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June 1991

Newsletter 16

"The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty."

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Richard Arnold, Walter Koenig, Susan Sackett, Patrick Stewart, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Mark Lenard, John de Lancie, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly.

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Hi, everyone, and welcome to another newsletter. It was nice to see some of you at UFP. We had thought of holding an IDIC meeting but unfortunately we couldn't think of any way to fit it into the full programme at the con. We would like to thank Helen for covering the guest talks for us; we've put Richard's and David's in this newsletter and plan to have the others in the next one. Congratulations to those of our members who won awards at UFP - we will try to get the full list of winners for the next N/L. Our thanks also to those who voted for Log Entries as Best British Zine (for the third time).

Karen has asked us to thank those of you who sent her good wishes. Unfortunately she wasn't well enough to go to UFP (and you were missed, Karen!) but we are hoping she will soon be fit again.

We were pleased to hear from Richard Arnold at UFP that Guy Vardaman is keeping better now although he still has to watch his back. In *The Wounded* he had the helm position but unfortunately no dialogue. He also has a part in *STVI* but unfortunately still no dialogue. Guy has just been appointed as Richard's assistant so hopefully we'll see him back in Britain soon.

Susan Sackett has had another script filmed. It is called *Half A Life* and, like *Menage a Troi*, it is a *Lwaxana* story. It was written by Susan and Fred Bronson. We are looking forward to the release of the coffee table book, *Star Trek: The First 25 Years*, written by Gene and Susan.

We have decided to delay our '25th Anniversary' newsletter until October. Paramount are not starting their celebrations until September 8th and delaying the 'special' will give us more time to put it together. We are still looking for submissions for this: they should reflect *Star Trek* over the 25 years. If you have any ideas for articles but are not sure whether to go ahead with them contact Janet or Sheila enclosing an SAE.

As usual we have had to hold items over for the next newsletter but do keep sending them in. To try and make more space in the newsletter we are cutting the advert section, so starting with the next newsletter *For Sale/Wanted* adverts and adverts for the *Friendship Column* will only be printed in one newsletter. Club and actor club adverts will be restricted to new clubs we have heard about or current clubs which have a change of address. Members can get a list of *ST* fan clubs, actor clubs and shops which sell *ST* books and/or merchandise from Janet if you send her a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 17p stamp to cover the cost of paper.

We enjoy receiving your letters but please don't ask us to reply unless it is really necessary, and if you do require a reply please enclose an SAE. It isn't that we don't want to write to you but there are over 700 of you and only three of us. We feel we have to give priority to the business side of running the club and putting out the newsletters and zines.

In March, Sheila (who is a teacher) went to Forfar with a class and was able to see Venus. She's a nice, slightly under average-labrador sized, pale coloured Retriever/Lab cross with Labrador configuration. The Appeals staff wouldn't commit themselves as to her chances, but one of the kennel maids said that Venus was a quiet, biddable and obedient dog - traits which for a guide dog are vital. (Gracie apparently was failed for too much aggression.) She returned to Forfar in April with another class; this time she wasn't able to see Venus, who had recently been 'promoted' to more advanced training and was out being trained on the street. This time the Appeals staff was more enthusiastic about Venus' chances of qualifying.

Meanwhile, Joyce Devlin has let us know that Jade is showing a little nervousness of things coming up behind her but otherwise is doing well, while the Association is delighted with Aero's progress. She has been told that he will be retained for stud. In addition, Joyce tells us that the Kennel Club has accepted Modhachaidh's Aero for his kennel name, and Modhachaidh's IDIC for Jade's kennel name.

Our thanks to Irene Ambrose, David Atkins, Marie Chettle, Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Barbara Ellams, Kathleen Glancy, Jason Hart, Gary Heron, Muriel Jarrett, Jeff Martin, Ann McHale, Moira Russell, Melanie Siddle, J. Sloan, Jenny Turner, Linda Watt, Russell Witheyman, Linda Wood and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending in information and/or cuttings.

Thank you to Beverley Ambrose, Peter Arnett, Jean Barron, Claudia Baschke, Bassett (the liquorice allsort firm), Lynne Butler, Sandy Catchick, Sandy Cayless, Mel Claessens, Linda Court, Charlotte Davis, Lisa D-Davison, Joyce Devlin and the children of Kinellar School (Grampian), staff at Dryburgh Resource Centre (Dundee), Mark French, Kathleen Glancy, Terry Griffiths, Chris Hall, Rita Hamilton, Katrina Heintz, Kathy Hunter, Muriel Jarrett, Kari M. John, Christine Jones, Gregor Lamb, Lloyd Lewis, Carol Looby, Stacey Lucht, Donna Macey, Sadie Mason, Stephen McCall, children of Murroes School Tayside especially Terri Briggs, Stephen McCall, William McGinn, Lyn Muir, David Noone, A. L. Parris, Marcia Pecor, Andrew Porter, Gill Rainey, Ian & Jean Robinson, Cath Russell, Carla Salveta, J Schmidt, Michael Simpson, Jean Sloan, Sue Sneath, Starfleet Command Germany members - Beatrix Huber, Michael Schramm & Heike Kohl, Alison Smith, Sue Sneath, Thomas Hicks, Jenny Turner, Jill Walker, Linda Ware, Carole Weatherill, Paul Wood, Julie Woolaston, Edward Woo, those members who dropped off donations of things at UFP for us to sell and vanished again without saying who they were, and everyone else who has donated collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We'd also like to thank Sheila's Mum and Allison Rooney and her family for trimming stamps (as well as all of you who have handed in trimmed stamps), Frances Abernethy for doing some stamps and mother-sitting which made it easier for Sheila to get to UFP; and our heartfelt thanks to Sue Embury, Brenda Kelsey and Jean Sloan for going round the con selling raffle tickets; Sue Jones, Peter and Eleanor Fryer and Chris Hall for their help with the boxes of zines.

We would like to thank those of you who took part in the April newsletter raffle. Congratulations to the prize winners; Grace Hawkins won the Silvercon Registration, Rachel Lindfield won the Star Trek coasters and Sue Sneath won the 1991 Classic Trek calendar.

The Guide Dog Fund is doing well. We had a collecting box at UFP and thanks to the generosity of many of the attendees were able to hand in £64. This is being credited to IDIC and will be included in our next £1000. So far the fund stands at over £600; with luck we'll be able to sponsor another dog before the end of 1991.

The closing date for the next newsletter is July 3rd so the newsletter is likely to

be posted out around July 24th - this is early to fit in with the Dundee holidays.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 19/5/91

LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

STAR TREK VI

According to Starlog 167 the regular cast will be in the film but they don't mention Majel Barrett or Grace Lee Whitney. Nicolas Meyer is Director; Ralph Winter is producing along with Steven-Charles Jaffe; Leonard Nimoy is Executive Producer: the script is written by Meyer and Denny Martin Flynn.

ILM will be doing the SPFX.

The story-line below is from Enterprise America. We can't guarantee its accuracy but only read on if you want to know what the film might be about.

STVI takes place 10 years after the last movie, and involves the prologue to the Klingon-Federation peace, by way of war. The story concerns the murder of a Klingon leader, with the subsequent accusation of Kirk and McCoy and their being sent to a penal colony (filmed on location in Alaska), leading to the disruption of the peace-making venture. Christopher Plummer, Jack Palance, David Warner and Michael Dorn are the guest stars for the film, other roles are Saavik, the Klingon leader's daughter, and Kirk's girlfriend with whom he is settling in at the beginning of the film.

STAR TREK on BBC

Star Trek: The Next Generation screening dates and ratings - the figures are taken from Broadcast:

21	20/2/91	The Arsenal of Freedom (21)	BBC 2 Rating: 2 - 4.47 million viewers.
22	27/2/91	Heart of Glory (20)	BBC 2 Rating: 6 - 3.8 million viewers.
23	6/3/91	Skin of Evil (23)	BBC 2 Rating: 4 - 4.16 million viewers.
24	13/3/91	We'll Always Have Paris (24)	BBC 2 Rating: 3 - 3.95 million viewers.
25	20/3/91	Conspiracy (25)	BBC 2 Rating: 2 - 4.35 million viewers.
26	27/3/91	The Neutral Zone (26)	BBC 2 Rating: 4 - 4.11 million viewers.
2nd Season			
27	3/4/91	The Child (27)	BBC 2 Rating: 3 - 4.17 million viewers.
28	10/4/91	Where Silence Has Lease (28)	BBC 2 Rating: 4 - 3.7 million viewers.
29	17/4/91	Elementary, Dear Data (29)	BBC 2 Rating: 2 - 4.06 million viewers.
30	24/4/91	The Outrageous Okona (30)	BBC 2 Rating: 9 - 3.54 million viewers.
31	1/5/91	Loud As A Whisper (31)	BBC 2 Rating: - million viewers.
32	8/5/91	The Schizoid Man (32)	BBC 2 Rating: - million viewers.
33	15/5/91	Unnatural Selection (33)	

STAR TREK AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

"Boldly Going On With The Show" Edinburgh Evening News 11/5/91

Actors struggling to launch a musical based on Star Trek have found a backer for their Enterprise. Lisa Perry and Debbie Gallagher of The Edinburgh Players feared a cash shortfall would force them to skimp and save on the British premiere of Pardon Me, Is This Planet Taken? Businessman Ian Buxton has filled the void with a £1200 sponsorship deal.

They plan to turn the Cameron House Community Centre at Cameron Toll into an elaborate Starbase with a host of special effects to create a space adventure

atmosphere. And an art and photographic exhibition on a sci-fi theme will be staged in the lobby.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - Fourth Season Episodes by Terry Griffiths.

Final Mission - Wesley's acceptance into the Academy has finally arrived. Picard decides to take him on one last mission before he leaves the ship. They head off to a mining colony in a shuttle 'captained' by one of the miners but are forced to make an emergency landing on a desert planet. Picard is injured while the trio seek shelter and water. The other 'captain' takes charge but he is a very reckless man and it is soon left to Wesley to save his captain's life. (uplink 17/11/90)

The Loss (184) - The Enterprise encounters a 2-dimensional colony of beings and is trapped in their energy field. During the encounter, Deanna suffers terrible headaches and realises that she has lost her empathic sense. Being suddenly 'only Human' she resigns her commission. While Guinan considers applying for the job, Picard relies on Troi's training in psychology to understand the migratory instincts of the beings and to save the ship. (uplink 30/12/90)

Data's Day (185) - To help Bruce Maddox with his research, Data records his diary of a typical day on the Enterprise. The day he chooses is the wedding day of Chief O'Brien and Keiko, at which Data is to give away the bride. Keiko then calls the wedding off and Data hurries to give O'Brien the good news (!). (uplink 6/1/91)

The Wounded (186) - O'Brien's former captain is accused of using his starship to destroy the civilian space traffic of the Cardosians. He explains that he is convinced that the Cardosian peace treaty with the Federation is being undermined and they are building up resources for a war. Picard is instructed by Starfleet to preserve the peace at all costs, even if it means the disgrace of a fellow-captain. (uplink 27/1/91)

Devil's Due (187) - The Enterprise responds to a distress signal from a science station on Ventax II. The planet is in chaos due to the belief that, a millennium ago, the people sold their souls to the devil Ardra in exchange for 1000 years of peace and tranquillity. The legend predicts that the return of Ardra to collect her due, the enslavement of the people, would be heralded by just the geological events which have occurred on Ventax II. When Ardra appears, Picard attempts to expose her as a fraud. With Data acting as the impartial judge, Ardra defends her claim while Picard must present his evidence against her. The future of the planet rests on Data's decision. (Marta Dubois, who plays Ardra, was the second choice for the role of Deanna Troi) (uplink 3/2/91)

Clues (188) - The Enterprise is struck by a mysterious force which renders everyone unconscious except Data. According to the chronometers and to Data himself, the crew were only unconscious for a few minutes. When the evidence begins to suggest the blackout lasted a whole day, Picard challenges Data's account of the incident. The bridge crew become very concerned when it becomes apparent that Data has been lying. (uplink 10/2/91)

First Contact (189) - The Federation is preparing to introduce itself to a society which is on the brink of warp technology. To that end, contact teams have been in place on the planet for several months, surgically altered to pass as natives. Riker is injured while leading a contact team and is taken to a hospital where his true nature is discovered. Picard must now accelerate the contact procedures in a bid to recover his officer and prevent panic growing on the planet from this discovery of an invasion by aliens. Meanwhile Riker is offered help from one of the hospital staff - for a price. (uplink 17/2/91)

Galaxy's Child (190) - While Geordi's modifications to the Enterprise engines are being inspected by Dr. Leah Brahms (first encountered in Booby Trap), the

Enterprise encounters a creature who lives in space, amongst the stars. The use of the phasers to resist the creature's probe accidentally kills it. Its pregnant state is then noticed and with Bev's help, the offspring is born. Unfortunately, it adopts the Enterprise as its parent, feeding off the energy of the warp engines. Brahms, having resisted all Geordi's overtures of friendship, now has to work with him to find a solution to the power drain. (uplink 10/3/91)

Night Terrors (191) - The Enterprise responds to a distress signal sent 29 days previously by a science research vessel, the USS Brittain, in a remote region. They arrive to find all but one of the crew dead, seemingly murdered by each other. There is only one survivor, a Betazed male who is in a catatonic state. Picard decides to take the ship in tow but the procedures will take several days to complete. Deanna finds she is sharing the Betazed's nightmare while no-one else seems to be dreaming at all. Tempers on the Enterprise grow short, the crew begin fighting amongst themselves and Guinan has to keep the peace in 10-Forward. (uplink 17/3/91)

Identity Crisis (192) - While serving on the USS Victory prior to his commission on the Enterprise, Geordi had been part of a 5-person away team investigating the disappearance of 49 members of a science team on an uninhabited planet, Tartarian III. Two members of the survey team have recently, independently, gone AWOL, returned to the planet and disappeared. Now Geordi and the away team leader, who was then a Lieutenant and is now Commander Susannah Lighton, are on the Enterprise, chasing the last member of the team who has hijacked a shuttle from a starbase and is returning to Tartarian III. Soon Susannah begins to feel a compulsion to return to the surface. (uplink 24/3/91)

To The Nth Degree (193) - Lt Barclay has been attending Bev's drama classes in an effort to improve his confidence. When an alien probe is detected near a galactic telescope, the Enterprise is sent to investigate. Geordi and Barclay take a shuttle to examine the probe more closely. It emits a blinding light to which Geordi is impervious, because of his visor. Barclay, however, is rendered unconscious. When he revives, he is a changed man, full of confidence and with an IQ of between 1200 and 1450. When he begins to challenge Geordi's technical competence and makes a pass at Deanna, events take a sinister turn.

Q-Pid (194) - Late at night Picard is preparing to deliver the keynote speech to a group of eminent archaeologists who have beamed aboard. He is interrupted by a member of the group - Vash (first encountered in Captain's Holiday). The following morning, Bev arrives for her usual cup of morning tea. After introducing them, Picard leaves the women together and seeks peace in his ready room. He is disturbed by Q who, feeling he still owes the captain a great debt for saving his life, decides to demonstrate that even the most mighty can be brought down by their love for a woman. (uplink 21/4/91)

The Drumhead (195) - An explosion in the engine room seems to be the result of sabotage. A Klingon exchange officer admits sending secrets, including engine casing designs, to the Romulans but denies involvement in the explosion. A young medical technician stands accused of aiding the Klingon. To investigate the suspected conspiracy Starfleet brings an Admiral out of retirement and sends her to the Enterprise. Picard is grateful for her assistance but then begins to wonder at her dedication (Directed by Jonathan Frakes). (uplink 28/4/91).

Half a Life (196) - The return of Lwaxana Troi, this time trying to seduce David Ogden Stiers (of M*A*S*H). (Written by Susan Sackett & Fred Bronson) (uplink 5/5/91)

The Host (197) - Bev finds herself romantically attracted to a visiting alien. (uplink 12/5/91)

Mind's Eye (198) - Geordi is kidnapped by Romulans and programmed as a 'walking bomb.' He returns to the Enterprise, but who is his target? (uplink 26/5/91)

In Theory (199) - Data and a very good friend decide to live together as husband and wife. (Directed by Patrick Stewart) (uplink 2/6/91)

Redemption (200) - Worf attempts to clear his family name. He encounters Gowron, who is being challenged for the leadership by the sisters of Durass and his bastard son. This is the 100th episode of TNG, also the last episode of the 4th season. It may be a cliff-hanger, being resolved at the start of the 4th season. (uplink 16/6/91)

SHELL PROMOTION

On Monday 18th March Shell launched a new promotion 'Star Trek - The Game', where every participant has the chance of winning one of five cash prizes or a Californian holiday for a family of four.

On each visit to a Shell service station you receive a Star Trek 'scratch card'. This has 15 panels of which you scratch out 7. There are 5 cash prizes based on which combination of characters you reveal: 7 Kirks - a share of £250,000, 4 Spocks - £1,000, 4 McCoys - £100, 4 Scottys - £5, 4 Uhuras 30p. All the cards we've seen have 7 Kirks (we wonder what the odds are in revealing them all?), but not more than any three other characters. We have yet to hear of anyone winning anything - let us know if you have.

To win the holiday you have to collect 6 TNG characters - Riker seems to be the one in short supply.

We think that some of the newspaper adverts for this promotion, with people wearing large 'Vulcan' ears, have been terrible.

STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops listed at the end of the newsletter or in the Merchandising column.

STAR TREK THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 78 February/March 1991.

Articles on Michael Jan Friedman (author of *Fortune's Light*); The Special Effects of TNG; Andreas Katsulas (Romulan Commander Tomalak from *The Enemy*, *The Defector* and *Future Imperfect*); Chad Allen (Jono from *Suddenly Human*) and Cory Allen (Director).

STARLOG 165 April 1991.

"Tholian Webs" Article about writer Judy Burns. She says she turned down the chance to rewrite STII but the 'death scene' with Kirk and Spock was her idea.

STARLOG YEARBOOK VOL. 8

25 Years of Star Trek. Articles on Leonard Nimoy, Jane Wyatt (Amanda), Mark Lenard (Sarek), Joanna Miles (Sarek's other wife), Laurence Luckinbill (Sybok), John Colicos (Kor), Tige Andrews (Kras), Robert Lansing (Gary Seven), William Windom (Commodore Decker), Yvonne Craig (Marta), Whoopi Goldberg (Guinan) and Vincent McEveety (Director) plus shorts on; Arnold Moss (Anton Karidian), Morgan Woodward (Captain Tracy), Adrian Spies (wrote *Miri*), Elinor Donahue (Nancy Hedford), Hagan Beggs (Lieut. Hanson), Phillip Pine (Colonel Green), John Newland (Director, *Errand of Mercy*).

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION 15 (Starlog)

Articles on Rick Sternbach - Senior Illustrator, Michael Okuda - Scenic Art

Supervisor and Michael Dorn - Worf. Detailed transcripts of the following 4th season episodes: Family, Brothers, Suddenly Human, Remember Me, Legacy, Reunion, Future Imperfect, Final Mission, The Loss and Data's Day.

TV ZONE 17 April 1991

Articles on The Romulans; Susan Sackett on Writing for the Next Generation. Book Reviews - Contamination (TNG) by John Vornholt; Mutiny On The Enterprise by Robert E. Vardeman. Video Reviews - The Lights of Zetar (73) and The Cloudminders (74).

TV ZONE 18 May 1991

Article on TNG's Special Effects with some photos of what was cut by the BBC from Conspiracy. Book Reviews - A Flag Full of Stars by Brad Ferguson; Crisis on Centaurus by Brad Ferguson; Prime Directive by Garfield and Judith Reeve Stevens. Video Reviews - The Way to Eden (75); Requiem For Methuselah (76).

STARBURST 154 June 1991

"Boldly Scripting The Next Generation" Part 1 of an interview with Ronald D. Moore, the fan who became a script writer and who worked his way up to Executive Story Editor.

"It's Sci-Fi Society" Sun 31/1/91.

According to this short article a mystery tycoon has built a copy of the Enterprise's bridge for a London bash to mark Star Trek's 25 years. Serving staff will dress like Captain Kirk and crew.

"Communicating Faster Than a Speeding Photon" Japan Times 18/2/91.

A technical article looking at instantaneous communications over great distances (known as 'sub-space communications' in Star Trek.) To cut a long story short it seems that some scientists think this may be possible using a vector potential telecommunications signal since vector potentials don't actually exist in spacetime. Lost you all there, didn't I?

"Whoopi! Star's Trek Secures Dream Role" Today 30/2/91.

Article about how Whoopi got her role in TNG.

"What's in A Name" Sunday Mirror Supplement.

This a included picture of Leonard Nimoy. It says Leonard comes from an Old German name meaning Brave as a lion.

"Beaming Up Boy Hero Could Save Trekkers" Daily Mail, 8/3/91.

Article saying 10 year-old Macaulay Culkin will be in STVI but Richard Arnold denies this.

"Space: The Final Fashion Frontier" Evening Standard 14/3/91.

Review of TNG saying the idea of patrolling the outer galaxies wearing leisure wear is not unappealing.

"An Earful of Enterprise in Vulcan" The Independent 19/3/91.

Article about Vulcan, Alberta, Canada trying to cash in on Star Trek. This article has been doing the rounds for a while.

"Whoopi Boldly Treks to Star Bar" Sun 16/3/91.

Short article about Whoopi joining TNG. She thinks Patrick Stewart is sexy.

"Pregnant Pause for the Children" Daily Mail 4/4/91.

Review of The Child where the reviewer gave more of a synopsis than a review. However he doesn't seem to realise that TNG is not a children's show as he says that once upon a time, programmes for children never strayed far from the birds and bees when it came to explaining the facts of life.

"Trekkies" Evening Times (Hollywood Hotline) 6/4/91.

Short piece on STVI.

"Bald New Adventures for the Trekkies" News of the World 7/4/91.
Favourable review of The Child.

TV Times A recent issue had a competition of a 10 days holiday to LA plus a visit to the TNG set plus a full set of classic videos. The multiple-choice questions you should have all been able to answer: the name of Kirk's starship, McCoy's nickname and the name of Spock's home planet. If you win we'll be looking for a report.

MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Quarton

BOOKS -

Mar TNG16 Contamination by John Vornholt Pocket Books & Titan
P T45 Mutiny On the Enterprise by Robert E. Vardeman Titan
Apr P54 T46 A Flag Full of Stars by Brad Ferguson - the second book in The Lost
Years Saga. Pocket Books & Titan
May TNG Vendetta by Peter David A TNG Giant Novel - the Borg return.
Pocket Books
P28 T47 Crisis on Centaurus by Brad Ferguson Titan
June P55 T48 Renegade by Gene DeWeese Pocket Books & Titan
July The Making of Star Trek by Stephen E. Whitfield and Gene Roddenberry.
Titan
P9 T49 Triangle by Sondra Marshak and Myrna Culbreath. Titan
TNG17 Boogeyman by Mel Gilden. Pocket Books & Titan
Aug P? T50 Legacy by Michael Jan Friedman. Pocket Books & Titan
Sept P31 T51 Battlestations! by Diane Carey. Titan
Oct TNG18 Q In Law by Peter David. Pocket Books & Titan
Nov P? T52 (as yet untitled. Titan
Dec TNG19 Perchance to Dream by Howard Weinstein. Pocket Books & Titan
(Thanks to Titan for the above info.)

The ST:TNG Technical Manual by Michael Okuda and Rick Sternbach (July)

Star Trek : The First 25 Years by Gene Roddenberry and Susan Sackett. This large format coffee table book includes lots of new and never seen photos, plus many interviews with all the cast and of course, Gene. Due September. (info Susan Sackett)

Star Trek: The Next Generation Poster Magazine. Issue 1 £1.50 Visual Imagination. Poster of the Enterprise plus an article on the Enterprise and one on Encounter at Farpoint. Unfortunately to assemble the episode guide as they suggest you would have to cut up the poster.

25th Anniversary Classic Star Trek Plate. For information and to reserve a copy write to The Hamilton Collection, Freepost WR 59, Copenhagen Street, Worcester WR1 1BR. There is a limit of 2 per person. *[Sheila and Valerie have seen this and already reserved copies.]*

TNG-1 - TNG-3 A Concordance and Episode Guide by Larry Nemecek. 3 volumes, one for each season. Price \$12 each (Sheffield Space Centre had them for £7.99 each at UFP). This is a fanzine and not an official publication. It is a useful reference guide but expensive - we haven't had a chance to check its accuracy.

VIDEOS

ST:TNG - we hear that from May CIC will be releasing 2 TNG tapes per month.
SKIN OF EVIL/WE'LL ALWAYS HAVE PARIS (12)
CONSPIRACY/THE NEUTRAL ZONE (13)
Due next.
THE CHILD/WHERE SILENCE HAS LEASE (14)

ELEMENTARY, DEAR DATA/THE OUTRAGEOUS OKONA (15)
 LOUD AS A WHISPER/THE SCHIZOID MAN (16)
 UNNATURAL SELECTION/A MATTER OF HONOR (17)

Original series tapes prices vary, starting at £9.99.
 75/76 WAY TO EDEN/REQUIEM FOR METHUSELAH
 77/78/79 SAVAGE CURTAIN/ALL OUR YESTERDAYS/TURNABOUT INTRUDER

ST V - The Final Frontier is now available.

ACTOR INFO

compiled by Janet Quarton

Gates McFadden: is expecting a baby boy at the end of May. She will play Dr. Crusher at the end of May. (info Martin Stahl from Richard Arnold at Con Course III)

Michael Dorn: has a part in STIV. He will not be playing Worf.

Jonathan Frakes: was cut on the face by a sword when filming the episode Q-Pid. Richard Arnold tells us he is fine now. He directed the episode Drumhead.

William Shatner and Patrick Stewart appeared at the New York February Convention together.

William Shatner: The News of the World Mag 7/4/91 had a nice picture of Bill, a horse and Patrick Duffy. The caption read "Three TV types swap their tall tales at a Hollywood party. "I was in Star Trek... I was in Dallas... Short! That's nothing guys! I used to do the stunts for Mr Ed..."

Patrick Stewart directed the episode In Theory. He was originally to direct the 100th episode, Redemption, but felt it would be too difficult as he appeared in so many scenes.

Whoopi Goldberg recently won an Oscar for Best Supporting Actress in the film Ghost. She was to have been in STVI but arrangements for that didn't come off.

The original actors are filming STVI at the moment.

POSTBAG

We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they will be printed and may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of one of our pages. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. While we welcome your frank opinions on the club, when discussing Star Trek, the characters and actors, we think members will find it more interesting to read what you like rather than what you dislike.

Keep letters separate from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

Janet, Sheila and Valerie - Postbag Policy:

We thought it best to discuss the postbag here rather in our page one letter since it mainly affects those reading this column.

We have had a number of comments on the length of the postbag. Of those who wrote the majority wanted the postbag to find its own length but enough said they wanted the length restricted that we feel we have to compromise.

Deciding which letters to print and which to edit will not be easy. Following are some ideas that we have put into effect in this newsletter - feel free to comment in the next n/l's postbag. We would like to come up with a policy which most postbag readers and contributors can agree with.

