original’ or ‘true’ form of these movies several times. Not all his statements seem entirely consistent, and I’d rather spend my time watching the trilogy one more time than trying to work out those inconsistencies. And while Lucas invented the characters, the story etc., the making of a movie involves a very complex creative process, and the SW galaxy has been shaped by many minds and hands. If Lucas is the ‘god’ of that universe, as you say, he nonetheless allowed the modifications and interpretations effected by a score of lesser divinities. Speaking of which... What would Han Solo be without the face and voice of Harrison Ford, for instance? (Oops, not to forget the Body. Or Ford’s impromptu modifications of the script.) So why privilege the story creator’s/director’s opinion over everybody else’s? If secondary material is to be included in the ‘canon’, why not the statements Mark Hamill or Harrison Ford made about their characters? IMO, it would get far too complicated to keep track of.

On a more general note, I’ve been wondering if the ‘canon’ discussion came into existence with the first pro novels? Or was there a similar debate in the earlier SW fandom?

I have no problem assuming some kind of spiritual essence for trees, but a tree with a Dark Side? The entire concept of the Force having two (conflicting?) sides is so deeply entrenched in morality, that I can’t imagine how a tree would connect to it, except through a sentient’s perception of it. What Yoda describes as the essence of the Dark Side (anger, aggression, fear etc.) are in fact ‘human’ emotions. (The only angry trees I can think of are the Huorns in *The Lord of the Rings* — maybe that’s what Lucas had in mind?) To my mind, the Force as life energy combines aspects of growth and decay, creation and destruction, and a tree can have part in that. (Its roots can strangle the roots of smaller plants, its foliage can take their light etc., but there are neither emotion nor evil intent behind it... right, enough botany already). Like [Tim Blaes](#) wrote, a tree can certainly have its own identity and spiritual quality; what I don’t see is why such a quality should be described in anthropomorphous categories. Trees are aliens, and much more so than Wookiees or even Sarlaccs. But all references to the destructive aspect of the Force as the ‘Dark Side’ inevitably involve the sentient focus of emotion, intention, conscious use etc. Maybe the presence of a Dark Sider can leave that kind of imprint on a place, even on an innocent tree, but that’s the only explanation I can think of.

[Belea Keeney](#): Hi! Good to see you on these pages. :)

If sexually explicit stories are the most controversial (and I’m not entirely sure they are — perhaps this issue of SE will show), maybe that’s because sexuality was blocked and negated on many levels of the SW universe. Not to say that there isn’t any erotic tension in the trilogy, but repressed is the word that leaps to mind. (Yes, they were children’s movies according to GL, but I still ask why innocent little

souls are left gleefully undamaged by mass murder, hands cut off, lightning directed at private parts and so forth, but will be traumatized by the mere notion of sex.) Fans were not supposed to assume these people have a sex life (except to produce offspring, perhaps), and if they had to indulge such thoughts, keep them to themselves. Maybe some fans are particularly attracted to that chaste appeal of SW. Maybe others feel the attraction of the forbidden. I certainly can’t love these characters if I can’t think of them as physical, sensual creatures just like the rest of us. So what’s controversial for me? I don’t really know. Extreme violence, in some cases — but then I’d just avoid reading it. Oh well, I get the feeling I’m not being very helpful here...

I don’t know about the percentage of slash at MediaWest, but from what I’ve seen in the past three years, the amount seems to have been pretty much the same each time. (*Ed: What I noticed this year was that most of the slash seemed to be in the main dealer’s room while a good many of the “straight” zines — especially the SW zines — had moved up to the room dealers. So maybe the perception that there was more slash at MWC is just that — perception. There are fandoms whose primary thrust (you should pardon the pun) is homosexual relationships between the characters in various combinations and they seem to produce a lot of zines. Personally, I find slash pretty boring after the initial shock value wears off. On the other hand, a sexually explicit story doesn’t bother me — I’ve even written a few — but it needs to have the same criteria as any other story — good story line, character development, believability, etc.*)

[Chris Graham](#): “May the Force be with you” could have turned into an anti-Imperial catchphrase over time, a way of referring to the values of the Old Republic, which wouldn’t necessarily imply any detailed knowledge about the Jedi or their ‘religion’.

Yes, I’d taken ‘flyboy’ for a general insult, and it’s a good guess that Han didn’t arrive on the Death Star on foot. :)

[Marti Schuller](#): Like you, I think Force talents develop in a more individual way rather than manifesting themselves in a single, all-encompassing power. Some Force users might never develop any battle skills through it, for example, because it’s not in their personality. Which makes me wonder if and just how much the original Jedi knighthood focused on martial aspects, or whether their philosophy was more inclusive and allowed specific training for Jedi healers, visionaries, or artists. (Some of the pro books used the term “Jedi healer”, I think.) Or does that stretch the concept of a ‘knighthood’ too far? I’d be interested to hear what everybody else thinks.

