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H'lo, all! (Did I beat Annie Wortham this time, Cheree? After all, if Mickey and Chris can have a little friendly competition...) ((Ed: Yup--look's like Annie wasn't fast enough on the fingers this time.))

Sandra Necchi's article I found very thought-provoking, if sometimes a little out of my depth. I am not the best on politics, but I found her discussion to be very plausible. It made me think a bit about the political situation I have in my own series and I think it helped a bit, too. Thanks, Sandra.

Marcia Brin's article I found, in the first paragraph, to be very logical. I also found Ben's behavior disturbing in ROTJ. But as the rest of the article went on, I couldn't decide if it was an article about Ben or Luke. Interesting idea, though--why don't you write a story on it, Marcia? I'd love to read it. As a matter of fact, you can always send it to ME for FAR REALMS! (Hint, hint...) But still, the opinion on Luke... *glitch* Okay. I'm tired of talkin' about it. But ... *glitch*!

I scanned through Jean L. Stevenson's Threepio article, but didn't read it all the way through. Nothing against Jean and I often enjoy her writing, but I just can't get into Threepio.

Thanks, Cheree, for your editorial comments, and boy, am I envious of Sally Smith!

Something Mickey said started the wheels in my brain whirling and I haven't been able to sit still since. Turning your fan fic into pro fic is an enterprise that I've been seriously considering for some time.

Just now have I gotten the initiative to really start working on it--it IS so much easier to write fan fic. No risks, besides some that aren't THAT risky, and you have an audience that is, mostly, appreciative. To start on pro fic is somewhat of a scary undertaking, and I thank fan fic for giving me the confidence and PRACTICE to get me ready to go pro. I do love SW, and plan on staying in it for a long time to come, and keep writing, tho'--you can never have enough practice and can always find some of the most wonderful people in fandom.

Wedge Antilles the real hero of the SW saga? I LOVE it! Hey, don't you people know? Wedge is a Jedi, too! (In MY universe, anyway... So there, Cheree, let's ALL plug our stuff! File under self-gratification department, file 13...)

All right, Carol Peters! Here's to MORE self-gratification! When all's said and done, ROTJ is one hell of a good time!

Rose Arnold, it is wonderful to see that someone else picked up on Luke's mouthings in ROTJ. I didn't say anything for a long time, 'cause I didn't want anyone to accuse me of getting things out of left field--thanks for having guts! (I have a disturbing tendency to watch Luke's mouth--and not just because of the dialogue, either! So I try to keep my lusting in my own backyard...most of the time, anyway.) This gets back to the loneliness I see in Luke in ROTJ, again. I'm not sure that he IS over Leia. You don't heal that fast. But, for her sake and Han's I think, he's doing a darn good job of hiding his feelings. And THIS leads into a comment Cheree made about the fact that some persons ascribe the Judeo-Christian ethos to SW. ((Ed's note: Because it is our cultural norm and George Lucas' cultural norm, we automatically assume that it also applies to the SW universe, which may not necessarily be the case.)) Yes, it IS intimated in the series, but that doesn't mean that it IS the only way. There's no telling how their sociological rules run. But, assuming that brothers and sisters DON'T marry or lifemate or whatever, it must be tough on Luke to find that the girl he loves is forbidden to him. Farm kids (I speak from personal experience)

either know it ALL, or grow up ignorant. I was one of the latter and Luke seems to be as well. Tough spot... BUT, getting back to the "ethic" comment, it seems to me to be VERY valid. There have been several trillion different codes of ethics on Earth ALONE, not to mention what a whole galaxy must believe!

And this leads into open-mindedness and what Barbara Brayton and P. J. LaVasseur said about it. I'd like to add a couple of thoughts to what they said. Fen constantly call upon the concept of IDIC, then turn right around and keep a closed mind on so many things. Isn't there a valid point to be commented upon by everyone? And shouldn't WE be the first to look upon that viewpoint and say, "Yeah, I may not agree, but I can see where you're coming from. That could be!" "From a certain point of view" was a line delivered with a lot of snobbery in ROTJ, but there is an essential truth there. A lot of the things we hold dear DO depend on our point of view, and everyone has their own truth. Who was it that said, "I may not agree with what you say, but you certainly have the right to say it"? Let's try to do a little more of that.

Danaline Bryant mentions Han's wanderlust in connection with his marriage to Leia, and that gets me on ANOTHER soapbox. (Not to what you said, Danaline, but to what it reminds me of and what I've heard from some other fen.) WHY does everyone assume that when one is married, they are tied down? I guess it comes from our society today--I've even started to hate the word "marriage" myself, because of what it's started to stand for. But a giving, mature relationship between two people--and there's not many of them today, I agree--means that if the one you love enjoys something, you give them that enjoyment. Leia would (I hope not!) tie Han down any more than he would (also hopefully!) demand that she give up her position with the Rebellion. This "chained down" label is what has killed heroines off--and heroes!--for the past decades in every form of fiction. It's stupid. It sucks the chrome off a bumper. End of lecture.

Marlene Karkoska--PLEASE, PLEASE don't ever hesitate to write in! EVERYONE has a voice

in fandom, whether they write, draw, publish or read. We're all in this together!



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I understand that there is a plan afoot by Nenni Henni (oops, Jeanine Hennig) to have her letter appear ahead of mine in the next issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. I think you should spoil her evil plans and print my letter before hers ANYWAY. Besides, you'll get to watch her lip quiver; you know how she is when she doesn't get her way! ((Ed: Just not quick enough on the draw! You gotta be faster than that to get in ahead of Jenni Henni.))

Anyway, in regard to Marcia Brin's article in the last issue, I'd like to say that I found her theory very interesting and even plausible. If the Emperor were indeed masquerading as Obi-Wan, it would explain a great many things that really don't make sense as they stand. I enjoyed the article.

Michelle Malkin: Why, thanks for pointing out that Wedge is the hero of the STAR WARS saga. But didn't you know that I'm a member of Right Thinking People Who Are For Wedge?? Wait until you see the story that Jeanine Hennig and I wrote for WARPED SPACE! Are you going to be surprised!

So, what's the consensus on the Jani Hicks/M. J. Barrowman-Harper fiasco? I actually got a personal note from one fan (which was much appreciated) telling me that it could hardly be MY fault if Jani did kill herself. I have to agree that

whatever is going on was not caused by the fact that I sent Jani money!

((Ed's note: I have heard from several people, who seem to be in the position to know, that Jani Hicks and M. J. Barrowman-Harper are one and the same and that she/they are alive and well. Why Jani is passing herself off as having committed suicide and as acting as the executor of her own estate remains to be seen. I've passed more detailed information on to Ann as I've received it, but generally there seem to be a LOT of eyebrows raised in fandom about this whole charade.))

I'm sorry this is so short, Cheree, but I've just got to get this letter in ahead of Jeanine! ((Ed: Sorry, Annie; you'll have to come up with a bigger bribe next time.))

Before I end, did you see that trashy zine at MediaWest Con called FAR REALMS SEX? Can you believe that someone would have the gall to publish that thing and put OUR names on it?? Well, I am definitely not Worthit. ((Ed: Yeah, I got a copy of that piece of filth in a plain brown envelope from someone named Cherry Cordial wanting me to do some smutty nude illos for it.. Of course, I immediately turned it over to the Post Office to start felony proceedings...but not before making a xerox copy to keep as evidence.))



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July 18, 1984

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE just keeps getting more interesting! Let's hope it continues through future issues! Keep up the good work, Cheree!

Carole Regine: Hi! I think you're right; Han and Leia are in for some tough times as their relationship matures. I can't see Han "settling down", or Leia putting up with some of his misadventures. It will be quite interesting to see how they work out their differences and problems, if the third trilogy is ever put on screen.

Carol Peters: You're right, too; nit-picking at ROTJ's flaws does take away one's enjoyment of the film, but I think that a good majority of the letters in SE try to add, not subtract, from the storyline. These letters help to delve into the characters more deeply, taking up where Lucas left off.