Now that TNG is into its second season we think that members have had enough opportunity to say, "I don't like it because..." The same really applies to ST-TMP to STV. We would prefer that members now move on to write about and discuss those aspects of Star Trek that they do enjoy. So, unless someone comes up with something new, we don't intend to print any more of these statements. We would also like to avoid letters attacking the actors or main characters - even in fun, as not all members see the funny side. It can be depressing to find your favourite constantly attacked. We would also like to avoid negative letters - it is often possible to put the same point in either a negative or positive way and we'd prefer the latter; we all enjoy Star Trek - why else are we fans?

The problem with the above is that we do want to keep discussion active in the newsletter - we don't want it to get bland. Suggestions are welcome.

Try to keep what you are discussing relevant to Star Trek. If it gets too far removed we'll call a halt.

Keep your letters as short as possible. If you find it getting too long finish it, leave it for a day, then reread it and try to edit it. Put what you feel is most important first. If we have to edit letters we will, with the exception of spelling and grammar, cut out complete sections and try not to alter the sense of what you are saying. If you are raising a new topic, and feel that shortening it weakens your argument, why not rework it as an article?

We will not base the decision to leave out a letter on whether the writer has other items in the newsletter, as this would discriminate against our most active members.

We await your views with interest - and a certain amount of trepidation.

A.L. Parris - Henstridge, Somerset

Please keep the zine ads in - they are my main source of information about available zines.

Lesley Hatch - Warley, West Midlands

Sue Embury - I'd like to see Spock become romantically involved again - perhaps with a Human female, since T'Pring didn't work out. Realistically, we have to accept that this may be the last film, so a few loose ends will have to be tied up. I'd be happy to see something less lavish, made-for-TV, yes - talking about loose ends, there are lots of episodes left open-ended that could be followed up, eg. The Cloud Minders, Is There In Truth No Beauty?, For The World Is Hollow And I Have Touched The Sky; even Spock's Brain.

Maggy Edwards - I can easily believe that a phaser would be expected to fetch £6000 at an auction. As an additional piece of information about prices of Star Trek memorabilia, try this one. I don't know how many fans will remember the set of six alien figures that were on sale many years ago - they included, if memory serves, Lokai or Bele (one of the black/white or white/black 'aliens' from Let That Be Your Last Battlefield). Anyway, I occasionally get merchandise lists from the States and in one of these, the seller was offering a set of these for \$3000....

Jenny Turner - I'd prefer lower bills too, but at the same time, I'm a great admirer of well-crafted adverts, and I did like the Star Trek ad for Powergen.

Ray Dowsett - Regarding Data having fully functional male characteristics, and you not seeing that he (by implication) will ever feel what a man feels under such circumstances, let alone the emotional aspects, he must have felt something when under the affects of the virus: he looked rather pleased with himself afterwards.

I've been thinking about there not being a female character the equivalent of Servalan (Blake's 7). What about the (female) Romulan Commander, T'Pring, T'Pol, Dr Pulaski and L'waxana Troi?

Pam Baddeley - No, Asimov's Three Laws wouldn't apply to androids, Data in particular, because he at least has organic compounds inside him, and that sets him apart from robots.. As for Data not being exhaustively studied before "letting him loose in the Academy etc.", I would suggest that he was studied as he progressed through the Academy: what better way to find out what he could and could not do, how capable he was of learning, etc.? And, by his progression, he would have earned the rights he was "granted by society".

Finally, to John Spelling - I read somewhere that the change in appearance in the Klingons (between the original series and the movies and TNG) is that there are different "tribes" on the home planet and presumably throughout the system, if not the Empire, who had different appearances for whatever reason, presumably genetic. So the Klingons in (for example) The Wrath of Kahn would all come from a different "tribe": the same goes for those in TNG, in particular in the episode where Riker goes on an exchange visit, and there's a lot of infighting. There are other episodes later on in which a deal of animosity shows up.

Turning to the episode The Neutral Zone, has anyone noticed how rude people were to the people they'd rescued; Riker in particular? Was this perhaps due to the fact that two people wrote the episode? And, while we're on the subject of the holodeck, has anyone noticed how people have a habit of barging into the holodeck during other people's projections without good reason? I suppose the earliest example of this is Riker's first meeting with Data; another one is the 'invasion' of Barclay's projection, by what seems like the entire bridge crew, in Hollow Pursuits. Shouldn't there be some kind of protocol?

Lisa Dearnley-Davison - Southport, Merseyside

I can't believe it.... the BBC are actually showing the first and second season (TNG) back to back. I wonder if there are a few Trekkies in Broadcasting House?

Was Patrick Stewart in Dune? [Ed: Yes he was.]

I must confess, I am a definite TNG fan. When I watched some of the original series (its re-run actually) I was very young, too young to appreciate its fine contribution to the Sci-fi world. However I would like to ask all the classic Trek fans who continually knock TNG compared to classic Trek to get off its back. To those of us who are of the younger generation TNG is a brilliant show in its own right and it is unfair to continually compare scripts, characters etc to the old series. Of course Picard takes his time on whether to go into battle or not. 80 odd years have passed since Kirk's days of shoot-outs with the Klingons. Humanity has continued to progress away from warring with the unknown. After all, the UFP is supposed to signify peace throughout the galaxy and it would not do its reputation justice if one of its leading Captains was trigger happy.

Jacqueline Comben - (n/l 15) YES! When I first saw a TNG episode when holidaying in Canada, I was instantly hooked. (The episode being Peak Performance. I also saw The Icarus Factor on a brief trip to America while I was there.) However I had to wait a whole year to see more as the BBC took a while to show it and none of our video rental shops had any of the episodes!

To all those who wish to know, Kling, the home world of the Klingon Empire has the galactic co-ordinates -321.5, 48.6, -87.9 - info from The Worlds of the Federation by Shane Johnson, published by Titan Books.

Elena Bond - I totally agree with your description of Riker in Angel One. I have just one comment... when do we get to see more!

Pam Baddeley - I too think there should be more strong female characters, however I do feel that TNG have managed to balance the male and female roles a bit better than the old Trek. Firstly with Yar, Troi and Crusher and then with Troi, Pulaski and Guinan.

Regarding Hide and Q - I don't think Tasha's crying was any bit justified. Those of you who have read Survivors by Jean Lorrah will know her background and how often her life was under threat and she couldn't do anything about it. She didn't cry then... why should she now? And as to her come-on with the Captain. Whose big idea was that? First Data, now the Captain - who would've been next? (By the way, those who haven't read the above mentioned book should do so. Also recommended is Metamorphosis, by the same author, which tackles Data's feelings and confusion when he is turned into a Human being!)

To add my two-penneth to the great debate on Data. Most of the TNG books have him come to terms with some type of feeling he has. As do some of the episodes (in a roundabout way). Take for example the end of Skin of Evil when he says his thoughts are for himself not Tasha. He is already feeling the emptiness that follows after a death of someone close.

Kevin Marshall - As a TNG fan, I think there's a lot of stuff in this n/l for those fans who prefer classic Trek to TNG and personally I'd love to see more TNG stuff. But I agree with you on one point... how about more info on all the actors not just one series or the other? *[Ed: We are gradually printing profiles of all the actors and we try to give you what news we get on the actors. However we are not really an 'actor' fan club - there are specialist clubs on most of the actors for those whose interests lie in that direction. As a 'Star Trek' fan club IDIC is geared more to exploring the series and the characters.]*

Steve Davis and Edward Woo - I read somewhere that Dr. McCoy was actually an Honorary Admiral (but don't ask me where!)

Edward Woo - Yes, I've spotted something! Has anyone noticed that we do get introduced to the occasional new face (particularly in Security) who does not immediately get killed which classic Trek often seemed to do?

Lloyd Lewis - See also comment above. Okay, so Security was always the scapegoat when it came to death, but you don't expect people, Klingons etc (Heart of Glory) to escape out of a cell which has god knows what protecting it against escapes. And have you ever tried firing at a moving target while lying flat on your face? Okay, so I haven't but I bet it's no easy feat!!

Ann Peters - Someone else who agrees that Denise Crosby could come back. At least there are more options available in the 24th century, and it can be made more believable than Dallas!

D. Brown and others who noticed the mistake in Marvel comic on the Stardates... Marvel got it wrong!!! If you listen closely to the beginning of the episodes concerned you will notice that the Stardates are different from the ones published in Marvel.

Leah J. Turner - Lochranza, Isle of Arran

Thank you for my first newsletter. I agree that the post pages should be limited as they seem to overwhelm everything else. I was also surprised by the amount of comment and perhaps a lack of actual information.

Was the news item about Patrick Stewart in the last n/l really necessary? It may be news to some but it strikes me as being in very poor taste and an invasion of privacy - even if it was reported somewhere else first. Sorry to quibble - otherwise an excellent publication, especially the menu!

[Janet: Re Patrick Stewart; we did think twice about this one but decided that we should report what is in the papers and not censor items. We deliberately just gave the basic facts. Most people take newspaper articles with a pinch of salt.

Fans who are just looking for information on Star Trek can probably get it from the various professional books and magazines. Star Trek fandom is a special entity - a family who love to exchange views and ideas on their favourite programme; write stories and poetry; draw pictures; explore various aspect of the Star Trek universe in depth - you name it, they do it. If Star Trek clubs had relied on filling their newsletters with information and news they would have not have survived the lean years of the 70s when Star Trek was not in production.]

Martin Sinclair - Hull

Having now seen all first season episodes of TNG my opinion of the show is changing. At first my opinion was that although the show was full of wonderful special effects this in itself didn't make the show as good as the original Star Trek. Yet as the series has progressed the chemistry of the characters and the originality of the episodes has greatly improved and I can only hope that the continuing second season episodes maintain the high standards achieved. However, in my opinion none of the first season episodes have approached the quality of The City On The Edge Of Forever

Simon Trick - Leyton, London

I read Roger Buck's long and thoughtful letter in n/l 15 as regards STVI. I like the idea of "back-to-back" filming; but a well-conceived, fully-plotted story is essential. It might even give the opportunity to have more interesting situations and developments for the two longest-suffering members of the ST cast: Uhura and Sulu. Both showed (on the odd occasion that they were given the chance) how much they could improve ST episodes (eg. Mirror Mirror, The Naked Time, The Man Trap etc.). Perhaps sending the two of them on a special undercover mission as a sub-plot to the main action? If STVI is the last movie, maybe Jim Kirk should be allowed to bow out heroically. I was very moved by his underplaying the line: "I've always known that I would die alone."

I concur with Roger Buck's view of humanity. History has shown us how much humanity has changed. Not just technologically, but morally and spiritually. The Great Teachers of the world's religions suffered tremendous hardships and cruelties to bring the message of love. The potential for good is as strong as the potential for evil; humanity, while still displaying many traits of violence, has manifested tremendous love and caring for people in all parts of the world and from all backgrounds. Could a mere "veneer of civilization" produce people like Mother Teresa? I think not.

It is fascinating how humanity has developed socially: from family units, to tribes, to city-states, then nations... Well ST has often mentioned a "united Earth". It would seem to be the next logical step in humanity's progression. After all, if we're so busy warring, how are we going to get out among the stars? I'm with Gene Roddenberry.

To Helen White: I take your point about a person's sex having little to do with the way they perform a job. Unfortunately, as women have not - historically - been allowed the rights, privileges and opportunities afforded to men, we need to be aware of offering those opportunities now. At the same time, women as a whole need to have the confidence in themselves to put themselves forward and take those, rights, privileges and opportunities. Perhaps by the time of the 24th Century, sexual equality won't need to be an issue any more.

Chris Barker - Stoke on Trent, Staffs.

Could I just tell the readers of the great service I have had from the Sheffield Space Centre. As you read this they have just finished my collection of the original series of Star Trek and I now have all 79 episodes and will be sending off for the all-colour The Cage. It may interest readers to know that The Cage has an introduction by Gene Roddenberry. *[Janet: This was on the mixed b/w colour version but it was not on the colour version I bought a while ago]*

Did anyone spot the deliberate mistake in the episode Where No Man Has Gone Before? The tombstone read JAMES R KIRK.

Helen White - Bracknell, Berks

To Sue Richardson: I loved your jokes - do you know any others?

To Sue Embury and Ingrid Smith: I'm so glad to hear that there are other ~~loonies~~ people who enjoy Spock's Brain, how sensible of you!

To Russell Witheyman: I agree with you that Code of Honor is a bit dodgy, but my least favourite TNG episode is Symbiosis. I hate preaching anyway, but it's so obvious. Yuck!

To Marion Pritchard: I try and keep Janet well-supplied with quizzes and crosswords, and will carry on doing so - I can always do with more from the members to send on to her, hint hint! It's not really that hard to compile a quiz, and I'll always help if anyone's stuck. Come on everyone, have a go!

EEerrrrrm... who told you I did uniforms to order? I don't - sorry. What I do do is offer advice to anyone as wants it - drop me a line if you like. Incidentally, Janet Lawn of NCC 1701 A-D used to make uniforms to order, I think, but I don't know whether she still does.

To Cath Russell: I think half the trouble with poor Data is that he's very inconsistently written - he's supposed to have been 'around' for over twenty years, after all, but some scripts have him being quite moronic. I wonder whether some of the problem is created by the attitude highlighted in the n/l lately; people are frightened of, or won't accept, or don't approve of an android 'person'.

Re zines/novels: I love TNG novels, but (so far) TNG zines do nothing for me. With original Trek, I do enjoy the novels a lot, but I love the zines - in general, they're superior to the professional stories.

To Edward Woo: I'd much prefer to have Data as a commanding officer rather than Bev! I like your explanation of how Dr. McCoy becomes an Admiral; I, too, had wondered about it, when he's usually complaining about the behaviour of the top ranks. Your explanation struck me as a lot better than David Gerrold's, in the novelisation of Encounter at Farpoint.

To Lloyd Lewis: Re your comment on cover artists: Hear hear!! One of my favourite books, Memory Prime, has one of the worst covers (Spock in the clutches of maniacal leering humanoid, in case you haven't seen it.) Also, I hadn't noticed the Security chaps standing with backs to prisoners etc until you pointed it out, although I had noticed that they leapt into shot! Do you think that they have a special test for Security candidates? Get them to guard a prisoner; anyone who watches what the prisoner gets up to can't be taken on!

To Ann Peters: your article on Data sounds interesting, and I look forward to reading it. Thanks for your comments on the jumpsuits. I think that the business with Data and Lore may be explained in part by the following; Lore's overall had a black jumper (or something) under it, which made him look heavier, although I do agree that the jumpsuits make one look thinner than the two-piece suits. Incidentally, have you seen Brothers? That has Data and Lore in it, too, and they both look exactly the same dimensions to me(!), although they are wearing different outfits.

Re your comment on male 'self-esteem' and costumes, I guessed that the chaps must wear athletic supports, or whatever they're called. Walter Koenig mentions them in Chekov's Enterprise. He says that the cast in TMP had strict instructions to wear them - 'no underwear lines in the costumes please.'!!

Tasha doesn't need an 'H' on her forehead - she can come back, no problem. You know that holopic that Data has of her, that keeps turning up (eg in Measure of a Man)? What the crew should do is take it on away teams, put it down and activate it, et voila, Tasha's back. Seriously though, what's wrong with Denise Crosby being a different character instead? I think that we need a female Vulcan on the bridge; she could be called T'Asha! Well, maybe not.

To John Spelling: the explanation of the different varieties of Klingon is, according to Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman, as follows; The Klingons in the original series are from the Northern hemisphere of their planet, the film Klingons are from (I think) further South, and Worf is an 'equatorial' Klingon. That's what I think they said, anyway - I may have confused the details slightly:

As regards the rest of the n/1, it was excellent, as usual. For me, the best bits were Steve Davies' Sequels - brilliant - and The Omicron Ceti Pod-U-Like Menu by Chris Blenkarn - laugh? I was absolutely hysterical! You two obviously share my silly sense of humour!

Michael Simpson - Ledbury, Herefordshire

Can I point out a couple of revisions to my SEA OF FACES feature in N/L 15?

Both of the listings I have say that James Goldstone, (oops, I forgot he also directed What Are Little Girls Made Of?), directed the episode Mutiny. According to the episode credits, however, it was done by regular Irwin Allen director Sobey Martin. It also appears that Paul Carr (Lee Kelso in Where No Man Has Gone Before), was something of a semi-regular at this point in the series. He also appeared in the episodes Hail To The Chief and Doomsday. Eugene Dynarski, (Ben Childress in Mudd's Women and Krodak in The Mark Of Gideon - listed as Gene Dynarski in Who's Who In Star Trek), was in the episode The Buccaneer.

Any further additions from other members would, of course, be much appreciated.

My thanks to Marie Chettle for her unintentional addition to my Trek/Holmes feature. Her letter was quite a coincidence because I had purchased The Television Sherlock Holmes myself a couple of days before receiving N/L 15.

Re: Elena Bond's letter in N/L 15, when I last saw When The Bough Breaks I had the opposite impression. For me it was *too much* like Classic Trek. It reminded me of those episodes like The Apple or A Taste Of Armageddon when Kirk 'saved the world' by destroying its ruling computer. I remember the episode garnering laughs at its denouement when shown at Sol III '69. The idea of a hole in the ozone layer causing sterility, though presumably conceivable, brought to mind those old SF films of the 50s when atomic power was credited with having all manner of inconceivable side effects, (a la The Beast From Twenty Thousand Fathoms, Them, etc). It was perhaps a little unfortunate for its writer, certainly from the British point of view, that she probably wrote it *before* public awareness of the ozone hole reached the height it has been at over the past couple of years. It would be interesting to know what the reaction would have been if it had been made five years earlier.

On the subject of worlds 'controlled' by computers, Kirk's possible reaction to the Bynars might be a subject for speculation. It struck me when I last watched this episode that it must be the first Star Trek story in which a planet's central computer is actually *saved* from destruction!

Roger Buck: I totally agree with the point about speedier release of TNG onto video. I have followed up your suggestion and written. Since the videos are

largely bought by those who intend to buy them all CIC surely cannot *lose* by releasing more than one a month. Hopefully enough letters will reach them on this point to make them consider it further. You mention the TV version of TMP. Apparently there was also some talk of a 'complete' version of The Search For Spock being compiled for U.S. TV when it was released to the cinema. Perhaps CIC would consider this too. And how about The Final Frontier with some/all of its trimmed scenes being restored? They did it, after all, with TWOK.

Karen Cloney - Paisley

Our postman finally figured out how to get my IDIC newsletter through the letter box without mutilating it!!!! There were so many comments and mindings in N/L 15 that I decided to write.

Firstly to Sue Richardson: Never be scared to admit that you're a ST fan. You'd be amazed at what can happen.

When I started training down here, the very first part of the course was an outward bound type week in the Lake District. Not only was I hundreds of miles from home (we had to come to Bournemouth to be introduced to the boss etc first) but I was thrown in with 47 other people who I had never met in my life before.

The first night in the Lake District, in the bar (ahem) I was wearing a Star Trek T-shirt with Mr. Spock on it. One of the blokes came up and asked if I was a fan or just wearing it for a bet. I informed him that I was a Star Trek fan. He said that he was as well but that he'd never had the nerve to wear a t-shirt proclaiming it. Up jumped another bloke asking why, what was he ashamed of.... and so on and so forth until at least half the folk on the course were found to be Star Trek fans. Then started all the arguments about which was better, Star Trek or Star Wars. We were still in the bar at half two the next morning talking about the films, the series etc. by which time there were 48 people in the bar. It really broke the ice. You'd be surprised how many of those taking the mickey can be found on a Wednesday night at 6 curled up in front of the TV watching BBC2!!!!

To Sue Embury: I loved Data's "continue the petty bickering" line as well. I laughed til my stomach ached on Wednesday when Dr. Pulaski said "Day-tah, Day-tah, what's the difference?" and poor wee Data came back "One is my name, the other is not!" Classic!!! Good for you, Data!

To all those who took part in the android's rights debate: I'm sorry I missed it.

To Marcia Pecor: I totally agree with your comments on IDIC. It's printed on the front cover of the newsletter "The glory of creation is in its infinite diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and beauty," Surely as followers of Star Trek we should hold that and see what it is saying to us.

You also said that we should "stop picking at him like midges". The way I look at it is, I don't really have any right to down any of those involved in Star Trek from Gene Roddenberry on. Come on guys, all of them have moulded a *dream* into *near reality*. Without William Shatner, Gene and the rest there would not ST, this newsletter would not exist. The fundamental ideas that Star Trek has introduced into our society, no matter how small, would not have come into being. And think of what ST has had to say. Somehow a receding hairline seems a rather petty thing to accuse anyone of. IDIC, my friends, IDIC! The fundamental concept of those four letters means that there should be no "TNG bashing", no ridiculing of other people just because they are different or don't agree with your point of view. Or do I have the totally wrong impression of what IDIC is really about?

To Richard Fuller: I know what you mean about Scotty. But I think, from what I remember of the interview James Doohan had with Wogan it was his idea that Scotty should be a Scot. (Jimmy's that is, not Terry's) However I'll stand corrected if I've got it wrong.

Finally to Janet: 700 copies!!!! Wow!!!! [Ed: Now 750... and rising?]

Jeff Martin - Hyogo, Japan

I was quite surprised to read your advice to writers to keep their reviews "as objective as possible." My question is why? I thought reviews were by their very nature subjective. While a good review should provide a description of the story, it should also include a discussion of what the reviewer enjoyed or disliked about the material. If you only want descriptions of stories, I suggest you stop calling them reviews and rename your column "Book and Video Synopses."

[Ed: You are correct, we did not make it clear what we were looking for. We are certainly not just looking for synopses - in fact we prefer these to be kept as short as possible. We do want the reviewer's own opinion of the book but sometimes a reviewer has to stand back slightly - for instance a Spock fan reviewing a book which Spock isn't in much could be too subjective about it and say that they didn't enjoy it at all and that it was really bad; while an objective view should be able to say that the book was well written etc. and that many readers would enjoy it although as a Spock fan they found it lacking.]

As for restricting the length of the Postbag due to the increasing number of letters you're receiving, I would of course prefer you to print all the letters in their entirety. If that's an impossibility, then I wouldn't mind if you judiciously edit redundant information and replies from letters, or simply pass some over as not having anything of interest or pertinence to the majority of members. *[Ed: the problem is, who are we to judge what is redundant and not of interest to members? We've been wrong before. We have printed items whose general interest we've been doubtful of only to have them enthusiastically praised by some members]*

I very much enjoy the Postbag and find it the most interesting and lively feature of the newsletter. However, I wish that letter writers would spend a little time and effort recapitulating arguments before responding to them. After a two month interval, I find I've forgotten what a letter writer said or what point he or she was trying to make. I implore letter writers to briefly review whatever points they are responding to. I will try to do so below.

Pam Baddeley wrote in NL 15 that TNG shows us Data in a way that... makes it clear that he is meant to be capable of experiencing emotions... This is an unverifiable and unprovable assertion. As she points out later in her letter in a discussion on the criteria for determining if something is "alive" or "living", "the ability to feel... is not self-evident..." The best we can do is state that Data exhibits behaviour consistent with certain emotional states. Thus, he twitches when anxious, paces when excited, or smiles when happy. That he actually experiences anxiety, excitement or happiness is beyond our ability to confirm.

I wonder if anyone has thought of this: if Data did experience an emotion, how would he recognize it? He would need a referent in order to know his experience was emotive, but having never experienced an emotion before what referents could he possibly use? He would be forced, much as we are in debating the question of Data's capacity to feel emotions, to deduce from Human behaviour that he had experienced something similar.

Finally to Helen White: Gambatte Nihongo wa omoshiroi kedo chotto musukashi. Itsu kara benkyo shitte hajimetta? Kanji mo benkyo shitte imasuka?

Ann Peters - Kidderminster, Worcs.

I have to agree with Sheila that discussion about Data is academic but since when did that ever stop an argument! 'Is Data alive' can only be answered if we have a decent definition of 'living', and notions like 'God' and 'self-evident' are simply not good enough. I suspect life has something to do with entropy and the battle against decay. Maybe as long as Data doesn't decompose, erode or fall to bits, he can claim to be 'living', although that alone would certainly not qualify him to be a Starfleet Officer!

To Pam Baddeley: Since Data himself has made the odd mention of his neural net pathways, I think it's safe to assume his brain does work rather like that of a Human and not like a glorified reference manual. I also agree about Dr. Soong: I always considered he headed a team rather than working alone. Datalore doesn't really contradict this but Brothers might. Data says in Datalore that the signalling device that attracted his rescuers was probably responsible for activating him in the first place and details of his 'off' switch probably are on file but not generally known - like Picard's heart problem. As far as his expressions go, I think we should remember Data is a machine and they need not necessarily be expressing feelings. We know that he *wants* to be Human and that he has a great capacity for imitation (Sherlock Holmes), so I don't think it's too hard to accept that the expressions are indeed simulations of what he has observed in real Humans. The very best Data faces are in The Royale, but savour them, because in the 3rd season they've gone - I think that new uniform must have cramped his style.

To Helen White: Characters in a fictional drama are specifically created by the author; they do not answer ads and present themselves for interview. I have to disagree with your analogy between sexism in TNG and discrimination in employment.

Re the holodecks, in ...Farpoint Data said that much of the matter actually is real, so it could probably leave the holodecks rather like food leaves the food slots. Holographic people controlled by the computer would probably be unable to leave the controlled area, as with Redblock and Leech. Since matter and energy are interchangeable and the holodecks are not unlike transporters, I would imagine that, if things did go wrong, real people could indeed have their molecules scrambled and lost as Wesley indicated. All perfectly consistent really!

To Elena Bond: Comparing When the Bough Breaks with The Mark of Gideon is unfair. The race in WTBB was about to go extinct, so cannot be criticised for wanting offspring. I suspect the reason overpopulation hasn't been tackled by TNG is that no-one has come up with a good story about it. I liked TMOG back in the 70's because it touched on the problem, but don't let's forget that their solution was to kill people off to make room for all the lovely new babies, not to practise birth control.

I am interested that some fans are quite happy with Tasha's crying scene in Hide and Q. I'm not suggesting that one should never show emotion or, even worse, I'm not suggesting that one should never admit to emotion, but bursting into tears is going to pieces and losing control, which in a tricky situation, could be disastrous. No-one could accuse James T. of not showing emotion, but in The Enemy Within he knew that, to command, he had to inspire the confidence of others and to hold on until the crisis was over. I've nothing against a few tears afterwards but surely, even then, not in front of the captain - not if you ever want promotion. Incidentally, had she been weeping for others and not herself, I would have forgiven her.

To Roger Buck: Surely you must have noticed that Humans are still 'murdering each other over tribal God images' in Northern Ireland and the Middle East! I cannot agree that compassion is a modern development. There have always been compassionate people but only with recent technology have they had much effect. Healers have always tried to heal but only with antibiotics and anaesthetics have they been able to do so. And you only have to look at the devastation Humans are causing to the natural world - pollution, driftnetting, destruction of forests and estuaries, factory farming - to see that the savagery is still there: it's just shifted its focus, that's all. I see plenty of changes in technology and customs in the last 2000 years, but very few changes in Human nature.

Richard Fuller - Dublin, Eire

This is my first letter and is definitely long winded as I try to put certain views I want to express across to other readers. First I wish to say how much I enjoy the IDIC newsletter. Those two months cannot come quickly enough before the next issue comes out. I love the My Kind of Trek articles and other readers'

comments.