Did Vader identify Leia when he sensed the existence of Luke’s twin sister? Given the circumstances, it does seem probable, but then again, Vader was able to sense Luke’s

Force powers over the first Death Star without recognizing the kinship. It depends on whether mental contact through the Force involves conscious thought or even audiovisual telepathy beyond a general awareness of sentiments. From the way Vader says “sister... you have a sister!” it sounds more as if he’d caught a fragment of thought, ripped from its context.

Maggie Nowakowska: I missed you at MediaWest and hope very much that you and Susan will be back next year!

I fully agree that Luke is far from an ideal hero if you’re looking for unbroken brightness and righteousness, and it will never cease to amaze me that his popular image is still largely defined by those notions. On the other hand, a number of the pro novels never really seemed to know what to do with Luke as a protagonist, so they must have recognized that problematic aspect to a degree. One insight at least to give them credit for...

I agree that by urging Luke to ‘confront’ his father, Kenobi didn’t necessarily imply killing Vader. But what then were his hopes? In ROTJ, it’s Luke who insists on a more complex perception of Vader’s leanings (“there’s still good in him”), while Kenobi seems to have given up on the possibility of redemption (“he’s more machine now than man”). And whatever Kenobi intended or anticipated in private, Luke’s insistence illustrates how his attitude has in fact moved beyond a sheer black/white perception of the issues involved. I think the major function of his vision in the cave was to turn his unquestioned distinction between the ‘good’ and the ‘bad’ side inside out, by blurring the boundary between them. And I agree with Z.P.: By saying “then the Emperor has already won”, Kenobi strongly implies that Luke must at least accept the possibility of killing his father. No Kenobi-bashing here: to Ben (with his assumed history of failed attempts at bringing Darth/ Anakin back into the fold), it might seem like an inevitable necessity. Perhaps he misjudges Vader, but from his point of view, he’s talking to the only candidate with a real chance to end a regime of terror, and there’s much more involved than just the personal repercussions for Luke. Yoda is willing to sacrifice Han and Leia (while at the same time reminding Ben that there is “another” — isn’t that a bit odd, too? Doesn’t he realize?). Ben is willing to sacrifice Luke’s peace of mind and ability to live with himself. Maybe the bottom line is that in a situation like this, there’s a big chance everyone will come away with their hands dirty, no matter which side they’re on.

Yes, discussing the relation between Life and the Force probably runs into the dead end of a chicken/egg question very fast — especially when you consider Yoda’s idiosyncratic use of grammar. It’s impossible to tell whether he intended to say “Life creates it” or “It creates life”. The latter could imply almost anything from a ‘divine’ creative energy to the abstract spark of life. But sooner than arguing over precedence, I’d be interested to discuss the difference

between the Force and Life in the broadest sense. Is there anything that sets the Force apart from life energy, or is it just the matrix to the myriad manifestations of life?

For some reason, Luke calling Owen and Beru his aunt and uncle rather than ‘mom’ and ‘dad’ made me think of a psychoanalytical reading of the Donald Duck universe... in which you find no parents and children, just aunts/uncles and their nephews and nieces. The quite compelling explanation for this runs that sex has been outlawed in their community; everyone who gets caught at it by reproducing is sent into exile while the children are handed over to aunts and uncles. Maybe the same is true of Tatooine? Seriously though: that Luke doesn’t refer to Owen and Beru as (foster) parents probably means that he was told about the death/absence of his parents at a very early point in life. He seems very conscious of it throughout the Tatooine sequence in ANH.

So much for today. Hope you’re all well, and I look forward to ‘talking’ with you again next time.

HUZZAHS!

Maggie Nowakowska
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I don’t believe it — I missed LoCing an issue of SE. Impossible. I haven’t missed one since I started in, oh, issue 4 or 5. And, here it is, the middle of June, and I’m falling further away from the deadline on #50. Can’t be. Impossible.

There are the usual reasons ... no, I take that back. The reasons are all unusual, which is why I’ve been so overwhelmed by them. I had never guessed that Susan adding a writing career to our normal Boeing careers would knock both our schedules into such a deep hat. I’m not even keeping up with her schedule these days: I haven’t updated the website since the end of April. And then there’s the remodel ... and the reality of preparing for Susan’s mother to leave us (she’s ready to go and Susan and I both know she wants to go; it’s the other siblings who are suddenly into denial) ... and the 15-year old dog who has decided that Mom has the right idea and is looking for a lap to ride on the same train ... and the upgrade at work in a company that suddenly grew to 200,000+ (but not in our department, unfortunately) ... and health problems and so on and so forth. ((*Ed: Our deepest condolences to Susan on the passing of her mother and to both of you on the loss of your beloved pet.*))

And all this just as the SW world is heading into 4th gear and aiming for 5th! They’re even coming out with collectibles that this old jaded dinosaur of a fan sorta kinda would like to have. The teaser pictures from the upcoming

movie are wonderful, and I'm already planning the day's wait in line ... but, no, I want to be at MWC in 99, too ... but I gotta do the line in Seattle for my 50th birthday ... arg!

If I can find the wherewithal to simply Sit Down and Write the LoC, Dammit! this weekend, I will do so and not leave myself to smarmily slink away with this weak few paragraphs. If I fail at my mission...