Barbara Brayton and P. J. LaVasseur: I know this isn't an Indy letterzine (Hey! That sounds like a good idea! How 'bout it, Cheree?!) ((Ed: The thought crossed my mind but sanity prevailed at the last minute--Falcon Press' publication load is already a killer; I'd have to be in the Black Sleep of Kali-Ma before I'd take on another zine!)), but in his defense, though Indy may not have conquered his phobia of snakes in ROTLA, he faced it. That's a tough thing to do, just ask any phobic. It took a lot of guts for Indy to go into the Well of Souls, when he could have sent someone else. I think he deserves a lot of credit.

Good point about Luke being apart, as opposed to being rejected. I think if I had gone through what Luke had, I would want to take a minute or two to be alone and sort out my feelings and thoughts.

Danaline Bryant: I like the one about Darth's crooked brother, Tax E. Vader. Seriously, I know what you mean about "hating the idea it's all over." I do, too! I'm glad, though, that we have a letterzine like this to share our ideas and to keep everything fresh in our minds. Thanks, Cheree!

I think you summed up most

people's feeling on the Han vs. Luke subject; the Galaxy IS big enough for more than one hero. Thanks. Let's try to keep in mind that these are two different characters, with their individual strengths and weaknesses. Luke and Han are friends, remember? Not in competition.

I hope Han doesn't end up planet-bound. That would be a big disappointment to me--seeing Han Solo turn into an unadventuring planet-side bureaucrat, or bureaucrat's husband. I hope Han can put his smuggling skills to good use in a less lawbreaking type of job.

Cheree: Great! Pre-production beginning on the first trilogy! I can't wait! Keep us informed of any new information...PLEASE! ((Editor's note: See Bev Clark's letter.))

Jeanine Hennig: Isn't it great so many different people can be obsessed with the same thing? At least it gives us someone to share our weirdness with!

Melody Corbett: Maybe Anakin left the lightsaber with Mrs. Skywalker for the son he HOPED to have. She could have later given same saber to Ben for safe keeping.

I think little children see Luke a lot clearer than we do. We tend to analyze Luke's every action and motive, but kids see him fighting the "bad" guys, so therefore, he is "good." A kid sees Luke's treatment of C3PO as necessary, Luke needed someone inside Jabba's palace, if all else fails. That is, if children need to rationalize Luke's treatment at all. As I've said, kids don't look for deeper, hidden motives; they see the surface level and enjoy it on that level.

A comment on the criticism that Lucas has few females in the saga. Yes, this is true, but I think it's a good sign that those females he does show are important members of the Rebellion and high-ranking, too!

One last thing before I sign off; I really hope these competitions between Han and Luke can stop. Yes, I consider myself a Han fan, but I still admire the character of Luke. I realize Han has his faults, as does Luke. Neither are perfect, but neither deserve some of the criticisms leveled at them. Putting down one character doesn't make the other "better," and there is really no point to it. Let's

try to appreciate Luke and Han for what they are...human characters. Not saints and certainly not demons.

Until next round, I wish you all clear skies and happy landings!



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July 21, 1984

Well, we're back as a team again for this issue of SOUTHERN ENCLAVE. Since Barb and I were thinking pretty much along the same lines, a combined letter seemed appropriate once again. So here goes.

Editorial: Bullseye and AMEN!! Your concern that things have been getting out of hand is understandable. It could be blasters at twenty paces if we're not careful. So we'll be among the first to break new ground, as it were. Join us now as we venture into a new frontier, that vast uncharted region known as...RATIONAL DISCUSSION!

What kind of cover was Leia using? If you use the radio show as a secondary source, she was using her office as senator and her diplomatic status. She showed up on the planet the Empire was suppressing ostensibly to deliver medical supplies and spare parts. In reality the supplies were meant for the rebels. How did she get the plans for the Death Star? Again, on the radio show, a wounded rebel informed her of the existence of the battle station; in a subsequent battle the plans were captured. Leia then travelled to a rebel planet in a restricted system to retrieve them. (Remember Vader's remarks about trans-

missions being beamed aboard her ship?)

There is no proof either way, but we don't get the feeling the Falcon is semi-sentient, although it obviously has a very sophisticated ship's computer. It is not really clear what Threepio means by his statement. (The radio show only confuses matters more.) However, it appears that there has been a lot of mechanical trouble with the Falcon at the beginning of TESB; nothing seems to stay repaired. Possibly the computer has developed a glitch that has caused it to display inaccurate or inadequate information. Even Threepio has trouble communicating with it. Han does not seem to need the services of a droid such as 3PO everytime he has to make repairs. Also, in the novel, the "language" Threepio uses is a form of computer language, not a human communication. If the Falcon IS semi-sentient, "she" ought to know that this is not the time to be plaguing her captain with malfunctions. Or else she has a warped sense of humor.

(Pam) The more I thought about this question, the more I realized that the Falcon's computer is comparable in programmed intelligence to that of the Enterprise. It may not have a voice or be as large but it must monitor the same functions. And, as I recall, Enterprise had occasional glitches in its systems, too. I think its personality is what has been programmed into it by its designers.

Some Revolutionary Thoughts: It's difficult to discuss an article such as this when one does not have the background and knowledge of the author. When discussions get into areas requiring such expertise, the "lay" person is often left out in the cold. But we do think the last thing the Alliance would want to do is repeat the mistakes of the Old Republic. On the other hand, there must have been something good about the Republic when it began and it did last for a thousand years. Only later did the rot set in.

(Barb) It would be interesting to know in what way we in the West do not understand the Islamic fundamentalist movement. In some ways it reminds me of our own Christian fundamentalist movement, only the Moslems use the Koran as sole

authority instead of the Bible. Certainly when carried to extremes, as in Iran, there is nothing particularly admirable about it. Also, I wouldn't say the Catholic Church in Poland collaborates with the government. They try to remain as independent as possible while not putting themselves in open defiance. If they collaborate, as I understand the word, they would lose the support of the people. ((Ed's note: I think it's pretty remarkable that the Church exists at all in a Communist country!))

(Barb) It is difficult for me to imagine the Jedi encouraging suffering for any reason. Also, this strategy would play into Palpatine's hands. It seems more likely that Palpatine and his group would be the ones to encourage it, as it would help them gain support for their cause. I prefer to think that the Jedi did not become aware of the extent of the corruption until it was too late. I agree the Emperor was a corrupt individual who was able to take advantage of the weaknesses of the Republic at that time.

Some of the people who are conducting revolutions in Central America and the Middle East really do perpetrate acts of terror. I'm specifically thinking of the PLO. You can give all kinds of justification, but it still is terrorism. This does not excuse the actions of repressive governments in any way, but we need to be more even-handed in our condemnation. I prefer to think the Alliance is not like this; that there is a point beyond which they won't go. (Example--blowing up a full cruise liner just to eliminate one Imperial, or just to call attention to themselves.)

Carole Regine: We think Han has changed a great deal by TESB and certainly by the end of the film. Now, if he is eventually going to be unfaithful to Leia, it would probably be better in the long run if they didn't marry. But we don't subscribe to the theory. There is no reason to assume that Han is not ready to settle down; as Liz Gootjes pointed out, he has had years of "freedom." Years down the road, he's going to be old and may just want to live out his last days in peace and quiet. Besides, it's difficult, if not impossible to recapture the "good old days" once they're

gone; there are certain aspects of them we're sure he won't miss. Also, there's no reason to assume that Han will be stuck in a dull, boring existence, or that Leia will tie him to her with a ball and chain.

Sandra Necchi: Hey, we love them both, too!

(Barb) Much as it pains me, I must disagree with your paragraph on the Ewoks. I try not to hold Lucas to everything he may say in print or on TV. Anyway, I thought that the Ewoks came across very admirably. They were shown to be highly intelligent, in tune with their environment and very resourceful. It doesn't seem like a good analogy anyway, as the North Vietnamese regular army wasn't very primitive. Also, though I'm not an expert on the Third World, I didn't think RAIDERS or TOD were racist. Certainly the main character was not. In RAIDERS, Indy and Sallah were shown on an equal footing and in TOD Indy's conduct with the villagers was respectful and exemplary. It seems a bit unfair to say these films are sexist or racist; as you pointed out they are just simple stories. Maybe we are reading too much into them because of our modern perspective.

Michelle Malkin: Pam here. I thought about that too. How many other ambitious would-be Emperors are running loose? Or, was the Emperor the main link in the chain? Once gone, does the mechanism begin to break down?