I have one query, why is James Doohan not an honorary member of the club? *[Ed: Jimmy hasn't been over to a British con since we started IDIC so we haven't had the chance to ask him.]* He deserves to be and in fact I'm surprised by the general lack of interest in and appreciation of his excellent portrayal of Montgomery Scott by my fellow Scottish fans. I was disappointed that Gloria Fry did not mention that Scotty was wearing highland dress uniform in her review of *Is There In Truth No Beauty* (n/l 15). He looked so well in it and it always makes me feel so proud of my Scottish heritage. The lovely tartan he wears is genuine for anyone who doubts this. When in Scotland this January I went to endless trouble to prove to my sceptical sister that there is a Scott black and white tartan. I got a scarf made of it in Inverness and sent to my home in Dublin. I also got two ties of the beautiful tartan, one of which I recently sent to James Doohan in gratitude for the great autographed photo he sent me when I wrote to him.

Jimmy Doohan also sent me a hand-written note explaining to me that his name was in fact Irish but that he was part Scots because his grandfather James Montgomery came from Scotland. He also told me he named his on-screen character after him. He also included his autograph for my mum on a beautiful sketched piece of art featuring Scotty as he is in the films and as he was in the series wearing his tartan. James Doohan will always be my favourite actor. Scotty was always the perfect gentleman with the ladies. And how many times did Scotty's hard work and ingenuity as a first class Engineer save the *Enterprise*. James Doohan is a first class, professional actor, a charismatic, distinguished individual and handsome man. I always think that smile of his could have won the cold war outright! Next to Sean Connery he is my mum's favourite actor.

I know I've gone on a lot but these are my views and as Scotty said in *The Trouble With Tribbles*, "Everyone is entitled to an opinion." I believe firmly in tolerance; listening and understanding are my catchwords and after all that's the very embodiment of IDIC.

Well now on to some other matters. I believe you are interested in hearing peoples' favourite episodes. Well in my *My Kind of Trek* Article (n/l 15) I listed some but I left out *Mirror, Mirror, Who Mourns for Adonais?*, *A Taste of Armageddon* and *By Any Other Name*. My favourite film is *The Voyage Home* although as a rule I do not enjoy the films as I think they were too imbalanced, Kirk, Spock and McCoy getting the decent parts and the other important members of the cast being forgotten. *Star Trek V* had redeeming parts for me; they were in the guise of the suggestion of a relationship between Uhura and Scotty. More should be made of it, and not just the proposed - and in my case dreaded - Spock falls in love to the exclusion of all else except Dr. McCoy catching frostbite and Kirk going back to visit a 17th century Gates McFadden look alike, *All Our Yesterday's* style. I have a dreadful fear that this is what *Star Trek IV: the Undiscovered Country* sounds like. Why else would they go to Alaska, I ask myself? If there is any sanity left at Paramount I hope they haven't chosen to adapt the script from the novel *Yesterday's Son*. Sure, it would be fine for fans of the big three, but for what would be the last fling for original Trek it would ignore the other characters and their fans. In an issue of *Starlog* magazine James Doohan said he was getting the word in for a possible sixth film and they should start thinking of the group in terms of seven people and drop the ego stuff.

Now there's someone being realistic about age. Another thing I admire about James Doohan, he's the only member that doesn't try to hide his age and he looks all the better for it. *Star Trek 5* had Kirk, Spock and McCoy running around in action men suits. Fine if they were younger but they are not. Aging is part of living and must be accepted. I'd like to see *ST VI* deal with this, with real issues being tackled and plenty of humour. Life is too dark, too serious - let's lighten it up. Even if *ST VI* is the last I believe that thanks to a certain person I know, John Taylor, that *Star Trek* will continue for generations to come through books and the medium of animation.

I would also like to see the animated adventures released by CIC at the cheaper price now that all the classic episodes are out. I bought the last five in our Virgin Megastore and what trash they are except for The Savage Curtain. Of course I'd seen these on Sky last year but I bought them for the extra minutes. The decline and fall of Star Trek is what I call a lot of the episodes towards the end of the series. They were so cheap and skimped on all the other characters except the big three. All Our Yesterdays was so cheap they did not even have Scotty in it, they only used his voice. This is also the only episode not to feature the interior of the Enterprise; not a formula that had made Star Trek great. I was glad to see a wee bit of extra dialogue with Scotty talking to the Captain in Turnabout Intruder, so all was not lost. But they reminded me sorely of the fact that Gene Roddenberry's dream of equality was not always taken note of, neglecting the so-called secondary characters so much.

We pay on average another £4 a video here in Eire as they have to be imported. We see The Next Generation twice a week here, once on good old BBC2 and the other on Saturday night on our local network channel, well into the second season by now with the lovely Diana Muldaur.

Sue Embury - Nr. Monmouth, Gwent

First I must thank Karen Sparks for her favourable review of my zine, "The Parting of the Ways". Karen was quite correct in guessing that Spock is my favourite character, (I think I may have mentioned that before in these pages!) though regarding the other two, I actually had more trouble getting into the McCoy story than Kirk's, so I was surprised that Karen found McCoy's characterisation worked better. Still, it's a fact that we all see things differently, and as a novice I'm very keen to get feed-back about what different readers expect or enjoy in zine stories.

That brings me to Kari M. John's and Helen White's opposing viewpoints about hurt/comfort stories. Although hurt/comfort is not really my scene, I can understand Helen's explanation of why she enjoys it. I prefer the emphasis to be on emotional trauma rather than physical, and I like it to be balanced with some happier times, and perhaps humour if possible. Torture stories do not usually hold my interest. What all this means with regard to my psychological make-up, I'm not quite sure! I think that we all tend to confront difficult situations through fiction and fantasy; situations which would be unpleasantly stressful or upsetting in real life. I suspect that we all utilise this kind of catharsis in some form or other, but different individuals naturally find different portrayals unacceptable. On the lighter side, we also get a lot of fun out of fantastic adventures. We can identify with the characters and enjoy seeing them resolve dangerous or impossible problems. If only we could do these things in real life! I cannot think of a better example of this than the resurrection of Spock, which was achieved partly due to the amazing properties of the Genesis wave, and partly by Kirk's sacrifice and determination. It is very much a part of Kirk's character as I see him that he will "find a way" in seemingly hopeless situations. To me he is a larger than life character, yet at the same time, "so Human" with Human weakness. I think it is this fallible hero image that makes the character so appealing and is an important factor in the magic of original Trek. I also think it is something that is lacking in TNG.

To Ingrid Smith: yes I agree with you about once being enough for viewing TNG. (and about Spock's Brain!) I *do* like TNG, but I cannot imagine that many episodes will still be watchable and enjoyable for repeated viewing in say... twenty-five years time. I still think that the very special relationship between the three main characters in classic Trek is unrepeatable and therefore TNG could never hope to compete on that score, but there are other factors. After long consideration I have come to the conclusion (regrettably) that an over emphasis on morality may be a flaw in TNG. Picard is the supreme diplomat. The resolution of the problem is, almost without exception, for Picard to talk the opposition into submission. He does this very well, and it *is* very laudable, but it is also at the expense of excitement and action in the stories. Although Riker is supposed to provide the action and adventure aspects while Picard is making the speeches, he rarely seems

to get any opportunities. In classic Trek, James T. Kirk performed both roles, - running jumping and fighting, and making wonderful speeches about the importance of Human endeavour etc. It is more realistic to have the roles as portrayed in TNG, but it is far more *entertaining* to have the more fantastic and melodramatic interpretation of classic Trek. I know that I ought not to want fight scenes and simplistic shoot-out resolutions to the conflicts, but this is escapism after all, and classic Trek somehow managed to combine action stories with a morality tale. In fact, it seems as if the TNG crew are in need of some escapism and adventure themselves, for they seem to spend every other episode in the holodeck, which is fast becoming an incredibly overused plot device, and even less believable than the transporter beam! I agree with Pam Baddeley's points about inconsistencies in that area. So, although I look forward to seeing more TNG episodes, I look back on classic Trek with undiminished fondness and even greater enjoyment.

To Roger Buck; I too would love to see more of the old crew, and I thought your suggestion about rotoscoped animated Trek was brilliant! The possibilities would be... well, endless, and the special effects could be fantastic without requiring a fantastic budget. How can we get someone in authority to explore this possibility? And yes, I would prefer a television series rather than movies at long intervals. I *still* can't get enough of them, even after all these years!

Finally I cannot resist taking up the point about Human nature. Surely Kirk's situation in "The Enemy Within" is a good analogy for the Human race as a whole. The good and evil sides were both necessary and inseparable parts of his character, but, so long as intellect redirects aggression into productive channels, we need not be victims of our own savagery.

I do not think that Human nature can be expected to change, unless and until our species evolves out of all recognition, but then, I believe that there has always been more good than bad in the Human heart. Perhaps that is why we have progressed this far, for as Roger describes, the Human *condition* has altered considerably; though it is painfully evident that we have far to go yet before peace and plenty are available to all mankind. Even so, the vision is more nearly within our grasp than ever before. If, as a race, we can make the right decisions over the next few decades, I believe a new chapter could be opened in the Human adventure, but it is a very big if, and I don't pretend to have all the answers!

Lesley Arrowsmith - Norwich, Norfolk

First of all, I loved the Pod-u-Life Menu - hilarious.

Now, Sharon Holmes - Oh, dear, so Mindshadow is quality ST? Granted that when I read it I thought it had the 'feel' of good fan fiction, but it also annoyed me immensely. There is a gaping hole in the plot which should never have got past the editors of a professional novel. This is - how did the 'Federation expert' (I forget her name) get aboard? No ship or shuttlecraft ever rendezvoused with the Enterprise - she just appeared in a corridor and this was completely unquestioned by the crew. It was no surprise later on that she was up to no good. Having said that, I thought that J.M. Dillard's second book was much better and more professional.

Helen White: re reverse sexism - granted that Starfleet is a multi-cultured, multi-racist and multi-species organisation, doesn't it strike you as odd that one small minority amongst all this diversity - white Human males - get such a lion's share of the promotions? In an ideal world, which Star Trek is trying to portray, there would be a much more even mix in all ranks. Thus the problem with there being few women on the bridge is that the balance is being shown in one small minority - a bit like running a company by giving all the jobs to your cousins. They may be good at their jobs, but no-one else gets a chance to show how good they might be. That's the objection.

By the way, thanks to Pam Baddeley for jogging my memory about Stag Con '81. It was my first con and I remember being knocked out by the amazing costumes, especially T'Poling and the Grey Mouser.

Marnie Angus - Inverness

Star Trek has been very important to me since the sixties. It was the only TV programme I got absolutely and totally lost in. My friends just could not understand it and eventually I kept my love for ST to myself as I suspect many fans did. When ST-TMP came out I couldn't believe it. It was so imaginative and remains my favourite film. My least favourite has to be STV which I have recently bought. It has its moments but lacks a good strong script. I so hope STVI will be better - it will be sad if the final film in the 25th Anniversary year is a let down.

As for ST:TNG, I now think it is excellent. At first I was uncertain but as the first series continued I grew to appreciate the various characters. My favourites are Riker, Picard, Data and Lt. Worf. I know some people have not yet fallen for TNG but all I can say is give it time. I never thought I could - in fact I was so sure I failed to record the first 5 episodes and could now kick myself.

Two questions: (1) Do you know if TNG will be screened on Sky? I have a feeling they said they would screen classic Trek, followed by the animated series and then TNG. I hope I'm right. *[Ed: Word is they will screen TNG some time after the BBC. We don't know when.]*

(2) As TNG is so successful in the States (which seems the most important factor) is there any word of making a feature film with TNG characters. After all Whoopi Goldberg is top box office after getting the Oscar for Ghost. *[Ed: Richard Arnold told us at a convention that they may make a TNG film after they stop making the series.]*

Finally my congratulations on your super newsletter. There is so much reading in it. Could I make one comment - when you name the contributors you don't say where they come from. I just think it would be nice to know the nationality as I know you have some members abroad. *[Ed We'll try putting where members come from in the Postbag and see what the reaction is. It isn't really feasible elsewhere in the newsletter though. We have approx. 100 members living outside Britain.]*

Marion Andrews - Ware, Herts

To Marcia Pecor (n/l 13) - My apologies! I think that it was a comment that I made about De Kelley's Profile that may have made you think that I was saying that the profiles contain nothing new. As he and his character are my favourites it would follow that I have read up quite a lot about him; however I'm not so familiar with the other character/actors and find the articles very informative, so keep it up, Marcia - I look forward to any more in the pipeline!

John Marshall - Portsmouth, Hants

Just having watched the Star Trek video Wink of An Eye it made me think (something new to me). Somewhere in the vast universe there could be civilizations that move many times faster than us, thus one of our weeks could be a fraction of a second to them.

Back in the summer a few miles away from me strange mysterious circles were found in cornfields which no-one can explain. Scientists from all around the world sat around cornfields all day and night hoping to find what made these circles. On one occasion lights were seen and a circle appeared with an ouija board and a crucifix in the centre, and no one saw who or what made them. Could aliens who move many times faster than us have left a message which no one could explain? They could have been on Earth a week but to us it would have been a fraction of a second.

Do you think this theory is feasible or am I a candidate for the local funny farm?

Elena Bond - London

I would like to thank Jayne Harden for her reply praising Jonathan Frakes - it

was great to read your letter.

Sue Burdfield - Fareham

I am just into my second year of IDIC and thought it about time I voiced my opinion of your newsletters. I've enjoyed every one of them, especially the letters, but some of them do go on a bit. Although I've been hooked on Star Trek since '69 (my ex even looked like Spock - but he was far too emotional) yours is the first club I've joined, and what an eye-opener. I had been led to believe I was "immature" - intelligent, sensible people just didn't read or watch Star Trek - now I realise they do! Some of the articles are so intelligent I can't understand them.

There does seem to be a lot of resentment towards Picard and his crew. I don't see TNG as a rival, more an extension. The old boys will have to retire some day and without TNG that would mean the end of Star Trek.

In n/l 15 Roger Buck asked about Planet Earth on video. Two of my local stores have it for rental so maybe his does.

John Spelling asked about the differences in Klingons in classic Trek and the movies. In the book Worlds of the Federation it says "The Klingons encountered along the Federation border were a Klingon/Human fusion created to make infiltration into Federation areas easier."

My only quibble with IDIC is that your zines ads are costing me a fortune! I never realised there were so many. I've read a cross section and most are very good. I must admit to a soft spot for the milder K/S, but then I'm a romantic at heart. I may be naive but I was actually shocked when I read some of the zines - is it legal to send such material through the post? Still, if you don't read it you don't know whether you like it or not.

Grace Hawkins - Houghton Regis, Beds.

Is anybody else collecting the Shell game cards? - I've got all my friends and family eating and drinking Shell petrol. I bet everybody is searching for Riker - with only fifteen holidays I bet there's only fifteen Rikers in Great Britain!!

I had thought that the episode of TNG, Conspiracy, was pretty good until I learned from Points of View that the Beeb had cut the ending - now I want to see the complete version if I can rent it locally. *[Ed: If you can't rent it it is on sale now.]* I feel cheated but that's the Beeb's idiotic policy to science fiction in general - stick it on BBC 2 at a stupid time slot when most adults are on their way home from work!!! I'm only seeing the episodes as they appear on TV and I think the series is getting pretty good and those of you that have seen episodes from the 3rd and 4th season say it gets even better - *I can't wait!!* I wish I knew what you lot were talking about though when you discuss them, but maybe I'll catch a few if I make it to a convention.

Does anybody know if the BBC are planning to show the next season of Quantum Leap, which I really enjoy? I wrote to the BBC and had no reply (surprise, surprise). I thought it was pretty good for an American SF series. Makes you think what Blake's Seven would be like with special effects and money like they spend in the States - no strings visible in TNG!!

Can anyone solve a problem for me - if Data is a 'fully functioning' adult - we have Tasha's word for this and if his internal structure is similar to a Human in that he has body fluid - can he father children? We had a pregnant Troi (wasn't Riker's reaction predictable but undeniably satisfying) - why not Data getting someone in trouble? I find the idea fascinating, as Spock would say!!!

Kimberly Pederson - Big Springs, NE, USA

I just received n/l 15 yesterday and found it as entertaining as ever. Since I live in the States, it has become quite obvious to me that you unfortunate souls in Great Britain are at least two seasons behind us in TNG episodes. I don't know

how you stand it! Since I know very little about the television industry and how shows are bought and sold overseas, I find that I am quite puzzled as to why you are so far behind in the episodes. It must be terribly frustrating. *[Ed. It seems the BBC were not willing to pay the asking price for 'first run' so it was released on video first.]*

Just so you have your appetites whetted. I must tell you that seasons 3 and 4 are by far the best. There are a couple of shows that are disappointing, but for the most part, TNG really comes into its own these past couple of years. I have taped every episode as they are shown and would you believe that I am actually on tape 17 with 6 episodes per tape?!

I've been a fan of Star Trek for 20 years. Classic Trek was in syndication by the time I was hooked, but that made little difference to me. I was very happy when the movies came out and even though I didn't care much for TNG when it first began, I was determined to give it my best shot. It took a while, but I really enjoy it now. My biggest gripes are the lack of strong female characters and the lack of any kind of relationships that made Classic Trek so wonderful. I don't expect TNG to be a copycat of Classic Trek, but a few more similarities in the relationship department would be nice!

I thought you might be interested in knowing what is going on over here as far as Star Trek is concerned (though this may be old news to you by the time the next IDIC issue is out). I attended Starfest '91 in Denver, Colorado with my 13 year old daughter, Kirsten, last month (March) and we had a wonderful time. The guest speakers were Colm Meaney (Chief O'Brien) and Leonard Nimoy (You know who he is!). We really enjoyed listening to Colm. He was warm and personable and fielded a good many questions from the audience. Some of the more interesting things he had to say was that he and LeVar Burton (Geordi) were rather glad that Wil Wheaton was gone since now Paramount had more time to devote to the development of their characters. That's probably why we got to see Chief O'Brien getting married in Data's Day (did I give something away here?) We also enjoyed his demonstration of the various types of Irish accents. Those of us stateside often think that everyone from Ireland sounds the same. He proved that that was quite wrong and it was fun listening to his demonstrations. I imagine every country has their own dialect as does the United States. Sometimes I can barely understand my husband's southern relatives!

Leonard Nimoy was a real hit, though. Spock is universally loved and the lecture hall was solidly packed with bodies. Nimoy talked a lot about how Star Trek IV was made. How many of you knew that the whales in Star Trek IV were actually mock-ups and radio controlled puppets? I didn't until last month! He said the only real footage of humpback whales was at the end when George and Gracie are breaching. And that footage was filmed off the coast of Hawaii. Apparently humpbacks are very shy and will not swim toward a human being. Nimoy said that they got a lot of great shots of humpbacks swimming away from their camera crews - not much of which they could use!

He also discussed the upcoming Star Trek VI movie - due out in the States in December 1991. He gave us a few hints - there are going to be a good many Klingons and Romulans, a possible romance for Spock - no elaborations were made here! NO ONE IS GOING TO DIE (Yea!) and that there are several tie-ins to TNG. He also said that VI is going to be a good popcorn movie" - something everyone will enjoy. He also stated that this is going to be the LAST Classic Trek movie made - you can imagine the moans and groans of dismay at that remark? Then he said, "C'mon, you guys, give us a break! How many more years do you think we can keep doing all this running and jumping around?" Someone from the audience yelled "Forever!" But Nimoy again insisted that VI was the last one of all - pardon me while I cry! I have since seen him reiterate that remark in a TV interview and a newspaper article. I hope you find all this interesting.

I just had to add one last remark that I agree with Ann Peters about Human nature. Roger Buck has a very idealistic view about Human beings that I don't

share. The Star Trek ideal of Humankind is wonderful and a great dream, but I hardly expect that Human beings are going to change very dramatically in my lifetime or that of my children. Perhaps we are more compassionate in some ways, but I do believe Mr. Buck has conveniently forgotten that racism is again on the rise in both our countries against non-whites and Jews. He's forgotten the drug wars - the clash of gangs in our country is especially bad. Our bigger cities suffer from drive-by shootings, rapes, beatings and wars over drug territory. And let's not forget our favourite villain of the moment, Saddam Hussein, who is 'courageously' murdering thousands of Kurds in his own country because they want to depose him. Let's not forget the 'bravery' of the United States who stand by and shuffle their feet in the dust while this happens and look the other way. I could go on ad infinitum, but this is neither the place or the time for that. I do believe, though, that Mr. Buck should take the rose-coloured glasses off his face and take a good look at the real world.

Star Trek appeals to so many people because of its high hopes and ideals for the future. I like it for that reason, but I don't see it becoming our reality. A nice wish though!

One last comment, just so you know how much I truly enjoy the world of Star Trek: My family has the pleasure of belonging to a wonderful little Scottish Terrier. His registered name is "Sir Montgomery Scott Wee Bairn of Pederson" - Scotty for short. Oftentimes he is greeted with the words, "Beam me up, Scotty", which we all laugh over. And sometimes that phrase has been shortened down to just calling him "Beamer". Otherwise my family is normal in all other aspects.

Roger Buck - Cambridge

Regarding Data, some deep questions have been asked in these pages of late, such as what is the soul and even more profound, *what is life?* I thought I'd include my own feeble response to these mysteries by saying that, like Jacqueline and those who agree with her, I too once had great difficulty with the concept of artificial intelligence. I was only able to accept characters like Data upon realising I believed life and consciousness existed independent of form. That is, I believe, my life and consciousness will surely continue past the expiry of my physical form, and therefore the form itself, whether organic or mechanical, does not determine whether something is alive. It is the presence of the soul which, in my opinion, distinguishes the corpse or machine from the living being. The way Data is written I have to assume he has a thinking, feeling soul, so at least in the ST universe I must assume that the life force that is the soul can inhabit a mechanical form as easily as a biochemical one. This is how I interpret Picard's words when he says we differ only from Data in that we are biochemical machines: our bodies, as many spiritual traditions (particularly Eastern ones) suggest, are merely the machines or vehicles that are inhabited and driven by the consciousness of our souls. I'd love to hear what Gene Roddenberry would say of all this.

Thomas Hicks - Livingston, West Lothian

I would like to comment about TNG. I think the actors are great and the special effects brilliant but I am afraid the stories are very poor. The original series had me riveted from the beginning. I have the CIC full series and films and I watch them over and over. Although I am taping the Next Generation I have not yet watched the series more than once, so to me I prefer the original series.

Data in science fiction terminology is a robot and not an android. An android is an artificial/chemical made Human. The original series also made this mistake, as to intelligence or a life form, I can see no reason to think he is otherwise. Intelligence is a very difficult thing to prove or not to prove. If you can have an intelligent rock (Horta) I am sure you can have an intelligent metal robot. However I do not like the idea of the off and on switch that Data has. It's too much like an intelligent kettle plus I would think that if Data was a living machine then he would have a survival instinct and the first thing he would do is weld it to on. I would and I am not that intelligent.

Edward Woo:

Michael Simpson: I would agree with you that the BBC still thinks ST is a children's programme. Look at other science fiction programmes like Blake's 7 and Dr. Who, both of which have had raw deals in their time. Going back to TNG, they would get even greater viewing figures with a later time slot, and their audience figures do not take into account people videoing it for later viewing.

No doubt the idea is that in a children's programme episodes can be cut or banned. I heard a rumour that 2 episodes from the 3rd season may be banned because one is a kidnapping and the other mentions Northern Ireland. I wish BBC executives would come to a ST convention and find out the majority of the audience is adult, whereas children want a "blast them dead" science fiction programme. It was suggested by Richard Arnold at UFP 91 that invitations should be sent to particular BBC executives to come to a convention and see what ST is all about.

Helen White: Firstly it was nice to meet you and your friend Jo at UFP 91. I still like Dr. Crusher and I do agree that she has a better role in the 3rd and 4th season. It's nice to put a face to a name and I look forward to your UFP guest spots. From your comments in n/1 15 Deanna Troi does now, like Dr. Crusher, have a more substantial role as Counselor and we see her doing counselling with the crew.

I would still debate you about the lack of roles for women in ST. It still reflects society today whilst TNG should reflect the future. I have now seen The Best of Both Worlds 1 and 2 and Cmdr Shelby is very good and a fine First Officer. She is similar to Riker when he first came aboard, eager to please. Shelby will, like Riker, mellow with age and experience just like No. 1 is right now. It would have been good for No.1 to have been a woman as Gene Roddenberry conceived in his original pilot and to have had a Lesley Crusher rather than a Wesley Crusher.

The woman Commander in the episode Identity Crisis would make a valuable member of the Enterprise crew, as she has the right balance of confidence. I can't remember her name as I write this.

Indeed if Riker has refused 3 career advancements to the Captain's chair, he would be hurting his career with those Shelby-type people rising up around him. I believe he is waiting for the promotion of Picard so he gets the Enterprise.

Marcia Pecor: I do agree with your comment that for STVI we want a fully operational Enterprise, equipped and prepared for any adventure. It is annoying that in classic ST the deflector screens and red alert signal immediately activated once a hostile situation was noticed, whereas in the films and TNG a command is needed. Surely a computer is faster. It could always be reversed by the Captain but it would be there to alert the crew that something was wrong.

Pam Baddeley: You brought up some interesting points about Data. I believe he is a sentient being who is trying to become Human. In some ways TNG relies too much on Data and his ability to withstand so many situations. For example in the Enterprise crew there are some 13 different types of alien life forms serving aboard ship. Why is it that if the Enterprise is struck down by disease or something else, the whole crew gets it? Surely with the different life-forms aboard, some would be o.k., others might not be. Data is viable as in one episode he gets command of the night watch on the Enterprise and so does Worf get a watch command.

To date seasons 3 and 4 of TNG are getting better all the time. One thing you do notice is that personnel get promoted, say Chief Engineer, Commander etc. Whereas in classic Trek, everyone stayed the same rank through the years of their mission. Riker also seems to be less adventurous now but more of a command figure, whilst Picard seems to be more into the action in 3rd and 4th season.

I wonder if some Next Generation animations will be made when the series eventually finishes? That would keep the fans happy.

John Stevenson - East Kibride:

With the appearance of ST:TNG I decided it was time I got involved in fandom. I recently joined IDIC and find the newsletter informative and well written.

Star Trek was always around as I was growing up, but it was just there, nothing dramatic - to me anyhow. When I started with TNG I was impressed with Data and La Forge. I seem to have come in in the middle of an apparent discussion on whether Data is sentient or not. As far as I can see, the only thing that matters is whether he performs his task as part of the crew adequately and whether he integrates with the crew. To my mind he does. Other discussions appear pointless.

When TNG started, my favourite character was Tasha Yar. Here we had a woman of the future, with the beauty which made her womanhood unmistakable yet with the strength to defeat any man. To my mind, here was the ideal role model for today's woman. I can well see what Ruth F Mellor saw in the character. It was a shame that Denise Crosby chose to be killed off. A much-loved character, sadly missed.

Surely, though, with 23rd century technology death need not be final. We are dealing with a fantasy world where unreal things can happen. In today's world we can resuscitate people up to a few minutes after death. Who knows what the future holds?