Cheree, no one but you could have done it through 50 issues! You're astonishing! Will it be 52 or 53 when Episode One finally comes out? Or, do you have some eager, bright-eyed new fans asking if they can carry on the tradition into the next century? If you quit at 50, it would be an unequalled accomplishment; if you say, Hey! It's ME into the 21st century! all I can do is raise the toast and hope that my Huzzahs! ring out loudly above all the rest!

Go for it, girl! You've done good, real good.

(Ed: Thank you, Maggie. It was mainly just a matter of not finding a convenient place to stop! I still haven't!)

SLASHCON

Pat Grant
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June 2, 1998

Greetings to all! Hope everyone is doing well. It was great seeing those of you who were at MediaWest*Con. Had a great time! And just think — next year will be the premier of the new *Star Wars* movie the same weekend! We definitely need to talk Lori & Gordon into arranging a special showing bus-trip.

I also got to go to the Motor City Comic Con in Novi, MI the weekend before MediaWest, and it was great also. I got to meet Jeremy Bulloch, Caroline Blakiston, and Phil Brown. Warwick Davis was also there but I never did find him. They are all wonderful to meet!

Now onto comments from last issue:

A. G. Steyn: first of all, I want to thank you for taking time out during your con trip to San Francisco to think of me and send me a Post Card to let me know which Imperial Jeremy had played. At the comic con a few weeks ago I got to meet him and one of the photos he had there for sale was one of that scene with him and Leia on Bespin. I picked that one for him to sign, especially since you can see his face! Oh, and in July I'm going to Origins in Columbus OH and will get to see him again, as well as Dave Prowse. Can't wait!

I really loved reading your account of that convention!

Oh my goodness! Mark Hamill playing the heavy in the next Indy movie? Cool! I got to meet him (sort of) at

GenCon a few years ago. He was a lot of fun, and during his talk he did the Joker laugh for us! GenCon is a lot like Creation Cons in that they herd the stars around and you only get about 30 seconds with them. I'd love to see Mark at a FAN convention sometime. I'm sure he'd love it too.

And, regarding your comment to Matthew Whitney about Boba crawling out of the Sarlacc pit, I'll gladly be your second! I also imagine him to have survived. And didn't they do just that in a comic book awhile back? I heard someone talking about it.

Z. P. Florian: I still think there's a lot more to it, but you are right, and I had forgotten about that line ("Then the Emperor has already won.") But one thing I've never disagreed with is that Ben was one of the most manipulative beings in the Galaxy, and this would be typical.

Matthew Whitney: I don't feel that Luke would have just blindly followed his friends to the Academy, if he'd known exactly what the academy was all about. I believe it was just like if all your high school friends all went off to the same college and you were left behind, you'd want to join them there, without really thinking much about the college itself. And it was a "way out", and like you said, many will do nearly anything to climb the ladder up and out.

Thanks to you too for letting me know which Imperial Jeremy played!

Regarding the new end to ROTJ, I think you are probably right, that now that it's considered the final movie, Lucas wanted more of a feeling of the war being over, not just a battle. And about the toppling of the giant statue, I couldn't believe that so many people missed it! A lot of people I talked to after the movie looked confused when I mentioned it. "What statue?" Then they went to see it again and came back saying how cool it was. I didn't know about the equestrian statue of George III being pulled down and melted to make musket balls. Way cool!

Debbie Kittle: Yes, the poster board works well to support the 3-D puzzles. You could play toss with my Star Destroyer if you wanted (of course, I'd have to shoot you then ...)

Oh, sorry you didn't have a long, freezing cold, snowy winter. I know how you love winter. But it was kind of nice for some of us to have such a mild winter for a change. Rest assured, next winter Mother Nature will probably get even with a vengeance!

Belea Keeney: No, *sigh* I'm not on-line yet either. What's really frustrating is that in the club I run (FOE) there are now only a mere eight members who are not on-line, and of course, I'm one of them.

I was fascinated with your correlation between training Dark Siders and training guard dogs (... NOT that we're calling the Sith any names here ...) That's exactly how I see their training to be like.

Your comment about the amount of slash zines at Media is, I think, fairly accurate. Media is quickly becoming

SlashCon. I've always maintained that I am anti-slash because it places established characters in out-of-character situations. If someone wants to write about gay characters, create them. But don't write characters out-of-character just because you want them to be that way. My apologies to any Slash fans out there, but that's my opinion. The only fandom I can accept slash material in, and that's only because of many scenes in the show which hint toward this, would be *Xena*.

Tim Blaes: Yes, I did tape that *Real TV* segment with the SW screen tests, but now I'm not sure which tape I put it on! I'll find it eventually!

The scene you described about the two guys having a "lightsaber" duel in the dark with glow-in-the-dark condoms, was in a movie which starred John Ritter called *Skin Deep*.

Tina & Dan Bentrup: If I didn't say it enough at Media, it sure was GREAT seeing you guys again! It's hard enough to see friends just once a year, but it's been what, 3 years? Too long!

Well, that's all for this time. I look forward to reading all your comments in the next issue!