Marlene Karkoska: Bravo! The simple fact that you picked up a pen and put something down is to be commended. As long as you write with a reasonable frame of mind, criticize factually and fairly, and your meaning is clear, you don't have to write brilliant tomes. Lady, you just did all of the above; "not very good with words", snicker, snicker. You needn't feel inadequate to the task of writing to a letterzine. Being a Big Name Fan is not a prerequisite. In fact, the more just plain fen who write, the better. And it is nice to know there are three of us, and Han, who know who to thank for his rescue! Yes, children do have a way of getting to the heart of the matter, don't they?

Fly Solo!

Jean Stevenson: The saber in the Jedi poster looks almost white in the middle and there

is a hint of color toward the top. There is also a white/blue saber in the B-sheet. It looks like the advertising/art department thought it would look better against a starfield. (Which you must admit pulls your eye into the poster--Pam.)

Offhand, we think if you are being digested, you will eventually wind up dead, if the thought of the experience hasn't already killed you. Anyway, who wants to experience a "new definition of pain and suffering"? There must be better ways to expand your mind.

Karen Finch: (Barb) On the question of whether the war is over, I think the one against the Empire is over. No doubt there are a lot of people who would like to replace the Emperor, but I don't think they are going to be able to unite around any one person, and there will be a lot of splinter groups. Most of the Imperial officers seem to have spent a lot of time stabbing each other in the back on their way to the top. It's hard to picture them uniting on anything.

Here Barb and I can't agree. I saw animosity between Ozzel and Piett, if only because Ozzel had reached his level of incompetence and Piett was a viable, if less experienced rival, with more common sense. Veers was a pro and quite competent. The others were just arrogant and a bit over-confident.

Ozzel probably suspected Piett wanted his job, and he was probably right. I said most of the officers were incompetent, not all of them. There are probably a number of them who have been waiting for just such an opportunity. But I still think you are going to see a number of factions competing for power; and the Alliance will do everything it can to keep them from coalescing. I got some of my impressions from the radio show. There seemed to be a lot of intriguing going on and everyone seemed to have their own spies. While piously proclaiming their loyalty to the Emperor, each was looking out for number one.

Terri Black: Man can learn a great deal from his teachers. But he must also learn from his experiences. They both go together. A medical student gets an M.D. degree in college, but he's not a doctor until he practices medicine. ((Ed's note:

Sorry, but that just made an old joke spring to mind--about an old man who went to the doctor but wanted to make sure the doctor was competent to treat him. "No need to be afraid," the doctor assured him. "I've been practicing medicine for fifteen years." At that the old man jammed on his hat and stalked out the door. "Practicing", hell!" he shot back. "I want someone who knows what they're doing!")

Yes, we used to be intimidated by those LoCs heavy with Theory and/or Artistic Criticism, though not anymore. (Pam here--I only LoC when I'm really disturbed or excited about something and Barb LoCs nearly every zine she reads.) We also agree with Cheree that too many zines come out at the same time every year. After you've read and LoC'd four or five zines, you tend to run out of original things to say, and time to say them in.

Tim Blaes: (Pam) As soon as I get time to read the V novel (it's way down on the list for both of us due to prior reading commitments), I'd like to see some discussion in SE about it. I'm pretty sure there are meanings from missing scenes that would make chewable discussion material. ((Ed: I read it after Tim spoke of it in SE and found it not half-bad as far as novelizations go. It read very fast and kept my attention throughout.))

Can you believe it? A whole letter has gone by with no mention of what's-his-name! See, Cheree, it can be done! ((Who?))

Remember: A coward dies a thousand deaths, a brave man only five hundred.



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July 23, 1984

Cheree had a legitimate complaint last ish about the vehemence of the discussion on Luke and its seemingly endless length. As someone who's joined the heated fray, I think Cheree and others are quite correct when they make such complaints and I would like to sincerely apologize for my part in all of it. But I feel some sort of last explanation is called for, clarifying the reasons for my reaction (and, I suspect, others). Consider: a small, select group of fans wages a hate campaign to convince everyone that a character you've come to admire, respect and love is an insignificant scumbag, that literally everything he does and says is arrogant, petty, selfish and totally evil. Even his genuine, sincere grief over the death of a beloved Master ("Master Yoda, you can't die") is deliberately twisted into an absurd, mean-spirited interpretation, used to show his supposed selfishness. Then there is the extremely unreasonable analysis of many of his actions that puts him in a catch-22 situation. He is condemned for retrieving his lightsaber and bringing it with him to the Ewok celebration. And then he is condemned for throwing it away because he can't "control himself". That last one blatantly ignores the already established message of passivity that the Jedi espouse. (Note that the retrieval of the lightsaber is a supposition, since we aren't shown this. You will find the vast majority of these claims are just that--suppositions, based on nothing really concrete, and quite often contradictory.) So, what do they want him to do? Throw it away or keep it? I wonder if these people have ever heard of continuity breaks, an extremely common occurrence in films. Lucas is not known for tight direction. They back Luke in a literally impossible corner in so many instances that absolutely NO creator could satisfy their expectations. Ah, but they do not stop there. And here comes the clincher. This is what makes this bout of criticism against a character so objectionable. They go on to

tell us--with unabashed certainty--that their interpretation is the only right one, that GL has presented us with all this, and they are merely delivering it to us (from Mt. Olympus, down to us poor, deluded, misguided innocents). (And they say Luke is arrogant??) Some say we should treat this faction of fans with more tolerance. Perhaps. But I admit that I have to decline. (Which is why this will probably be the last major LoC that discusses this issue.) I have always had a great deal of trouble tolerating people who tell me they're only "saving" me from the wrong path, that they're only giving me the "truth", that God is on their side, and that I should therefore treat them with more reverence. If these fans don't like the fact that I dare question their "truth," there's not much I can do about it. They have NO RIGHT to expect fandom to accept their interpretation as gospel. If that makes me a damned heretic, so be it. I'll be in good company. I refuse to accept self-styled Gabriels and Hermes telling me they're delivering some fabricated "truth." I resent the rigid, moral absolutism implicit in their version of things. By the way, I came into this discussion not as a Luke fan. I came into it opposing the disturbing negativism, the pettiness and hatred in many of the arguments against Luke. I sensed a blatant predisposition to hate everything about Luke for no other reason than an obsession with Han Solo. Had the target been Han, I would have reacted the same way. But a very positive thing has happened. All this arguing has made me think deeply about Luke. That thinking has made me discover what a complex, admirable character he is. I suppose I really should thank them.

There is a destructive element in their deification of Han Solo, and the attendant attacks on Luke. For those who may like Han, but who may not agree with the Han-o-centric universe, this smear campaign might make some fans react negatively toward Han; that is, become annoyed with him. I've already heard six fans (two who liked Han, two who loved Han, and two who are Imperial fans) say fandom's obsession with Solo has made them very tired of the character. I myself, after reading

so much fanfic with Han as a perfect hero, have begun to characterize SW fandom as having 2 unequal factions. The majority are in Hanfandom, and then there's the rest. Now I know this isn't a fair reaction. All I need is a good viewing of TESB again--that film made me an admirer of Han. I know I shouldn't equate a character with the zealotry of some of his fans. It is simply that one does get tired of such extreme devotion to one character who predominates much of fanfic. If it were Luke or Leia or Chewie or Vader, it would be the same. Han is a fine character but there's more to SW to enjoy than one very handsome, nice Corellian.

Notice that there is a very basic negativism in their arguments. For Han to be the central character and hero, it is necessary to attack Luke. For Luke to be the hero, no such negativity is needed. They have to tear Luke down. There is nothing positive, uplifting or inspiring about their versions of the story. If a parent is evil, then the child will be too. It's in the blood, like genetics. And the child must be blamed for having such a parent. What a depressing, hopeless message. An admirable thing about ROTJ (and there are very few of those) is that, by having Luke reject Ben and Yoda's moral absolutism (assuming they were not actually testing Luke) and view Vader as more than just an evil villain, the story becomes more complex, more sensitive. Vader becomes a victim of evil, which is a surprisingly sophisticated approach to the plot. While part of me does sympathize with Karen Osman's version of Vader as a pawn of no one, there is something to be said about the version we get in ROTJ. But I don't feel GL has really decided--or even thought about carefully--whether Vader is a victim or not. In TESB, he is his own power. In ROTJ, he is not. Anyway, it is this basic negativism that makes me believe their version is not GL's, since he stresses the optimism, simple joy and wonder of it all.