I recently read ST:TNG Survivors by Jean Lorrach. I was pleased that this gave us an insight into Tasha's past life although I didn't like the initial description of her 'huge bazzooms'. I understood that this is in context with the story but I still found it sexist and therefore offensive. I feel that the author has got hold of the idea of 'Tasha seducing Data' and tried to expand it. I don't feel there is any realism, Trek, fantasy or otherwise, in it. I also didn't like Darryl Adin, but then as a big Denise Crosby/Tasha Yar fan maybe I'm just jealous.

I feel Worf as Chief of Security doesn't have the same impact. With his size he's expected to be strong, whereas Tasha wasn't.

Nina Lynch - Hull:

The following is copied from the February newsletter of FOLN from America -

Check out these rumours: heard at Starship Discovery meeting in St. Louis last month - a local radio station reported that Star Trek VI and VII will be filmed at the same time.

I couldn't believe what I was reading. Star Trek VII? Have you or any of your readers heard of this rumour? No other newsletter that I receive has any mention of it at all. My March issue of the above newsletter is due any day now; I will let you know if I hear any more.

To Claire Roberts - with regard to her offer of help with finding Star Trek books, I have been most unsuccessful in obtaining a copy of Star Trek 7 by James Bligh. As it is now out of print I have been searching my local second-hand bookshops, but no luck. Perhaps a London one might be able to get a copy.

To Ann Peters - it is nice to hear about someone else who didn't enjoy the 4th season episode Family. I loved the episodes The Best of Both Worlds parts 1 & 2; when I heard that Family followed on, I couldn't wait to watch it. I thought I would never be bored whilst watching a Star Trek episode, but I found myself watching the clock, thinking how much longer till the end of this particular episode. It has gone on my list of worst episodes as number 1.

In general, I would like to say the following with regards to Star Trek. I am (and always have been) an Original Star Trek fan, because it was original. It seemed so real - and yet unreal - when first viewed as a child. Mr. Spock always sent a shiver down my spine; an alien from a strange planet, looking so much like us and yet so different. I had so many questions to ask about him but my parents couldn't help at all, and the usual reply was "It's only television" - but it

wasn't "only" television, it was a whole new way of life! I had to contend with just remembering the week's episode; every small detail was stored in my head to savour and enjoy. When I got married we didn't have a television, so my memory was really tested - we didn't get one for ten years and my memory began to wear out. When the episodes were repeated on the box I used to phone up many a friend who had small children asking if they would like a free babysitter for the duration of Star Trek. Sometimes they did, and I was in seventh heaven and gave my memory a boost!

When finally we did get a television, of course Star Trek wasn't on. But joy - the videos were released and bought, and very much enjoyed by me and my children who are now hooked as much as I am onto Star Trek. Now, although I am a responsible adult and a wife and mother, I can still get the shivers down my spine watching Mr. Spock.

Although I know a lot more about him now - and Star Trek in general - I am always craving more information, so Star Trek fan clubs have been joined, subscriptions to various newsletter sent, conventions will be gone to, and Thursday nights in my house are dedicated entirely to Star Trek. I have, through Leeds Starfleet, got to know Tracy Beadle who is as nutty as me about Star Trek, and long phone calls, evenings, car journeys are spent discussing Star Trek.

I am watching TNG, but feel that a comparison cannot be made with the original. There are too many differences. The time, ship, aliens, crew, uniform and attitudes have all changed. Only the name of the ship and the fact that it is set in the future are the same. I am not knocking TNG - in fact, after viewing the first season and a few later episodes I am beginning to quite enjoy it. Data is now sending shivers down my spine - I still remember in horror in Measure of a Man when Riker did what he did to Data (I shall not say what in case some people haven't seen it). The quality of each episode is superior because the technology is more advanced. But I still haven't worked out if I like TNG because it is called Star Trek or for what it is in itself.

Claire Roberts - Maidstone, Kent:

My thanks for a wonderful newsletter, informative and excellent as always. I especially love the input by members!

Firstly, for general information I wrote to Helen Molloy of the William Shatner Fellowship at the address given in N/L 14 and recently had a reply where she informs me that she has now disbanded the club (sob!) so if anyone within IDIC knows of another club for Bill I would be grateful if they would contact me through the N/L so that I can then contact their club, if you see what I mean.

To Helen White - sorry, wasn't able to get to UFP 91 despite getting a costume made especially for it. I don't understand why you think I wouldn't like to meet you after reading your comments on my letter in N/L 14 - after all, everyone is entitled to their opinion except where it's malicious destructive criticism, which is what I was mainly getting at. Your comments on the Vulcans giving birth in a cave - point taken, although they weren't always 'highly technical chaps' and the issue of giving birth anywhere on Vulcan has not really been investigated deeply (by Paramount of anyone else to my knowledge) but I'm diversifying somewhat here. Constructive criticism I have always respected, to a point, all I was trying to get across was the fact that Bill did a good job and has given pleasure to millions of people in his career and I stand by what I said, that he should be left alone. Pick on someone else for a change!

To Marcia Pecor - you sound as though your life is as hectic as mine. Thanks for sharing my views. I liked your idea of Bill perhaps turning the original ST V into a novel. If it was anything like Tekwar it would be excellent. I am informed that the sequel to Tekwar, called Teklords, is to be published around August - long time to wait but I think it will be worth it. Do you agree?

To Michelle Drayton - thanks for the information regarding my earlier slip up between Bill's Nightmare at 20000 Feet and Horror at 30000 Feet. We're both wrong,

however; my 'other half' wishes to point out that Horror at 30000 Feet is called Horror at 37000 Feet! I agree with your comments on it, though - I hated the ending.

Finally, can I let everyone know that my name is spelt with an 'e' - ie Claire. [Ed - sorry, Claire, I think that was our mistake, not Marcia's.]

Gloria Fry - Glasgow:

I think it is terrific how various differences of opinion can be voiced through the postbag. It is most interesting to follow.

Jacqueline Comben - I agree that Original Trek was an instant hook, and I sometimes wonder what it would have been like if properly supported and continued. Or, if the scripts submitted in the 70s by Ray Bradbury, Harlan Ellison, Theodore Sturgeon had been used (that is if the Star Trek Compendium is to be believed). Can one imagine a Star Trek story by Ray Bradbury? The man is so full of original ideas. I would recommend his short stories to anyone who loves SF and Fantasy. I agree it is very sad to imagine what we missed, through the shortsightedness of the network which cancelled ST.

Pam Baddeley - thank you for enlightening me on how the BBC rating system works. I had no idea. But is it the same as the system which was used in the USA during the 60s? I agree that six in the evening is a ridiculous time to show TNG, and I video it myself.

What I meant to add that time was the difference between TNG ratings and Search for Spock. I know that the film was on at peak viewing time on a Saturday evening, but it had been on TV before, and its viewing figures seemed excessively high. So who is it watching that who is not watching TNG? All ST fans - well, most of us - have seen it several times before, and have probably taped it. On saying that, I did watch it again myself. I think it is a lovely film.
[Janet: I just thought I should mention here that the top viewing figures for BBC2 are around 5 - 6 million and TNG is usually in the top 5. I'm not sure you can compare viewing figures between programmes on BBC1 and BBC2.]

Lloyd Lewis - I'm glad you like TNG. I really wish I did. For too long there has not been any decent Science Fiction on TV, and I always hoped that TNG would change that. When I first heard that TNG was not going to be shown here until 1990, I was outraged and even wrote to the BBC complaining about the delay. Now, after seeing the whole first season of TNG, I am not impressed at all, except for the renegade Klingons in one episode, who brought it to life. I do not believe there are people who 'delight in furthering the schism' as you put it, just ones like myself who expected more.

I recently read Dwellers in the Crucible by Margaret Wander Bonanno and enjoyed it very much. Definitely one of the better ST books. Her characterisations of the Human and Vulcan women were excellent, and her descriptions of their emotions and all their sufferings was most poignant. My one gripe, and it seems to happen in quite a few books, is the way the main characters are not used and are relegated to very minor roles in the story. Surely if a writer wants to create her own characters as main protagonists, she should be writing original SF and not ST. What do other people think?

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh:

The title of ST VI looks a bit ominous to the literate among us, no? 'The undiscovered country, from whose bourne

No traveller returns...' - or to put it less beautifully, Death.

To Helen White - I don't think anyone's claiming that there should be 'affirmative action' in TNG - at least, you seemed to be saying that Starfleet should not appoint women to powerful jobs just to balance the numbers. I quite agree. Only, at a time when supposedly there is equality of opportunity why should

the ship chosen to be featured *always* be the one where the women are mainly relegated to minor roles? Competent women Captains, First Officers, Science Officers, *Admirals* all exist - so why don't we get to see them?

To Marcia Pecor - I would not think of mocking any man's receding hairline. Baldness is not a thing that can be helped (except in a few cases of people who went bald because of overusing bleach) or that is anyone's fault, or that is particularly amusing. It's a fact, like the colour and texture of your hair. I do think, however, that a man who uses a wig is making *himself* ridiculous. I mean, who uses a wig in private life? A wig is a legitimate tool of the trade for an actor before the camera or on stage, and in many cases a necessity. Patrick Stewart might appear with his own hair as Julius Caesar, who was bald, but if cast as Augustus Caesar, who had a full head of hair when he died, would wear a wig. On stage or screen make-up and lighting can be used to make a wig or hairpiece look natural, but I've never seen one that looked natural in daylight at close range. (Some, of course, like Bruce Forsyth's, don't look right on-screen either.) I'd rather see a balding man or a bald one than one in an unconvincing wig. I think bald men are sexy, especially Sean Connery and Patrick Stewart.

HOWEVER - while I will admit to having mocked Shatner's hairpiece in the past, Janet explained to me why he wears it and if she is correct (and I have no reason to doubt she is) he has a valid reason other than foolish vanity. So I stopped mocking him. If you look back to my only recent reference to the subject you'll see that it was in the context of what the tabloid press had to say about the aging Classic cast. I take leave to doubt that there are any members of the Sun staff in IDIC.

To Nicole Comtet - much as I too would like to see the Romulan Commander return, I have this feeling that Mariette Hartley will be seen to be too old to be a love interest now in the eyes of the studio. She must be pushing 50 at least - and yes, Leonard Nimoy has now passed 60 but he is a Name. I fear they'll insist on someone young - I only hope not ludicrously so.

To Linda Wood - did you get your sausage roll? (This reference will be totally incomprehensible to readers not steeped in G & S. You'll be relieved to know that Linda and I did meet without coming to blows and had a very pleasant meal together. The whole misunderstanding was due to someone in our G & S Society putting 'Scotland' in advance publicity for The Grand Duke when he or she meant 'Edinburgh'. Normally such mistakes are only made on the West Coast, where BBC Glasgow and Glasgow Television erroneously claim the titles 'Scotland' and 'Scottish'.) I apologise in advance, Linda, for that remark. I personally like almost all the Glaswegians I know and accept they cannot be held responsible for the biases of TV stations.

To Ray Dowsett - Would you not agree that the personifications of Good and Evil in The Savage Curtain are actually Kirk's (and Spock's) *ideas* of what these people were like, and not at all what they really were? Abraham Lincoln, for one thing, wasn't as couth as depicted. He was quite apt to spit his chewing tobacco on the floor if there wasn't a spittoon handy, and would have been rather more likely to call Uhura a nigger than a negress. Unpleasant as the word is to our ears, it was in common use even by people who didn't intend offence until well into *this* century. It was, I think, only in the 1930s (Linda will correct me if I'm wrong) that the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company began to feel uneasy at singing, in the Mikado's song,

And pinches her figger
Is stained like a nigger
With fermented walnut juice

and called in A P Herbert, who substituted

Painted with vigour
And permanent walnut juice.

Lincoln used 'nigger' - usually he avoided it in formal speeches, as he avoided the bad language which he was known to use in private life. The Savage Curtain version was too prettied up.

And take Genghis Khan. There was more to him than evil. He did some terrible things, but nobody should be judged out of the context of their time. Genghis Khan killed millions of people, not because he was more cruel than his neighbours (who would gladly have massacred *his* men if they could have) but because he was a military genius, and always won his battles. Unlike Alexander the Great (who is usually seen as a heroic figure) Genghis Khan did not believe himself a God, and so *his* empire survived his death because he had built it to last. He encouraged the use of administrators from different cultures (Chinese, Persians) to teach his Mongols statecraft and promulgated absolute religious tolerance. In that last he was morally superior to a good many Christian monarchs. When he killed people it was for what they had done (fought him) or to prevent them doing it again, not for what they believed. This was too complex a man to be labelled 'evil', and Abraham Lincoln was too complex a man to be labelled 'good'. While I can see why Lincoln would appear as an icon of good in Kirk's mind, it rather puzzles me that he fetched up Genghis Khan for evil. I'd have said Hitler would have been the obvious choice. Well, we know Kirk isn't much of a historian - he quite often has to ask Spock about *American* history, much less anyone else's - and can only assume he was not aware of Genghis Khan's redeeming features. It's still odd that he passed over Hitler. Maybe he read one of these appalling neo-Nazi 'histories' which claim the Holocaust never happened, or if it did Hitler didn't know about it, and believed it.

To Roger Buck - such a lovely dream. But a full Classic/TNG crossover is never going to happen, because of economic reality. Look what it cost to get Nimoy *alone* to guest. And it's no use imagining they'd all work for cheap for the sheer love of the Star Trek philosophy. They wouldn't. I don't blame them - *I* wouldn't work for less than my full salary either - but the fact is Shatner would want at least as much as Nimoy, possibly even more, and the others would want as much as they could get. No television budget could stand it. I like your idea of a good animated series in one way - the onset of age and decrepitude wouldn't matter so long as nobody got too senile to say their lines, which unless one of them gets Alzheimer's Disease they're a long way from being as yet - but the only studio capable of doing really good animation other than in short bursts is Disney, who don't own the property.

To Lloyd Lewis - I have vowed not to mention *That Film* again, but cannot resist pointing out that if your argument (it is a fantasy film not a documentary, therefore disbelief should be suspended) is taken to its logical conclusion, then Plan 9 From Outer Space, Santa Claus Conquers the Martians and Zombies of the Stratosphere are also exempt from criticism.

To Pat de Voss - is there not an easy solution to the Sarpeidon time travel problem? The preparation that everyone had to go through would include sterilisation. It would *have* to, to ensure that the eventual inventor of the Atavachron was not wiped out by someone killing his grandfather or his grandmother marrying the wrong person. The whole population, whatever their age, would need to be made sterile before they were sent back. Anyone who wouldn't would be given the choice of being sent, alone, to some time when no other humanoid existed (if Sarpeidon's geology and evolutionary processes were like Earth's, there would be billions of years to choose from and they could be spaced out so they could not possibly meet, at 500-year intervals, say) or remaining in the present and dying. I'm sure a culture whose science included functional time travel would be able to develop some sort of sterilising radiation which would work even on children and unborn babies. It needn't even cause the mothers to abort, if it affected only the ovaries - they would bear the child then never conceive again.

For those who like to believe the Yesterday's Son scenario (I don't think it possible myself, for reasons I won't expound on as this letter is long enough already) this theory wouldn't affect Zarabeth, who was purposely being exiled to a

time where nobody else existed. Even the tyrant who ordered her exile would think it unnecessary to sterilise her too - it was only by a wildly unlikely coincidence that she did ever see anyone else again.

Lloyd Lewis - Bridgend, Mid Glam:

A big hello to my new friends that I've met through IDIC (so far only by mail, but I hope to remedy that in time). Janet Q (of course), Michael Simpson (how about a letter/article to IDIC listing the difficulties you've encountered?). Janis Roberts (I hope you're well) and Keren Breen (I'll answer your letter soon, promise). If anyone else wants to write I promise a reply. I'm still at a loose end - my long-suffering employer has now set me adrift and is (logically) my ex-employer.

My vote goes to expanding the letter section as required is as feasible. I agree that editing would be impracticable. I tried submitting this on disc but I found that the grooves made the ink run.

Can anyone let me see the ST Powergen ad on VHS? Return by return and I pay post both ways.

HMV have also (I hear) been charging £10.99 for the Bond films. Buy from Andromeda, or Mr. Benson's is also very reliable for mail order (address on request).

On the subject of buying: Steve Rock, PO Box 473, Bristol BS99 4EB is excellent for comix.

My birthday's fast approaching. If anyone's interested I'd like a Franklin Mint Medal (or chess set). Come clean, guys, has anyone out there bought these things?

Didn't Conspiracy lack a lot of the special effects we'd heard so much about? Roll on the availability of the video (CIC - DO NOT EDIT!) and BBC, get TNG away from 6 o'clock. Did one of the Admirals come from The Hills Have Eyes?

Helen White/Steve Davies - rank and position on ships isn't the same. I often sailed with 2 or more captains and once with 7 chief engineers.

Isn't the Klingon primary star Klingon Minogue? Distance - not half far enough!

Michelle Drayton - I'd very much like the opportunity to see Bill S. at 20000 feet - please tell me more (17 Alma Tce, Abercynffig, Bridgend, CF32 9AL).

Ray Dowsett (who claims that Data is just a machine) - so if God appears tomorrow on Aspel & Co and says something to the effect, "Sorry, folks, I've got a soul, I just made you lot to emulate Me. Souls? No, of course not, you're just biological machines," then all our hopes and aspirations go straight down the tube? Circular and specious arguments, folks.

"Make it so" - never heard it in seven years in the navy, doesn't mean I don't think it works, though.

Pam Baddeley - if the lipstick on Picard's face did not vanish then ergo it did not come from a holodeck character. Rumours and speculation available on receipt of a plain brown SAE.

Roger Buck - I'm stretched to afford the videos at the rate CIC are releasing them now - any faster and I'll have to send the children out to work.

John Spelling - One explanation for the change in the appearance of the Klingons is that the 'smoothies' are either a mutant strain or impure/halfbreeds bred as berserkers to fight on the frontier (hence no peace negotiations). The

'normal' Klingon has the bony ridges and can be from any walk of life. How 'official' this is I've no idea. I've heard another explanation which is that Kirk kicked their backsides so many times that the bony lumps are their top vertebrae.

Well, I'm going to stick my plastic H on and go for cherry pie and coffee.

Sheila Clark - Dundee:

John Spelling - one possible explanation that I've heard tossed about regarding the change in Klingon appearance is that in fact they come from different races/planets. They, after all, might call all Federation members something like 'Federates' and wonder at the differences between Terrans and - say - Andorians, and speculate on why some Federates have antennae! Some fan stories have implied that the 'new' Klingons are in fact the ruling classes who at one time stayed at home but are now 'coming out of the woodwork', or that they had been a minority who have now increased in number and seized power.

Ray Dowsett - we agree again! That makes twice - will we ever recover from the shock? I'd be pushed to pick one top favourite scene, but one of my favourite scenes in Trek is - like yours - the shuttle going round the Enterprise in ST:TMP.

On the other hand, my favourite *episode* remains The Empath. There's a story about that... Although it was advertised in Radio Times, it was, of course, never shown by dear old Auntie (they showed Paradise Syndrome instead) but the day came when it was shown at a con. I'd had a 'thing' about Empath ever since then (especially since my letter to the Beeb asking why it wasn't shown was never answered) so no way was I going to miss it! Well... ask Janet. Fully quarter of an hour after it finished I was still completely speechless, tears pouring down my face (and I'm *not* normally demonstrative...) Other favourite episodes? Balance of Terror (the first one I ever saw), Galileo Seven, Operation Annihilate, Taste of Armageddon (great tape to listen to while travelling, I find). Favourites in TNG? Loud as a Whisper is up there, and Measure of a Man; Hollow Pursuits; also Elementary, Dear Data for some reason I can't explain, as I'm no great lover of Sherlock Holmes! I enjoy TNG... but I still prefer Classic Trek; the fact that I can't come up with any story ideas for TNG proves that. (The one story I did do was a reworking of an idea I'd originally had for Kirk but for some reason had never written.) On the other hand, my favourite Trek actor is Patrick Stewart, who I think can act rings round *both* sets of Trek actors, followed quite closely by Wil Wheaton. That young man is really good, and with a bit more experience (of living, as well as acting) should be brilliant - and I say that despite my initial reservations about Wesley Crusher! I ended up liking Wesley, and that has to lie at Wil Wheaton's door.

Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W. Sussex:

Firstly, to the IDIC Committee - please, please, please, please in N/L 16 could you do a short synopsis of the second season episodes. I think it was Karen Sparks who did it originally. I found them most useful and I'm sure other members did as well. I know by the time the newsletter comes out the second season will have been on for 9/10 weeks, but if you could print those earlier episodes as well it would be most helpful. It is always good to know what episodes are coming up and the number of each episode is also very handy for reference purposes. I don't want to sound like an old whinger but if you could do this I would be most grateful. *[Your wish is our command!]*

On a slightly more positive note the N/L is just terrific. I was eagerly looking forward to N/L 15 and it was brilliant, even though the postbag this issue was a bit long.

Congratulations to the cast and crew of TNG. The latter half of the first season was brilliant. The high points for me were the episodes Heart of Glory, Skin of Evil, The Arsenal of Freedom, Conspiracy and The Neutral Zone; the only episode which was below par for the end of the season was, for me, We'll Always Have Paris. It was still an average episode but I didn't enjoy the Jenice/Picard relationship aspect of it.

Also I have been fortunate enough to see Q Who recently on video. Having not seen this second season episode before I thought it was amazing. Well done, cast, crew, and especially the SFX department. The Borg were brilliant! It gave me the creeps when we discovered the electronic/mechanical implants the Borg infants were subjected to when they were first born.

Does anybody agree with me that Whoopi Goldberg tends to overact a bit on TNG? Whoopi is a good comedienne but when it comes to serious acting she just tends to overdo it (sorry, Whoopi), although I'm still looking forward to seeing her in future TNG episodes as well as ST VI. *[Ed - apparently she's not now in ST VI]*

I wonder if anyone can help me. I'm looking to go to a ST convention some time this year. If anyone wants to go with me I would be most appreciative, as most of my friends/relations aren't interested.

To Edwin Yau - I agree totally about your comments on the Enterprise-D; it is an ugly ship from most angles, but sometimes it doesn't look too bad. The Enterprise-A is by far my favourite. I haven't been able as yet to see the Enterprise-C as featured in the episode "Yesterday's Enterprise" but I'm looking forward to it.

As I mentioned last N/L (15) the Star Trek animations are still being shown as I write this, last week's episode being The Pirates of Orion. It is still being shown on Saturday and then repeated on Sunday, but the times have changed yet again due to the Karate Kid cartoon being shown before. You can now catch it between 10.00 and 10.10 am. I'm not sure if it will still be on by the time this N/L comes out, but I have only seen about 8 episodes so far.

Keep the newsletter coming! It gets better each issue. I'm looking forward to the anniversary issue in August.

Jenny Turner - Birmingham:

I love going to conventions, but unfortunately these days I can only afford to go for the day. I have noticed recently that some conventions no longer do day registrations. I hope this isn't going to be the norm. Okay, I know conventions take a lot of organisation, I was on a committee once and did the registrations.

One day attendees must account for quite a bit of money, especially if they pay at the door. Perhaps it isn't worth doing one day registrations any more? I don't know, but I do hope they keep the one day registration, otherwise no more cons for me (unless I win the Premium Bond!)

Perhaps other Trekkers would like to comment?

David Cameron - Glasgow:

I think Angel One was the worst episode in TNG's first season. Skin of Evil was the second worst followed by When the Bough Breaks.

After saying that, 11001001 was brilliant and so was We'll Always Have Paris, Heart of Glory, the Big Goodbye and Datalore. In the main TNG has been more-or-less consistently good and is steadily getting better. The second season is great (but I'm not sure about Doctor Pulaski...) and from the few episodes of the 3rd and 4th seasons I've seen (The Best of Both Worlds was excellent) TNG seems to have good prospects for the future.

This is completely irrelevant but I think ST V is the best of the Trek movies (at least it didn't need a sequel). Sorry, but it had to be said.

Finally, I see my estimate of the Klingon Primary star is hundreds of light years out from everyone else's. Oh well, those FASA roleplaying supplements never were too reliable...

Can anyone tell me in which episode the Borg first appear in person?

[Ed: Q Who? - 2nd season.]

Pam Clarke:

Ref: The Sherlock Holmes Connection, n/l 15. Jeremy Kemp, who played Picard's brother in the 4th season episode Family, was in the Sherlock Holmes episode The Speckled Band. He played Dr. Grimesby Roylett.

Constance Boyle - Finchley, London:

Does the BBC really intend to put out the whole series of the originals? I tried to find someone I knew who had a satellite dish, and couldn't. After that I wasted a bit of time wondering whether I could afford to go satellite myself, and really couldn't. Then I decide to rent a dish for 3 months, just to see what was left of the Star Trek series - I thought this was an inspiration!

Next morning I went into the Granada rental shop and explained why I wanted it. "Oh, but they finished last night," said the girl. "It was the last one." I must have looked rather forlorn. "Wait a minute, I might have something for you," she said and vanished into the back of the shop. I could hear scuffling noises as of a search going on and after a few minutes she emerged triumphantly bearing a Sky poster with four of my friends on it: Bones, Uhura, Captain James T. Kirk, and Mr. Spock, eyebrow acock. It was a kind gesture and I bore it off home, but I could have kicked myself for not realizing the enormous rate at which they were getting through the series. Is there any effective way we can encourage the Beeb to get on with showing the original series. [Ed. Try writing to them.]

Incidentally, I still have great difficulty with initials (in general, not just in this context) - I have absorbed TNG, STVI, zines etc. but I can't think what UFP is, and I've even forgotten what IDIC stands for. My only comfort is that I don't think Mr. Spock would be able to cope either, as his use of language is both formal and precise. Perhaps he's not meant to read the newsletter, But if I'm to be at UFP I'd like to know what it is - can it be a con? [Ed: Yes, UFP was the May con; it also stands for United Federation of Planets. The meaning of IDIC is on the first page of each newsletter.]

Keren Breen - Portcawl, Mid Glam:

Thank you for another year of great n/ls. I keep them all and read them over and over again. The Postbag is really enjoyable; I love the interaction between people! To add my two-penn'orth to the 'does Data really count' argument, might I respectfully suggest the anti-Data faction read Piers Anthony's Split Infinity/Apprentice Adept series of novels? He deals with the matter of self-aware machines very well, I feel, much better than I can. Similar themes crop up in other novels of his, eg some of the Xanth series (which, I also recommend to anyone, particularly those who enjoy How Much For Just A Planet) and some of the Cluster-series, I think.

One pleasant side-effect of membership has been the friendships I have made through the n/l. Trekkers are such a friendly bunch, I find, and always pleased to meet a fellow lunatic! There are still more of us out there - in my travels as a Supply Teacher I come across quite a few!

Pete Sipple - Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex:

I enjoy TNG. Because I'd consider myself to be 'technically-minded', I've always been in love with the Good Ship Enterprise, and my love for her has been further fuelled by the refinements made to the new Galaxy Class version.

The only thing that does disappoint me with the new Enterprise is the Holodeck. I find it very hard to believe that technology in the 24th century is able to create a forest, a replica of London, or a bar in Paris (at a specified time and date, no less!), complete with 'solid' people and objects. As the empty Holodeck appears to be a fairly small room, can someone please explain how the crew take a leisurely stroll through the streets of London without bumping into the walls?

