

Well, I happen to be friends with THE Laura Virgil and she says I can sue you really cheap. And another thing, you better tell Jenni Henni to quit theat-ening me in the pages of SOUTH-ERN ENCLAVE. I'll sue her too! ((Ed: Go suck a rock, Annie. I work for a law firm and I know more lawyers than you've ever seen! So there!))

## Why Wormie?

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January 1, 1985

I hope everyone had wonder-ful holidays! Enjoyed SE#6 and I'm glad it's still here.

Sondra Blodgett: I agree with you!! My first LoC was printed and I feel a wee bit embarrassed. (Y'know the old "Did I really write that?") It's strange to see something of your own in print.

I've got a question I hope one (or all) of you can help me answer. I can't for the life of me find out why Luke's nick-name is Wormie! I've searched high and low and keep coming up with zilch! Thanks to any help.

On to the zine... Enjoyed both Judi Grove's and Ann Wor-tham's articles. Very, very, very much enjoyed "A Teleology of Torture."

Sharon Saye: Really liked your ideas about the Dark Side using its master. I think Vader was afraid for Luke on Bespin. I've always believed he wouldn't have killed Luke but, we'll never know.

Laura Virgil: I'm glad you made the suggestion about the table of contents for letters. I found it very useful. I agreed with just about all of your let-ter. Especially about Han at the Sarlacc pit. Very much liked your idea about "hiding in plain sight". It is so obvious that it's not obvious. Both Luke and Leia hidden in plain sight until the necessary time. Ben being near Luke when the time came then in turn Luke being near Leia.

Sally Syrjala: Your ideas about the Jedi falling would make a fascinating story.

Cheree: Don't know if I should be insulted or not; put-ting Jabba's pic before my first printed LoC?!

Carol Peters: You were talk-ing about Luke putting Darth's "body" on the pyre. I agree--it wasn't his body--just the armor. I've always thought that when Darth/Anakin died his body "van-ished" like the other Jedi we've seen at death (Ben and Yoda). I think Luke put Darth's armor on the pyre to put to rest all the pain and bad memories. A clean-sing of sort. To be able to ac-cept his love for Anakin, he had to get rid of Darth and all that was left of him.

Also thanks for the info on "Enter the Dark Lord." I hope it's true.

Michelle Malkin: I always like reading your letters--they are so well written! I don't always agree with what you say, but...

Yes, yes! A zine with no-thing but Dark Side stories. I love it! ((Ed: But not from me! I've already got more irons in the fire than I can tend!))

Sandra Necchi: I always like your zine reviews and I'm glad you mentioned Jeanine Hen-nig's "Catalyst" series. It's wonderful. If any of you Luke-lovers out there haven't read any of her stories--SHAME ON YOU! Get busy!

In your answer to Barbara Tennison about what Luke loses as a Jedi, you said "every-thing except his virginity (hee! But Jenni, Sally and I will cer-tainly take care of that! Smile ...sigh...)

Like your comments on war.

Debbie Gilbert: You were commenting on Bantha Tracks. A lot of my pals here have been saying how much they dislike the new slant it is taking (STAR WARS Lucasfilm Fan Club). I don't want to begrudge GL his fine work, but it is called SW...FC, and one hardly ever reads anything pertaining to SW in it anymore. The zines are all we have.

On your comments about "mas-ter"--Darth also calls himself a master, during the saber joust with Ben on the Death Star. "When I left you, I was but the learner; now I am the Master."

Bev Clark: Enjoyed your letter. Reading the different origins of the names always gives new insight into the char-acters.

Maggie Nowakowska: Your first paragraph sounds absolute-ly delicious! Got a big chuckle from the Falcon being the Other (a real big drink, eh?) Loved your idea of L&L's mom being Obi-Wan's sis. Sounds very plausible.

Jeanine Hennig: Hello, hello! Truly enjoyed your let-ter. Liked what you had to say about the age of the characters vs. the age of the actor. GOO-DIE, I didn't know you like Marc Singer!!! Hope all is well on Alfalfa.

Tim Blaes: All I can say is your letter was hysterical!!

Jean L. Stevenson: Your comments on the visual symbols in SW were very interesting, especially the sexual ones. Makes one think!

Sally Smith: You asked how come active SW fandom is mostly female. I've thought a lot about this. The only thing I can come up with (and I know it sounds biased) is that on the whole females seem more creative and more willing to spend time (lots of it) on something they enjoy.

Dr. Mary Urhausen: Glad to see an unmarried fan that does-n't view married=dead. I was married at 19 and everyone said it wouldn't work. It's almost been three years and it just keeps getting better. Both my husband and I were kind of wild. To me it's finally nice to set-tle down. I think Han could possibly feel that way!

Marlene Karkoska: Your re-marks about the Jedi being human were great. I think Jedi have a better grip on emotions and actions but aren't totally in-fallible. Like the Pope, they are still human.

Well, I guess that is it for now. Time to crawl off to bed, and leave you with my favorite line (think I lifted it from Jenni)--"A Jedi wears black...or nothing at all!"



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January 12, 1985

Sonia Blodgett: You should have received a private letter from me about quantum physics and physical indeterminacy. (I suspect you really mean by the latter "free will", based on the contradiction you pose between Yoda's and Obi-Wan's comments.) My answer, briefly, is that quantum physics does seem to me to be the truest description of the physical universe we now have, keeping in mind that truth in the quantum world is a slippery quality. Theory and experiment match remarkably well, especially considering that theory preceded experiment by 20 or 30 years in some cases. And as I understand the theory--on a very, very, extremely lay level--the real question is not whether physical indeterminacy exists in the universe, but whether physical indeterminacy does.

At a fundamental level, the universe is uncertain; the probability of this uncertainty is that there is no such thing as destiny in a physical sense. At the same time, the universe is not totally random, not unpredictable. That is, some things are more probable than others in a given situation, even if they are not certain (in quantum physics, we also lose cause and effect, as well as classical logic, in the sense we usually mean them). The situation has come about because of actions that have closed off certain future courses of action but at the same time opened up many new ones. All are equally probable until another action closes off some of them and opens up others, and so on.

So I don't see Yoda's statement ("Always in motion is the future") and Obi-Wan's ("In my experience, there is no such thing as luck") as contradictory, if by luck one means "random chance." The future is undetermined and fluid; at any given point, there is a near-infinity of possible futures. But which one you end up in (or bring about, which may be more correct), does not depend on random chance or luck but on your own actions. In SW, your ability to use the Force also affects what happens to you--

the point Obi-Wan was trying to make to Han. Curiously, and interestingly, physicists are now moving toward a total theory of the universe in which the universe and everything in it are mathematically just differing manifestations of one "superforce", and all matter and energy result from the interactions of force fields of different kinds. You and I and George Lucas and my typewriter are not just permeated and surrounded by the Force, we are the Force.

The caveat to this speculation in reference to SW is that, however fascinating it may be, it may be irrelevant. It may have nothing at all to do with SW or what GL (and/or Larry Kasdan) meant by those lines.

If anyone is interested in learning more about quantum physics and its implications, I especially recommend TAKING THE QUANTUM LEAP by Fred Wolf and THE DANCING WU LI MASTERS by Gary Zukav. Read them in that order, too. Wolf's book is a basic overview of the subject, arranged chronologically, which turns out to be in order of increasing sophistication. Zukav's book is more scattershot in its explanations about the theory, because he is more interested in discussing the philosophical implications of quantum theory, especially its radical break with traditional notions such as Aristotelean logic and its similarity to Eastern religions and philosophies.