As to Brin's article on Obi-Wan--very interesting speculation. This is a simple preference not to believe Ben is wrong. Yet he's been proven wrong already, about Vader. In ANH, in the cantina, Ben whips

out his lightsaber and cuts off the alien's hand with absolute glee in his eyes. He looks positively power mad. There's more reason to believe in Ben's serious errors than in Luke's. There's a lot of naivete about authority in these arguments; an inability to believe GL makes filmic mistakes, that he can be sexist, etc. Certainly, GL's presentation of Leia as the Other may be sexist, but I find Marcia's and others' interpretation of Leia to be quite sexist. Her sole identification to them is as Han's woman. At least GL gives her a purpose other than as Han's reward/possession.

Ah yes, this "merely personal quest" business. One of the most familiar fictional motifs in stories about political/social upheavals is how such conflict affects one family, in microcosm. The conflicts of Luke and Vader are not without context. They don't occur in a void. Private feelings are merely controlled public sentiments. There is a background to the breach between Vader and his family. That breach is simply the breach between the Dark and the Light, the Republic and the Empire, the galaxy and its government, in microcosm. GL's solution for the destruction of evil seems to be to seduce it to good. Luke's search for the good in his father--and his ultimate success--heals the breach. This is all symbology, of course. If you start analyzing it practically, not all of it will stand up. Fairy tales are not logical or consistent. Last ish, Bev Lorenstein and Susan Henderson alluded to all this quite well, in different ways. Henderson's brilliant line about political morality beginning at home ("the cause of peace and justice is served by caring for those next to one") expresses this idea wonderfully. It is the joining of the personal and the public, the individual and the political. This is a very powerful, enlightened idea and, if realized, an answer to human mendacity, misery and desperation. But Brin's article was a finely written piece. Yet I'm still waiting for someone to tell us that those smiling Jedi at the end are not really who they appear to be.

Jean Stevenson's article was also fun. But I have to

disagree with her contention about Han. He treats the droids with nothing more than irritation, indifference and as much insensitivity as the rest of GL's universe. I rarely see Han treating them with "warmth and affection"--quite the contrary. And Han treats 3PO as an equal? Which SW films did you see??? "Threepio has the human option of striking away the hand, continuing to talk in the face of the finger, even fighting off the Princess"?? Are you kidding?? Sorry, I just don't see any of that happening.

On the subject of color--anyone but me who's bored with the whole thing? To put it bluntly, WHO CARES?? SO WHAT?? Since GL himself said in the PBS special that Luke's black costume is "a lot like the one in the first film, only black and more Jedi" I think that pretty much closes the matter. (I have the special recorded.) I can't believe the inordinate amount of symbolic importance put on the color of costumes, for pete's sake! It may make for some slightly interesting observations but little more.

Marcia Brin: Just want to confront various lines from your letter last ish. "Who else but a god can treat his companions in any manner he chooses and never apologize, without paying?" Interesting. I ask everyone to read that quote remembering that Marcia is a believer in the "hidden god Han" theory. "I don't believe in instantaneous redemption." That's not the point. Don't ascribe your own preferences to GL. You have no idea what goes on in GL's mind. You may not believe in it, but GL may, as a cinematic device. Criticism of Luke's treatment of the droids? Okay. (But I don't know why he's singled out, especially since he's the one that remembers them the most.) His failure to sense the pit at Jabba's court? All right, maybe. I think all the characters have these little lapses, really. But I don't make them out to be monsters. Here's a challenge directed to you and all the other Luke-haters: Let's see you devote an entire LoC to what you think Luke should've done AND his attributes. Fair criticism implies an understanding of someone's good and bad points. You

have devoted volumes (very repetitive and ultimately unconvincing to anyone but a Luke-hater) to the latter. Let's see some discussion of the former. Come on, you Luke fans! No more defenses where there's none needed! Let's talk about how nice he is!

As to Marquand's statement about Vader realizing there is a power greater and darker than himself, I found your convenient dismissal of the Emperor as that power very indicative of much of your argumentation. You dismiss outright many valid possibilities very quickly. Sure, Vader's known about the Emperor for 20 years. That's not the point. In TESB, Vader talked as if he believed he was the ultimate, superior power. He certainly didn't sound as if he realized the Emperor's true power then. In ROTJ, he's submissive, far less defiant. He's realized it now. ((Editor's note: Makes you wonder what went on with Darth between TESB and ROTJ. Perhaps the Emperor called him into His Presence for a little refresher course in Who Is In Charge Here, hmm?))

Mark Hamill's comment about coming to terms with the fact that Luke Skywalker is no more and then his "Oh, dear, I've given something away"--you immediately dismiss the possibility that Mark is referring to Luke not being in the first trilogy by saying that anyone reading the interview would know that. Here's another deliberate search for negativism and a convenient dismissal of the more valid answer. Brin is assuming she knows what's going on in Hamill's mind and that every reader of this interview knows what goes on in the first trilogy, a sweeping assumption to say the least.

GL may take racism seriously but, like most Hollywood filmmakers, he is prone to racist presentations of certain peoples, however unconscious. TEMPLE OF DOOM proved that to me conclusively (he and Spielberg owe the entire Hindu world a very big apology), and I'm not the only one who's noticed this. The kind of film genre that he is celebrating in RLA and TOD is an inherently racist genre: white man or men goes to Africa/Asia/Latin America and helps out poor, ignorant, childlike natives or exploits, uses or steals from mean, rotten, cannibalistic tribe that dares to defy its

colonial masters. It is a decidedly arrogant, chauvinist, stereotypical view of the Third World. And I have to disagree with Cheree here in her editorial when she criticized my use of the word "racist". ((Editor's note: I was not criticizing you or your usage of the word "racist" in my editorial comment last issue. I was saying that I had gotten a LoC from someone who very nastily pointed a finger at another fan, called them by name and labelled that fan a racist, along with other very ugly titles that I refused to print.)) I'm a film critic and criticism goes beyond merely analyzing plot, characters, direction, etc. It also involves delving into the themes, messages, assumptions, attitudes implicit in a film. To point out racism in a film is as common as pointing out flat characters and as valid. There's nothing vicious or petty or basically wrong with this kind of analysis.

Luke sees no evil in Vader? Interesting how a belief that there is good in Vader gets twisted into meaning there's absolutely nothing wrong with him. Distort, twist, dismiss the valid. That's what I see in all of Marcia's reasoning on this issue (the idea that 3PO is mad at Luke was a real doozy!). Give me a concrete example of Luke not wanting to kill Vader out of fear. Where is this shown? You condemn Luke for fighting Vader and then you condemn him for not fighting Vader. (Yet, again, I thought passivity was the key.) Just what do you WANT him to do? Criticism is easy. Positive analysis isn't.

Now here's the best example of your double standards: "The fact that Han and Leia still care for Luke at the end tells us not about Luke, but about them, and what kind of people they are." This is exactly why we admire Luke for still caring for Vader. I'm not really surprised you don't extend this same gracious understanding to Luke.

Liz Sharpe: I'm an anarchist, so I disagree with your comments on authority. Authority in and of itself is wrong because it is hierarchy. Hierarchy is inequality, which is injustice. I prefer to believe Luke because he is not an authority figure.

Tim Blaes: DR. WHO and THE AVENGERS has been done (though not very well) as has WHO and BLAKE'S 7 and QUESTOR/GARY SEVEN. I too enjoy cross universes, but they're usually not presented very well.

Anyway, let's all finish this anti-Luke nonsense and get on to some interesting discussion, like the relationship between Luke and Leia, as well as Han and Leia. Where do they go from here?



Marcia Brin
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I have to admit that I have serious reservations with your editorial policy. I totally agree that there is no place in a letterzine for such juvenile behavior as personal attacks--and these, by the way, consist of more than just saying "idiot"; there were some letters last issue that, in my opinion, crossed the line, despite disclaimers to the contrary.