Comment has been passed in various letters that the plots of TNG leave a little to be desired, and when it comes to the Holodeck episodes, I tend to agree. Does anyone else feel that the Holodeck has simply been put on the Enterprise so that when the writers run out of ideas, they can simply pick a crew member to strand in a historic setting?

The other oddity is the new-style communicator. One button press automatically routes the transmission directly to the desired person. For example, "Riker to Enterprise" seems to reach the transporter chief *only* and not the other thousand-or-so on board. Very clever!

Do these (and other) technical matters niggle any other members, or am I just too picky??

Cath Russell - Barnstaple, Devon

Like Sue Richardson I'm allowing the dust to build up while I write this... and agree also that every IDIC newsletter is a "riveting read"! I count days to when the various Trek club newsletters are due out. (IDIC and IAAPS especially) When they arrive the entire Royal family could troop through my house and I wouldn't notice!

The letters as always continue to enthrall me. I wonder how many will agree with Helen White's comment about women on the bridge etc? I'm one; like her I think it's wrong to stick them there just for the sake of it. Doing so would reflect a 1990's problem... not life as in should be in 2360... or whatever, when hopefully people will be there on merit!

I'm not sure Marcia Pecor's comments about Picard are justified. That is that she was concerned that he a) would not take up arms for and b) wouldn't go out on a limb for his crew. He not only confronted the Ferengi quite happily in The Last Outpost but also told Nagilum in Where Silence Has Lease... "We *will* fight you." As to going out on a limb for his crew, didn't he do just that for Wesley in Justice? Without even liking the boy! Personally I've always thought that Picard's captaincy was spot on. As a teenager I was quite happy with Kirk too, but having matured 20 years since then I realise it was all a bit far fetched... great fun though!

As to Jacqueline Comben's question, yes, I'm one of those immediately hooked by TNG. (Also by the original Trek as a teenager I should add.) As to why, that's difficult to answer. Science Fiction has always attracted me but I've hated some of the American Sci-Fi... like Space 1999 and that other thing I can't remember the name of with Ben Cartwright... oops sorry, Lorne Green, in it. [*Battlestar Galactica*] So Star Trek has something special. The original had it... I never imagined that TNG would too, so almost decided against watching it. Only the memory of Patrick Stewart on Wogan swayed me; if he thought it good enough to appear in who was I not to give it a try at least. It knocked me for six immediately, visually superb, fantastic new ideas like the Holodeck... interesting crew and so on. I could also see the potential, having vaguely heard that it got better and better. The only wish I have is that I'd hired the videos and discovered TNG a lot earlier.

I agree with Elena Bond that When The Bough Breaks was not the best episode, though it did have its moments, such as the amusing end sequence. I like the way the crew are not sentimental about kids too; some USA shows go right over the top. Angel One is one of my favourites too, only it was the humour in the sexy outfit that we appreciated... I almost fell off my chair laughing. Not that I don't appreciate a hairy chest, I should add! Full marks to Jonathan Frakes for being prepared to wear it too - nice to know not every handsome actor takes himself too seriously. Actually I could do with a bit more silliness from TNG. Hollow Pursuits fitted the bill nicely... and I gather Qpid is something to look forward to also?

Unlike Pam Baddeley I thought Sonia Gomez in Q Who was terrific... very

scatty... I don't think she was used again, was she? A pity, it was hilarious when she spilled her drink all over Picard and then proceeded to rub it in. Wonderful!

For Michael Simpson's Sherlock Holmes list how about Jeremy Kemp? He played Robert Picard in Family and the father in Granada's The Speckled Band. And wasn't he an inspired choice as Robert Picard? Whoever was responsible should get a pat on the back, the performance was superb. (Responsible for casting him, I mean.)

I love reading the reviews of the novels I've read. It's fascinating to compare opinions. I disliked Fortune's Light, far too complicated and the baseball left me cold, not to mention confused. Sheila said that Klingon fans would give Contamination 9 out of 10. Well, I'm not really a Klingon fan but I'd give it 10. I thought it was a superb story. Very readable even though, like her, I guessed whodunnit early on and even why. Apart from Peter David I think that John Vornholt's the best TNG writer they have. The 2 new books due out this month sound promising too, so I'm already haunting W.H. Smith. Living in North Devon, or any other country area for that matter, you have to be vigilant or you miss out on Trek goodies!

Lorraine Goodison - Jarrow, Tyne & Wear:

To Sue Richardson - welcome, and you'd be surprised how many of those workmate 'mundanes' are really ST fans. They turn up all over the place!

To Helen White - your reason for liking hurt/comfort is similar to a lot of people, I'll bet. I think for many fans it is a way of channelling emotions of caring, reassurance, hope etc into characters who contain personality traits we admire. No matter how badly hurt Spock is, you know his friends will always be there for him and you can share in that reassurance.

To Marcia Pecor - I don't entirely agree with your feeling that Picard would not support his crew if it meant flouting regulations. He certainly would not do it in the style of Kirk, since to Picard, to use arms means you've lost, but he is prepared to use force if need be and can, as shown in several episodes. Didn't he support Data in Measure of a Man and The Offspring, when regulations said all he had to do was let Data and Lal go? I think you confuse careful deliberation with inability to act. Perhaps Picard's achilles heel is his passion for the principles of the Prime Directive, which is his first consideration in any situation. That was why he held back in Justice, but in the end he was prepared to defend Wesley's life at the risk of the ship. Remember he is the Captain of a family ship and has to consider the innocents who may be injured or die if he decides to use force. Picard is, above all, a diplomat and prefers the use of words to deadly weapons.

It's quite funny to hear of people deciding that they don't like TNG because the characters aren't developed enough or the 'magic' isn't there. Don't they recall watching Star Trek originally? I'm sure quite a few had to watch the whole of the first season and into the second before they became keen fans. The actors in Original Trek had to find their feet in the same way as TNG. Original Trek didn't have thousands of people pre-judging it either. If you look, there are some 'nice little bits' like those we all watch umpteen times in Original Trek: the first time Picard calls Riker 'Will'; Data's quirky smiles; Riker and Picard's matching body language... It's there, if you look.

To Cath Russell - Glad you've got the same good taste as me as regards the TNG novels. I'll be honest - I haven't even attempted the last two.

To Edward Woo - It says in the TNG Officers' Manual that Picard served as Special Liaison Officer to the Federation President prior to getting the Enterprise. Not an 'official' explanation, but one which fits as well as any, and would make use of his diplomatic skills. I think the TNG crew move around the bridge more simply because it is a much larger room. If Kirk walked up to the viewscreen he would have nose-dived over the console! ("Kirk, Kirk" is that your

bottom I see?") The TNG bridge is too large for people to sit and chat.

YOUR QUESTIONS

A. L. Parris: Is there an easy/reliable way of getting zines from America? The last two letters of enquiry I've sent off seem to have disappeared into oblivion, even though I included IRCs.

[The simple answer is not really. A lot of zine publishers in the States don't like to receive foreign orders so we would always recommend sending an enquiry before sending any money. You can then judge from the speed of their answer whether you send off an order. The U.S. publishers we list do accept foreign orders so if you have any problems contact Sheila. We cannot, unfortunately, accept liability for any adverts as we print them in good faith, but where there are problems we can remove the advert.]

Susan Burdfield: I would like to make it to a con this year but would have to take a five year old along. Is there enough to entertain a child or are they more like 'adults only'?

[Quite a few fans take young children to conventions but there aren't usually any specific events for children.]

J Marcroft: You can still order miniature Starship models from any good model shop. Is there any chance of Paramount Pictures or other places producing larger models (with full details) in the near future?

[We only know of the plastic kits. Does anyone know of any others?]

Nina Lynch: Does James Doohan do the voice of the radio announcer in Piece of the Action when Mr. Spock is trying to communicate with the Enterprise? *[Yes.]*

HELLO, GOOD EVENING, AND WELCOME TO ANOTHER OF HELEN'S TAKING-A-DAY-OFF-WORK-TO-DO-SOMETHING-TREKKY REPORTS

by Helen White

The date: April 25th 1991

The place: Christies the Auctioneers in South Kensington

The time: 10am or thereabouts

The event: An auction of pop memorabilia, including three Trek items

Well, there I was, standing at the reception desk. I announced my presence to the receptionist, and as she was unable to contact the Press Officer, she got the Security Guard to escort me to the auction room! We walked down a wide corridor cluttered with large pieces of furniture, and when we reached our destination he told me to wait while he went to find said P.O. At this point, I noticed that there was an interview being filmed next to me, and I surmised from what I could overhear that the interviewee was a Christies expert. She had obviously done most of her research well, and she sounded very authoritative, but... yes, 'Doctor' Spock reared his ugly head again. I experienced a totally uncontrollable urge to correct her, and that's exactly what I did! (When the interview was over, I hasten to add - I don't think I'd have been too popular otherwise!) At this point, the interviewer turned to me with great glee and asked me whether I knew about Star Trek (poor woman - little did she know), and a freelance reporter also zoomed in and asked to speak to me. I told her about IDIC (the club and the philosophy) and fandom in general, she wrote it all down very carefully, and as we were thanking each other, yet another reporter approached! She talked to me as well, about much the same things, and then Catherine (the Press Officer) appeared and gave me a catalogue to look at. She then took the script that the 'expert' had been holding

and allowed me to inspect it. The script was from 'The Cage' (ie the original pilot), and it was signed by (prepare to be severely covetous) Gene, Majel and Leonard, as well as Susan Oliver, who played Vina.

At this point, the start of the auction was announced, so we all settled down to watch. I had expected that we'd all be locked in and expected not to move/cough/sneeze/breathe etc. on pain of death, but I was totally wrong. People came in and out of the room, sat down, stood up, fidgeted, and held conversations, all while the auction was in progress!

After the film crew had finished recording the opening of the sale, the interviewer (I discovered later that her name was Birgit) came over, and we went to the back of the room to film the interview. She asked me what Trek fans were like, what age they were, etc. etc. and we chatted about the two pilots. I'm glad to say that this time I behaved like a civilised person and not a gibbering idiot. Birgit was a very good interviewer; she was most interested in all that I had to say, and asked me for the name of the club and a contact address. I just *happened* to have the latest n/l in my bag - actually I took it along to prove who I was, so to speak, should I be challenged - so I fished it out to look up the Europe subscription rate. Birgit's eyes lit up, and she ended up borrowing the n/l for an hour or so; what's more, she wanted to film some of it, so the first few pages, plus my puzzles(!) were captured on celluloid!

When the interview was over, she told me that it was for a programme on Star Trek, and that they were from RIAS-Berlin, so hopefully some of our German members will have seen it. She also told me that she'd have the club's address put up on the screen, so keep your fingers crossed!

It took all morning to get to the Trek items, but it was far from boring. For a start, the auctioneer looked like Stephen Fry pretending to be frightfully intellectual, and he swayed about when he was taking bids. As well as this entertainment, there were the lots, some of which went for relatively small amounts - like two dolls of Donny and Marie Osmond, two Michael Jackson dolls, and a set of Kiss (they're an American rock group) dolls. When things went fairly quiet, I inspected my catalogue (all the press got one free, and yes, I did tell them I was with a Trek club and not the national press!) and discovered that the general public were being charged £8.00 for them (and no, they weren't worth that in my opinion!) Early on in the proceedings, I was sitting on the floor, but then came out a Marilyn Monroe 'lookalike' wearing an ex-Marilyn swimsuit. The large number of pressmen present rose as one and stampeded forwards to take her photo, whereupon I grabbed a chair! Incidentally, that swimsuit went for the highest amount of the morning: (wait for it) £12000. Yes, that is twelve *thousand*! Eek!

Eventually we got to the important part of the auction, and I prepared to make my bids. (You have to register to be allowed to bid, and you're given a number.) First was the script: "And I have £200 offered," said the auctioneer. It eventually went for £750. I didn't want it anyway, so there! (Sob, Sob)

The next item would have been a phaser, but alas, it was withdrawn. After this was a calendar signed by Gene and Majel, and a STIII cast photo, which also included Leonard and Harve Bennett, and was signed by four people. I think they were Leonard, Gene and Majel, plus someone else, but I'm afraid I can't remember. This went for £180. I wish I was rich!

Lastly, there was an LP by Leonard, signed on the back, and this went for £195!!!

The first two lots both went to a chap in Aberdeen who was bidding by phone, but I didn't see who bought the record. I never got to make a bid, either - the prices started off way over my limit!

After the morning session finished, I left and went off to do some shopping. I had a great time at the auction; it was most interesting and (dare I say it)

fascinating.

U.F.P. 91 - RICHARD ARNOLD'S TALKS

reported by Helen White.

Richard started by showing his 4th season TNG slides, telling various anecdotes as he went. The first slide was Best of Both Worlds II, and he said how many rumours that the script had caused about who would or would not be killed off. Actually, all the cast except Wil (Wheaton) have six-year contracts anyway, so we're guaranteed two more seasons. Richard said they had to leave the Borg set standing between seasons three and four, and unbeknownst to them, it had been used as a route to get through while the alley between stages fifteen and sixteen was closed for repair. When they returned to the set, they found that people had been pulling bits off it! They were not pleased, particularly as no one had even thought to mention it to them. The next slide was Patrick as a Borg, and we were told that all the Borgish bits were actually stuck on as make-up. Poor Patrick had a makeup call at 4.18 am while he was doing the Locutus scenes, and what's worse, he had his fiftieth birthday during this time.

After part one of BOBW, a doctor rang the Trek office and said that she had a terminally ill patient who was getting in a dreadful state: she was really worried that she wouldn't last to see Part 2. The team verified the doctor's story, and then Richard rang her and told her that someone had a message for her, after which Patrick came on the phone and spoke to her for twenty minutes - incidentally, he didn't tell her what happened! - and it improved her health so much that she had to be given tranquillisers to get her to settle down. The last Richard heard, which was in January this year, she was doing fine and in remission, although still incurable.

The next slide was of Brothers, which was written by Rick Berman. Richard said that it had made Rick appreciate how hard a job the writers have; it was the first script that he'd written.

Richard mentioned that the reason for the English accents in Family is that TNG is set 400 years from now, and who knows how the French will sound then! He pointed out that Americans would have started out with accents matching the English accents of that time.

He said that someone once asked Marina where Troi got her accent from, as Lwaxana speaks with a different one. Marina said that it was easily explained; it was from her father. Someone then pointed out that children generally pick up their mother's accent, as it is she who speaks to them most, and this comment had Marina stumped. After a minute, someone whispered to her and she came up with an answer; Troi learned to speak from her father, but she learned to speak telepathically from her mother!

A slide of Reunion came up, and Richard said that they hope to have 'Alexander' back again.

There's one bit where Riker punches Tomalak and knocks him out. Unfortunately, Jonathan got a bit over-enthusiastic and really did that!

We got to a slide of Data's Day, which was written by Ron Moore. He's been promoted to co-editor for season 5. In the episode, Gates and Brent did most of the dancing themselves; there was just one bit that Brent couldn't manage because of his bad back.

The next shot was of The Wounded, which was shown in the States at the time of the Gulf crisis. It showed the actors' marks taped on the floor. (In case you

don't know, the actors have to be standing in exactly the right place, otherwise a) the lights are wrong and b) they end up out of focus.) Most people have no problem with marks, but Richard says that there are some people who just can't manage without looking down, for example Peter Falk (Columbo) who has only one eye and very poor depth perception. This is why Columbo often walks around with one arm waving around, looking down at the ground.

Devil's Due was based on a story that was for the original Trek's proposed return to TV. As soon as Jonathan saw the script he said, "This was written for the old guys, right?!" There wasn't a part in it for him, really, as the Kirk/Spock/McCoy bits were taken over by Picard/Data/Crusher. There were a few bits and bobs about the rest of the season's episodes: in Galaxy's Child, Leah Brahms (Booby Trap) is back, in Half a Life, Lwaxana is back, in The Host, Bev is in love, and in Mind's Eye, the Klingons are back. Patrick directed his first episode, In Theory, and the 100th episode (and the last in season four) is Redemption, with a return to the Klingon home world. While they were filming this, Ronald Reagan visited the set!

That was the end of the slides, and Richard went on to answer questions. I asked whether it was true that Leonard Nimoy is filming a two-parter, and Richard said that no, it wasn't. None of the original cast are likely to be in any TNG until ST VI is finished. Certainly there is a story available involving Spock, called Return to Forever, and involving the Guardian, but it's all a matter of money, time etc. Currently it costs between \$1.6M and \$2M per episode, and costs are rising all the time. Someone mentioned the CIC promotion (with the tokens that you send off with some money for various items) and Richard said that they weren't really celebrating in the States until September 8th, as that's the actual 25th anniversary.

The next person asked whether it was true that Nichelle Nichols wants to be in a TNG episode? Yes, said Richard, but she wants to play Guinan's mother and Whoopi wants her to play Guinan's daughter!

Someone asked whether Jonathan Frakes was ill during the filming of First Contact, as Riker was walking with a limp. Richard said that he wasn't, and it was just the way Jonathan acts him.

On the set of Q-pid, Riker and a soldier fight, Riker with a staff and the soldier with a sword. Jonathan wanted to do this stunt himself, so off they went. Unfortunately, the soldier got carried away and really hit down hard on the staff. It broke, and the sword cut Jonathan's cheek. Richard wasn't there, but he said that Patrick told him about it and also told him that Jonathan had the biggest bandage he'd ever seen!

Then someone asked why K'Ehleyr was killed; it was necessary to the story. The next person asked why Alexander looks so old, when 'that event' only happened two years ago. "You're judging by Human standards," said Richard, and pointed out that animals age much faster than Humans.

Would Wil be returning for guest appearances? asked the next person. Richard said that they hoped so.

He was then asked whether Jonathan was comfortable with directing. Apparently, when he first directed, the cast thought that they'd all play a trick on him and refuse to come out of their trailers, but in fact he loves directing and they all enjoy being directed by him.

Someone asked whether the return of Tasha was going to happen, and we were told no, definitely not, it isn't. Apparently it was Denise herself who started this rumour, as she is very keen to return.

Next question, would Patrick be directing more? Richard says that he doesn't know, Patrick hasn't really said anything about it, although he did enjoy directing

In Theory.

The next person asked how Guy (Vardaman) was: he's a lot better, but his back is very fragile. He went home after filming one day, flopped down on the bed and put his neck out. He's getting on OK now, though. He hasn't had any lines yet, but he's very busy; he helps out in Richard's office, helps Gene, does photodoubling and standing-in, and he's just been rewarded by being made Richard's assistant, ie as a paid job.

Someone asked about Trek VI and was told to wait until Sunday to ask! Then someone asked whether there'd be a replacement for Wes, and Richard said that he doubted it; there isn't the space anyway, as we're seeing more of Guinan and O'Brien now.

Someone said that they'd noticed Data looking older. "They're probably bits filmed when Brent was tired!" said Richard. He said that the make-up is adapted slightly when necessary, but maybe Data could program himself to look older so as not to upset his colleagues!

The next person wondered whether any more TNG music would be released. Richard didn't know, and suggested writing letters, and then someone from the audience said that Crescendo are releasing the music from BOBW.

The last of Saturday's questions related to the bloopers. Richard said that he's sorry, but there won't be any more ever. None of the actors like their mistakes being paraded (that includes the original's cast, too), and as the first season TNG bloopers were copied, they aren't even making blooper reels now in case they get into the wrong hands.

On Sunday Richard showed the Films slides before which he showed the third season TNG slides, making us guess the episodes, which we did pretty well on. The last few slides in this group included some of the crew. The official Technical Manual, by Mike Okuda and Rick Sternback, is out soon - Richard thought maybe August.

The next slide showed Gene with Richard, Guy, Janet Wallace, Eric Stilwell, Ron Moore, Mike Okuda and David Carron (I'm not sure of the spelling of his name), who all started out as fans and were taken on to the TNG team. Richard calls it the Cinderella slide.

Then came the film slides, with more snippets of information. Tom Morgan, who was in ST:TMP, is playing an alien in VI, and Dodie Sheppard is back doing the costumes. The next slide was TWOK - incidentally, said Richard, did we know Kirk's birth date? It's March 22nd (same as Bill's!) 2233. The Klingon bridge set from TMP was redressed as the torpedo bay for TWOK, then back to the Klingon bridge for TSFS!

The slide that we were then looking at showed Leonard doing some directing with a cigarette in his mouth, and Richard told us that he actually gave up eight years ago.

The next slide was of the bar in TSFS (where Bones tries to charter a ship to Genesis) which was redress of sickbay! Apparently, the bit where the Doctor tries to neck-pinch the Security man started out as a punch-up, but De said that it wasn't Bones' style to fist fight. It was pointed out to him that Spock was in the Doctor's head at the time; yes, said De, and he's even less likely to behave that way.

At this point the slides jumped to the end of TVH - Richard had somehow got his lists muddled up!

Charles Cooper, who played Kord, has also been in two TNG episodes, and Todd Bryant (Klaa) is in VI, but not as Klaa.

In the original version of TFF, Scotty knocked himself out twice, but after a test viewing (to an audience that consisted largely of fans) that scored only 1/10, extra footage was shot and changes were made in the film. George Murdock 'God') was also in BOBW. John Schuck (the Klingon ambassador in TVH) is also in ST VI.

The shots in which Chekov was playing a 'Russian retard' were shot on board the USS Ranger; ie the ship wasn't a set.

When Leonard was directing, he had written on the side of his megaphone, "I am not Spock. I am the director"!

We reached the end of the slides, and Richard answered some more questions. I asked whether all the fooling about in the water at the end of TVH was scripted or spur-of-the-moment, and he said that it was a bit of both; they got carried away!

Someone asked him if he could tell us anything about ST VI: "You want to know what it's about?" "Yes!" we said. "It's about two hours." This led to loud groans. He did tell us that it takes place later than the other five, ie it *isn't* the Academy script, and all the cast are signed. The budget is actually lower than TFF - it's under \$30M this time - and ILM are back doing the FX.

"Are you all still on good terms with Harve?" asked the next person.

"Next question."

After the laughter that this provoked, he said that he'd just quote Gene and leave it at that: "To assume that the casting of those people (ie the original cast) had nothing to do with the success of Star Trek is supreme arrogance."

They haven't decided on a music director yet, but Richard thought they'd probably try and get James Horner.

There was a question re Tasha's sister Ashara; it's inconsistent with the book *Survivors*. The novels are always 'based on Star Trek' and the studio sees them as fiction, while the episodes are fact. The authors work under far stricter guidelines now, anyway (see Diane and Peter's talk).

The cat in *Metamorphosis* (the book) has no connection with the cat in *Data's Day*: in fact, Ron Moore hadn't read it. Gene didn't actually want it published, nor did Brent. In *Data's Day* there are actually two cats, and in the scene where the cat is in Data's lap, that's actually Guy standing in.)

Someone asked whether Klaa is back in ST VI, and Richard said no; he's playing a different Klingon. The subject shifted back to TNG, and he said that the current plan is to make two more seasons and then do films. They've already had two film scripts submitted. Michael Dorn is in ST VI, but not as Worf ("He's not even a seed yet!" said Richard.) The start-date for filming season 5 is July 9th or thereabouts.

Someone asked whether he'd have a word with the BBC re TNG's time slot, and he said that he'd love to have that much influence. He suggested that we all keep on writing polite letters to them, "chain yourselves to their cars!" The BBC are very like Paramount. Chas, who works for CIC, was at the con, and Richard said that it's the first time that CIC have sent anyone. He advised anyone holding a con to invite BBC people as guests so they could see what we were like. Because the BBC have gone straight into season 2 of TNG, CIC have got behind, but that should sort itself out.

Someone asked why CIC video only released the short version of ST:TMP on video; it's because they had the theatrical version. The longer one was done for ABCTV. When ITV first showed TMP they got their timings wrong, because they had the ABC version, which is longer than the original. There was also a longer version done of TWOK, but it's not available on video here or in the States. There

are no extended versions of TSFS or TVH, and in fact ABCTV cut TSFS to fit into a two-hour slot! Someone asked which versions of the films were in the package that the BBC bought, and Richard thought probably the extended TMP and TWOK.

Nick Meyer and Leonard Nimoy have been working on the script for ST VI for over a year, and all those rumours about 'intergalactic monks' and Spock-type weddings were actually put about by Mr. Meyer himself! Someone else mentioned that it had been on the news that morning that George Bush had had a mild heart attack, and did Richard know how it affected Wil? No, he didn't, he'd only just heard about it. "I thought you had to have a heart for that!" he said. He said that the CIA's first order if Bush dies is to shoot Dan Quayle! (In case you're reading this before any con reports, the cast had all gone to Washington on Friday to meet Bush.)

The last bit of Richard, so to speak, was on Monday just after the closing ceremony, and he just answered lots more questions. Data's cat(s) don't have names and they will turn up in more episodes; in fact it/they are seen in In Theory. "Will there be a spin-off series for the cat?" asked someone, to much laughter. There are rumours of a spin-off for Lwaxana, but this is still speculation; Majel would very much like that, and negotiations are under way, but it may be that nothing will come of it. Someone asked if there'd be a Lwaxana and Q episode. Richard thought it unlikely, as they're both 'big' guests, and they prefer to keep them separate. He said that it was pure rumour that the child from Home Alone (sorry, I don't know his name) would be in ST VI; he won't. Someone asked whether Barclay (Hollow Pursuits, The Nth Degree) would become a regular. "He won't, sorry," said Richard.

As ST VI is the last film, is there any chance of low-budget TV movies? "Definitely not," said Richard. All the actors except one are happy to stop after ST VI. "I won't tell you who he is, but his initials are George Takei!" George does get one wish in ST VI - Sulu is made a Captain. (Richard didn't actually say this, but several people asked him whether this was the wish and he smiled very widely.)

After TNG's 6th season and six or so films, they may make a TNNG! Gene says, "Why not?"

Someone asked whether the lack of success for TFF was due to lack of time. Richard said that actually TVH took less time to make, and ST VI has less time scheduled for it. Many things were blamed for the 'failure' including the age of the actors, the release of TNG, but Richard said that in the final analysis the reason is, "The director was given his head and did it his way, and it wasn't until the first screening that they finally realised that there was a problem." Richard said that he likes Bill very much, but the story obviously had problems and Bill was very inflexible. (Don't blame me, I just report this stuff!)

The next person wondered what the two Cs are in the corner of the screen on TNG episodes. They are actually cues for the people doing captions for the deaf, and also for the stereo soundtrack.

They are hoping to do a second Moriarty episode, but it's not done yet. Someone asked whether they'd ever get rid of the holodeck? "No!" said Richard. It's too useful; it saves them going on location, etc. They can save money using the holodeck or spend lots (as in Hollow Pursuits) and they can use it well or badly.

The next question was whether Patrick Stewart had enjoyed getting back into tights for Q-pid? He had a great time, apparently - they all did. It was shot on location in some famous gardens in Southern California; Patrick was very interested in looking around it.

"There's a rumour that Kim Cantrell is in ST VI," said someone. "It's not a rumour," said Richard, "and Christopher Plummer too."!!!

The next question was whether they'd be a Mirror Mirror type TNG episode. Richard said that there wouldn't, they'd had so much hassle over supposed 'copying'. Someone asked whether there would ever be another Riker-Troi relationship? There may be in the films, when they get that far, but not at the moment. Jonathan and Marina do a lot of playing up to this idea, but it all ends up on the cutting room floor. Riker and Troi are now supposed to be 'just good friends'.