Jean Stevenson: I can give you some of Joseph Campbell's remarks about the SW movies. The following quotations are from The Seattle Post-Intelligencer, December 5, 1983; Campbell was in town to promote his then-new book, THE WAY OF THE ANIMAL SPIRITS.

"Among Campbell's many admirers is producer George Lucas, the artistic force behind 'Star Wars'. Lucas has acknowledged that his space saga was strongly influenced by Campbell's work and, in appreciation, recently invited the scholar and his wife to his home, where they watched the three 'Star Wars' movies in one day.

"I hadn't seen a movie in 30 years and I was thrilled," Campbell says. "These movies are a wonderful fairy tale, a wonderful epic. Lucas is using mythological themes and

archetypal characters, using them against the vacuum of outer space, as a means to project ideals and symbolic actions. It becomes what I call "protomythology"."

The other remarks Maggie and I mentioned are from the New York Times Book Review at roughly the same time. I hope Maggie still has a copy of the article, because I don't!

Now I need to clarify a couple of points from my last letter: First, when I talked about editing of LOCs in an SF zine, I didn't mean to imply that an SF zine editor might censor ideas; the average SF fan would be as horrified by that as the average media fan. Second, Gracia Fay Ellwood, who discussed the Japanese and Chinese soundalikes for Han Solo's name, approved of Han and also discussed the character as a possible type of the Fool from the Tarot, a sort of holy innocent, but a positive and important character. She did, however, feel that the meanings of those soundalikes were fitting for Han's surface personality, which does have a tendency to act first and think later. And, of course, there is no way of knowing whether GL had any knowledge of this.

I particularly enjoyed Liz Sharpe's article on torture. Her grasp of the droid torture scenes in ROTJ, especially the cinematic reasons for them, is sensible and plausible. On the purpose of torture, a couple of points can be added to Liz's discussion: to gain information that cannot be gotten any other way, and to win leverage over a third party, such as a relative or friend of the person being tortured. These are the reasons Vader tortures Leia and Han in ANH and TESB, respectively.

As for whether droids feel pain (and are thus appropriate creatures for torture), ability to feel pain has at least two components: ability to sense a physical stimulus of a particular sort, and ability to interpret the perceived sensation as unpleasant, causing hurt, warning of something wrong, or implying impending loss of individual existence. Even our contemporary machines should be able to satisfy the first part of the definition. The actual physical mechanism by which a stimulus is perceived is a simple electrical signal, whether

it betokens stimulation of living nerve ends or of resistors and transistors. What our machines can't do, and Lucas' droids apparently can, is interpret a particular sort of electrical signal as painful, with all that that implies. Therefore the droid's pain is "real", because the reality is in the interpretation, not the signal itself. The difference between the droid and the living being is that the droid's ability to feel pain is programmed into it (but doesn't have to be), whereas normal living beings possess it inherently.

I must disagree with Sandra Necchi that fans have a deeper or richer, or simply superior, view of SW than GL because fans focus on characterization. It's different, yes, but not "better" any more than the modern novel, with its heavy focus on characters above all else, is better than the medieval "roman," with its focus on symbols, the fantastic, and archetypal characters. Both are products of their time and of a particular prejudice about what constitutes good, or acceptable, literature. The current trend in favor of deep characterization of individual characters is less than 200 years old and came in only with the development of the novel as the primary form of literature. There were artists before that time who created rich characters--Shakespeare comes to mind for the major characters in his plays--but they were not necessarily revered as they are today, or not for that reason (Shakespeare was out of favor for many years). Artists, in general, have tended to reject the conventions of their eras, and the critical establishment has generally taken them to task for it.

This seems to be GL's sin. He appears uninterested in making movies according to critical strictures and worse, admits that he doesn't even like some of the things currently considered de rigeur in serious work. (Put me in his camp in that respect. I don't like heavy characterization, either, which is why I don't like 20th century serious literature for the most part.) What he wants to do may or may not turn out to be an irrelevant tangent (I'm not sure how many other people are interested in seeing how fast movies can move before they become in-

comprehensible) but it's "wrong" only because current prejudice doesn't regard it as acceptable. The SW movies fall into a category we have relegated to childhood, but they would have been perfectly admirable examples of stories suited in theme and telling for adults at one time. They may become so again when fashions in literature, filmed or otherwise, change.

About fraternal twins having to have some similarities in appearance: how many other people saw the photographs in TIME and NEWSWEEK and various newspapers of the fraternal twins born to an interracial couple in England? One is blond and blue-eyed like his mother, and the other is dark-skinned, dark-haired and dark-eyed like his father. I did a little revision of my thinking about whether L&L look enough alike to be credible twins when I saw those photos! Genetics isn't quite so simple as "like father, like son", and it is entirely possible for two brown-haired, brown-eyed parents to produce a blue-eyed blonde. I ought to know. My parents both have brown hair and hazel eyes, but I have red hair and blue eyes, one sister has blonde hair and blue eyes, and the other sister has black hair and dark brown eyes. But go back a couple of generations, and there are ancestors with all of those combinations. However, I think Jean Stevenson is right that L&L's mother has to be brown-eyed for Leia to have brown eyes. Blue is recessive, so a person has to have both genes for blue eyes in order to have blue eyes; if both parents have blue eyes, there are no genes for brown eyes to be passed on, because both parents have two blue-eyed genes.

3PO's comment on the Falcon's "peculiar dialect" rings more true because of his supposed familiarity with 6 million forms of communication. Who is more likely to make comparisons? Take an example from computing languages: there are many forms of BASIC, but I, as someone who doesn't know any of them, am in no position to know which of these, if any, is peculiar. Why does 3PO need R2? Speculation: this peculiar dialect might be one R2 knows, or R2 might be useful because of the subject matter. 3PO is a protocol droid, not a mechanic, and he might simply find the communication

difficult because his programming includes very little information about starship drives and other things a protocol droid is not likely to need to know.

Thank you to Danaline Bryant for reprinting the excerpt from Art Widner's zine. (Preen, preen.) Both Maggie and I have seen the zine, which only just came out, and we now are in the position of having to keep the promise we made to Art to (a) comment on his zine, and (b) list our candidates for 10 best SF movies.

## God-Like?

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January 8, 1985

I can't believe it--it's still weeks til your deadline, and I am sitting here writing this LoC! Amazing how much you can get done when your snowed in for three days!!

First of all, I loved Judi Grove's humorous rendition of her adventures stalking the elusive Mr. Ford. Thanks, Judi, for sharing your experiences with all of us. I guess I'm a little too envious to say that it was the next best thing to being there; let's just say it's the closest thing to being there that most of us will ever get! (This reminds me of a letter I got the other day, inquiring about our zine; the return address on the envelope was: "World's #1 Harrison Ford Fan!" --and it was postmarked New Zealand! My mother's comment: "I didn't know his wife lived in New Zealand...")

I'm also very happy and relieved to see that you have decided to go on publishing SE, Cheree. I think the tone of most of the letters in SE#6 were a lot more considerate and, not coincidentally, a lot more interesting, than the tone of many letters in the past. In fact, I marked so many things in the margins, I'm still going to have to abbreviate my remarks--not on the basis of time, for once, but on the basis of length!