My problem is with the rest of the editorial. We are, unfortunately, starting to get into the censorship of ideas here. Of course people are getting hot under the collar: they are arguing about morality and what they consider right and wrong. I agree that that is no excuse to behave like a rabid dog, but it does explain why people feel strongly about the topics under discussion. The problem is that when you attempt to eliminate central issues of the films from discussion, you leave nothing of any real interest behind. Certainly, details go to creating atmosphere and believability in a film itself, but that doesn't mean people are interested in entering into lengthy and meaningful dialogues on the lengths

of hems on Alderaan. If this were as much as the films were about, how many correspondents to letterzines would still be writing? An examination of the topics suggested in the editorial itself clearly emphasizes this: they are irrelevant.

Even more, they call for fiction, not opinion. What was Vader referring to when he said "mercy mission"? Who knows? There is absolutely nothing in the films or ancillary sources to give you any idea (Daley's idea is exactly that, his idea. Fiction.). What you are asking for here is for everyone to write their own story about it, as it's not possible to hold an opinion about something written in air. That's for fanzines, not for letterzines. Letterzines, as I understood it, were designed as vehicles to discuss and analyze the films.

Your editorial also leads to a query. Are you eliminating Luke entirely from discussions? There virtually isn't anything you can say about him, from any of the films, that does not go to the issue of whether he succeeded or failed (everything has, after all, been leading to this). To say that you feel Luke was right, became a Jedi, etc., is to directly comment on the issue; how can that be permitted without permitting people the right to disagree? We are right back in the middle of everything again. The only way to avoid the topic is to literally write Luke off as a subject of discussion. I can't imagine that that would please anyone, but I also cannot see how to avoid it and remain fair to all your contributors. I think that if this editorial is going to be your policy, you will have to set out more specifically what can be talked about and what cannot.

In response to my criticisms of the Leia-Luke bonding remarks, some people are saying that they are not talking about incest, but about Force-bonding. Have you guys read the zine stories yet? You may be talking about Force-bonding; they are talking incest! Isn't it amazing how, in one swell foop, Lucas has made that a viable alternative for any number of fans. It also leads to a question: what the hell is Force-bonding? It's not in the film or the novels or any of the ancillary sources. It might make

a nice fan story, but it has no basis in the films. We don't know enough about the Force to know if it is even possible. And there are things in the films which seem to argue against it. Vader stands next to Leia any number of times and can't even see that she is a Force-user, much less related to him. He has no idea of what Luke is up to at any time; the Emperor has to tell him that Luke will come to him, there does not seem to be any bond across distances. Leia, throughout the entire Endor sequence, seems to have absolutely no idea what Luke is doing or whether or not he is in any danger--nor, in fact, does she seem to care (there does not appear to be any "bond" that creates empathy between them)! Luke declares that his father is on Endor, when Vader isn't anywhere even close. Some bond!

Two other points on this: First, since Han is a Force-user (those of you who have trouble with this concept, keep saying things like "sarlacc, sarlacc" over and over to yourselves), the physical love relationship between him and Leia would be enhanced by any Force-talent they have. Second, I'm amazed at the number of people willing to condemn Luke to a loveless existence. An adult male does not need a sister, he needs a wife, and since you claim not to be talking about incest, you are also demanding he be celibate if Leia is to be his prime bond. This hardly seems fair to him. He should be out looking for his own female half, not hanging around someone else's. It seems a very lonely way to spend the rest of his life.

It appears that I did not express myself as clearly as I could have on another topic and I apologize. To those who have questioned my remarks on Luke's behavior when he is under attack by the Emperor, I regret my lack of clarity. I was not criticizing Luke's screaming. He did so in TESB when Vader cut off his hand and I found nothing wrong with it; it was perfectly understandable and it in no way diminished him. However, with ROTJ, I was talking about Luke's begging. Not only is it decidedly epic-ly unheroic, but he is also asking someone else to sacrifice himself on Luke's behalf, as he did at the end of TESB. Luke does not seem to have progressed between the films.

Someone wrote that Luke's anger was O.K. because all Jedi have rage. I really wish she had also provided the basis for this sweeping generalization. Yoda flatly says otherwise. In fact, he points out that Luke will not even know the difference between the Light and the Dark until he is calm and at peace. Little wonder then that he does not realize he's in trouble; he's in such a state that he cannot even recognize the Dark from the Light. Perhaps one does not become a Jedi until one has those negative emotions under complete control.

Sandra Necchi asks what I would do if GL were to tell me Luke is fine, he's a hero, he's done right and so forth. Well, it really is a moot point, isn't it, since Lucas has NEVER said any of those things. However, I'm afraid I do have a question back: when you asked that question, your implication seemed to be that I would tell him he doesn't know what he's talking about and you believe that this would be an incorrect attitude (which it would be)--but this has me puzzled, since, based on your article in SCOUNDREL (as well as letters in that zine), that is exactly the attitude you are taking, not some hypothetical remark never made by Lucas, but the actual events on screen in this film. You have declared the film to be sloppy, stupid, careless and mistake-ridden, and you have told us that Lucas doesn't know his universe or characters (e.g., he shouldn't have made Han a general because you didn't need him to be one; maybe he did, though?). In fact, you came out and stated that anything Luke does that's negative you consider illogical and dismiss (at least we agree that Luke is doing things that are negative). (In order to avoid allegations of misstating Sandra's remarks, I had intended to quote from the article--we are, after all, charged with what we write--but it would have meant reprinting the entire piece; it is all a criticism of Lucas: he doesn't take his universe seriously, he doesn't care about the characters or "logic/illogic", etc. The only sentence I did take out to quote here has to do with ignoring what you don't like--which appears to be what I am being accused of, even though, as noted before, Lucas

has never spoken on the issue-- "...I view these illogical presentations [i.e., Luke's negative behavior] practically. I simply see them as carelessness on Lucas' part and ignore them." No wonder Luke is fine, if we can ignore everything he does we don't like!)

Your question of me notwithstanding, I have never dismissed anything in ROTJ I didn't like, and there are any number of things I don't; instead, I ask "why?" and examine them. And that seems to be the real split: one side trying to examine and analyze ROTJ, to dig beneath the surface; and the other, insisting the film be declared stupid and illogical, and viewed on its most surface and juvenile level. Again I ask why? What are you afraid of?

After reading your letter, Sandra, I have to believe that you are essentially conceding my points. When one gets past your rhetoric, it seems clear that there really are no supporting arguments or facts, nothing from the films, from Lucas or Marquand or Kershner or Kurtz or anyone, or from any of the ancillary sources to support your generalizations. It really all boils down to saying: "I don't like what you are saying, therefore it's wrong." Well, in a debate, the only really effective method of opposition is to use facts and reasoned arguments. And since they are the most effective, the absence of such facts suggests that they are not available to you. I'm not inflexible; I have tried to examine the film carefully, and my training leads me to do so from all directions. The opinions I hold now, after such analysis, are obviously the ones I think are correct. This does not mean that I might not have missed an angle or even a whole bunch of points, or that I am not totally wrong on any number of things. If you can show me the things I missed, prove to me that I am wrong on a position, I will concede your point. However, simply telling me that I am wrong--and that you don't like what I am saying--will not convince me to change my mind; in truth, I didn't expect you to like my opinions. That does not mean I am wrong any more than it means that I am right; it just means we disagree.

Well, onward. I just wanted

to examine the Leia-as-Luke's sister and Leia-as-the-Other a little more. A number of the points and problems with this have already come up in several letters and articles: for example, how stupid it makes some of the behavior both in the films and that which must have preceded the second trilogy story (e.g., leaving Leia right under everyone's nose without knowing if she would look like her parents, in fact, having her mother out in the open--long enough, at least, for Leia to remember her; Obi-Wan's "only hope" statement, etc.) and how sexist it is (tossing her to the wolves while hiding Luke away, refusing to train her despite this being their "most desperate hour" and so forth. Note that Lucas has shown himself to be concerned with criticism of racism and sexism: in TESB he added Lando and he gave us two brief--and unnecessary scenes--designed to show that Leia was in command of that branch of the Alliance, even over the military commander. Why then would he do this?).