Somebody asked whether it was now easier for fans to submit TNG scripts, and Richard said that it was, they just have to sign a disclaimer. They don't accept outlines, though, only complete scripts, and out of about 1000 scripts they buy six and only use three!

CIC are going to release a special film package for the 25th anniversary. They're bringing out a pack consisting of the extended ST:TMP and a letterboxed (wide screen) version of the other four.

Someone asked whether we'd like ST VI. "Did you like II?" asked Richard. "And IV?" He says that it has the action of TWOK and the humour of TVH, so we should like it a lot!

There was then a break while we watched a short film about TNG, narrated by De Kelley. Richard said that he's gained about twenty pounds since TFF - he had an operation just before that was made - and he looked great. After the film, someone asked whether it would be made available over here, and Richard said it wouldn't, as it was really just a news item. The next person asked whether the TNG cast were working over the summer break. Patrick is, Brent has just recorded an LP of 30s and 40s music, called 'Old Yellow Eyes is Back'!!!, Gates is having a baby, Marina he didn't know about, LeVar is but he didn't know what, Michael is in ST VI, Wil has done Toy Soldiers and December and is about to do another film, and Whoopi "never stops working!"

Someone asked whether it was true that the BBC are banning The High Ground and Menage a Troi? Richard didn't know, but said that he thought it was stupid. "Who can explain the BBC?" He said that if they didn't like Lwaxana being kidnapped in Menage, they could just loop in 'borrow' instead! Next he was asked whether 5th season TNG will have new titles. "We haven't even started filming yet!" He doesn't know, basically. Someone asked whether there are any new ships in ST VI, and he said that there were, as well as some old ones.

The next person asked why the TNG title music has changed again, and it turns out that it's because Wil's gone from the credits, so the music is two seconds shorter.

ST VI is now aiming for a December release in the States; he didn't know about over here, but probably summer '92. Whoopi was going to be in ST VI, but she isn't now; someone else has taken over.

Would there be any new uniforms in season 5, asked someone, and the answer was a definite no - they are extremely expensive, so they're keeping the current ones. Even in TFF they used dyed ST:TMP costumes. Gates' costume is a one-piece with the new collar, as she looked, um, wide in the two-piece. "Child-bearing hips," said Richard. It turned out to be very useful as her pregnancy began to show, anyway.

Someone asked why Nick Meyer is calling ST VI The Undiscovered Country, which is what TWOK was originally going to be called, and he said that Nick just likes the phrase. (It's from Hamlet, and refers to death.) It's only a working title, anyway, and may change.

There is no connection between ST VI and any of the others, and several years have gone by (more than two and less than ten). Having said that, Richard had to go, so there were no more questions.

RICHARD ARNOLD'S TALK AT CONCOURSE II

Martin Stahl gave us a report of Richard's talk at this German Convention. Much was the same as above but there was this additional info:

The Klingon scene in ST-TMP was the last one to be filmed. The Klingon bridge is used again for the torpedo bay in STII, the bridge of Kruge's ship, the bridges of the ships of the Romulans and the Pakleds. The model of the spacedock from ST I and II was destroyed as it was too big.

Sybok had his haircut at the end of STV because these scenes were filmed first. Later Laurence Luckinbill decided to let his hair grow.

Richard answered many questions about ST VI. We will see all of the main characters, besides Janice Rand, Sarek and the Klingon ambassador (John Schuck). Klingons are played by Michael Dorn (he does not play any relative of Worf), Todd Bryant (he does not play Klaa) and Guy Vardaman. We will see neither Saavik nor Whoopi Goldberg. The movie is set several years after ST V, therefore we will see a new council president. Spock does not fall in love. Nichelle Nichols and James Doohan have lost weight again (Jim 40 pounds). DeForest Kelley has gained 10 pounds, he looks much better now.

Although ST VI is to be the last movie the end of the story is only the end of this film which means no one dies or retires.

Although there are some scenes on Earth we will see at least 3 new planets and several spaceships. They built an ice planet set on stage 15 and shoot many scenes on location. They shoot from the middle of April until the beginning of July. There will be no new races in the movie. When I asked whether the Romulans appear he did not answer that question.

U.F.P. 91 - DAVID GERROLD'S TALKS

reported by Helen White.

David ended up doing two talks, although only scheduled for one, as the writers' panel got taken over.

He started by saying that he didn't have any slides (he came on directly after Richard) but that he did have two talks, and he'd tell us how TNG really started.

Trek's 20th birthday was in 1986, as we know, and Paramount threw a huge party, to which everyone who'd ever worked on Trek was invited, plus other people such as Robin Williams. They also opened up the movie sets and let people have their photos taken there. They had a big cake, and Gene was there - he thanked everyone. Later, they found that Paramount had been planning an announcement at the party about the new Trek, but changed their minds. ("They didn't want to embarrass the original cast," they said.) A new network appeared (Fox) and they wanted to make a new Trek along with Paramount, but the latter decided it was theirs and they weren't going to share it, and the TNG plans were set in motion. David called Susan Sackett to say congratulations, and wrote Gene a note saying the same thing, also that he was available... They ended up going out for lunch because Gene wanted David's input. He suggested an older Captain plus a Klingon, but Gene was adamant that there'd be no Klingons on the bridge. After this, David, Gene, Eddie Milkis and Bob Justman started discussions; they screened ST:TMP, TWOK, TSFS, TVH (the latter had just finished being cut together, and they had trouble trying to get it; Paramount TV is totally separate from Paramount films, and at first they were told that they couldn't have it!) They also watched

Ice Pilots, Aliens, and Bladerunner. After this they had lunch and came up with various ideas; the holodeck was Bob's idea, and the older Captain/younger First Officer idea came from David. Bob suggested having a handicapped character, and David suggested calling him George La Forge (after an American fan who had muscular dystrophy). They discussed having someone with prosthetic limbs, a brain implant (to 'cure' retardation) and eventually decided on blindness. The next decision was what the appliance to help him see would look like, and they experimented with various ideas, eventually deciding on... a banana clip! (a barette to the Americans) Yes, it really is based on that; we were all right! It was actually Bill Theiss' idea. Bob came up with the idea of a ship's counselor, David suggested an empath. Troi was originally called Kon (spelling?) and was a six-breasted oversexed hermaphrodite! D C Fontana squashed this idea by writing a memo inquiring how these breasts were arranged - horizontally, vertically, in rows? and pointed out that it was bad enough trying to keep two under control! Talking of memos, they also got lots of these from the studio, including one about Geordi, asking how it was that they were giving Geordi two handicaps, making him black as well!!! They ignored that one.

Wes was the next character to inherit the Kon name from Troi, and after this had been changed to Wesley Crusher, they decided who he was. He started out as a little old man! Then Bob decided that he was a fifteen year old computer nerd. They then decided to make the Doctor Wesley's mum, as it solved two problems at once; they wanted strong female characters, and it saved them having a doctor and teacher in the regular cast, which is what they were originally going to do.

By December '86, D C Fontana was doing the first script, and they'd started talking to writers and got the art department started. Then Columbia offered David a TV series, and off he went. He said that he wasn't thrilled with the writing quality of the first season of TNG, but it soon improved; he likes Measure of a Man and A Matter of Honour.

The series that he went to work on didn't actually get started in the end, due to the writers' strike, but it turned into his book, Voyage of the Starwolf. Universal had wanted a space series, and he had suggested a World War 2 type of thing, which the studios thought sounded like Trek!? David said that no, he was thinking of rubbishy ship and a useless crew, so that they really had to be heroic if they wanted to do anything.

David now asks 50p (or \$1) a time for autographs, as he's supporting an AIDS charity - the AIDS project in LA which helps sufferers with the necessities of life. He went on at length about what AIDS does to people, and explained that it's partly due to Mike Minor that he's involved; Mike worked on the films, and they'd wanted him for TNG, but unfortunately he was unavailable as he had AIDS, and he died in May '87.

After his talk he answered questions.

Someone asked how the characters in TNG were cast. They had a casting director but they all suggested people; Bob suggested Patrick, they saw two other people for Riker apart from Jonathan, and Wesley was Lesley for two days (ie female) until someone remembered Wil from the film Stand By Me.

Voyage of the Starwolf (his book, see earlier) is a prequel to Starhunt.

Someone asked about his fourth Chtorr book, and he said that it's getting on okay; some of it's in rough draft and some in final draft. There's about two more months' work to do on it. It's called Season for Slaughter. He also has a third of book 5 done.

The next person asked how Denise Crosby got picked for Tasha Yar, and he said that she was one of lots of good-looking women, and that she was the best.

He was asked how many years he's been writing; about twenty five. He's

noticed all sorts of trends; for a start, SF is more 'realistic' now, and there are more relationship stories. When he started out, most SF fans were male; now it's about 50:50. In general, men tend to like the technical things and women the relationships, so there's now a good blend. He thinks that men are romantic and women are strong, but they just don't admit it! Someone asked how Worf came about, and David said that he almost didn't; Gene didn't want a Klingon on the bridge, even though David said yes, D C Fontana said yes, everybody said yes. In Encounter at Farpoint, they had a problem with the script which was solved by inventing Worf. Originally he was meant to be a background character, but everybody loves writing for him, so he became a regular.

Someone asked why Brent was chosen as Data. David said he was the best actor available; there was no choice, really. Brent was right from the moment they saw him. He went through three days of rather uncomfortable makeup tests, including different coloured lenses. The character was there right from the start. Gene didn't want another Vulcan, so they split those characteristics into two, so to speak, and ended up with Data and Troi. The final question was why Data's name is pronounced Day-ta and not Dah-ta which is how Americans usually pronounce it.

Gene said so!

His second talk was in place of the writers' panel; Diane said that she wanted to hear it!

First he mentioned the controversy re the 'K/S ladies'. He thinks that K/S is funny, but he also thinks that the Trek universe is Gene's, and that you shouldn't mess with other people's characters. When he originally said this in print (in The World of Star Trek, pub 1983) he got hate mail from several K/S ladies, including having such things as dead rats posted to him. After about two hundred such letters, he got one saying how enlightened they (the K/S ladies) were... He went to a con, and a lady accused him of being a traitor to Trek. At this he went slightly mad, and told her that the oceans are dying, the rainforests are going, animals are becoming extinct, and continued in this vein for five minutes, after which he told her to get real. "Who cares if Kirk and Spock are ***** each other," he said; "don't be an accomplice to the murder of the planet." Not long after this he caught himself saying this to himself when he was worrying about something fairly unimportant.

He went to Loscon (in LA) to do an appearance. Harlan Ellison had compiled an article about fans, and it was printed in Isaac Asimov's magazine; it mainly concerned the bad things that some fans will do, such as someone who tipped something extremely horrid over Alan Dean Foster. Someone once told David that he didn't have the maturity to be a writer, to which his answer was, "Who does?" He's tried to be nice and got nothing in return, he said. If he says something nice, nobody believes him anyway, so he's decided that it's not what you say, it's what you do.

He comes to cons to be paid for signing autographs, so he can raise money for his AIDS charity. It takes \$125 per month to keep an AIDS patient going, and since 1988 he's raised a lot of money; last year it was \$6630. He lets people buy their way into his Chtorr books - \$50 to appear, \$100 for a speaking part, and \$150 to be a worm!

At this point, Diane mentioned Children in Need (for our overseas members, it's a telethon thing that the BBC holds every year) and Peter said his charity is "Underpaid writers in need"! David said okay, he'll support Elephants with AIDS!, since Diane said you have to be selective, as you can't do everything, so some people end up thinking that it's better to do nothing at all than not enough.

David mentioned a statistic which he heard a while ago, so it may not be totally accurate now, but 5% of the world's population live in the States and they use 50% of its resources. He said that we need to change the way that we think, eg that recycling doesn't need to mean lowering your standards, it just saves using up

more than you need. At this point Jack Owen joined in. I hadn't ever heard of him, but there was a lot of reaction when his name was mentioned. All that I could gather was that he's a scientist, and used to lecture at Birmingham University. He said that it was misleading to say, for example, that one Swiss uses as much as 460 Ethiopians, because if you give resources to the former you end up with less Swiss, whereas if you give them to the latter you end up with more Ethiopians. Someone then pointed out that the reason for this is that the Ethiopians are fighting a losing battle to get at least one child to adulthood, as we used to 200 years ago.

David says he gets very ashamed of the States because her people are so provincial.

Someone asked what difference talking made, and he said that he tries to alter people's perceptions; if he just 'entertains' you, he's wasting a tree. He's been offered a lot of money to do another Trek novel, but he hasn't had a good enough idea yet.

Diane said that she used to be a psychiatric nurse, and it's very easy to tell people what to do, they just don't always do it - it's like shovelling mud. This reminded David of a joke:

A man goes to God's house, and wanders through it, trying to find him. He calls out, and a voice replies, "In here." He goes in; it's the loo, and there's a big black woman in there, on her hands and knees, scrubbing it out.

"God?" "That's me." "What are you doing?"

"Well, 90% of my job is clearing up other people's shit!"

David said that service is good; it's a bit like bringing up a baby - very important. It's a matter of what difference you're trying to make. Celebrity is good for making a difference; he can reach out to a lot of people. On the other hand, it has its bad points; people expect you to be perfect and not have bad days or a temper, for example.

To write well you have to be vulnerable, because you have to find your source material from somewhere. The audience doesn't want to see that, though, they want to see the 'celebrity'.

David gets round this by pretending to be a teacher or computer operator (he does both anyway) or even a pipe fitter! Apparently Anne McCaffrey tells people she's a potato farmer!

Lastly, David told us about the screenwriting course that he teaches at Pepperdine University. He's told them that he'll continue to teach only as long as they don't interfere with his methods.

After this he had to stop speaking - it was time for the closing ceremony.

U.F.P. 91

31st BRITISH STAR TREK CONVENTION REPORT

by Edward Woo

Stardate: 9105.03 - 9105.06. Co-ordinates: Grand Hotel, Birmingham, UK, Earth.
Guests: David Gerrold, Diane Duane & Peter Morwood, Richard Arnold and Mike Jittlov

Friday:

Getting up at 7 am is not ideal for me any day, but for Star Trek I'll do it

gladly. Having loaded up the car, it was a 3 hour drive to Birmingham. I got through the ring road system with only one honk from a passing car to find my way to the Holiday Inn Hotel. With a brief pause, I got unpacked and wandered down to the Grand Hotel, despite getting briefly lost in the streets.

This was my first visit to the Grand and its small entrance was quite deceptive for its size. As I queued up for my con package I recognised many familiar faces from past cons ie Sadie, John, Paul and Janette. Wil Wheaton, who was due to come, was no longer coming because the TNG cast had been asked to see the President of the USA. An 18 year old can't refuse the President really.

Having got my con package, I bumped into Andrew and we briefly had a talk as he was off to do some stewarding. As I ran into Kim I said hello and did they want any technical help. She said later in the main hall. I had a quick look around before settling down to episodes from TNG. It was only 3 pm when I went for some burgers and on returning I met my friend John or Baggy from Scotland. He was the one who bought the piece of East Berlin Wall at Frontiers last year. My first steward's duty was to set up the main hall for the opening ceremony after which I helped to prop up the bar with Big Al and Baggy for a while before Security John got me to do a small job. It was protecting Andromeda's stock of goodies - some expensive model kits there.

The opening ceremony began with Kim saying she was responsible for the good things whilst Ros had the bad - funny. Our guests were introduced one by one to great applause but Mike was still en route. As people departed, I recognised Gary from an old UFP at the Metropole. We talked of old times and how he was drunk for most of those 3 days at his last convention he went to. More episodes of TNG and drink before rounding off the evening with Devil in the Dark as it was now 1 am. Luckily the hotel has a wake-up service as my alarm clock had packed up.

Saturday:

Got down to breakfast for about 7.30 am, but I couldn't really eat that much, so it was a liquid first meal. I hung around the Hotel with Andrew till the dealers' room was open - all three of them. One advantage of being a steward is getting first chance at the merchandise tables. It was still unusual that we had queues for dealers' rooms. For what must have been the next few hours we were deciding what to buy and where. Baggy wanted this Shatner booklet for 10p but no one was there to sell it to him. So we hid it and came back later to pay for it.

Baggy wanted anything to do with Kirk, collecting slides, zines and autographs whilst I wanted anything technical. This is when he sold me a copy of the 4th Season Writers Technical Guide and a Writers/Directors Guide for £5 each. I think this is where I met Jo, who was a friend of Helen's, a contributor to IDIC. Nice to have met you, Jo.

During my dealers' visit I got some more technical manuals, a 25th Anniversary Special and introduced myself to the IDIC committee, bar Janet who I met on Sunday. Hello again to Valerie and Sheila. I regret not having bought that 25th Anniversary sweat shirt sooner as it was lovely but they had all gone by the time I decided I wanted it - Damn it. I don't know about Silvercon yet, despite Baggy offering me free accommodation.

With all this merchandise weighing me down, it was time to relax and look after the Art Show. Some of the portraits were very good however there were fewer model kits this time round - my strong interest. I might put one in next time, as there are novice awards as well. After a brief tea and biscuits it was now 2 pm, time for another stewarding duty. With this duty and my time in the dealer's room I missed Mike Jittlov's film and Richard Arnold's 4th season slide show - I look forward to your guest talks, Helen. Luckily I was able to get Mike's autograph, very unusual as it took him several minutes to do it.

Made it in time for a superb episode Q-Pid and David Gerrold's guest spot. He had some very interesting points about TNG and the ideas he floated. The idea of

an Away Team, a more thoughtful Captain and Gene's initial refusal to have a Klingon on the Bridge. I found David funny and quite humorous in many ways as he occupied our attention for a full hour.

The Charity Auction was done by Richard Arnold with his box of goodies from the USA. His ST jacket went for £200 and many b&w photos of the cast went for £20 or more. Even old recording tapes from classic Trek (ie props from the show) went for huge amounts. He mentioned Marina Sirtis is completely different at the cons and is said to be the queen of the cons, not letting people walk out of her talks without a valid reason - even to the calls of nature at one convention.

Dave and Alison continued the Con Auction which is always the source of great fun especially when Dave tried to sell those Sci Fi Now magazines with his engaging humour about Space 1999 and the Bionic people. The LPs by Shatner and Nimoy were sold quite expensively. As usual the auction continued the following day.

It was now well into the early evening and it was time to eat; whether to go for burgers or a hotel meal? Luckily the hotel was doing £3 meals in the bar, so John and I went there.

The Fancy Dress started about 8 pm with our guests as the main judges. Getting a good photo spot was important. I take my hat off to those willing to dress up and parade themselves in front of an audience. There were a good number of entries ranging from a group of 4 Klingons, a Red Warrior, The Borg, Horta and Friend, a Romulan, a mature Barbarella and many members of Starfleet. Alien Nation was also included but three of the winners were the Klingons, Borgs and the Red Warrior.

Other costumes not in the fancy dress were the tall zebra, 2 more Klingons and a blue Andorian in Starfleet uniform. There were few if any people in classic Trek uniforms, quite a few from the movies but most from TNG. I got some good pictures yet to be developed. As we streamed away to the bar to quench our thirst, I had a talk with one of the Klingons and found out it was all held together by glue for most of his costume.

10 pm came and it was time to relieve the stewards at classic Trek. It was Jo and Helen White. Nice to put a face to a name, Helen. I still like Crusher despite your reservations about her. I'll try and make my technical articles easier to read next time. A Private Little War and Return to Tomorrow were episodes I had not seen in a while, but great viewing up to midnight I think. For a while later I was lying on the stairs for some time with Andrew and friends. Finally I saw the end of Patterns of Force and By Any Other Name. It was 2 am when the bed hit me.

Sunday:

Luckily Sunday morning videos were starting a half an hour later than Saturday, so I was able to read a newspaper and do the Football pools - no luck otherwise it would have been a spending spree in the dealers' room. This is when I first heard that President Bush had a heart problem. Now, if the President was unable to work, he could not have met the TNG cast, so they would be free that weekend to come to England - the question is who would pay the air fare?

With myself solvent again, thanks to a cash point, it was the dealers' room again where I met Janet - I've thought of some ideas already in mind for the 25th Anniversary. I bought a few more badges, mainly engineering ones. This is when I heard the rumours that those 4 Klingons caused a stir in the Pizza hut opposite the hotel. Another rumour was that a policeman said to his Sergeant that aliens had invaded the place.

We caught the episode Devil's Due and more importantly the Business Meeting. What was important was that Warp 1 had won official backing for the 1993 con at Morcambe in a Holiday Camp. At noon it was Richard Arnold's second guest spot, with slides from ST-TMP to STV and TNG Seasons 1 - 3. He was not giving much away

about STVI but it will have a shorter production time compared to STV. The regular cast will return with John Schuck, Christopher Plummer and Kim Cattrall as guest stars.

The convention auction restarted and John bought a few items, and someone had bought the STIV script for £135. The 2nd charity auction was held by David Gerrold who had plenty of goodies. I should have bid for the ST maps and the 20th Anniversary ST glass as they were cheaper this time round. A pair of Spock's ears from STV went for just £400.

After the auction, Drumhead was a really good episode with conspiracies running riot. After this it was tea time with a beef and mushroom casserole. We decided to go to see more NG episodes but Trekkerty Trek was much better so we went to this. It's a ruder version of Blankety Blank. Helen and Jo were 2 of the contestants and Jo eventually won. It's a game show for the near intelligent.

The theme for the Sunday night party was the 1940s costumes. There were plenty in attendance but still many science fiction costumes about. At the stewards' party I nearly spilled a drink on Andrew but at least I got David Gerrold's picture and autograph plus an excellent shot of Diane Duane. I asked David Gerrold whether he wanted to do another tribble episode for TNG; he said not really.

I met 2 more members of IDIC whilst waiting in the queue for Windsor 3. I can't remember your names but glad you enjoyed yourselves. After The Price episode, I saw a bit of the film STIV and then off to the bar and more videos till 2 am. Videos were going on through the night up to 6.30 am for those who could take it. I got back to the hotel and started packing before I was overcome by sleep.

Monday:

The telephone and a hot shower really woke me up. Down at breakfast I met 'Eric' Clapton another new attendee I had met this weekend. After checking out of the hotel and packing my luggage back into the car it was back to the Grand, watching 3 more NG episodes. Baggy had to leave before the closing ceremony began so we said goodbye.

The closing ceremony began with the guests presenting the awards to our competition winners and getting gifts themselves. David Gerrold opened his present quickly whilst Richard went for the champagne.

Richard Arnold was back for another question and answer session with a special report about ST done by De Forest Kelley. Andrew also left soon after, hope to see you at the next con. I was able to say goodbye to the IDIC committee as they made their way up the M6.

The Nth Degree has Lt. Barclay back and is superb. My final duty was to steward 2 episodes of classic Trek. As it finished early I was able to see the Final Mission and The Best of Both Worlds Part 1 and 2 again. It was now 6 pm and everyone started to leave.

As I shook hands with Big Al and waved goodbye, it was a sad feeling to see it all end. It always happens that I intend to see a lot of TNG, but ended up with less; but having more fun at the con with other activities. It's too good to end in 4 days. I would have liked to have seen the many films on that weekend but I couldn't be in 2 places at once or even 3.

Getting out of Birmingham was much easier with little traffic that holiday evening. I found some good driving home music as I whisked up the M6 with traffic queues in the opposite direction.

Note:

One unpleasant thing was the hoax fire alarm that went off at 4 am in the

Grand Hotel. This has gone beyond a joke and must come to an end as somebody could get really hurt, especially those with children at such events. Otherwise we could lose the services of this lovely hotel.

On a pleasant note - most, if not all attendees are honest people and many lost items in the con were handed into ops and subsequently returned to their owners - that's great for fandom.

U.F.P. - A FEW IMPRESSIONS

by Teresa Abbott

There's a problem with writing a full con report. Any small niggles or annoyances I may have experienced have usually faded by the time I have arrived home, and all that is left is a huge feeling of anti-climax, and a desperate desire to start crossing off the days until next time.

Put simply, I enjoyed my weekend at U.F.P. immensely, and didn't want to go home!! However I appreciate that's not a very helpful comment, so will attempt a slightly more objective analysis!

I thought the Park Hotel was great. It's the first time I've ever stayed at an overflow, and when the leaflet said '5 mins walk to the Grand' I did wonder if this was a 'tourist brochure' description (5 mins by air, and half an hour to walk) In fact, it was very close to the Grand, and for once my booking was okay and I got the room I'd asked for. I'd worried that some of the atmosphere would be missing, but everyone still turned up for breakfast in their uniforms (no queue, either) and it was really good. Okay, we missed the all night video showings, but we also missed the fire alarm, and this year that was a good thing to go without!

I was very impressed by both the timetable grid, and the con book. The episode guide in this will be something I refer to frequently over the coming years. I also liked the fact that everything more or less ran to time, (except, of course, Richard Arnold) which made it so much easier to get the most out of each day, and to plan train times home, etc.

The sales rooms were almost TOO good! I came home with S.T. mugs, tee-shirts, pens, stickers; basically S.T. everything, AND an enormous pile of second hand and new zines, and still haven't plucked up the courage to add up the cheque book stubs.

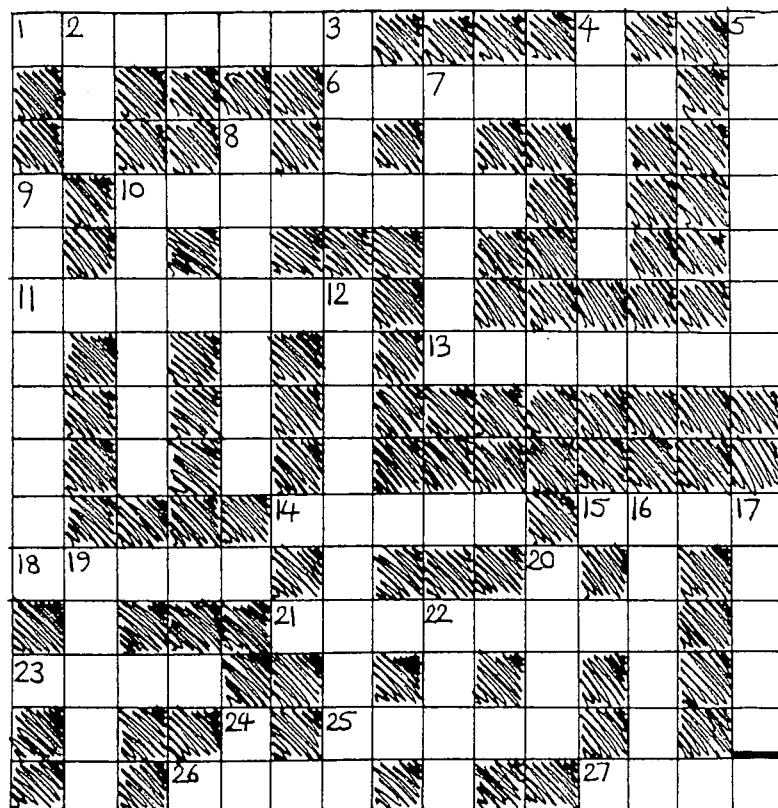
The only negative thing had to be the queueing. I began to have sympathy with the Russians as we waited endlessly for either the video rooms or the sales rooms. The worst thing was that if you wanted to see two episodes in a row it was very difficult. If you saw the first, you had to run out and get to the back of the by then enormous queue outside and hope to get in for the second. I don't know what the organisers could have done about this. Basically the main video room wasn't big enough for the number of people there. It seems a shame to limit the number of attendees, and I suppose it's difficult to find a hotel with even bigger rooms (hire a nearby cinema, perhaps?) It was very trying and annoying at times.