Mary Keever: I'll take a crack at your question about

non-fen reaction to our interest in SW. Frankly, I think most of them are puzzled, but not really too interested one way or the other! In my profession, I have lots of "acquaintances", few of whom know I'm a SW freak; and a small circle of relatives and friends who know I am! The latter group views the whole thing with reactions ranging from amused tolerance to outright aiding-and-abetting (these are the folks you can always count on to buy you SW sheets for Christmas and action figures for your birthday!). I have never encountered any really negative reaction from anyone concerning my interest in SW, even when viewed in its most extreme forms: publishing a SW zine, and going to cons. (Let's face it, folks--this is about as weird as it gets in "real life"!.) If anything, I think some of my friends envy my enthusiasm, and the pleasure it has given me (...even as they are shaking their heads slowly and saying, "You paid how much for a drawing of Luke who?"!) What else but SW and fandom has enriched so many lives, and demanded so little in return?

Sandi Necchi: If George Lucas isn't a creative genius, just where did the whole SW universe come from in the first place?? Or are we confusing the concept of "genius" with the concept of "perfection" or "godlike"? All one has to do is view "Amadeus" to see the distinction I am making. Yes, I, too, know some fans who think that they know and care more about SW than Lucas ever could; and my suggestion to them is that if they have that kind of fervor and knowledge to impart to a project, start your own sf or fantasy universe--I would love to read it! Let's love this SW universe (and the various deviations of it we've all created), and let's pour our passion into exploring it, more deeply than Lucas may have had time or desire to--but let's never forget whose universe it is. Trying to reduce George Lucas to a money-hungry cretin who couldn't imagine his way out of a paper bag sure doesn't say much for the incredible mind that gave us folks like Han Solo and Luke Skywalker!

Now, Sandi, since I already have your hackles up (I can hear the sound of hackles rising all the way here in Wisconsin!), I

also want to disagree with you on "the atrocity of TEMPLE OF DOOM"! If the film made you so angry, at least we know it didn't bore you; but anyone who lets their disappointment in a film ruin a whole con for them, as you said your friend did, needs a healthy booster shot of reality! I loved the film, and the only thing I found offensive in it were those poor elephants in chains. As far as "racism" goes, I suppose as an American of German descent, I should have been outraged at all those evil Germans in RAIDERS--shucks! Here I had a chance to be outraged at an Indiana Jones film, and I never caught on to how my "race" was being exploited! Too bad Lucas and Spielberg couldn't have twisted the truth some and presented a "sanitized, de-racism'd" view of India in the 1930's; and too bad it's too late to make Indy anything but a white, probably Anglo-Saxon, probably Protestant, definitely male...! And curious how two of the really heroic figures of the film are both non-WASPs: Shorty (who isn't even an adult) and the Indian village holyman.

Jeanine Hennig: Hi, Jenni! Enjoying Ripley's smut? It's people like you who keep that poor woman writing that trash! If you start kicking your poor dog over letters in SE, I'm going to have to report you to the ASPCA!

I agree with you 100% about your comments on quality in zines. When I buy a zine, I don't want to have to worry about the staples falling out, or the pages being illegible, or the illos so poorly reproduced that I can't even tell which character I'm oogling. By publishing a zine, I've found out that quality costs! But I've also found out that most people appreciate quality, and are willing to spend a few dollars more to have a zine that looks good and lasts as well, not just a throw-away "toilet paper quality" job. (That was not a "Commode" pun!!)

Tim Blaes: (Come on, admit it, Tim--you just love being the only man issue after issue in a letterzine full of women!.) Like you, I wouldn't express an opinion without the full realization that sooner or later (for me, sooner!) someone who disagrees with that opinion will turn disagreeable. And I also subscribe to your theory about

the displaced ~~JERKS~~ disagreeable people from old ST fandom: They have indeed been resurrected as the disagreeable people in SW fandom (and it didn't take any ceremony on Vulcan to accomplish the task, either...) But what the hell; if we didn't all crave a little aggravation, we wouldn't be fans, right?? A little "agreeable friction."

Sally Smith: Hey, I can segue right into this from my first comment to Tim! Why does active SW and other media fandom seem to be over-whelmingly female? I think part of the answer lies in the word "active"; there may be as many male SW and media fen, but you don't see many of them at cons or in zines, unless they're married to an active female fan (...uh, lest that be misinterpreted, let me clarify that! Active in fandom!). MediaWest 3 was the first con I went to, and I was surprised at the lopsided ratio of women to men. It's less so at non-media cons, of course; in fact, I've been to some where there are more men than women (list available on request...but you might want to think twice about it!). Maybe it would take a man to answer this, but my suspicion is that men are more sensitive to the ridicule and outright disbelief attendant to being discovered as a media fan. Women--at least women in fandom--are less reliant on outside opinions of their interests and enthusiasms. I would be very interested to see this discussion continued, because I've long been curious about it, too.

Elsie Bartok: In response to your question about zines only coming out once a year, and usually at MediaWest, as an avid zine-buyer, I share your frustration; but as a fledgling zine-publisher, I can give you another point of view. We only come out once a year for several reasons. First of all, neither Samia nor I have the time to devote to daily or weekly work on a project like this; we need a deadline that will allow us to put the zine aside sometimes for weeks at a time as other needs intrude. Secondly, we don't yet have the access to the volume of fan work that would allow us to publish more than one issue a year; we can only print what we get, and it wouldn't make two or three issues a year. And the

biggest reason is cost. Most of the cost of printing is the initial fixed cost, whether your zine is 100 pages or 300 pages long. In other words, it doesn't cost the same to print three 100-page zines as it does one 300-page zine--actually it would cost nearly three times as much!! As to why we come out at MediaWest, for us the reason is simple: we started there, so a one-year printing cycle puts us there again. And it is still the best opportunity to sell zines--a crass but necessary consideration in publishing them. All I can suggest is what I try to do; I buy about 75% of my yearly zine purchases at MWC, but I try to ration them out so I don't read them all in one big blitz in June!

As a final note, has anyone heard anymore recent gossip/speculation/whatever on the status of future SW films? Or about a proposed SW cartoon series for TV?

## Respect Ideas

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January 2, 1985

You timed SE#6's arrival so that it might be a Christmas Eve present of thought to be digested. Many thanks.

Hope that your health has improved and that 1985 passes peaceably for you.

Sandra Necchi brings up the question of whether we should cherish all ideas. To me ideas are growth and life, and all forms of life need to be held dear. We put ourselves in the role of god when we say we absolutely know what is a right idea and what is a wrong idea and which have a right of life and which do not. All life and ideas are precious commodities which need to be nourished and respected lest they turn into an unruly weed trying to take life from all surrounding it.

The beginnings of all things, including ideas, are indeed delicate and a lack of caring and respect and cherish-

ing can turn those beginnings into warped creatures. It is important to recognize that censure can too easily be turned to censorship and that censorship will only result in a brewing and fermenting of the item in question.

Disagreement is a matter entirely different from attacking. You can disagree with something in a manner that realizes its right to life. You are merely saying that you do not agree with a certain viewpoint, but accept another's right to do so. It is a thin, but important line.

As in IDIC, we need to recognize the differences of others and cherish those differences, for it is the many ranges of ideas and opinions that give color to our lives. Would we be able to think new thoughts if there were not conflicting ones about to give rise to those new ideas?