A LICENSE TO KILT

Tim Blaes
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Thanks to your insinuations about Bill Clinton and myself, I've been subpoenaed by Kenneth Starr! I'll also have you know that I *do* have a license to wear a kilt in public, and I'll see about having a copy sent to you.

Matthew Whitney: Not too far from where I live is Bob Jones University, a "Christian" institution so extreme that even most of the local mundanes think they are weird. The place is built like a fortress, less to keep unwanted people out than to keep the students in. There are so many stories I've heard about the place, like the plumbers who regularly have to unclog the toilets in the girls' dorm because of all the condoms flushed down them. That may just be a local myth, but behind the radical religious façade is an "underground" of students willing to put up with dogma to get at the valid education the university does offer. This course is not without risk; nonconformers face harsh treatment. The Imperial Academy is probably just like this, only more so.

The undeniable fact is that certain forms *do not* appear in geography naturally, and the Face on Mars is practically a catalog of them, including a bilaterally symmetrical face complete with spherical eyeballs and parted lips containing distinct teeth. This goes well beyond a trick of light and shadow or subjective interpretation.

Just where does your doubt lie? That life could exist

beyond Earth? Meteorites have been found, allegedly from Mars, that contain the remains of microscopic life. Do you doubt that a government agency might lie or dissemble to the public? Several years ago, a congressional investigation uncovered a two page set of NASA instructions for avoiding Freedom of Information Act requests, that advocated the destruction or alteration of documents so that their "significance is less meaningful."

Consider also the number of probes we and other nations have slung about the solar system, most of which have reached their targets. Most of the probes that have malfunctioned were aimed at Mars, especially after the Face gained notoriety. Somebody, on this planet or off, is jerking us around.

Pat Grant: Normally I don't buy *Star Wars Insider* as it seems more of a catalog than a magazine. But issue #35 contained an informative article about the lost Biggs scene and the cut sandstorm scene from *Jedi*. Gobs of photos even if most of them are postage-stamp size.

A. G. Steyn: However old Boba Fett is at the time of ROTJ, you can add 20-plus years to that. Fett is a major player in the second *Young Jedi Knight* series. Is he the Energizer Bunny of bounty hunters? As for Boba and the dancing girls, at least we know he's not gay, though I wonder if he'd take off his armor long enough to have sex with anyone.

Cheryl Pryor: I suspect Lucas didn't include a torture sequence for Leia in TESB because it might be seen as gratuitous, having already been tortured in the last movie. Whatever she went through, she fared better than Han.

Belea Keeney: I haven't taken a scientific survey of the zines at MWC this year, but your estimates of 70% slash sounds about right. I'll admit to sometimes wishing that there wasn't so *much* of it, but slash is what most fans seem to want to read and write. Besides, it would be hypocritical of me to fuss about slash, considering the sole *Xena* zine I bought this year or the slash fantasies I've entertained over the years — Dorothy/Osma, Catwoman/Batgirl, Pink Ranger/Yellow Ranger — the list could go on.

Allegedly George Lucas has said that he wished he could have made *Shadows of the Empire* into a movie. Even so, I doubt that characters from the book will be showing up in the prequel. George will probably be too busy cramming his own ideas into the movies to worry about somebody else's characters.

Catherine Churko: I thought *The Postman* was a very good movie, and most of its detractors were mostly out to dump on Kevin Costner.

Myself: On further thought, I suppose I shouldn't be surprised at Boba Fett's popularity, considering my own interest in the secondary characters of just about any movie/program I watch. But Fett seems to be a lightning rod for fannish thoughts and desires that I don't seem to be part

of. Bounty hunters just don't do it for me.

I wouldn't want the 50th issue to go by without a short list of cross universe ideas, so ...

She-Wolf of London/Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Could Randi and Oz be related?

Xena/Batman (TV). Time travel wouldn't be a stretch for either show, and the type of humor is compatible. Snide comments about the other's sexual orientation would probably be whispered.

Hercules/Lois & Clark. Herc and Clark are a lot alike, and I like the idea of Lois running amok in ancient mythology.

Voyager/Pern. I like ST and I like dragons. Reason enough.

Sliders/VR5. Anything to resolve the latter show's cliffhanger!

Witchblade/just about anything. Witchblade is a comic book published by Top Cow. It is also a sentient, magical weapon of immense power that can only be wielded by a woman of the Witchblade's choice. It manifests itself primarily as a gauntlet but it can cover its host with body armor, emit tendrils and energy blasts, can heal the host — all this would be neat if it didn't have its own agenda. There are so many women I'd like to see deal with this sort of thing — Janine Melnitz, Susan Ivanova, Sarah Connor, Catherine Chandler, Natalie Lambert, Dana Scully ...

Metaphors be with you...

FIRST LOC

Kim Pecherski
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Hello everyone! This is my first LoC, so please, be gentle! I've seen SE before and finally picked up a few issues at MW this year and it looked like too much fun to pass up! I guess I should start with a little about myself. I'm married, have no human children, but I do have 3 feline and one canine. I work at a car dealership where I do accounting and work with state license and registration offices (truly Dark Siders themselves). In my spare time (Ha! I couldn't even type that with a straight face), I like reading, writing, drawing, and counted cross stitch. That, along with being a fannish art junkie, keeps me busy (lest I mention broke) constantly. Enough of that, I'll jump right in.