However, one of the points that begs greater analysis is the question of what actual supporting evidence do we have for this? Actually, precious little. The only "evidence" at all can hardly be considered objective or, for that matter, even probative. It's Luke's declaration that she is. The problem here is that Luke really would not have any way of knowing this. Obi-Wan, if he is Obi-Wan, would, yet the figure Luke speaks to on Dagobah fails to give a straight answer. If Luke's assumption were true, why didn't Ben just say "yes"? Why all the double-talk? "Your feelings serve you well." That could just as easily mean: "Well, she's not for you, and jealousy is one of the fastest paths to falling, so it's better you think that way", or any number of other things.

There are various things that undercut this declaration (by the way, most fans have been extrapolating it to mean that Leia is the Other of TESB, even though that is not what Yoda told Luke; in ROTJ, he did not speak of another hope, but only of another Skywalker. They may not be one and the same.). Leia had been around Vader under the most trying circumstances, but he never even picks up an iota

of Force-talent from her. The Emperor never does either; his "great disturbance" is male ("son of Skywalker"). When Vader reads Luke's thoughts on the Death Star, he still doesn't pick up Leia. Could it be that Luke, deep down, does not really believe it, either, and that's why it is not in his mind?

We never see any Force use of any significance from Leia. She "feels" Luke at the end--which may be his sending as much as anything else--but Yoda told us that everyone had some Force talent. For someone who is "another hope", shouldn't we have something more significant than this? Besides, what's the point? If Leia were already trained, O.K., then she might have a function vis-a-vis the Jedi in the future, even though she does not seem to have one now. But we have seen nothing to support any prior training on her part--her own statements argue against it. I really do not see Leia training in the future. All her inclinations seem to be toward government and leadership positions, rather than for the police force. If she isn't already trained, if she does nothing with it in this film, and she isn't inclined to it in the future (it just doesn't seem to be her "bag"), then why do it? It really does come down to being just a slap at women. Hey, we just nominated Geraldine Ferraro for Vice-President, we don't need this tokenism!

Two last points on this. The first is that at the end, when the three figures appear, note that Leia goes right over and does not see them. Why? (And, by the way, notice that Han does. He is not just looking at Luke; he deliberately cranes his neck and looks around Luke at the figures. We have essentially identical behavior between Han and Luke at this point--they both look at the figures. Let's face it; we really don't know that Luke sees them; he's never in a frame with them. For all we know, we may be the only ones who see them!). The other point is that if this brother-sister relationship is accurate, Lucas is setting up a potentially deadly triangle (rather than resolving one): notice that, at no time in ROTJ, does Luke ever acknowledge the relationship between Han and Leia. The possibility of destructive conflict in the future is enormous until

he does.

To Terri Black: This will be brief and, I'm afraid, blunt. If I offend you, I'm sorry, but you offended me with a portion of your letter. Criticize fandom if you wish, criticize Han (or any other character), criticize me. If I disagree, I will say so; if I agree, I will say that, too. But--please--leave my religion alone. I will say right up front: I'm very touchy about that. You are a part of fandom and thus have a right to criticize it; you do not have an equal right where my faith is concerned. If Luke is a volatile subject, imagine what a powderkeg religion is.

I am quite sure that you meant no offense. However, this is indicative of one of the problems with our letters: we are not always, unfortunately, stopping to realize how some of our more subjective comments are going to be received.



Mary Urhausen
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July 21, 1984

Uh-ohhh... This was going to be one of those long, eye-straining verbose LoCs, that touched base with every letter in SE#4, crammed with praise and jeers, etc., etc., etc. That was way back when I first received and read SE#4--this is now, only a week before the deadline, and me without even my darn ad copy typed up yet!! So I'll tell you what you're going to get: a very abbreviated version (one might even say mercifully brief!) of some of my marginal comments on the letters in SE#4; and a somewhat more detailed reaction to the "Ronni Sacksteder Affair."

I've flipped through my somewhat mutilated and marked-up copy of SE#4, and here are some of my instant reactions scrawled in the margins: By Barbara Brayton and P. L. LaVasseur's

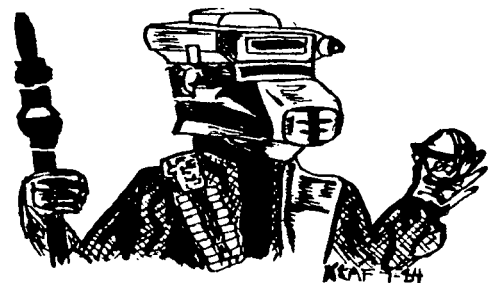
letter, I have written in the margin, "Two smart ladies!" I think that sums it up nicely! Their last paragraph should be cut out, laminated in plastic and stuck above the writing desk of every LoC'ing fan in SW fandom. To Jeanine Hennig (Hi, Jeanine!): And I thought I was the only adult woman in America who got off brushing her teeth with a Luke Skywalker toothbrush! We are weird--and I love it! To Sandy Necchi: Sorry, but I do happen to think George Lucas is influenced by the fans. That does NOT mean that I think (a) he will change his stories because fans don't like something about them (or that he should, for that matter!); (b) that there is anything intrinsically "wrong" with the Saga-according-to-Lucas; or (c) that George Lucas only makes these films for the money, or that making a huge profit is all he cares about. But I DO think that the way fans react and especially the way fans behave definitely DOES influence George Lucas; and quite frankly, there have been some times in the last year that I would have been somewhat embarrassed to walk right up to him and identify myself as a "fan", because of the way some of us have been carrying on. It's one thing to feel disappointment, or to disagree with the Saga-as-presented and quite another to publically vilify the man himself. Okay, here goes: I admire George Lucas, and I'm grateful to him. I even like the guy, on a personal level (even though I don't know any more about him than the rest of you do!). That makes me not only a SW fan, but a George Lucas fan, too. And the message I would like to send to him is not "What the hell do you think you're doing?!", but "Thank you for sharing all of this with us; for which I will gladly squander some of my money (and pay no attention to those loud, opinionated bozos in the back rows!!)"

So much for SHORT comments! Marlene D. Karkoska: In the margin by your letter, I wrote "GOOD!" Guess I was impressed!

Bev Lorenstein: Another Karen Ripley fan! The girl can write! Oh, and a note to all who inquired about the S.P.P.H. S.I.S.: Membership is open to all; we have no dues; our unofficial motto is: "He IS a 'nice man'!" (t-shirts coming soon!); and our first gathering will be

at WorldCon in LA (dress is casual).

Now for the Ronni Sacksteder letter. I was both appalled and outraged to read the original letter, but greatly encouraged by Susan Bridges' subsequent comments--since they reflect my own attitude. The whole business of creating, buying and selling fanzines is dependent on mutual TRUST and INTEGRITY. In my opinion, Ms. Sacksteder violated both of these things by her conduct. I'm obviously no "zine authority" with years of experience or anything, but I think I've grasped the principles of the enterprise. This year, Samia Martz and I co-edited our first zine. We may have been stupid, optimistic, and mildly gorked-out when we agreed to publish THE WOOKIEE COMMODORE, but we had one thing firmly in mind: the only money that was going to be lost on this venture was OUR own!! We wouldn't have gone into it if we didn't already have set aside, before one story was ever accepted, before one word was put on paper or one ad placed anywhere, enough money of our own to print the whole thing out of our pockets. I'm not saying that everyone should have to absorb all of the costs of printing a zine themselves--but you should be able to, IF you have to! At the very least, you should be willing to promptly refund every cent of every deposit, if for some reason your zine doesn't go to publication. Fans have a right to expect NOTHING LESS from zine-eds--or there isn't going to be a fanzine business for long!! I find it personally repugnant that anyone would treat the zine-buying public--of which I am a member!--this way; and I, too, find Ronni Sacksteder's behavior totally unacceptable! (My comment in the margin of Susan's letter is "AMEN!!")