Too, is it right for us to be able to determine what is "good" and "bad"? Man lived in Eden until the Tree of Knowledge was tried. It was then he tried to take a godlike stance in determining good and evil and right and wrong and trying to make those who had differing opinions think as did he. Did the giving away of the original state of innocence make us so insecure that we could no longer abide the existence of life and ideas that might be in conflict with our own tenets?

Conflicting ideas can tell us more about our beliefs and how they are structured than do ideas which support such beliefs, for the conflicting ideas force us to think out why we think as we do and it is such thought which strengthens inner resolve and causes us, not only to see how our belief patterns were formed, but it is hoped to also have more sympathy with the opposing belief. I do think that all life/ideas are to be cherished. They need not be something with which we agree, but they do need respect and care, for only when we give respect to ideas which may be alien to us can we hope to achieve a more universal growth within.

The SW saga seems to be speaking of this need to respect the individual and their ideas. It is saying the individual is important in the scheme of things. The Great Empire can

be defeated by a group of insurgents who have only their ideals as their core. If this group had been given respect of their differing value systems, would not the Rebellion have been averted? If all the people had been represented and their views respected and cherished, all the violence and death the Rebellion brought with it could have been avoided.

It is when the needs, the ideas, of a group of people are neglected to be taken into consideration that conflict arises. I hope the leaders of the Rebellion will be shown wise enough to realize that they, too, can make the same error of ignoring the needs and wishes of those with whom they are in contention. I believe that only when the ideas of all the peoples are treated with care (cherished) that true peace amongst all peoples can be attained.

Melody Corbett makes a good point when she says the helmet of the storm trooper can be a way of limiting their viewpoint. I agree that it is a good symbolization of a blinder. It could prevent the sight from being directed from any except a direct, straight-forward pattern. All side views and possible distractions could be averted. It is an interesting symbol of the universal soldier who is fed only that information which will make him fight more fiercely. Propaganda being more the notion than the truth, for without the army, could the Emperor keep all the galaxy under his thumb? If the army thought of what it was doing, would it continue to do as it has? Don't we all tend to abdicate our responsibilities to our leaders when it comes to such items? What would happen if the individual stood out in such cases en masse and said "no"?

As such, the SW saga can also be looked upon as a statement about the individual and the lack of role he plays in his government. It seems to say that individual citizens can make a difference in things. It further seems to say that if we continue to abdicate our role as responsible citizens to our leaders, then perhaps we deserve what we get. As a result of this sloughing off of duty, the citizen is looked upon more as the servant of the government than the other way around, for the government should serve its

peoples. The Empire thinks the reverse is true.

Will the Rebel Alliance be able to see that it must serve all the people it governs and do so in a way which takes all those people and all the views of those people into consideration? Only if they respect all people, including those with whom they disagree and consider in error, will they be able to responsibly represent those people.

Debbie Gilbert brings up the OSWFC. I look to it as an advertisement for which you have to pay. There does not seem to be any discussion of the saga on an intelligent level. There is no real fan forum provided. They seem to play to the lowest common denominator in the matter which they produce. The newsletters always seem to be a season or two late in their arrival. For a business operation, this is not something which should be tolerated. Timeliness is the least you should be able to expect from a professional organization.

Cynthia Manship brings up the point of letterzines being a point of contact and life blood for those of us not in the fan centers of the universe. I, too, find them a good stimulant to thought on the SW saga for one who has no fan living within reasonable commuting distance. I have never found another actifen on the Cape since I became involved in fandom back in '75 or '76. No one in ST, SW, SF or related fields are here to let you know you are not alone. So the letterzines are a nice way of knowing there are indeed others out there who like to discuss and muse over the same things which hold my attention.

Mary Urhausen also brings up the good point that marriage is not death. Indeed such a relationship can bring forth growth and change which would not have otherwise been the case, for in your partner are not only areas which are compatible, but those which are contradictory as well. In that contradiction, you help to see your own contradictions and hopefully learn acceptance of others' ways. I have been married for sixteen years and think that in that time I have grown. Instead of becoming stifled, the "right" kind of marriage--one in which both people allow the other to be the other instead of trying to make

them into an image of what it is deemed they should be--can lead to stimulation which leads to growth and new directions.

Hope the New Year treats us all kindly. For now...PEACE.

## A Jedi's Role

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Several people have addressed me on the subject of the Jedi Order and I'd like to respond with one message, rather than ask Cheree to print several repetitive replies: I tend to see the Jedi as an Order that would've give its members great personal freedom regarding lifestyle, choice of profession, and possibly even freedom to base a decision on personal moral convictions (i.e., a pacifist's refusal to fight/kill in a war). I would imagine that the Order included members who lived in some sort of communal arrangement with their fellow Jedi, as well as others who chose to live and work in non-Jedi society. I agree with those who think that the Jedi would've been encouraged to enter various professions, putting their talents to use in the service of Galactic society as well as in service to the Jedi Order, itself. (I'm assuming that the Order's interests were compatible with the best interests of society in general.) I do believe that there were Jedi whose talents and temperament would've led them into military service, yet here, I am somewhat confused. The fact that Kenobi had served Bail Organa during the Clone Wars indicates to me that the Jedi had no police force or military branch of its own, yet Elsie Bartok contradicts this with a valid point: the Jedi were the "guardians of peace and justice" in their galaxy and it does seem logical that the Order would've included some sort of law-enforcement branch. And here's where the confusion (my confusion!) begins: Wouldn't an interstellar police force attract the same sort of individual who'd enjoy

a military career? True, there are differences between the military and the police, but I think the similarities are more numerous. So why was Kenobi serving Bail Organa? Surely, a police force composed of Jedi Knights would've been able to fight as a unit, under its own leadership, when was came to the galaxy. Given a Jedi's superior abilities, I don't think it would've been practical to split up a Jedi police force to place its members under non-Jedi command... Is it possible that the Jedi Order was a "house divided" regarding participation in the Clone Wars? Is it possible that those Jedi who wished to participate in this conflict joined non-Jedi military forces, while other Jedi did not participate at all? Perhaps this clone conflict had divided the galaxy as Vietnam had divided America.

P. J. LaVasseur/B. Brayton: I tend to see Leia as a politician who'd been forced by circumstance to function as a soldier. Given her actions, in all three films, I think she'd make an excellent "Jedi warrior", but I agree with you, that Leia would prefer a political career.

Chris Callahan: Always glad to hear from a member of the "Flawed Hero Appreciation Society"! I enjoyed, and agreed completely with your very clear definitions of Darkness and Light.

Karen Finch: You're absolutely right about Han. He may not be THE hero (in the sense of "hero" and central character"), but he is certainly A hero in every other sense of the word!

Jeanine Hennig: The Tabernacle of Wedge? Great! How about the DAGOBA of Yoda, for fans with more...er...exotic tastes? (I've been told that "dagoba", without the "h", is some sort of Hindu shrine. Someone correct me if I'm wrong.) And why stop there? To which establishment should we direct those Silent Few (and, God knows, there may be one or two!) whose hearts are palpitating for Palpatine? (What's that awful retching sound? Jeanine...are you okay?) By the way, I just wanted to tell you that my reasons for watching "V" are very similar to yours...except that I'm of the "Ham Tyler" persuasion!

Sharon Saye: Yes, I can

imagine a group of politicians objecting to Luke's rebuilding the Jedi Order. I think this group would be, at best, sadly misguided, but I'd love to see Luke deal with this problem, in fanfic. I don't agree that he'd "flee to Dagobah and never return." A man who could face Vader and Palpatine, as Luke did in ROTJ, is highly unlikely to run from ANYTHING. Have a little faith in The Last Jedi, Sharon!