Tina: Hey there, BJ!! I'm still laughing every time I think of Media and our adventures! Little did we know what bodyguarding Lord Vader would entail! Shot 4 times, captured twice, fed to the Leezard ... Maybe next year we'll put a leash on him! (Go where you will with that one! >:)

And you still owe me a drink at the Cantina!!

Z. P.: First I would like to say that I enjoyed meeting you at MW after the Vader panel. Once again, it was another good discussion that one hour could barely contain.

I agree in the thought that it would take more than an unfaithful spouse to give Anakin cause to turn. The anger he felt at the situation could well contribute overall, but I have always felt that his turning was the result of several factors affecting him emotionally and perhaps spiritually, and Palpatine jumped at the chance Anakin's faltering provided him.

I have also been looking forward to seeing that Leia inherited her father's hair coloring, not Luke, but if production photos of Jake Lloyd are any indication, we shall see a fair-haired Anakin. Sigh.

Gerald Crotty: Your comments about the popularity of SW were definitely *not* schizo! I know of several of the "old guard" who feel just the way you do. Personally, I appreciate folks finding the fandom, but at the same time, I feel some kind of protectiveness about it. I think all the merchandising is a contributing factor. It's a form of exploitation which I'm frankly torn about; it's nice to have lots of SW goodies to choose from, but there are times I wish there wasn't so much out there. And okay, I did pick up the Vader with removeable helmet figure this weekend, but he called to me from the shelf: "Kim, you must take me home with you!" Who can say "no" to *that*?! Ah, the never-ending torment ...

As far as Tatooine is concerned, I'd think that even backwater planets have their politics and wars. And as far as Jabba locating his palace there, he probably enjoys feeling that he runs or even owns the planet. Also, a far-off planet would be ideal to see one's enemies approaching, or for making discreet business transactions!

Pat: Still locating a copy of *Hardware Wars*. I remember seeing it once when it was first released and laughing myself silly! I liked your analogy between a haunted house and the tree on Dagobah. That would explain how the tree could be Dark, yet live amongst Light surroundings.

How did MW slip through our fingers again so quickly? I was in a daze for half the con this year! We will have to start scheming, er, planning for next year soon!

The K-Mart commercial with Vader and Barbie was a riot! Of course, you realize, if Barbie turned to the Dark Side (Force help us all!), this would mean hot pink Jedi robes (with matching heels, of course), a hot pink lightsaber with built-in makeup compartment (those darned lightsaber duels always make her mascara run), and don't forget the hot pink TIE fighter, complete with control console which doubles as a vanity...

A. G. Steyn: Yes, there was a Yoda ornament last Xmas. The ornament was produced on a limited scale for reasons unknown — I could never get a straight answer

from anyone at Hallmark. The ornament is selling second-hand for around \$35-45, though I did spot one at MW for \$15 (and I didn't pick him up. Ugh. Someone kick me!).

I loved your ideas for additional ornaments. How about Jedi Mind Control Ben: "You will buy all Star Wars ornaments"... "I will buy all Star Wars ornaments..."

Cheryl & Belea: Kudos, kudos for *Dark Master/Dark Servant 2!!* It was the first thing I picked up at MW. I haven't had the opportunity to read it from cover to cover, but judging by the looks of it and what I've read so far, it looks to be another fantastic issue. You've come so far in one year! (Yes, I am shamelessly groveling for issue 3 already!)

Belea Keeney: I too am without net fandom. Knowing there is "stuff" out there I can't get to is so frustrating. I've used a friend's computer to do some searching, but it's difficult not having the ability to look at my own leisure. And I would be totally lost without illos! At MW this year, I attended a fanfic panel of about 20 people of which I was the *only* person without internet access! How awful! After the panel, people were asking, "How do you keep up without being online?" I felt like a carnival freak! I worry that fandom will move too much to the internet before all of us can catch up. I hope and believe that fanzines themselves will not become extinct. Even printing stories off the net and keeping them in binders just doesn't seem like it could be as exciting as holding a zine, but then, I've not had the opportunity to compare. In favor of internet fandom, costs would be dramatically cut in production and purchase, and that would be a big factor for me.

Catherine Churko: Yeah, some B5 fanfic I'll be looking forward to seeing it next year! MW is always great for inspiration.

Tim Blaes: Sorry to hear you had a bad experience with letterzines. I also had a problem accepting some "stunts" pulled by the editor of a previous zine and I felt it was time to leave. A few months later the zine disbanded. It's a shame too, because a well done letterzine is so much fun!

Glad to hear someone else out there knows *Toy Fare* and gets a twisted kick out of it! Did you ever see the one where the Emperor is hosting *Jeopardy* and everytime a contestant gets an answer wrong, he "zaps" them? Alex Trebeck never had it so good! And an issue just a few months ago actually printed photos of Johnny Cash and Dengar to show the similarities you mentioned.