Sonia Blodgett
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July 24, 1984

I like to write letters (even though I am not very good at it) and I love the Star Wars Saga, but I didn't have the courage to send a letter to a letterzine until I read Bev Clark's letter in SE#3. Her lists of reasons for why LoCs are rarer these days made me realize that most media fan fiction editors probably welcome letters from any concerned individual, not just BNF's, and prompted me to get over my inferiority complex and type a letter to SOUTHERN ENCLAVE in the hope that it might actually be printed. I almost hope that it is not printed because, if I am noticed at all, I will probably end up having my opinions and ideas torn to shreds in SE#6, but what is life without a little excitement? So, here goes. ((Ed's note: Let me jump in here for a second and say that no one should ever be afraid of writing just because they are not a "BNF". All this Big Name Fan business is a lot of nonsense, anyway. We all started out at the same place in fandom and there is no inborn royalty...just people who are more vocal than others. Don't let a few outspoken people intimidate you; 98% of the folks in fandom are considerate, kind and interested in what you have to say!))

First off, let me say that SE#4 was great not only for its layout, well-written articles and interesting letters, but also because it expresses a concern I picked up after reading SE#3. Interest in SW is supposed to be fun, not the ultimate intellectual experience and even though a moderate level of seriousness and disagreement can be fun and constructive, too serious is a big turn off. You get my award for good advice of the quarter year (for all that it is worth), Cheree, Michelle Malkin, Mary Urhausen, Bev Lorenstein, Carol Peters and anyone else that I forgot to mention.

Marcia Brin, Jean Stevenson, Melody Corbett: Now, I don't think that you are members of the Luke Skywalker Defamation League or anything like that, since you are probably the most rational voices around that are

criticizing Luke (I disagree with almost everything you say about him, but at least I can see where you are coming from. I haven't been able to make heads or tails out of some of the Anti-Luke letters I've read in other letterzines) and are genuinely concerned about the morals, definitions of rite-of-passage and responsibility, etc., portrayed in the Saga, but why are you criticizing Luke Skywalker when you should be criticizing George Lucas himself? The reason you don't think Luke is a nice person, hasn't gone through his rite-of-passage, and is still in serious danger of falling to the Dark Side, etc., is because your views of morals, et al, are different from George Lucas. It is as simple as that. You are also going to have to face up to the fact that while you think that Han Solo is ten times more worthy than Luke, should have been the Other, is the most important person in the Saga, etc., George Lucas does not. If you ask me, I think Han and Luke are equally worthy, noble, fearless, etc., but neither one of them is the strongest, morally and emotionally, in the Saga. Princess Leia is.

Thank you for sharing your experience at the World Premiere of Jedi, Sally Smith. I can still remember how excited I was about getting to see Jedi a couple of days after my high school graduation (I almost overloaded with happiness that week). I had to get up at three o'clock in the morning and take a two hour drive to Tuscon with a couple of friends that I had seen Empire with when it premiered in Europe at the U. S. Army movie theater in Frankfurt, Germany (for those of you that are wondering about that, both my dad and those two friends' (they're sisters) dad are in the Army, and we were neighbors in Giessen, Germany, about forty miles from Frankfurt. Anyway, by some weird accident of fate, their father was stationed at the Army post next to Sierra Vista, Arizona, a year after my father was, and I just happened to run into one of them on the first day of my senior year. Isn't it a small world?) to see the 6:30 A.M. show, but it was worth it ten times over. No matter how people criticize Jedi (and I have a few minor criticisms of my own), nothing

can deter from the feeling I get when I see each new Star Wars movie for the first time. I just hope Lucas makes more of them.

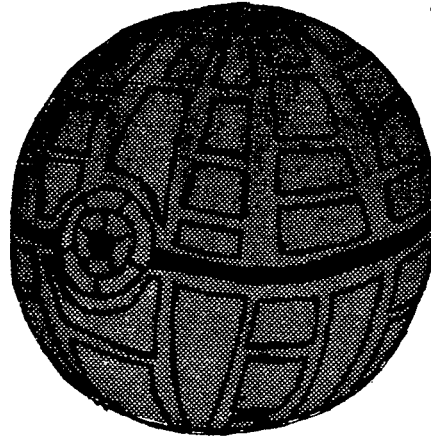
Karen Finch: You have it the other way around. It's not you that wanted to tell Luke about his parentage and Ben disagreed; it's Ben that wanted to tell Luke about Vader but Yoda disagreed. However, I agree with you about Yoda seeming to have some sort of master plan and that only Ben was wrong when Luke unintentionally challenged authority. I mean, Ben was the only one that said that Vader had no good in him and must be destroyed, not Yoda. I'm sure Yoda was wrong about something in his lifetime (no one is perfect), but I just can't see anything that Yoda was conclusively wrong about in Empire or Jedi. Can any of you?

Mary Urhausen: Oh! Can I join S.P.P.H.S.I.S., too? And I would like to join Jeanne Hennig's S.F.P.O.L.S.A.G.W.F. while I am at it. While I am sure that Han is not a virgin and Luke is not a ladykiller, both those stereotypes are silly and unfounded (which is why I like to read counterpoints to those opinions so much). I would also like to add that one of the best things about SW is that it gives us three gorgeous guys to drool over. It's no like I worship Han's chin or Luke's dimples, but all bases of sexy are covered. We have All-Man Han, cuter-than-my-best-friend's-new-cocker-spaniel-puppy Luke, and debonair Lando. Isn't it great?

Tim Blaes: I commend you for trying to introduce other things besides Star Wars. I mean, as much as I adore SW, it might get kind of boring trying to keep letterzines going for four or more years if everyone talks about only SW. I would like to add one more of your cross universe teamups: Gremlins and E.T.

I better wind up this letter now, I think. If it is too long, my masochistic desire to have it all printed will definitely never be realized. To those of you that are still awake after reading this, I have only one thing to say (as cliché as it may sound): May the Force (and God) be with you!

NO, LORD VADER.
NONE OF OUR
CHARTS SHOW
ANY "CORNER
POCKET" OR
"SIDE
POCKET."



Terri Black
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July 27, 1984

This is going to be a short LoC--about as short as my time. I just want to say my piece about fannish "consumer complaints." I don't know what to make of the letter regarding Jani Hicks, as far as what's happened to her. I do know it's depressing and upsetting, and I don't think any of us got into fandom so we could get depressed and upset. Something has to be done. I feel that the system of using consumer complaints has gotten out of hand. As a once and future zined, I want to tell you that consumer complaints printed in zines have made my co-editor Charlene Fleming and I very nervous on occasion. We haven't always had the most organized business practices, whatever the reason. I can think of times when we've discovered misfiled checks a year after they were written! I don't know that we've ever misplaced someone's record after cashing their

check, but I can see how it might have happened. We have been and continue to be profoundly grateful for the patience of our customers. If anyone never got their copy of SPICA, at least they haven't made a stink about it.

My point is that fanzines are basement/back room/attic operations and are subject to a few more glitches than, say, the Book of the Month Club. Yes, try to get in touch. I can even accept published consumer complaints--I understand the need for some recourse. But do we have to pour on the vitriol?

This is actually only a symptom. Another symptom is the letterwar on which Cheree's trying to blow the whistle. The problem is called TAKING FANDOM TOO SERIOUSLY! Not only do we get our intellectual egos more and more tied up in it, we find more and more of our money sunk into it as well. Time was when \$30 would buy six or more fanzines. When it only buys two, you're naturally going to be a little more anxious to get those two. It's money you're not spending on food, rent or car insurance.

My question: is this perhaps putting zines in a league in which they shouldn't be? A high-priced zine is risky for the customer. It's even more risky for the editor, who has to make the initial investment and take responsibility for her overhead. Most of us don't consult business lawyers when we start a zine, as far as I know--but costs are getting so high that maybe we should!

The alternative is to scale down our projects. I know--I like megazines as much as anyone. The editor who tackles such an endeavor usually brings superior skill into it and attracts a certain amount of talent. But the same editor could do smaller projects, couldn't she? Then, if she did have problems, she wouldn't feel the need to file for bankruptcy, or skip out altogether, or commit suicide; it would be manageable. And not only would there be fewer problems to deal with, people would get less riled about what problems did come up.

Fandom used to a light, fun place. If we don't watch out, it's going to collapse of its own weight.

Melody Corbett
35 West 92nd Street
New York, NY 10025

I've been thinking about what I was going to say here for days. I've started this letter five times, and I'm still not happy with the way it's developing. I guess that's because I'm basically a coward and would rather not put some of these things into words. But time to quit stalling, so here goes.