Marlene Karkoska: I agree with your suspicion that Luke's test was "tougher than most" and "a little out of the ordinary." (Has anyone ever suggested that you have a gift for understatement to go with your gift for presenting logical arguments?) I'd also like to comment, here, that Luke's mission in life was/is "a little out of the ordinary." He had not been trained to function as a Jedi Knight in an already existing order; he'd been expected to end the dictatorship of an emperor (and a dark lord) who'd already broken the Jedi Knight-hood, and he'd been expected to rebuild the Jedi ("Pass on what you have learned"). As your letter said, the fact that Yoda had charged Luke with this enormous responsibility tells us just how much confidence The Great Green One had in his former student.

Mary Keever: Just wanted to say "hi" to another overgrown child who collects SW toys. Can't wait for the new "Anakin Skywalker" action figures to turn up in Philadelphia toy stores!

Cheree Cargill: If, as you've suggested, Anakin/Darth had been in his sixties at the time of his death, there may not have been a very great age difference between him and Ben Kenobi. I'd originally thought that there'd been, at least, a generation between them, but the age gap may have been less than twenty years. Having fought together in the Clone Wars, and having been friends, each of these two (regardless of his military rank) might've looked upon the other as an equal. As someone once said (in SE), men who fight in a war together, get to know each other very well. I think it's entirely possible that Anakin and Kenobi might've known each other's private thoughts, personal problems, shared mutual interests, and

may have enjoyed the same social activities for years before the Clone Wars ended. I can easily imagine Anakin as you described him (a man in his late thirties to mid-forties "flushed with his own successful life and war record"), trying to adjust to his new role as student of an old friend. Given Kenobi's statement about his own "pride", I think he might've mishandled this new and difficult situation, causing Anakin to feel considerable resentment.

Judi Grove: Thanks for telling us about your day in Intercourse with Harrison Ford. I'm sure that those who haven't had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ford obtained vicarious enjoyment from reading about your experience.

Brand New Readers: Now, aren't you sorry you missed the December issue of SE? ((Ed: Never fear! Copies of issues 3-6 are still available!))

Ann Wortham: I'd heard bits and pieces about the IJATTOD blooper reel. Thanks for telling more about those hilarious details!

Liz Sharpe: The "droid torture sequence" hadn't struck a false note with me and I enjoyed reading your intelligent defense/explanation of why GL included this scene in ROTJ.

Tim Blaes/Sandra Necchi: I don't think Obi-Wan looked gleeful after chopping up those cantina patrons. I think he looked indifferent.

Cheree: Regarding the above-mentioned cantina fight, you're right. Kenobi didn't kill anyone in the cantina, on screen. He did, however, kill two of the low lifes in the novelization.

Maggie Nowakowska: Loved your thought that Leia may be tempted to abuse her newly discovered powers-in-the-Force, but even more, I loved seeing Yoda referred to as "the Old Mushroom." I'd really enjoy some fanfic in which Yoda is presented as something less than a near-god who keeps his students in Reverent Awe. ((Ed's note: I think it would be a fascinating, though daunting project, for someone to do a story about what Yoda has seen in his 900 years--the history of the Republic, the personalities, his own growth in the Force, his culture and people, etc.))

Danaline Bryant: Loud ap-

plause for your reminder that fan fiction is a "wide-open, free-spacin' area where ANYTHING GOES". I don't have to agree with a theory (believe it's on-screen fact) to enjoy its expression in fanfic. I'm not suggesting that we confine our theories/speculations to fan fiction; SE is a great place to share our flights of imagination--but I would like to say that I enjoy so many of those alternate universes/what-if's and stories that have been "dated" by ROTJ. Like you, I especially like stories that elaborate upon or give new meaning to on-screen remarks or events. My favorite stories are those that make me say, "Blazes! I'd never looked at it that way before!"

Dr. Mary Urhausen: Hi, Mary! Just wanted to clear up a misunderstanding. Neither Danaline Bryant (a happily married woman) nor I (a satisfied single) believe that married=dead. Our shared opinion about Han-as-a-Husband was a comment on Han's personality, not on marriage, itself. I had mistakenly assumed that marriage would force Han into a sedentary life that he would find intolerable. Fortunately, others came up with what I consider believable alternatives to my "predictions" for this character--which only goes to show that, with a little imagination, you can have it both ways! And speaking of having it both ways...have you (or has anyone else) considered writing a story based on your idea that Mrs. Skywalker might've conceived twins by two different men? This is exactly the sort of idea I was referring to in the above message to Danaline. It's imaginative, remotely possible, outrageous--and it's certainly a Last Laugh Answer to those of us who are arguing that Leia is either Luke's sister or the biological daughter of Bail Organa.

Two Last Comments: Three cheers for the letter index! It is a great help when searching for a specific letter. And I loved seeing photos of various fans in SE, even though they didn't reproduce very well. I don't know how others feel about this, but I'd enjoy seeing some likeness (however blurred) of the people that I've been addressing in SE.

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January 13, 1985

Now that we've heard from the Church of Ford, the Cathedral of Luke, and the Tabernacle of Wedge, it's time the Cult of the True Imperial made some noise. After all, Han, Luke and Wedge are fine fellows to be sure, but there's just something about those British accents...

Seriously, though, I must defend the honor of Admiral Piett from the aspersions cast by LaVasseur and Brayton in Issue #5, to wit: "Ozzel probably suspected Piett wanted his job, and he was probably right." Granted, two people can look at the same piece of film and come to entirely different conclusions; and we are all arguing from very skimpy evidence when it comes to the actions of Imperials. Nonetheless, I don't see any backstabbing on Piett's part. When we first see him in TESB, Piett calls to Adm. Ozzel to inform him of a potentially significant piece of intelligence. Note that the minute he has Ozzel's attention, he lowers his voice. If he were bucking for Ozzel's job, he'd make sure Vader overheard, but he does just the opposite. It is Ozzel who raises his voice to berate Piett in front of the entire bridge crew--and thereby commits a major breach of military etiquette. One does not reprimand a subordinate in front of his command! If Ozzel wanted to dress down Piett, he should have called Piett into his office. It is at this point that Vader steps in, to check out the find and possibly to protect Piett from unmerited abuse by his CO. Later, when Ozzel is executed (and what we see is a summary execution), Piett registers, not elation or satisfaction, but dismay! (I've said it before and I'll say it again, the range of expressions that went across Piett's face in that scene should have gotten Kenneth Colley an Academy Award.) Throughout the saga, Piett behaves like a gentleman: he does an honest job, he's courteous, and he never raises his voice any louder than he needs to.

As a matter of fact, the only incident I see that might be called Imperial back-stab-

bing is the quarreling between Tarkin's faction and Vader in ANH, and that was pretty overt. In ROTJ, Vader puts the wind up Jerjerrod, it is true, and without mincing words (though again, please note, he does so quietly enough that Jerjerrod isn't shamed in front of his men). However, when the Emperor arrives, Vader tells him, "The Death Star will be completed on schedule," thus keeping Jerjerrod in His Majesty's good graces rather than undercutting him. Vader's own people, with the exception of Ozzel, seem to work harmoniously together.