Well, it's been fun, but that's all for now. Looking forward to the next issue!

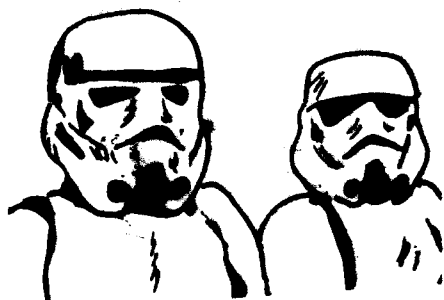
GREAT TO BE BACK!

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Well, after 3 years, Dan and I finally made it back to MediaWest. What a wonderful experience! Without even a membership, we drove up on Friday and crashed at the Day's Inn. The next morning, while Dan worked on his Stormtrooper costume, I ventured into the dear old Holiday Inn South. Shyly, I sidled up to the registration booth and peeked at a schedule ... Holy Shit!!! There was a Vader discussion group at 12:00, and here it was 12:10 already!!! Now, I knew where those University 1-2-3-4 rooms were, but how do I get there? Around and around the atrium I raced, trying to remember the layout ... finally found that little corridor ... and opened the door. And there they were: Ming, Z. P., and Joyce holding court over a motley array of SWarsies ... (sigh) Was it good to be back??? Had I ever been away??? Later that evening, the Blue Jawa and Stormtrooper 9302 made their entrances, and when the Emperor him/herself embraced me, I knew I was back in the fold. Even though there seemed to be less SW on the agenda than in the past, I found no lack of Imps & VaderLusters to hobnob with. The Blaster Battle was a hoot: Beejay stayed busy protecting Vader and found a new friend amongst the Imperial grunts. Stormtrooper 9302 had sore thigh muscles the next morning from running up and down those stairwells all night ... but wasn't the hot tub delightful? Got to spend some quality time with Cheree, Randy, and Katy (quite the young lady now!) at Ponderosa. Came away with my SW juices refurbished, my Vader molecules reignited, and who knows what else.

After several interim jobs, Dan has found a new career: as a musical instrument repairman! A member of our choir (a tenor, no less) is the manager of a music store which furnishes band instruments to local highschoools. One memorable Sunday he asked Dan, "Well, are you going to work with orchids all your life, or would you like to try something new?" The something new turned out to be a job at his store, and now Dan is learning to un-dent and un-crimp trumpets etc. The pay is better than orchid-growing, and he gets a commission on each instrument he fixes. Meanwhile I continue working my butt off in Interlibrary Loan, where the patron demand never grows less, and last year's hot technology becomes this year's obsolescence. I have *Star Wars* photos and collectibles all over and around my desk, and my computer wallpaper is usually some aspect of Darth...

Some of you may remember back in 1988 or whenever it was I first found out about *Southern Enclave*. I think the first letter I ever wrote asked the question, "What are the



labels on Vader's breastplate?" One of the answers I got was "Wash ... Spin ... Rinse..." Now, ten years later, I finally have in my hand the information I so desperately craved: the "Star Wars Technical Journal" provides as much detail on the subject of Vader's body armor and innards as we're likely to get before the Prequels. The lettering on the breastplate is the Galactic alphabet (when will we get the complete grammar of this? I mean, you can learn Klingon if you really want to, so why not Galactic Standard?) And it does NOT say "Wash, spin, rinse." Laugh it up, Fuzzball...

Another source of wildly manic secret delight: the recent portrait of Senator Palpatine on the front cover of *SW Insider*. All these years I've been craving, hoping, praying, that George would ask Ian McDiarmid to play that part, and HE DID IT!!! And just LOOK at him, so handsome, so upstanding, so clean!!! I mean, would you vote for him? I would! And will we see the slow (or perhaps rapid) transformation into the hooded horror of ROTJ? Oh, Anakin, look out!

There was talk at MWC of the Prequel perhaps being shown at Lansing next year, and all of us at MediaWest going in costume on a bus to the opening. I hope this will come to pass. I'm so eager to see it, and yet I'm scared at the same time. Whether it's fabulous or disastrous, I want to be with other true fans at this time, to scream, to howl, to guffaw, to dig each other in the ribs, to weep, to mourn ... Well, whatever it turns out to be, it will be a watershed event, and SW fandom will be changed as a result. All the people who have written pre-ANH Anakin stories will be waiting to see how close to the mark did their creations lie.

Thanks for your report on SW in Italy, Fiorenzo! Darth Maul, eh? Darth this and Darth that. No, one does not just toss the name Darth around in a SW prequel. Time will tell.

And Z.P.: did you ever find those missing six breasts?

ART TALK

Catherine Churko
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June 16, 1998

Hidey-ho, SE'ers. Congratulations to Ye Ed on your 50th SE issue :-D! And thanks for bringing us together all these years.

Hoping the weather will be kinder to us now, esp. for all the folks who've already experinced the terrors of floods, tornadoes, heat and soon hurricanes. Hopes, too, for everyone's good or better/ recovering health.