Sandra Necchi in her last letter expressed displeasure with certain fans whose views disagreed with hers, singling out Jean Stevenson, Marcia Brin and myself. She went on to say we were attacking Luke and attempting to change and confuse the meaning of this middle Star Wars trilogy and that we had no concrete evidence to support our theories. She indicated that we resorted to broad generalizations and referred to random (and by that I suppose she means irrelevant) quotes.

I don't want to speak for Jean and Marcia. As for myself, I know that I have been most careful in researching any ideas that I have put forth. (My train of logic might be very different from yours, therefore my conclusions different, but please don't ever doubt that there is thought put into the things I bring up.) I give you my word that the ideas I have put forth have not been to mindlessly degrade Luke and play havoc with the saga, but rather to invite others to explore the mystery that I think Mr. Lucas has presented us with in Jedi and maybe somewhere along the way to investigate some issues of right and wrong behavior (issues that Luke, by virtue of being a central character, is intricately involved in).

For example, you say my "involved" letter about Marquand's statements dealing with "the young knight" is not acceptable because I tried to tie Yoda's statement about there being an other in with it. Well, you may be right. In adding that statement ("There is another") to Marquand's quote I might have only complicated my own case. So I will start again, this time leaving out the element of the "other". Marquand said, "The young knight comes back and meets his pals and off they go for one gung-ho thrust."

I still eliminate Darth/Ana-

kin. He's too old.

I still eliminate Luke. He's not a knight throughout the gung-ho thrust (unless that gung-ho thrust happens in the last 10 minutes of the film.)

I still eliminate Leia. Marquand referred to the young knight as being male.

I still eliminate any new character. The young knight is someone who returns to rejoin his pals.

That leaves Wedge, Chewbacca, Lando, Threepio, Artoo and Han. Although I never stated it in my letter, I know who my choice is. But if you draw a different conclusion from this quote, I would really like to see it and the steps that you used to arrive at your answer.

Sandra, the reason I repeated the Marquand section from my last letter was to point out that I don't think that I have been indulging in "conveniently dismissed possibilities" and reaching "unconvincing conclusions" but that you have been dealing in blanket dismissal of ideas that displease you.

Although you accuse me (and others) of presenting unfounded ideas, your own letter seems to be one that was written solely to intimidate anyone from expressing any idea that runs counter to your own view of the saga. Since you chose to be so "aggressive" in your approach and then to back up this "aggressive" attitude with so little tangible evidence, I find myself left only with the option to react to the tone of your letter, and that tone I find to be insulting--which I assume was intended.

I notice that at the end of your letter you say that what you were criticizing was our ideas and not us. Well, tell me, Sandra, which do you want me to believe--your one sentence disclaimer or the two pages that went before it?

Cheree, I was going to go on with this diatribe a little longer, but I find that I just haven't the heart for it. I'm much more comfortable questioning the saga than in haranguing other writers, but that's just my problem. Examining the films I find myself drawn again and again to questions that center around Luke, his identity, his behavior, his destiny, and questions that seem to point up elements of the story that I suspect some of your readers would

rather not see.

I must say that your star in looking only at the light side, strikes me as very similar to Luke's attitude toward Vader--seeming only to acknowledge the good in his father and discounting all that is bad. Although there are many things in this film that Luke does that don't like, I do care about him enough to ask Leia's question "What's wrong, Luke?" Your last editorial seemed to rule the areas out as topics of conversation. Or were you just asking for cooler heads? Whichever, I will try to observe your zine policy in the future, but I would appreciate it if you could be more explicit in your next editorial so I will know precisely what your boundaries are.

((Editor's note: It was never my intention that Luke should be banned as a topic of conversation. I used the term "Light Side of the Force" as a metaphor, intending that it be read as a plea for us to lighten up a bit and back off from each others' throats. I really don't care what topics people pursue as long as it is done civilly and without overt hostility. A few people got carried away by the intensity of their letters and I was calling for order by asking that they cool off a bit before jumping back in.))

Also, Melody enclosed a copy of the article she bas her letter on and I am printing it here.))



PAGE 2

By Jeff Silverman

And if he's *really* lucky, The Force'll stick with him . . .

Jot this in your journals, pilgrims, and remind yourselves regularly of the insight: "We kid ourselves," director Richard Marquand's saying, "if we feel we're making art. History will decide whether we have or not." Hmm. What, then, do filmmakers make? "Entertainment," lasers back the 40-year-old Brit by phone from Lucasfilms' spiffy new headquarters up in San Rafael. "And if at the same time we learn about life — and convey what we've learned — well, that's just dandy."

And that, from a galaxy not all that very far away, is the philosophy of the Cambridge-educated chap tapped by George Lucas to helm "Revenge of the Jedi," the third installment of the projected nine-pic "Star Wars" saga. The "Jedi," of course, is a Major Plum. Whole gobs of folk will zing directly to the box office the instant it opens. Tons of loot will be raked in. For its director, the pressure, as they say, is on.

"Yes, it *does* scare me," admits Marquand. "Of course it does. I'm old enough to expect the third one's the one critics are going to have their guns loaded for. The third guy through the hole is the one who gets shot at. The third cigarette is the one lit with a different match."

Marquand, you'll recall, received his appointment for the project following Lucasfilms' woes with the Directors Guild. (Lucas and company were fined a huge sum — the levy was later sliced substantially — for dropping director Irvin Kershner's screen credit at the end of "The Empire Strikes Back.") Since the Lucas folk are now no longer in step with the Guild — or is it the other way around? — they were forced to set up a search *beyond* the borders of Guild membership for their "Jedi" director. And it was upon Marquand — UA's just released his "Eye of the Needle" — that The Force finally descended. "My real reason for directing this film," says Marquand, "is that from the start I've been a complete fan of the saga. I've probably seen 'Star Wars' as many times as your average fan — maybe 10 times." These days, however, his relationship's taken on a more intense, but certainly no less cosmic, dimension. "I now know both films practically shot by shot."

OK, then. What are the behind-the-camera differences between the two? "I think that George has a great sense of pace and sense of humor," explains Marquand. "He loves the warm relationship side of the characters that play the major roles in the saga. Kershner, on the other hand, suited 'Empire' because he was more

interested in the darkness and the danger and the doom — which is right; because the middle episode *should* be like that. There should be more threat. In 'Empire,' " he continues, "there are not many gags. You rarely see the gang together, and that means you have a sense of loneliness and possible despair and certainly danger. You're worried all the time — and of course you should be. Kershner was the right man for that."

And what does Marquand suggest he can inject into the third installment? "I'm going to bring back that pace — and keep the danger and the action and the gang back together for the final adventure. It's no accident that the picture's called 'Revenge of the Jedi.' The young knight comes back and meets his pals and off they go for one gung-ho thrust. Narrative, character and getting the most emotional value out of a concept. I think that's what we want for the 'Jedi.' At least that's what I want for 'Jedi.'"

For weeks now, Marquand, Lucas and screenwriter Lawrence Kasden — the whiz responsible for scripting Lucas' "Raiders of the Lost Ark" — have been beaver away in San Rafael on exactly *what* they want for the "Jedi" story. "George had already done a rough script," says Marquand, "but he hates writing. He forced himself to do it. Basically, he was screaming for help. That's why he hired a director and hired a writer. George is a man interested in collaboration. He'll pick everyone's brains. He doesn't pull rank on anybody. I know that now from the script conferences. We'd exchange ideas like gold coins. You'd just throw them in the pot." Kasden's the alchemist in charge of pulling a script out of that pot; for his part, Marquand's already begun the "intense stage of story boarding."

The whole gang's scheduled to wing to England for the "Jedi's" planned four-month shoot in January. Then back to Marin County for post-production through early '83, and what they see as an early spring of '83 unveiling.

And then? "Then I'll be on the dole." Page 2, of course, will be right there with him. Heh-heh . . . ■

Hiders of the Lost Ark

DURHAM, N.C. (UPI) — Two Duke University professors involved in the discovery of an ancient ark of the covenant in Israel say they had to hide their find from religious activists opposed to archeological exploration.

Dr. Eric Meyers and his wife, Dr. Carol Meyers, both religion professors at Duke University, withheld the announcement of their find in Israel this summer until the safety of the 1200-pound limestone artifact was assured.