Ozzel's behavior calls for some comment. "I want proof, not leads," he says, and then in the next breath, "It could be anything. If we followed up every..." Well, if you don't follow up your leads, you won't get any proof. Then he brings the fleet out of hyperspace within Rebel sensor range, and claims (according to Gen. Veers) that he did so to preserve the element of surprise. The only way he could have preserved the element of surprise that way would have been to come out with his guns blazing. He didn't, so of course the Rebels promptly raised their shields. A first-year cadet should have known better than that! Either Ozzel is incompetent, as Brayton and LaVasseur state, in which case one wonders how he made Admiral in this supposedly crack Starfleet in the first place; or he is a traitor (Gordon Carleton once did a vignette on this premise), in which case his summary execution was perfectly justified. (Most military establishments, including our own, allow for such executions in case of treason in combat.) Ozzel's treatment of Piett could support either thesis: either he's a boor who doesn't observe basic military courtesy, or he's trying to destroy the morale of a loyal and competent officer.

A few stray comments: To Carol Peters (issue #6): There are several of us Mature Fen out here. I'll be 40 by the time this letter is printed, and I know a couple of others who are near the same age. All of us are Imperial fen--I wonder if that's significant?

On Liz Sharpe's "Teleology of Torture": I tend to think Jabba uses torture pour encourager les autres, i.e. to keep his organic followers in line.

After all, if he's so mean he'll even torture a machine, what will he do to organics? Remember, all power, whether legal or not, rests on the ability to reward your friends and punish your enemies. Jabba obviously cannot go to law to settle his disputes; the only way he can stay in business is by making others afraid to oppose him. This both discourages competitors and assures Jabba's clients that he can protect them against the depredations of rival gangs. Anyone who has read The Godfather will see what I mean. This is not to say that Jabba may not enjoy watching someone else suffer; he shows every sign of doing so. On the other hand, he may simply be callous, like the people on our own planet who enjoy blood sports (such as bull-fighting, cock-fighting, or even boxing) and don't identify with the pain of the living creatures in the arena. Certainly no one would ever accuse Jabba of being sensitive.

Ms. Sharpe doesn't address what may be the classic use of torture, i.e. to gain information or to ring a confession out of a suspect. Vader does this once, at the beginning of ANH, to the Rebel officer. His questioning of Leia is probably a mind probe rather than torture per se--the interrogation droid carries a hypodermic which likely contains some sort of "truth serum" (this in itself probably equals torture in the eyes of a juvenile audience, since most kids hate getting shots). The torture of Solo in TESB is, of course, not to gain information, but to create "bad vibes" that will bring Luke to the scene. (In case it matters, my personal politics are completely opposed to torture--I merely comment here on what I see, without any implied approbation.)

On the use of color in the SW universe: I understand that, according to Jungian symbolism, white connotes sterility or ignorance, while black connotes origins (the absence of light inside the womb) or the attainment of knowledge. If we use this schema, then Luke's change of costume color, from white through neutral shades to black, symbolizes his growth in knowledge and wisdom.

On Kenobi asking Luke to kill his own father: Granted, families are often divided in civil war, but the members know



they are on opposite sides, often as a result of agonized soulsearching. Luke was set up by Kenobi and Yoda to kill Vader, barely even knowing who Vader was, let alone their relationship. In fact, Kenobi made a flat statement, "Darth Vader betrayed and murdered your father," which any reasonably prudent person would have taken at face value. This is part and parcel of the double standard practiced throughout the Star Wars saga, wherein the Imperials are condemned for arresting a Senator caught in a flagrant violation of diplomatic immunity, while the Rebels' "perfect knight" (Mark Hamill's description) can get away with subornation of patricide.

## Happily Married

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January 25, 1985

Well, SE's deadline is rushing in on me so I'm going to have to make this short. The last issue had so many interesting letters...wish I had the time to comment on each one. All the articles in #6 were good. Judi Grove's report on her exciting adventures while she was Harrison Hunting was fun. And my thanks to Ann Worham for the report on her adventures with Dr. Fantasy. Reading about this "film for all time" was one of the high points of the issue. I'd love to be able to see it and I'm jealous of all you lucky stiffs at WorldCon who did get to see it! I had heard about this blooper reel from friends but never in such detail before. Thanks, Ann! Liz Sharpe's article was great...held together with good, sound logic and supported by many solid on-screen examples. This is probably the best article about the SW saga that I've ever read. My compliments to the author...and I hope she'll contribute more articles in the future.

Laura Virgil: You deserve some kind of award for your great suggestion for a Table of

Contents for letters. So glad Our Leader adopted it. It's a big help. Enjoyed your letter. Especially liked your idea that Leia and Luke were mind blocked with forced amnesia as a protective measure. Seems logical to me. I'd like to read some fanfic that deals with this.

Sally Syrjala: While I do believe that the Jedi have many mind powers, I think there are limits to those powers. I don't like to think of them as being as powerful as the Organians. For one thing, as someone pointed out in an earlier issue, it makes them boring from a writer's or a reader's point of view.

Mary Urhausen: Hi, Mary! Uh...surely you weren't talking about little ole me and my friend, Carole Regine? We were talking about this subject a long time ago in SE but neither of us have ever said anything like "married equals dead" or "it will never work." And we're not "bitter divorcees, or frustrated singles"...one of us is happily married and one is happily single. In those long ago remarks, we weren't talking about marriage in general...we were talking about a possibility for one particular character. All we said was that there might be some compromises in their future. I think any long-term relationship will call for a few compromises now and then.

I really enjoyed your remarks about Lucas. Bravo for you. I think he's a Swell Guy and I'm glad that he gave us all this Neat Stuff to enrich our lives.

Marlene Karkoska: I loved your entire letter. It was GREAT!

Michelle Malkin: Yeah, I can see your point about Anakin's state of mind. Still, I do believe that falling to Darkness has to be a conscious, freely-made choice. But that's just my own view of it all.

Carol Peters: My thanks to you and everyone else who has passed along info on the next SW film. I'm DESPERATE for information...I hope everyone will pass along anything they hear.

Carole Regine: You're right...we have spent a lot of time discussing All The Little Details of the saga in our private letters. That's one of the great things about these films...they are crammed full of fascinating

things. I loved your remark to Bev Clark. What a neat way to put it...and how true!

Well, I gotta get this into the hands of the postal authorities or I'll never make the deadline. Cheree, sorry to hear that you were so ill. I hope you're feeling better now. I'm glad the letters have lightened up some and very glad that you have decided to keep this Enclave in business.

## Too Many Plugs

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January 19, 1985

Cheree: Hooray for you for deciding to stick with it! Of all my letterzines, SOUTHERN ENCLAVE is the most expensive, but it also give you the most for your money. Most letterzines I can peruse in half an hour; it takes days to wade through an issue of SE!

Barbara Tennison: You are so right about Lucas ignoring his adult audience. Evidence of this proclivity is his "Ewok Movie"; I challenge anyone to say they weren't severely disappointed with that project. Even taken strictly as kiddie fare, its quality was extremely low. Another thing that makes me feel that both Lucas and Spielberg are selling out is their growing obsession with creatures and special effects. Lucas has stated that he would love to make a movie featuring no humans at all (why does he hate people so much?). Well, such a movie has already been made--by Jim Henson [THE DARK CRYSTAL], whom I love and consider to be a far greater genius than Lucas. And now Lucas is encroaching on Muppet territory: he and Henson plan to make a film together. I suppose it was inevitable.