Me? Oh, I'm still schelping through rehab. Getting into the learning new/reviving old work skills/researching future

employment possibilities and strengths/weaknesses/ style assessments.

For about two years my ability to do complex imaginary artwork (even not so complex) was reduced by 90 - 95 %. Funny, that my ability to do complex drawings from life and crafts was hardly affected (but I have a good idea why). And thank goodness they weren't, actually!

I've improved further since last ish. More ideas (with more complexity and frequency) and ability to put 'em down on paper is happening. Though getting them down on paper still lags quite a bit. (Even at my former best, I could never have the time to put all ideas down).

I've only done two or three totally finished piecees. But the numbers of thumbnail sketches and then drawings of midway states from those thumbs is approaching a 40% increase. So overall my reduction is down by 55% + in ideas, and 70% or less in getting something down on paper. (hooray) I expect and I pray this level of improvement will continue. But I must also re-evaluate switching from my heavy color-pencils style of 8 years, which is pretty physically demanding on my arms/shoulder, etc., to either a lighter style (which looks like too many others in that area), or switching to watercolors or water-colors and pencils as my main color medium. Another on-going project.

If you saw my art in TIF 10, I chose to do a reconfiguration of the illos I did in TIF 6. This way when I started it a year before it was due (when ideas were harder to evoke), I could concentrate instead on the color part. Since I'd never had a color piece printed in a zine, this was the only opportunity I would have for a while. And as you can see, those who know art — I didn't use colored pencils; I used water color (and a touch of white guache), and black marker.

SF Worlds: Looking forward to seeing the *X-Files* movie. Though I couldn't watch the show much when there was a lot of SF-horror gruesomeness, I liked the conspiracy/aliens arching-over plot.

The new/last book of the new Brin Uplift Trilogy is here! I plan to go back and re-read the last half or so of Book #2 to recap. Then I'll go to book #3. Also plan to borrow a few new/old SF books I've never read. Perfect timing to fill in the gap -gasp- of 3ish months before the last (sniff) of the B5 episodes. It'll also keep me out of "trouble", that is, *not* prowling Becky's Spoiler Junkie Page for B5 spoilers (well, *mostly* not :-P). (And how I *want* to! But I don't usually jump ahead in books, except if something is really confusing or boring and I think I can get away with it understanding-wise without reading it all).

SW: So it is that I don't linger too long either at the SW Prequel Website. Oh, I'll look at some stuff, but I'd rather be more surprised than not. Esp. the big stuff! With B5 in hiatus, after the speculation dies down (the 3 cliff-hangers in this episode will keep folks talking for awhile!), I'll pop on over to ? Jedinet, Echo which are E-zines and chat room



the city will be
the city will be
the city will be

the city will be
the city will be
the city will be

CC98

Hey...ZiPey - is this kinda whatcha meant? encouraging the incorrigable (-heh heh heh) -cc;-)

archives.

I haven't gotten one of those free e-mail accounts that you can have without owning a computer, yet. Then I could E-mail from the library. You actually can, here. A librarian taught me early on when they got the system, but you can't get answers back. No way could they afford that. I've only managed to do it, send something once, then I couldn't seem to get it right again. But I'll try again, when I'm at a library where they don't take your last name. If it's a problem, I don't want it traced back to me, and I added in my post that the receiver could not e-mail me back.

Fiorenzo: Your article was such a hoot! Thanks for sharing your adventures with us! I snidely snorted at the press conference and the gift the Mayor gave GL. And laughed out loud at your stay in the "Sanctus" :).

Z.P.: Folks are going to wonder how well my rehab is going after the sentence Cheree transcribed (she must have been tired and my LOC was way late, so I'm just setting the record straight). It was... "Do you remember the next to/or last SW comics."

If this package gets to Cheree under the wire (I misplaced SE and the illo I sent you until Sunday 6/14) maybe the illo I did... a commentary on Zippy's Grande Opera idea — will be in it. Actually, I only found the pencil idea, I redid the whole thing Sunday nite in marker and sent that. But it's better. I forgot the Yoda-on-a-wire in the first one :-P!

Matthew: Sorry to hear of your loss. I hope your grad school and work and renovations go well. Liked your thoughts on the *Falcon*/TIE suicide-chase strategy.

I always thought Vader was baiting Luke with turning his sister to the dark side. Not that he might not have done it, but it was sure to get a rise out of Luke. Unless you follow the belief that Vader was still plotting at that point to get rid of Palpie, and evoked Luke's emotions for that reason. I certainly thought early on that he was resigned (a la the Endor bridge meeting) to what he had become. (It might be simple-minded, but that was it for me.)

The thing folks were saying about the face on Mars (and I've seen the "Old Man in the Mountain") was according to computer simulation of certain data, the Mars "face" retains its "faceness" through all viewing angles. Wherein the "old man" only retains it through a narrow range of viewing. The new photos were disappointing.

However, nothing was done on the D & M "pyramid". What are the odds that the winds/sand on Mars was able to shape and then retain a pentagonal shape for x millions of years? I think the jury is still out on that.