As for the N.G. episodes themselves, I thought most of them were pleasant and amusing to watch in the con atmosphere, but I still find the majority of them are instantly forgettable, and have weak endings. Of the 15 or so I saw I liked Drumhead, Tin Man, and First Contact best.

CROSSWORD

Compiled by Gloria Rigg

Clues by Glera Rigg and Helen White



CLUES

Across

1. This planet was at war with Vendikar (7)
6. Opponents of Landru, not of the body (7)
10. (and 4 down) Travelling Shakespearian actor (5,8)
11. He needed his 'mirror' (7)
13. There were two of him, one sane and one not (7)
14. Kirk's prosecutor, Ms Shaw (5)
15. Doctor Sevrin and his followers were trying to find this mythical planet (4)
18. Spock 'studied' clouds with her (5)
21. Chief City Administrator Hengist's race (8)
23. Kirk's 'older woman' (4)
25. Amanda's husband (5)
26. Captain before Kirk (4)
27. Spock gathers lots of this before forming an opinion (4)

Down

2. Homo sapiens (3)
3. Janice (4)
4. see 10 across
5. Logical beings (7)
7. Is she a nurse or is she a doctor? (6)
8. Ayeleborne, Claymare and Trefayne live here (7)
9. He was a Lieutenant Commander and friend of Kirk with an extremely high ESP rating (8)
10. see 19
12. NCC 1701 (10)
16. Home of Sam, Aurelan and Peter Kirk (6)
17. Ms Uhura (5)
19. (and 10 down) She had to die (5,6)
20. Captain after Pike (4)
22. The Horta liked these bits of Spock! (4)
23. Spock beat Redjac using this mathematical constant (2)

Solution on page 63.

ST:TNG SECOND SEASON EPISODES

THE CHILD Based on a Premise by Jaron Summers & Jon Povill, Teleplay by Maurice Hurley.

Deanna Troi finds she is pregnant and 47 hours after conception gives birth to a healthy boy. The baby, who she names Ian Andrew, grows rapidly, taking one day to grow into a 4-year old.

WHERE SILENCE HAS LEASE written by Jack B. Sowards.

The Enterprise comes across a 'hole' in space. They send two probes into it but they disappear. The Enterprise gets caught in the void and comes across another Federation starship, the U.S.S. Yamato. The Enterprise's sister ship does not respond to a hailing frequency and sensors report no life forms aboard.

ELEMENTARY, DEAR DATA Written by Brian Alan Lane.

While the Enterprise awaits a rendezvous with the U.S.S. Victory, Geordi and Data use the time to engage in a long-awaited fantasy - the opportunity to play Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes. They are later joined by Pulaski but things get out of hand when Geordi asks the computer to create a mystery to confound Data with an opponent who has the ability to defeat him.

THE OUTRAGEOUS OKONA Story by Les Menchen & Lance Dickson and David Landsberg Teleplay by Burton Armus.

The Enterprise goes to the assistance of Captain Thaduin Okona and takes his cargo ship, the Erstwhile, in tow. Two small ships approach the Enterprise from the local star system and both Debin from the planet Altec, and Kushell from the planet Straleb, demand the immediate extradition of Okona. Debin and Kushell seem willing to fight to the death to take custody of Okona.

Meanwhile Data is in the holodeck trying to learn about jokes.

LOUD AS A WHISPER Written by Jacqueline Zambrano

The Enterprise's mission is to deliver Mediator Riva to a planet so that he can try to stop a war. What Picard doesn't know is that Riva is deaf and when the Mediator's 'chorus' is killed Data has to learn sign language.

THE SCHIZOID MAN Story by Richard Manning & Hans Beimler, Teleplay by Tracy Torme.

The Enterprises answers an emergency call to Graves' world because Doctor Ira Graves is ill. On the way they get a distress call from another ship so Picard beams Data, Troi, Worf and a Vulcan doctor down to see if they can help while the Enterprise goes to the other ship's aid. Doctor Graves has a terminal illness and

spends most of his time with Data. Unfortunately Graves dies before he can be beamed up to the Enterprise and once back on the ship Data starts to behave very strangely.

UNNATURAL SELECTION Written by John Mason and Mike Gray

The Enterprise answers a distress call from the USS Lantree, only to discover that all the crew apparently died of old age. After quarantining the Lantree Picard orders Enterprise to the Darwin Genetic Research Station which was the Lantree's last port of call. They find all but the 'children' suffering from rapid ageing. After exposure to one of the 'children' Pulaski also starts to age rapidly.

A MATTER OF HONOR Teleplay by Burton Armus Story by Wanda M Haight & Gregory Amos and Burton Armus

Riker receives a temporary posting as First Office on the Klingon ship Pagh as part of a crew exchange program. Before Riker leaves the Enterprise Worf introduces him to some Klingon food. Once on board the Pagh Riker gives his oath to serve the Klingon ship and obey Captain Kargan. When Kargan believes the Enterprise to be responsible for a bacteria which is destroying the Pagh he orders the destruction of the Enterprise.

MEASURE OF A MAN Written by Melinda M. Snodgrass

Data decides to resign rather than allow Commander Bruce Maddox to disassemble him to aid his android research but Data is told he cannot resign as he is Starfleet property. Picard challenges this ruling and is assigned to defend Data and prove that Data is sentient and therefore can't be Starfleet property. Due to a shortage of staff at the Starbase Riker is reluctantly assigned to prosecute.

THE DAUPHIN Written by Scott Rubenstein and Leonard Mlodinow

Enterprise is engaged in transporting the Dauphin Salia and her guardian Anya from Klavdia Three to her home planet the wartorn Daled Four. Salia is to be the planet's leader and she hopes to unite both sides. Wesley Crusher falls in love with Salia but she is not what she appears to be.

CONTAGION written by Steve Gerver and Beth Woods

Picard takes the Enterprise into the Neutral Zone in response to a distress call from the galaxy class starship, U.S.S. Yamato, which is suffering massive systems failure. They arrive just in time to witness a terrible explosion which totally destroys the Yamato. Almost immediately a Romulan vessel appears on the scene, demanding that Picard withdraws his ship....and then the Enterprise systems begin to fail.

THE ROYALE written by Keith Mills

Debris from a 21st century NASA spaceship is found orbiting Theta Eight, and simultaneously, in the harsh environment of the uninhabited planet's surface, a structure is discovered within an oxygen envelope. Riker, Data and Worf beam down to investigate and find themselves in a busy Las Vegas Hotel, where they soon realise they cannot communicate with the ship, and cannot even leave the building. They mingle with the other 'guests', trying to learn more about what is happening, and the only clue is a badly written novel called "The Royale Hotel" found in the bedroom of a dead man.

TIME SQUARED Story by Kurt Michael Bensmiller, Teleplay by Maurice Hurley

A Federation shuttle appears out of nowhere in space, and a puzzled Picard orders it beamed aboard. Riker and Worf go to the shuttlecraft bay to examine the craft, and discover it is one of the Enterprise's own, even though none of theirs are missing. Unconscious at the controls is Captain Picard....who is still on the bridge. Geordi notices the shuttle's clock is six hours ahead of their time, and accesses a visual log which shows a shuttlecraft leaving the Enterprise only seconds before the ship is destroyed in a massive explosion.

THE ICARUS FACTOR Story by David Assael, Teleplay by David Assael & Robert L. McCullough

Riker is given twelve hours to decide whether to accept promotion to captaincy of

the Aries. His decision is complicated by the civilian advisor/strategic attache who comes aboard to brief him on the dangerous mission ahead - his father, from whom he has been estranged for fifteen years. Meanwhile, Worf is behaving strangely, and Wesley has an idea about how to help him.

PEN PALS Story by Hannah Louise Shearer, Teleplay by Melinda M. Snodgrass
Wesley gets a taste of the problems of command when he is appointed to take charge of an extensive geological survey (conducted from the Enterprise) of a star system where the unstable planets live fast and die hard. Data answers a lonely whisper from the dark, and creates a difficult task for the command officers in deciding what the Prime Directive really means.

Q WHO Written by Maurice Hurley

When Picard refuses Q's request to join the Enterprise, the ship is hurled violently through space to meet their future - an alien race more powerful and deadly than anyone aboard (except Guinan) has ever encountered.

SAMARITAN SNARE Written by Robert L. McCullough

Wesley has to go to Starbase 515 to take Starfleet exams, and finds himself piloting the shuttlecraft with an unwilling passenger aboard - Captain Picard, who has been ordered by Pulaski to report there for an urgent medical operation. In command of the Enterprise, Riker responds to a ship's distress signal, and sends Geordi over to help the seemingly stupid aliens with their engineering problems - and they hold Geordi hostage.

UP THE LONG LADDER Written by Melinda M. Snodgrass

Worf becomes indebted to Pulaski when she covers for him when he contracts an illness embarrassing to a warrior. A Terran colony is beamed aboard the Enterprise to save them from their doomed planet, and they create chaos. A second colony nearby is dying out and needs help that the Enterprise officers are unwilling to give.

MANHUNT Written by Terry Devereaux

The Enterprise is transporting 2 mysterious aliens known as Antedeans, along with Lwaxana Troi, Ambassador for Betazed, to Pacifica for a conference. She is undergoing a midlife 'phase' peculiar to her race, which, Deanna explains, quadruples - or more! - her sex drive. In his efforts to avoid her advances, Picard seeks refuge in the Dixon Hill simulation on the holodeck.

THE EMISSARY TV story and teleplay by Richard Manning and Hans Beimler, based on an unpublished story by Thomas H. Calder

The Enterprise is diverted to beam aboard a passenger from a class 8 probe. She is Special Emissary K'Ehleyr, a woman of mixed Klingon and Human blood from Worf's past. Despite his obvious discomfort they must work together on the mission to intercept a Klingon ship, the crew of which has been in cryogenic sleep for 75 years; when these Klingons set out on their journey they were still at war with the Federation, and they're about to wake up near unprotected Federation outposts.

PEAK PERFORMANCE Written by David Kemper

Against his initial judgement, Picard agrees to the Enterprise participating in a wargame exercise, which is supervised by a Zakdorn strategist from Starfleet. The opposing commander is Riker who takes a crew of 40 to command on the outdated vessel U.S.S. Hathaway. Pride and reputations are at stake as the two ships face each other with weapons systems disconnected - and an enemy vessel appears out of nowhere.

SHADES OF GRAY Teleplay by Maurice Hurley, Richard Manning and Hans Beimler. Story by Maurice Hurley

Riker is injured during a planet survey and is infected by deadly microbes. In sickbay Pulaski and Troi work together to save his life, and a side-effect of the treatment they try causes Riker to have vivid dreams about his past experiences on the Enterprise.

COMPASSION IN STARFLEET'S ANDROID OFFICER

by Ann Peters

Data does not feel; there is no question about that. But does a lack of feeling imply that he has no compassion? And if he has no compassion, should he be in a position to give orders to Humans? Should he be Second Officer on the Enterprise?

If Data does lack compassion, then perhaps he should not be a senior Starfleet officer. But compassion and feelings are quite different, and I believe that emotions are neither necessary nor sufficient for the development of compassion.

Feelings in a Human are a reaction to the world outside; we feel fear if something frightens us; we feel pain if something hurts us. But Data is different. He does not feel simple touch sensations like cold or pain, nor does he feel more complex emotions like love, anger or pleasure. He obviously perceives his surroundings through various sensing devices, but there is no physical sensation associated with their use, or with any subsequent analysis of their reading. A sophisticated brain with the power of reason such as Data has is quite capable of reaching a sensible decision, without the physiological stimulation of emotions.

The Human brain may be sufficiently well developed that we do not need feelings either, but they are part of our evolutionary heritage. Our feelings are a development of the pleasure/pain reaction that our primitive animal ancestors needed for survival, and we are stuck with them. Most Humans, however, would not choose to be without emotion; as long as we can avoid pain and seek pleasure, on balance, feelings are usually considered to be a blessing rather than a curse. Data's sophisticated brain may not need the input of feelings to reach important decisions, but on a personal level he is missing out on a whole dimension of experience, and Data himself is acutely aware of this.

Compassion is something different. It is an appreciation of the feelings of another individual, an understanding of what is happening to someone else. Compassion requires the ability to conceptualise a viewpoint other than one's own, and that requires a highly developed brain. Most people would agree that cats clearly exhibit emotions like fear and anger, but watch a cat slowly torture a mouse or a bird to death, and you quickly come to the conclusion that they have absolutely no compassion. They do not have the ability to imagine what it is like to be in the place of their prey. A cat has no idea of the suffering of others, although it is quite obviously aware of any suffering inflicted upon itself.

It is not only animals that lack compassion. Humans have tortured their prisoners for centuries, masters have mistreated their servants and slaves, men have beaten their wives and their horses and sexually abused their own children. Do these Humans lack emotions? In the case of the sexual abuser, it is precisely a preoccupation with his own feelings that causes the abuse. The ability to feel can often block the development of any sympathy for others rather than promote it. The urge to extend the consciousness beyond the self, is far more likely to stem from simple curiosity than from one's own selfish feelings.

Clearly, the capacity to feel does not necessarily mean that a sense of compassion will develop, but can there be compassion without emotion? Is it possible for Data to understand anything of the feelings of others, if he has no feelings of his own?

Even a Human can never truly know how another Human feels. Most of us will never suffer severe burns in which much of the skin is destroyed, and most of us would certainly not wish to, but does that mean we can have no compassion for someone who does? No. We are able to piece together an impression of what the person might be suffering, from information gathered during our own lifetime; experience of minor burns; knowledge of the extent of the skin loss; possible

complications like infection or maggot infestation. We do not have to experience it first-hand in order to have some appreciation of what it might be like. Data may not need to experience feelings himself in order to have some concept of what it might be like to feel.

What is needed for compassion is the ability to understand something of what another individual is feeling; it is not necessary to actually share in those feelings oneself. Feeling the suffering of another may be good for the soul, but simply realising that there *is* suffering is often of greater importance.

And this brings me to the point of this discussion. It is the ability to act on the behalf of others through an understanding of their requirements, and of their right to those requirements, that is really needed in a position of command. Humans may achieve this through compassion developed from their own feelings, but that need not be the only way.

Data has a complex brain and he is programmed with a respect for all life forms. These would enable him to develop something very similar to what in Humans is called 'compassion'.

His complex brain would give him the capacity to conceptualise and to see things from points of view other than his own, and he has sufficient information at his disposal to be able to build up an internal representation of what others may be experiencing. This is what cats lack. His respect for life would give him an appreciation that the needs and rights of others must be considered, and he has sufficient intelligence to perceive what many of those needs might be. This is what the Human torturers lack. And if curiosity is required to drive the process, then Data has that too.

We see Data's compassion very much in evidence in the episode Pen Pals, although as Melinda Snodgrass takes great delight in pointing out, he does not utter a single emotional line. We see his compassion, not through any feelings - because he has none - but through his obvious understanding of Sarjenka's plight and the attempts he makes to help her. And we see in The Most Toys that Data's final submission to Fajo is motivated by compassion; he completely changes his tactics when someone else is being threatened.

Perhaps I should stress that the only point I am addressing is that the absence of feeling is not necessarily a barrier to a position of command. Whether a being like Data could ever be constructed is a different question and requires another debate. There is also the question of whether Humans would be prepared to take orders from a machine. This has nothing to do with any incompetence or failing in Data, and I shall not discuss it here, but his observation in the pilot episode that prejudice is very Human does perhaps suggest it is a problem he has had to deal with in the past.

I should also point out that I have only been considering Data. Unlike Humans, machines may be built to vastly differing specifications, and any generalisation about androids is quite impossible. Lore, for example, is very different from Data, because he has feelings and does not respect life. Lore clearly has nothing resembling compassion; perhaps the intensity of his own feelings gets in the way, as it does with Humans. Indeed, it may be Data's very lack of emotion that makes him so compassionate.

If Data has the ability to conceptualise and to respect life, then I believe him to have something which is indistinguishable from compassion in Humans, and the fact that he has no feelings is not sufficient reason to deny him his position on the Enterprise. Lieutenant Commander Data may lack some of the qualities necessary to make a good commander, but compassion is certainly not one of them.

A THIRD CAPTAIN FOR THE USS ENTERPRISE

by Mark Alex Pidd

Have you considered Gregory Peck in the role of Captain of the Enterprise? Probably not! If I describe a Captain who's bold, daring, a natural leader, respected and admired by crew and adversaries alike, does this suggest Patrick Stewart as Jean-Luc Picard? If I add that this man is also considered handsome and suffers that terrible fate of women swooning at his feet, is it William Shatner as James T Kirk? The subject of this description is one who has influenced the characters of both Captains of the Enterprise. This is Horatio Hornblower R.N., played by the aforementioned Mr. Peck in the 1951 Warner Bros. film.

I believe the Hornblower novels of C. S. Forrester were recommended to both Shatner and Stewart by Gene Roddenberry. I have put together this brief summary of my thoughts on the character of Hornblower to see how this relates to the personalities of Kirk and Picard and how I believe different aspects of the same persona have been used. It may be able to stimulate some debate!

Horatio Hornblower is dedicated to the service in which he has spent the majority of his life. He has confidence in his own abilities of navigation and mathematics and demonstrates concern for the morals and welfare of his crew (within the limitations of the conditions aboard a 19th century warship). He makes rapid (and accurate) assessments of those with whom he comes in contact and those in whom he must trust. He is also seen as bold, daring and resourceful. This is the youthful Hornblower at the rank of Captain and compares favourably with Kirk. This similarity is further emphasised by their dedication which lessens ties to a family; Hornblower in doing his duty leaves his wife and new-born child and, like Kirk, suffers the death of a son. An example of Kirk's dedication is the Elaan of Troyius episode.

My impression is that the motivation behind Hornblower's bold and daring deeds is a fear of failure, and all its associated disgrace and dishonour. This motivation, coupled with his inventive imagination and an amount of luck, is the bedrock on which his success is based. He takes the responsibility of command on his own shoulders, shunning any confidants with whom to ease these burdens. However, any doubts are kept to himself and Hornblower takes great care not to show any outward emotions which may betray his concerns. Kirk also displays confidence in command and does have Hornblower's resourcefulness and luck, but even in private shows none of Hornblower's fears and doubts, although any concerns can be shared with his friends and comrades (also a useful device to explain the episode plot). Another obvious difference between the two is that whilst Hornblower appears oblivious of, if not embarrassed and mystified by, women's attraction to him, Kirk appears to encourage and relish the adoration. These differences between Hornblower and Kirk could be explained by the commercial reality that in the 1960s it was not good (in terms of audience ratings) television to show a lonely but learned and cautious (perhaps perceived as unsociable, academic and doubtful) leader. The need to attract female viewers could also be a contributory factor to the Kirk character.

As Hornblower becomes older (with associated receding hairline) he gains promotion through Commodore to Admiral. With this his confidence is increased but he also finds that he must delegate operations rather than being involved in the centre of the activity. The burden of command is still with Hornblower although through familiarity he is more comfortable with this. His fear of disgrace is also diminished, replaced by a wealth of experience on which to draw in order to reduce the chance of failure and an Admiral's position and a settled home life to cushion any fall from favour. The tactical skills employed by Hornblower are aimed at reducing the chance of casualties to a minimum (perhaps explained by his years of exposure to dead, wounded and crippled comrades), whilst still achieving the objective. He also encourages and motivates the personal development of those serving under him. This character progression is natural and expected, the

resulting Hornblower being similar to Picard (such development in Kirk's character possibly being omitted by the box-office criteria of people only paying to see the same old Kirk?). What is noticeable about Picard is that he is allowed to show some of the responsibilities that come with command, a solitary, but respected and admired figure who shuns any clique of close confidants and takes any recreation alone (akin to Hornblower's walking of the quarterdeck). Picard also has Hornblower's academic approach, being versed in the classics and with a knowledge of history. A Hornblower characteristic also displayed by Picard is the concern for the personal progress and welfare of his crew, particularly its younger members.

Picard's character needs to appeal to a more sophisticated (and older?) television audience, the hands on, thick of the action (ie gung-ho shoot first, ask later) earlier approach of Kirk being outmoded. However, I believe that in an attempt to cover all the bases there is a concession to Kirk's character in the form of William T Riker (another young Hornblower? Although comparisons may be made between Riker and the character of Bush, Hornblower's First Officer from the Lydia and his only close colleague). Personally I believe the character of Picard is closer to that of Hornblower than Kirk, although the differences in structure and expectations of the two series contributes to this conclusion. It would be interesting to discover from Gene and the actors themselves the influence of Hornblower on the part of the Captain (and also on the character of Riker).

I would recommend the Hornblower novels to anyone interested in ST and/or ST:TNG, or to anyone else who enjoys reading well written fiction. With a little imagination the stories could be any ST episode; try replacing the French Empire with the Klingon, cannons with phasers and treat Hornblower's ship as the Enterprise going where no (Royal Navy) man has been before and you may discover what I mean. Far from Star Trek being an original idea the impression is one of an updated version of Hornblower (albeit carefully arranged), in which case greater recognition is due to the original author. However, I believe none of the Hornblower adventures has been adapted for Star Trek and it is curious that such tailor-made material remains unused (some necessary violent scenes may account for some stories being unsuitable).

A final point, the Hornblower novels is where the phrase "Make it so" may be found (Hornblower in the West Indies - The Star of the South). This would place its origins with the navy, and with a 500+ year heritage its use would be acceptable to a historian like Picard and find approval in a naval organisation such as Starfleet.

WINK OF AN EYE

21 PERFECTLY INNOCENT REASONS WHY CAPTAIN KIRK WAS PULLING HIS BOOTS ON WHILE DEELA STOOD COMBING HER HAIR IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR

Gloria Fry

- 1) He had been scratching his feet.
- 2) Perhaps - changing his socks.
- 3) or - treating his athlete's foot.
- 4) Maybe - cutting his toenails.
- 5) Uh - wearing his slippers?
- 6) How about - having a mustard footbath...
- 7) Mmm - Had a shower?
- 8) Um - his boots had been hurting him, so he changed them...
- 9) Or - he was measuring his boot size...
- 10) I know - he had been rubbing on his nightly foot lotion...

- 11) Let's think - his boots had been on the wrong feet!!
- 12) I know - he had been cooling his hot feet....
- 13) Or - doing his foot exercises.
- 14) Better still - he had been cleaning his boots...
- 15) Perhaps - he had pins and needles in his foot and had been flexing his bare toes...
- 16) Even better - he was checking his feet for cell damage.
- 17) Closer - he had fallen asleep and Deela had pulled his boots off to that he would be more comfortable...
- 18) Interesting - Deela had been massaging his sore feet.
- 19) Better - Deela, a fully qualified Scalosian chiropodist, had been treating his corns...
- 20) Even better than that - he had been showing Deela that Humans have five toes on each foot, unlike Scalosians who have nine.
- 21) Deela had been giving him a complete pedicure... yes, that's it...

Indeed!

In a pig's eye!!!

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MY KIND OF TREK

by Elena Bond

The very first episode of Star Trek I remember seeing was All Our Yesterdays. I was about eleven at the time and it must have been about the third time the BBC was showing Trek. I remember being fascinated by the time travelling device (the Atavachron) and the library. The next episodes I saw were Wink of an Eye and Shore Leave.

By this time I was madly in love with Captain Kirk (perhaps the first man I had ever felt this way about). For this reason stories with a strong James Kirk involvement have always been amongst my favourites, including many which seldom find themselves among fans' favourites or which have even been described as rather weak storywise (Shore Leave, Wink of an Eye, Requiem for Methuselah, The Gamesters of Triskelion, to mention a few). I must confess I have never really cared for the popular all-time favourites like Spectre of the Gun or A Piece of the Action.

Of the Captain Kirk love stories, nearly everyone's favourite, City on the Edge of Forever, was strangely enough the one I least liked as a child. I just could not warm to the character of Edith Keeler, because of the undertones of fascist sympathy in the story. Over the years I have come to change my mind about City on the Edge of Forever (the story did at least make a big impression on me even all those years ago) to the point where it is now among my favourites. I still don't like Edith Keeler much. As a kid I could not understand what Kirk saw in her. As an adult I can well understand falling in love with someone who is misguided and somewhat flawed (it is a tragedy which happens to people); realising this has made me have more respect for the story.

As a teenager I remember trying to copy the clothes in Star Trek, especially those of the women Kirk got involved with (most notably Deela in Wink of an Eye, who made a big impression on me.) What I really longed to copy, though, were the hair styles. This, however, was usually beyond my technical or artistic expertise (I'm afraid this is still the case!) I can just about manage Lenore Karidian's in The Conscience of the King, but that's about it. So, unfortunately, I have never been a contender for the inter-galactic weirdest hairdo award. Another thing that left a big impression on me was Stratos, the city in the clouds in The Cloud Minders. Why could we not build a cloud city here on Earth, would this not be simply out of this world? (Probably still beyond our technical expertise to build today).

One of my favourite stories is *The Menagerie* as I find the Talosians one of the most fascinating peoples in *Trek*. The story does however contain one of the biggest disgraces in *Trek*. It is totally inconceivable that the death penalty should exist in the 23rd century and for visiting a world whose inhabitants are far more intellectually advanced than Humans. The reasons given for this to be the case, that Talos IV is too dangerous a planet to visit or that the Talosians take Humans as prisoners to use (so do the Triskelions and a number of other peoples in *Trek*, yet visiting these planets does not attract the death penalty) just doesn't wash. There are many severely disabled people in Christopher Pike's position who would gladly benefit from Talos, providing the Talosians with the intellectual stimulus and company they seek. It is clearly nonsense to say Talos IV is a planet with no benefits for Humans; similarly the Talosians would be open to negotiations. We have now made peace with the Klingons, so the situation with respect to the Talosians seems all the more ridiculous. As to Human moral disapproval of the Talosians having allowed dreams and illusions to take the place of reality, surely they are just as entitled to have the Prime Directive observed with respect to their world as any other planet. The real reason for General Order 7 was to protect Humans from their own mental weakness (not from the Talosians) in that Humans don't take kindly to the idea of beings who are more intelligent or highly evolved than themselves. Surely it's time for *ST:TNG* to take a fresh and more enlightened look at Talos IV.

The other notorious disgrace in classic *Trek* was *Turnabout Intruder*, a story with no redeeming features. The rule that women can't be Starship Captains rivals General Order 7 in unfairness and craziness. To label Dr. Janice Lester as psychotic because she wants to be a Starship Captain is totally outrageous. It's well to remember that in *The Cage* the role of No. One was originally given to a woman, who was quickly written out as surely as Shelby was written out of *ST:TNG* this year. I remember thinking as a teenager that while the world of *Star Trek* was technically more advanced than us, their moral values came from somewhere in the Victorian era.