I also have a gripe about the blatant commercialism of Lucasfilm. First of all, there is that disgusting OSWFC newsletter, which is nothing but ads, promotions and self-aggrandizement. Even worse are those TV "specials" which Lucasfilm has taken to airing to coincide

with the release of each motion picture. I didn't mind the one on special effects, which tied in to "Empire"; that was kind of interesting. Then they made one on stuntmen, which curiously enough spent 75% of the time talking about "Raiders." It gets worse; they next made one about "Famous Hollywood Monsters", just to lure people into seeing "Jedi." And the latest one was the flimsiest pretext of all: "Heroes and Sidekicks". They were trying to dream up any excuse at all for an occasion to brag on "Indiana Jones". These are not documentaries; they are hour-long commercials. And they are redundant as well, since there is always a "Making of..." film for the fans interested in peeking behind the scenes, and these real documentaries are aired on cable or PBS, where commercial considerations are not the primary goal.

Sandra Necchi: Very good points you made about "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter," and "the victors get the privilege of telling the story." I think the rebel's viewpoint is why I was attracted to "v", and it's also one reason I was disappointed in the SW saga: we weren't shown enough of the realities of Alliance vs. Empire.

Jeanine Hennig: Such a fun letter! Your ebullience in print makes me want to meet you in person. Okay, so maybe you are one of those lucky people who receives a dozen letters a day. I'm not suggesting you go broke over postage. Your solution of answering reader comments within the LoC pages of your zine is perfectly acceptable. All I'm saying is that every letter-writer deserves some sort of acknowledgement--be it by subspace message or smoke signals--to be made to feel that her opinion counts.

Tim Blaes: God, I wish I had your imagination! And thanks, Cheree, for pointing out the parallels between the SW saga and "v". Maybe I can work them into that cross-universe story that Tim's been begging for. Back to you, Tim: I'm glad you reminded everyone that Lucas "didn't do it all by himself, you know." There's no getting around the fact that the SW films, probably more than any other movie, were art by committee--and as such can never be completely cohesive. When

it comes to big-budget sf movies, you can forget about the auteur theory.

Marlene Karkoska: Very interesting idea about the Jedi being "certified" once they've completed their training. The public could trust a Jedi because he is "guaranteed" not to fall to the Dark Side. I see parallels in other sf universes; for example, in Robert Heinlein's STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND, there are some women who are "true witnesses", and when they are wearing the costume of their profession, they can be trusted absolutely to report objectively on everything they see. In DUNE, physicians at the Suk Medical School must undergo Imperial Conditioning, which prevents them from ever taking a human life; these people are identified by a diamond tattoo in the center of their forehead. I suppose that the lightsaber would be the Jedi's identifying mark; it would be understood that anyone carrying such a weapon could be counted upon to uphold peace and justice.

Melody Corbett: Luke's inability to see while wearing the stormtrooper helmet had nothing whatever to do with Force-use. Luke is shorter than Han; his uniform didn't fit right, so his eyes weren't in the right place for the viewing-holes. I believe they made reference to this on the radio series.

Also, Melody, you were wondering if Harlan Ellison had published a review of "Jedi" anywhere. Since I have a nodding acquaintance with Ellison, I decided to go straight to the source and call him. No, he said, he has never done a review of it, but he added, "I didn't think much of it." I couldn't get him to elaborate on that, because he was about to step into the shower (I imagined him standing there holding the phone with no clothes on!). Anyway, I feel deprived as you do in not having an opportunity to read his opinion. I thought his review of the first STAR TREK movie in STARLOG a few years ago was right on target (on the other hand, he was one of the few reviewers who didn't pan DUNE, so you can never predict what he's going to think).

Did anyone see Norman Spinrad's "Stayin' Alive" column in the Dec. 84 LOCUS? At the L.A.

Worldcon, he noticed thousands of people camped out around the block, and he thought, wow, there sure are a lot of people waiting to see the Hugo ceremony. But no, they were waiting for the SW marathon, which started four hours later. Why, when there was plenty of available seating, were they spending four hours in line and missing the Hugos? he wondered. "Because" he was told, "Star Wars fans like to wait on line. They consider it part of the experience." Spinrad followed this anecdote with an excellent essay lamenting the changing purpose of the WorldCon: how it has taken on a circus-like atmosphere; how a love for sf literature is no longer a unifying force among the attendees; how the giving of the Hugos, sf's top award, is no longer the highlight of the convention. Spinrad's column is well worth reading.

Finally, I have a little question to throw out: Doesn't anyone ever fall to the Light Side? If an Imperial were to defect and go over to serve on the "good" side, from the viewpoint of someone like Vader is must look like a fall from the Dark Side. Why do we seem to see the two as a hierarchy, with the Light above the Dark, just as fundamentalists believe Heaven is up in the clouds and Hell is somewhere under the ground. Could the two sides be reversed, "from a certain point of view?"

## Droid Torture

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January 22, 1985

Ah, well, the deadline is fast approaching, but I wanted to read SE through twice before I sat down to LoC. Another fine and thought-filled issue. First, I was glad to see so many people respond favorably in regard to the "nastiness" issue. Maybe now that it has been aired we can get down to business and forget all this silly bickering.

Judi: A big thank you for your interesting and detailed

article on HF and WITNESS film- ing (loved the word play in the title, too). You're very fortunate to have had this wonderful experience, and thanks for sharing it with the rest of us. What a nice guy Ford appears to be and he has said we may not like him if we got to know him. I suspect, though, that he is a very fine and caring man, which is proved by Judi's impressions of him.

Liz Sharpe: Your article on torture is obviously well-written and intelligent, but didn't shed any more light on the subject for me--maybe because I've never had any problems believing in that particular scene. Liz did bring up one valuable point--that of showing Jabba torturing droids as opposed to torturing live people to get the same points across as to Jabba's nature. I can just hear what the uproar would be/have been if humans were used instead of droids. Everyone would be screaming TOD--the same criticisms/arguments we've heard regarding the violence in TOD. Which brings me to Sally Syrjala's LoC--I am in total agreement with her last paragraph about TOD. The Indy Jones films are pure entertainment and escapism. I feel all the analysis takes away from what these films are supposed to be. Can't they be enjoyed for what they are there for--the sheer fun of it? SW on the other hand is added to by analysis and overanalysis--half the fun is digging deeper into the films to try to see and guess at what isn't shown on the screen, or the reasons behind why what is on the screen is there. Even though, like Sally Smith mentioned, we probably won't fully understand some of the events until all six parts are complete (if ever). The saga can be likened to a puzzle in that respect--we can't see the complete picture until all pieces are in place, maybe we think we can but then the finished picture is always somewhat different from what we envisioned.

Jean Stevenson: Thanks for pointing out some of the visual symbols in ROTJ. So many times and viewings these pass right by me, until someone who understands and sees things more clearly than me mentions them. Then I'll say, "Oh, yes! That's right--it fits!"

Tim Blaes: Always love your

interesting LoCs. As to "V", I somewhat enjoyed the two mini-series. Haven't had a chance to watch the series regularly (bad night), but the few times I have watched I've had a very bad feeling about it. Wonder how long it will last?

Bev Clark: Very informative LoC. Thanks for including the list of possible sources for SW. One of these days I'm going to finish delving into them, or at least give it a try.