Gerald: I kinda felt that way, when Patti Smith Group and Talking Heads left the clubs, as they got bigger. But part of me was thrilled too, that they were reaching a wider audience. I know I saw some really nice illos of yours in TIF 10, but I couldn't find the zine last night to comment. Did you do the back cover, too? Nice brush work.

Debbie: Hi. Is there a website that might contain a newsphoto of you & co on the exhibit line?

Pat: Ack! Of course, a line or two of exposition would've set up a multi-climate planet. Guess I still think like an artist first most of the time:-D.

One of my first big (in size) drawings for SW, when I hadn't discovered SWZinedom or MWC yet, was my take on the prequels. This piece was "Mrs. Skywalker" holding Leia and walking through a glass walkway on Alderaan with Bail Organa, after Ben had safely delivered them there. She had a cape/hood on for disguise, but as you said, they weren't expecting her with a girl child.

Tina: Welcome back. Is Dan using those fake glass kits to sketch out potential ideas for clients? Like I'd do a pencil sketch, maybe with some light color to give a client an idea of what it would look like? Good luck! I finally went to the orchid show at the WFC last winter. The big displays were real cool.

A.G.: You always come up with some hilarious stuff; this time the SW Xmas decorations. And with the words meaning something, however they were arranged around the verb "creates", the syntax was more mangled than ever!

Cheryl: Have a great visit with His Sithness!

Belea: Uh-oh, never mention a "Shadow Universe" to a B5 fan (shivers) :-D

Cheree: I think I read *Children of the Jedi* on a suggestion from a review or comment Z.P. wrote in SE. Liked it!

Tim: There's a pretty neat begun SW / B5 story on B5 Creative website. Only I don't like the way Thrawn's ships kicked the hell out the Mimbari warships. :C.

Et al: Oh, I hope to make it Bucconeer for one day, even. Hope to see some of you there. Probably Fri or Sat. So I'm trading that instead of seeing the Smithsonian SW exhibit. I saw some of the original props years ago (so I saw some way cool stuff then).

I look forward to all the MWC reports and photos!
Best wishes to all, until next issue.



Now Available!

A Tremor in the Force 10

"Babysitter" by Tara Ludmer. Even Han and Leia need a night out away from the kids. Thank the Force for teenage girls who live next door!

"Sands of Time" by Marti Schuller, art by Cheree Cargill. Obi-Wan Kenobi had spent the last 20 years in his hut in the Jundland Wastes, watching over the young boy who was growing to manhood not far away. The time has almost come when his training must begin. But Obi-Wan has grown old and his heart is beginning to fail. Will he have enough time to train the Galaxy's only hope?

"The Other Way Around" by Barbara Gardner. As Luke lay writing in agony under the Emperor's Force attacks, it was his father who had finally saved him. What if it had happened the other way around?

"By the Turn of a Card" by Catriona Campbell, art by Gerald Crotty. The latest chapter in the *Penumbra* series. Leia, Lando, Chewie and the droids infiltrate Jabba's palace to rescue Han. But in this universe, Luke isn't there to lend his Jedi powers and Han must learn the horrible news of Luke's fall to the Dark.

"Ca Ta" by Marti Schuller, art by Z. P. Florian. When Luke sees a strange little alien about to be run down by speeding cyclists, his instinctive reaction is to save her. But afterwards he is startled and chagrined to discover that his act of selflessness has won him a personal bodyguard, the grateful Mij who must now fulfill "ca-ta" by protecting her savior for the rest of his life — or commit suicide in disgrace.

"To Serve With Love" by Martie Benedict O'Brien, art by Nicola Pearce. Leia was weary beyond words, weary of war and duty, of being a symbol and soldier. And yet there was no way she could abandon the cause she had fought so long and hard for. Was there any place — any way — that she and Han would ever be able to find a peaceful, happy existence? Luke had an idea, a desperate, half-crazy idea to help them ... and it just might work.

"The Candle" by Z. P. Florian. Luke has established the Jedi Academy and Leia assigns him an assistant from her staff, a skittish young woman named Joli Wheatgrower. At first nervous around the handsome young Jedi, she grows to love him and their relationship becomes one of devotion and commitment. But there are others who love Luke just as much and are as committed to helping him in his task.

"Act of Faith" by Veronica Wilson, art by Dani. The sequel to "Balance of Power" in TF#8. The unthinkable has happened — an Imperial royal guard has made an assassination attempt on the Emperor and Darth Vader in the depths of the Imperial palace. Conditioned for absolute loyalty, the only explanation is that the guard has been tampered with to commit the heinous crime. Vader begins the investigation with a vengeance and what he discovers will shake the foundation of the Imperial government.

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THE RETURN OF THE REST OF THE GARBAGE. The next issue will appear in 1999. Contributions are accepted in theory up to October 1998, although if the zine is full, it will close earlier. Straight or slash both welcome, but sex is not mandatory in the stories. Z. P. Florian, 6214 Waterway, Falls Church, VA 22044. Contributions may be e-mailed to me at ZPFlo@AOL.com (ASCII or WordPerfect please).

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