Maggie Nowakowska: Very informative LoC, also. I am in agreement with you on most counts. Mainly, your feelings on Leia mirror mine exactly. I've had thoughts that Luke's potential for turning to the dark isn't as strong as Leia's. She's probably the one we should be concerned about. After all, she has the Force potential (probably little or no training), the same tendencies toward impulsiveness and impatience/temperament as her brother and father (must be a Skywalker trait), and to top it all off, she is a strong power wielder. One point of ROTJ that keeps haunting me is when Vader tells/threatens Luke, "If you will not turn...perhaps she will." I know this was meant to get Luke's anger up enough to fight, but somehow I felt that it could be viewed as a premonition, too. I can easily picture the scene Maggie suggests of Leia waking up one morning (despite from a night with Han), frustrated with her lack of thrill of power, then scaling the political ladder to the top using any means she can. What a great story that would make--love those darkside Leia stories--keep 'em coming.



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Harrison Ford Article: We enjoyed this immensely. We know our reactions would have been the same as Judi's. Please print her address so we all can share in her photos. (Barb) A friend of mine went to a special screening of WITNESS in LA and was sitting only a few seats away from HF. Despite that, she managed to pull herself together and watch the film. My cousin now works for Channel 16 serving Lancaster/Lebanon. Where was he when I needed him?

Teleology of Torture: It was an interesting article and very timely. There's a new Saturday cartoon series called DROIDS starring 3PO and R2 coming up shortly. It's rather interesting that the producers decided to use these two as a focus, over the main characters, for children to view. (Barb) My reaction to the torture scene at Jabba's was "figures."

Sharon Saye: It's not who your relatives are/were, it's who you are/were that counts. It was probably unscrupulous politicians, not the Jedi, that screwed up the Old Republic in the first place; leaving it ripe for Palpatine.

Why all the Luke-as-Dark Lord stories now? Good question. (Barb) I find them interesting, though not necessarily enjoyable.

Mary Keever: (Barb) I'm collecting the SW action figures. They're adorable, I want an Ewok! I also have the Falcon, but she's crippled, having lost her front landing gear. (Pam) I have both the Falcon and the Imperial Shuttle. ((Ed: I have the Imperial TIE Interceptor, a small metal die-cast Falcon, the 15" Darth Vader doll, the stuffed Chewbacca and several action figures! What I'm really after is all the large-size dolls that were only manufactured the first year, before they scaled them down to the action figures.))

Carol Peters: What some readers are questioning is the military progression of rank. A commander ranks below a captain, major, colonel, and a general. The problem is stemming from

whether you believe Luke is still formally ranked or is now working as an independent among the ranks.

Michelle Malkin: You put forward some good ideas on the theory of Han being blind. We did not agree with the theory because we did not feel that the evidence was there, but "what if".

A zine with nothing but Dark Side stories? Aaargh!! Depression city!

Sandra Necchi: Fraternal twins need not have obvious similarities. According to the Urdang Dictionary of Current Medical Terms (Pam--something no Anthropology student would be caught dead without) it states:

"Fraternal (or dizygotic) twins are the result of the simultaneous fertilization of (two) egg cells; they may be of different sexes and are no more alike than ordinary siblings."

The only requirement is that they have the same mother and father, and be born within the same time span of each other that identical twins are. And before anybody asks, no, offspring that are conceived simultaneously by two different fathers (fertilization of two egg cells at the same time in the same woman) are half siblings, not fraternal twins.

(Pam) Please, before anyone gets into a raging argument over this issue, make sure that you know the difference between the definitions of fraternal, identical, and half-sibling, because I'll warn you now, any reader out there who is a medical trainee or a medical anthropologist will tear your arguments apart if they're not accurate.

(Barb) I knew I shouldn't have gone into politics. Sorry, but I do not listen to everything my government tells me, far from it. I think I have a very healthy skepticism in that regard. Also, I think I take a quite realistic view of the world.

I agree that things happen in war that can't be avoided. But, if you consistently lower yourselves to your enemies' level, you soon become no different from him, and then you are in big trouble. My feelings about the Alliance remain the same.

I agree that "terrorist" has been misused (but then so has "freedom fighter"). However,

that doesn't mean that it has no legitimate applications. If a person's sole purpose in life is the killing of innocent people, whatever his cause (and some don't even have that to fall back on), then I would call that person a terrorist.

(Pam) Did anyone else see the interview of a Beruit "freedom fighter" about a month ago? He stated outright that the only thing he knew was war and conflict. He said he didn't know what he'd do if the conflict ended tomorrow, the only skill he had was that of a hit and run specialist. He lived and breathed weapons and ambushes.

(Barb) That's all I have to say really, except that I think you are mistaken about Han Solo's behavior and motivations in TESB.

Debbie Gilbert: Apparently NPR is on too tight of a budget to produce ROTJ as a radio series. If it's to be done it will have to be through an independent source. Write your Congressbeing. ((Ed's note: Also, all you people out there, don't just sit back and watch/listen to your local PBS/NPR stations--become a member and support them! Government and corporate grants go only so far--they really do depend on the public for a lot of their budget.))

Bev Clark: The character profiles in "In a Faraway Galaxy" were wonderful. They made so much sense.

Tim Blaes: (Pam) OK, I've now seen the first half of the first part of "V" (the 2nd half aired at 11:30 that same night, not good if your alarm goes off at 6:00 a.m.) and all of the 2nd part again. Now I can't remember who brought up the idea that not enough emphasis was placed on the idea of the police state in the 2nd part, but I think it would have been a bit too much. The 1st part established that idea as part of the story base, no need to run it to death. I still believe Elizabeth's saving the day could have been handled better. Her sparkles just didn't do it. Her brother, well, after having seen the series, he's just a miniature version of the adult reptiles. They're not exactly handsome by human standards. Besides, it's been established, straight from Diana's mouth, that Robin is a one-in-a-million subject for genetic tampering to make a mating viable. We won't be seeing 50

million star children from this series. I found the novel to be a good source for fill-in material.

Mary Urhausen: Please add two more Luke/Han fans to your list. And, thank you for your remarks in support of Han and Leia. We are two singles who wish them a long and happy life together. By the way, Laura Thomas' stories were my favorites in WC#1. ((Ed: Aarrgh, Mary! I just realized that the initials of your zine are too appropriate for words--WOOKIEE COMMODE... "WC".))

Marlene Karkoska: Luke's test was probably out of the ordinary, but then his training was too, considerably speeded up. He didn't have years and years to practice and learn. Considering that, he did remarkably well. Maybe Vader was lost to the Dark after he had completed his training, but before his actual test.

There really is no evidence Luke was under Han's command. He may have been loosely attached to the Alliance military at that point in his status as a Jedi. As to Luke as Jedi, he had all the skills necessary upon his return to Dagobah, and was well on his way in terms of maturity already. Yoda undoubtedly sensed this.

Han is much more patient than he used to be, less inclined to act impulsively. Witness his behavior toward Leia on the walkway, the old Han would have stormed off in a huff. He and 3PO have a real personality clash, but it is strictly a war of words. Also, remember he let Luke dissuade him from aggressive action during the encounter with the Ewoks, also not likely some years ago. Now, he may not be trained as a Jedi, but he could learn to use the Force to a greater degree. Han's a nice guy, really!

This whole flap over TOD is a tempest in a teapot.

Cheree: Maybe Anakin started his training before the wars and afterward was too full of himself to accept the discipline necessary to complete it. And thanks for the Index; now it's a flip, instead of a search for letter!

Fly Casual!