A story that sticks in my mind as one of the funniest things I have ever seen is *Spock's Brain*. I defy anyone to sit through this without laughing at the dialogue between Kirk and McCoy. Who Mourns for Adonais is another ridiculously impossible story.

Of the films, my favourites are III (amazingly brilliant storyline) and IV (which is hilariously funny). Then I like II and V (a very hackneyed storyline, which could have been a lot better). *ST:TMP* I did not take to at all (the ending is dreadful, one of the biggest let downs I have even seen).

With *ST:TNG* I seem to have come full circle. I have not seen enough of it yet to make any comments (though I'm totally hooked on what I have seen). When I was 12 I was totally in love with James Kirk. Just to prove that twenty years later I have not changed a bit (and I'm proud of this), today I feel the same about lovely, lovely Will Riker.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD

Across

1. Eminiar, 6. Archons, 10. Karidian, 11. Trelane, 13. Lazarus, 14. Arael, 15. Eden, 18. Leila, 21. Argelian, 23. Miri, 25. Sarek, 26. Pike, 27. Data.

Down

2. Man, 3. Rand, 4. Anton, 5. Vulcans, 7. Chapel, 8. Organia, 9. Mitchell, 10. Keeler, 12. Enterprise, 16. Deneva, 17. Nyota, 19. Edith, 20. Kirk, 22. Ears, 24. Pi.

AN EXTRACT FROM IDIC'S PERSONNEL FILE

Jeff Martin

I'm 29 years old and I've been living in Japan for almost two and a half years now. I was born and raised in Miami, Florida in the US and completed a BA in Latin American History at the University of Georgia. Following graduation I worked for a year and a half in desk top publishing (computer graphics design), and while commuting to that job one morning I heard an announcement on a radio news program that the Japanese Embassy was accepting applications from young college graduates to teach English in Japanese public schools. I got to work that morning, called the embassy for an application, and several months and an interview later I came to Japan.

I live in Himeji, which is a city of approximately half a million people on the Inland Sea coast about 30-40 kilometers southwest of Kobe, or about 60-70 kilometers from Osaka. When I first came here I was disappointed that I hadn't been posted to a big international city like Tokyo or Osaka, but after having lived here for only a few months and having had a chance to visit those cities, I've been grateful ever since to be living in here, away from the crowds, the noise and the pollution of Tokyo and Osaka. The only thing Himeji is known for is the castle, the most well preserved specimen of castle architecture in Japan. Lots of tourists, both Japanese and foreign, come to see the castle, but that's about all there is to Himeji. Not even a bookstore with English books, although we do have a Tower Records (a large American store chain) and several movie theatres that screen foreign movies (the most successful US export industry in Japan is entertainment - US movies, videos, and music are very popular here).

I am employed by the Himeji City Board of Education to work in the public junior high schools, and along with nine other Americans, we rotate amongst the 28 jhs, spending one semester (3-4 months) at each. Not having taught in the US except for a brief stint as an English tutor in a Head Start program (a Federal program to help high school seniors from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods to prepare for university), I wasn't sure that I was going to take to teaching. But I have since grown to really enjoy it, and started in the graduate program in education this past fall at Temple University (Osaka branch of the Philadelphia university). I thus plan to be here teaching for at least another two years (to complete my graduate studies) and then I'm hoping to move on to Europe or somewhere else in Asia. The beauty of teaching English as a foreign language is that it's one of the few teaching professions in which you can work your way around the world.

I first started watching Star Trek when I was about 13 or 14 years old. At that time one of the local stations was broadcasting the reruns Monday-Friday in the afternoons and I used to run home from school every afternoon to catch it. It wasn't much later that I first began attending conventions, though my first love and my reason for attending cons was to build up my comic collection. But I can still remember meeting James Doohan at the very first convention I attended and getting his autograph in my program book, which I hope I still have packed away in a box somewhere in my parents' home in the US.

In some ways I feel much more comfortable reading your zine knowing that many of your members haven't seen that many episodes of TNG. I saw the first 18-or-so episodes of the first season before coming to Japan, and since that time had not seen anything else until I recently found a Trek pen friend in the States who began sending me videos a few months ago.

I would be interested in corresponding with some European fans. Anyone wishing to do so may write to me at the address below. I would be particularly interested in hearing from Trek fans who are teachers, especially any fans out there who might be working in TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages). Also, anyone interested in Japan feel free to contact me. But you

don't have to be a teacher or interested in Japan to write to me as long as you're a Trek fan (original Trek or TNG - I love them both!).

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STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION EPISODE REVIEWS

ANGEL ONE Episode No. 14 Prod No. 115 Written by Patrick Barry
Synopsis by Sheila Clark. US Satellite Uplink Date 23/1/88.
BBC 2 screening 9/1/91.

A Federation freighter, the Odin, has been discovered derelict and the Enterprise has been assigned to search for survivors; an escape pod had got away from the Odin. Its course leads to Angel One, an independent world with a female-dominated society.

A landing party discovers that there are four survivors, but that they are regarded as criminals; and they are in hiding.

The Enterprise's sensors detect a trace of platinum, a metal that does not exist on Angel One. This leads them to the camp of the survivors, who have married and would be quite happy to settle there - except that they have ideas regarding sexual equality that are regarded with a jaundiced eye by the ruling women, led by Mistress Beata.

Beata discovers their hiding place by having one of the women - who has married Ramsay, the leader of the survivors - followed; the survivors' group is arrested and sentenced to death because their ideas are so disruptive. Beata gives the impression of being unhappy about the death sentence, but feels she has no alternative because of what she sees as the danger to her society.

Riker tries to have the group beamed up to the ship, but Crusher has declared a medical emergency; there is a fast-mutating and highly contagious virus loose on the ship, and even the information that Ramsay's group is facing a death sentence does not change her mind.

Riker suggests that Ramsay has acquired a following because there is already a natural trend on Angel One towards equality; and points out that if this group is killed the rebels will become martyrs - and martyrs cannot be silenced. This makes Beata think, and she changes her mind, but banishes the group to a distant and uninhabited part of the planet in an attempt to slow down their influence on Riker's 'natural trend'.

Meanwhile, back on the ship, Crusher has finally come up with an inoculant that is effective on the virus and the landing party is free to return.

Comment:

Sheila Clark: I feel that this episode failed in one or two points. Given a strong matriarchy, with men regarded as ornamental playthings, I think that the costume could have made this more obvious, with the women wearing very matter-of-fact clothes rather than long culottes and very functional hair-dos instead of longish, loose hair, and the men, possibly loose pantaloons of the kind seen in the Arabian Nights (to give them dresses might have been going too far!). They could also have had long hair (wigs work wonders). And why give the job of executioner to one of these 'fragile' males? In a strong patriarchy, where women were kept 'in their place', you might have women servants, possibly even a woman as secretary, but the official executioner was not, never could be, a woman! Then the Odin survivors' camp looked a very permanent place - although the government couldn't find them. I was left feeling the government searchers hadn't looked very hard.

Ann Peters: Although I enjoy much of AO, over all it's a disaster; a potentially good episode is turned into an embarrassment by a particularly dreadful piece of plot development. Ten people are condemned to death - yes, *DEATH* - and Dr. Crusher won't let them escape onto the Enterprise because they might just catch the flu. The whole ship has the flu and no-one has died, so that makes the death rate less than 1 per 1000 - considerably better odds than imminent execution would offer - and Riker doesn't even attempt to over-rule her. If this was the best the writers could do, the whole episode should have been scrapped. Incidentally, where did the flu virus originate? I have read it arose on the holodeck, but the episode itself suggests to me it was picked up by some students on a field trip.

The idea of a species with larger females is very interesting and I enjoyed a lot of the role-reversed dialogue; the men got the moaning lines and the women the put-down lines. Such a presentation could have gone a long way in demonstrating to men how women sometimes feel, but a lot of the impact was spoiled by some rather tedious speeches that just seemed to go on and on. I wonder how these mammals (and they obviously were mammals) evolved larger females. Earth mammals have larger, stronger males when all the male does to pass on his genes is to fight off other males. This exerts a strong selection pressure for big males, but no such pressure for big females. I think a viable theory at least should have been presented for the situation on Angel One. And for a mid 20th century type culture, they had a pretty impressive execution technique!

It was nice to see Riker out of uniform and wearing something 'kinda sexy'. I'd like to have seen Data wearing it too, but he would probably have stolen the show from Riker. Sadly there was no interaction between Data and Tasha during the discussion of aphrodisiacs - a missed opportunity, I feel. I'm rather curious as to why Riker gave Data a slap on returning to the bridge and, judging by his expression, so was Data. If Riker is trying to educate him in Human touching rituals, it wasn't really kept up in other episodes, so it looks decidedly out of place.

In Code of Honor, as well as AO, we see gifts being presented to the planet's leaders, but the practice seems to have been discontinued after this. Cuts in Federation finances, I suppose.

Edward Woo: Angel One has its main story the survivors of the Odin having an impact of a female society. The away team attempts to rescue the crew of the Odin only to find they are fugitives. This story reflects the reverse side of today's society.

Does the away team violate the Prime Directive in preventing the execution of the Odin survivors? I believe it does not as it involves Federation personnel and attempts to bring ideas of equality sooner than it would have occurred naturally.

The disease that infects the Enterprise is believed to have originated from the Holodeck's creation of a skiing area, producing a perfume-like scent. I thought that everything produced in the holodeck would have no existence outside it - for example, The Big Goodbye. It seems however that germs or bacteria could cross that threshold.

Counselor Troi and Lt. Yar should have been more involved in this story, especially on Angel One. If females on the planet had more respect than males, why were they not conducting the negotiations instead of Riker? That's why Picard sent them both!

David Cameron: I think Angel One was the worst episode in TNG's first season - it was so clumsy! It seemed painfully obvious that the disease was only thrown in to keep Riker and co off the ship. The plot was pretty silly as well and was only saved by Riker in that costume - that was funny.

11001001 Episode No. 15 Prod No. 116 Written by Maurice Hurley & Robert Lewin.
Synopsis by Sheila Clark. US Satellite Uplink Date 30/1/88.
BBC 2 screening 16/1/91

The Enterprise is in need of minor computer and holodeck repairs and upgrades; the personnel assigned to do this work are called Bynars - members of a race who have become so dependant on the computers of their home planet that they practically speak in binary. They always work in pairs; when they speak, one starts a sentence and the other finishes it.

Initially two Bynars are assigned to deal with the Enterprise, but because the work has to be done quickly they call in two more.

Riker goes down to the holodeck where he is joined by Picard; he has called up a jazz bar, with a trio playing and a girl called Minuet who, for a holodeck projection, has remarkable awareness.

Meanwhile, on the ship, an engine malfunction which will cause a massive explosion causes Data to order the complete evacuation of the ship. He cannot, however, contact the holodeck.

Once everyone (except Picard and Riker) are on the space station, the malfunction corrects itself - however, the ship has been programmed to leave, and does.

On the holodeck, Picard decides it is time to return to the bridge, and despite all Minuet's attempts to stop him, he opens the doors, to discover the red alert which was not signalled on the holodeck. They realise that for some reason the Bynars have stolen the Enterprise.

They beam themselves onto the bridge, where they find the four Bynars close to death, and the computer memory full. The Bynar home planet is being 'attacked' by a magnetic wave from a nova; this will wipe the memory of their computer. They have therefore used the Enterprise to store this memory - they are so dependant on the computer that without it they would all die.

Asked why they didn't simply ask for help, they reply that there were only two possible answers - yes or no. They did not dare take the chance that the answer would be no.

But back on the holodeck, Minuet - programmed by the Bynars to hold Riker's interest, because they needed him to feed the data back to their computer once the danger was past - has gone.

Comments

Sheila Clark: With this episode we really begin to get into some of the stronger stories of the first season. The Bynar culture is well thought out and cleverly handled.

Ann Peters: This episode comes up with some impressive special effects of the Enterprise docking at a starbase. Sometimes it's hard to believe TNG is just a TV show and not a movie. The plot makes excellent use of the holodeck and Jonathan Frakes playing the trombone adds a nice personal touch to Riker. A few more such touches might help to bring some of the other characters to life. I like the fact that Minuet knew she was a computer generation; there are too many problems with holograms who think they're real.

Geordi really does seem to know his way around engineering. Perhaps he was an engineer all the time and was just putting in a spot of overtime at the helm. If so, making him chief engineer in the second season is a little easier to accept. I do think he should remember his rank, though, and not be quite so pushy when Data, or any other superior officer, is around. Maybe it is showing leadership potential, but I'm not so sure he should get away with it without a reprimand.

It was very nice to see Data really taking charge when he organised the evacuation of the Enterprise. Pity it was the wrong thing to do! But he was quite aware of his error, and I love the way he agonised about it afterwards. His comment that he should not have been painting is one of my favourite lines from the whole of the first season.

Edward Woo: 11001001 is one of my favourite episodes of the first season. The Bynars are an unusual race but impressive with their computer technology. Shades of ST III as the Enterprise enters Starbase 74, including the observation lounge as she docks. For a moment I got confused with Cmdr Quinteros and Capt Picard as they are physically alike. One nice line was by Picard [*Sorry, Edward, it was Riker*] to La Forge and Data that a blind man was teaching a robot how to paint.

Riker's request for a New Orleans Jazz Club and lovely Minuet are superb. It was fortunate that Picard remained aboard the ship with Riker, otherwise the data could not have been downloaded to Bynarus, as the Bynars work in pairs. You'll notice both pairs of Bynars have slightly different uniforms, as Bynar 11's only partner is 00 and not any other.

The self destruct procedure seemed too easy compared to the old Enterprise which required codes.

I thoroughly enjoyed this storyline and I hope to see the Bynars again.

BOOK & VIDEO REVIEWS

A FLAG FULL OF STARS by Brad Ferguson Pocket (54) \$4.95 and Titan (46)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is the second book in the Lost Years saga, following after Dillard's "The Lost Years".

It features Admiral Kirk and his aide, Kevin Riley; a Klingon scientist, G'dath, who is in effect a fugitive from his home planet, living on Earth and teaching high IQ children because he can't get a job as a scientist; one or two of his students; newscaster Nan Davis and her producer, Jenny Hogan; and two Klingons, Keth and Klor, who are spying on G'dath.

G'dath has come up with an invention which he had intended to be a means of getting from a to b more quickly than by using warp drive. What he actually produces is a globe capable of travelling a thousand light years in only a few seconds; and he realises that it could very easily be used as a weapon.

Keth and Klor, both in a situation that they regard as a disgrace for a warrior, believe that by getting G'dath and his globe back home, they will be given their proper positions in Klingon society. The story basically revolves round the interactions of the various characters as G'dath struggles to avoid being taken 'home' while he is also trying to decide what is the best thing to do with his invention.

When this book first arrived, I sat looking at it for two days before I even opened it, such was my doubt about it after The Lost Years, which I thought was pretty poor. In addition, the period between the end of the five year mission and ST-TMP does not loom large in my wish to know 'what happened next'; and as a final disincentive, I'm not a Kirk fan - I'm a Spock fan, and he's not in the book at all. However, once I took the plunge, I was pleasantly surprised and read it, if not in a sitting, at least inside twenty-four hours.

This is basically G'dath's story; most of the other characters are background

to him. I'm not a lover of Klingons (I've nothing against Worf, for example, but I can't say he's in my top five of the regular TNG characters although he's not bottom of the list) but I did like G'dath. He is a well-drawn character, well developed and believable. What I did find hard to believe was a situation where no fewer than three characters had a similar type of emotional situation to resolve; Lori Ciani had gone off, leaving Kirk; Riley's wife had left him and chosen not to renew their contract; and the father of one of the students had walked out on his family.

I did find one distraction throughout; early on in the story G'dath acquires a stray kitten (since everything in a story ought to have a purpose, this must be to show that even although he's a Klingon, his sympathies, feelings, what have you, are Human) even although pets are not allowed where he lives. I worried right through the story about what was going to happen to that animal when Keth and Klor finally caught up with G'dath! 6 out of 10, I think. It's well written but I'm prejudiced; and if my biggest concern was the fate of a kitten, something failed somewhere.

VENDETTA by Peter David Pocket and Titan TNG. Reviewed by Robin Law

This is the second ST:TNG Giant Novel and the third contribution to the TNG world from Peter David.

Everybody hide - the Borg are back!

After the Borg finish doing their ice cream scoop trick to the planet Penzatti the Enterprise is sent to rescue the survivors and discovers that the Borg ship itself has been destroyed. The answer seems to have something to do with the Doomsday machine.

As you all know, quantity does not always mean quality. Here the plot may be a little thin on the ground but sit back and enjoy David's style.

We have snippets of Picard at the Academy, some of Guinan's history and what happened to Dr Pulaski after series two. Supporting cast include the Nanites, the Tholians, the Ferengi, Dr. Selar - didn't she disappear in Eyes of the Beholders? - and Commander Shelby. Lots of TNG episode references as well.

Geordi has a nice part and for once Data is kept as support. Pity that Wesley was missing.

My impression of this is that David sat down and thought of all the things he would like to see in a TNG novel and set them all against a Borg background. The book has its exciting parts, particularly the incident in Ten-Forward, but if it's a Borg story you're after you're going to be disappointed.

STAR TREK COMPENDIUM by Allen Asherman £8.95. Reviewed by Richard Drinkwater

In n/1 15 Kevin Marshall was wanting information on original Trek. Like him I am new to fandom and my main interest lies in the original series. In my opinion, by far the greatest source of information is the Star Trek Compendium.

I had seen it mentioned in passing in TV Zone and the Sheffield Space Centre ads and as I was writing an English essay on Star Trek I thought it would be worth risking the £8.95 on it to see what it was like, and I can honestly say that it's excellent. As well as a complete episode guide to the original series, the animations and the five films, it charts the story of Star Trek from The Cage to Star Trek V with plenty of details from behind the scenes.

DREADSTAR No. 64 - First Publishing
Reviewed by Kathleen Glancy

My local Science Fiction Bookshop is staffed by people carefully trained over many years to tell me about all Trek-related material. Thanks to them I obtained a copy of this comic, which contains an Original Series (going by the uniforms, anyway) parody.

The inside cover helpfully provides a cast list of the regulars. The hero, one Vance Dreadstar, is described as having the power of a demi-god and an equally terrible guilt. I deduce that his adventures are usually more serious in tone than this one. Maybe not, though - one of his companions is a felinoid called Oedi (Oedi-puss, geddit?) The others are Cookie, Oedi's wife (at least she's not called Octo or Platy), Skeevo, a grey-skinned con-man, Willow, a disembodied telepath currently inhabiting the body of a female cyborg called Iron Angel whose own soul has got lost, and Izak, a mercenary with six arms. This motley crew are taking time off from looking for Iron Angel's soul to visit the planet Urth when...

Enter our villains, from the United Franchise of Worlds, which by their own account is a protection racket on a grand scale. They are drawn to clever alien caricatures of the original ST crew - most of them, not too unkindly, though even I consider William Shatner, who is drawn with rather narrow shoulders and an enormous pot belly, has been ill-treated - even more so as the caricature should be of Shatner as he was 25 years, not as he is now. Even now he has not got *that* much embonpoint.

The villains are led by one Tibrus, who has the title Director Five. (Need I remind anyone of Kirk's middle name or expand on the title? No, surely not.) His First Officer, a being with spidery thin limbs and very sharp points on his ears, is called Benjamyn. (The younger readers may not know that the man whose baby books made his name such a household word that our Spock is often erroneously called 'Dr.' by the media had the given name of Benjamin.) Medical Officer Marrow, for the benefit of those who don't know what we have in our bones, is drawn with a little bone as his insignia. Chief Engineer Claymore (for the benefit of English readers, a claymore is a Scottish broadsword), Navigation Officer Anton (for the benefit of non-readers of Russian literature, the writer Chekov was called Anton), Helmsman Hikaru and Communications Officer Nyota (whose names need no explanation) complete the crew. If anyone can figure out why their ship is called the Benedyct perhaps they could explain for *my* benefit.

But what of the story, you ask? There isn't a story, really. Just a fight scene and a *lot* of in-jokes. High points were a guest appearance by Darth Vader's arm ("Nice cape. Should do something about that asthma, though," observes Tibrus.) Tibrus' threat to paralyse Dreadstar with a dazzling burst of oratory prowess, not idle as we have already seen him work five episode titles into two sentences, the use of the Hephestion Nerve Crunch (which looks uncommonly like what we would call a kick in the gookies) and Dr. Marrow's disclaimer of any role as a target in favour of that of a medical practitioner - as Spock would no doubt translate the catchphrase. I also liked Skeevo, who is not a being of many inches, telling Hikaru to stop calling him 'Shorty', and Anton's claim that his people 'inwented cretins'.

Suffice it to say that before the story ends 'some kind of great bird' and Captain Jean-Paul Degaulle get into the act.

Warning. There is a second story in this comic. It's called Young Scuzz, part 3 of 27, and is about Skeevo's youth. In this episode he is on a prison planet with (to name the ones I recognised only) Flash Gordon, Tarzan, a Green Martian as described by Edgar Rice Burroughs, Conan, Winnie the Pooh as drawn by the Disney studio, Richard Nixon and Opus the Penguin. For the sake of your sanity, do not try to track down any of the other episodes of this saga. The one in No. 64 contains enough weirdness to last a lifetime.

STAR TREK EPISODES 63/64 Reviewed by Gloria Fry.

THE EMPATH by Joyce Muskat

Kirk, Spock and McCoy, while investigating the disappearance of Federation personnel who were observing the nova of the Minaran suns, are snatched by aliens called the Vians. They discover a mute young woman - whom McCoy names Gem - and are put through a series of experiments for the Vians to observe Gem's reactions; to assess her and judge if her people are worthy of being saved from destruction.

Gem heals Kirk's injuries by taking them into herself and suffering and overcoming the pain. She is a fully functioning empath. Later, McCoy is fatally injured, Gem attempts to heal him but recoils in fear from the final commitment. The Vians, who are unfeeling in their intellect, are ready to abandon her, but Kirk persuades them otherwise. They relent, cure McCoy and leave with Gem, after deciding that she had learned enough from the three men. Their love of life and compassion had become a natural part of Gem's being.

I fail to understand why the BBC banned this episode. It is a beautiful story about love, friendship and loyalty set as an example to Gem for her to absorb such concepts. Kathryn Hays as Gem was outstanding. Her expressive movements and gestures showed her feelings without the need for speech. Shatner, Nimoy and Kelley were all excellent in their portrayal of their characters and the powerful three-way relationship between them. The Vians were very menacing aliens. Some of the shots were quite sinister, and the make-up was most effective. Also outstanding was the musical score. It added something special to a very moving episode.

This is Star Trek at its most original. Almost like a stage play with the darkened sets and focussed lighting. Without the skill of excellent stage managers, it would not have worked. A magical, evocative drama...

THE THOLIAN WEB by Judy Burns, Chet Harris.

Kirk is trapped on the USS Defiant, a ship drifting in another dimension, all its crew dead. Although Space is breaking up around them and causing an affliction amongst the Enterprise crew, Spock stays behind to rescue his Captain at the next interphase of the two universes. The Tholians - an alien race - disturb the fabric of space when they come to accuse the Enterprise of trespass, but allow them to attempt the rescue.

Once the interphase has passed and Kirk is not rescued, the Tholians weave an energy web around the Enterprise in an attempt to entrap and destroy her.

Spock declares Kirk dead, then reluctantly reviews Kirk's last orders with McCoy. Kirk, who has correctly surmised the conflict between them, asks then to help one another. Both men feel ashamed at their behaviour.

Kirk, however, is still alive and after several crew members see images of him, Spock is able to rescue him at the next interphase, return him to the ship and flee the Tholian web. Neither Spock nor McCoy will admit to the bemused Kirk that they had time to view his last orders.

An episode full of action and suspense. We see what an able Starship Captain Spock would make, with his determined and decisive orders. The relationship between Spock and McCoy bristles with tension, both actors sparking one another with the dialogue and situations. Nimoy's subtle looks showing Spock's worry over Kirk are very effective. The last orders scene between Spock and McCoy is possibly one of the best moments in all of Star Trek.

All the ingredients are in this one - a clever mix of emotion, action and of course the SF element which is so important in ST.

An interesting video, with two completely different types of episode, but both pure and top quality Star Trek. Two of the best from the third season, equal in my opinion to any in the first and second seasons.

ZINE REVIEWS

IN PERSPECTIVE by Kay Stagg. Reviewed by Jean Sloan.

The story is set just after events detailed in The Paradise Syndrome. Still depressed by Miramane's death, Kirk is faced with a series of crises aboard the Enterprise: problems start with a missing freighter carrying essential supplies for the ship, and culminate in Spock's capture by Orion pirates. Throw in toxic waste on a colony planet and time travel, and you have a story that is full of twists and turns to keep the reader guessing. The Kirk/Spock relationship is explored; what is established about the pair is true to the development in the relationship that we see from the aired episodes up to and including The Paradise Syndrome.

What I like about Kay's stories, apart from her handling of the Kirk/Spock relationship, is that she populates her work with characters other than the Enterprise 'regulars', who are believable and who exist in their own right: for instance Andrea Tallon, temporarily assigned to the Enterprise, who *dislikes* Kirk; and the Ull twins; and Dr. Timothy Thornton who is prejudiced against aliens... These characters make the Enterprise's universe real and solid, as does Kay's reference to people and incidents from the aired series.

I loved In Perspective and can recommend it as a good read. Last year sometime I said in a review that Too Many Avenues (also by Kay Stagg) was my favourite zine; I often reread it (that Kirk/Spock reunion scene -- gets you right *there*; and the humour of the prison episode...) Well I liked In Perspective just as much.

IN PERSPECTIVE: 177 pages. £4.70. Available from Kay Stagg 33 Barrack Rd, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 6RU.

LONESTAR TREK 3 Edited by Laurie Haynes and Janet Meek, March 1991.
Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini.

This is mainly a Classic Trek genzine, containing 3 longer and 3 very short stories.

A Light in the Darkness, by Deborah Cummins, has Kirk and Spock trapped by a forest fire. Their commitment and caring brings hope to an embittered recluse, but McCoy can only wait helplessly for news of their fate.

Freeze and Thaw by Laurie D. Haynes has the unusual combination of Kirk and Sarek on a diplomatic mission to the Kzinti when an explosion traps them with the planet's ruler and his pregnant wife. Both Sarek and the Kzinti learn something from the experience.

The Web has the Enterprise trapped by an alien vessel, along with Starships from many races, some previously unknown. Kirk, Spock and McCoy are taken to the alien vessel for examination; there they meet 'specimens' from the other trapped ships, including Klingons, and others whose very sentence is in doubt. It requires co-operation by beings who can barely communicate to win free. I especially enjoyed the portrayal of the Zaran, and Kirk's reaction to such an unusual life form.

These are the Classic Trek stories, and contain the hurt/comfort elements in varying degrees. They are what I would rate as the best type of Trek story - and

the relationship is just what Janet would enjoy. The zine is worth buying for these alone.

The Button by Jan Meek, is the first of the very short TNG stories, and has Wesley discovering the reason for an apparently useless button in the rec room. Given the explanation, I would have expected it to have a more prominent position on the ship, but it's a nice idea.

Bitter Words by CarolMel Ambassador has Riker comforting Deanna Troi after Ral's departure, and casts light on their past and present relationship.

The Sentinel by Jan Meek is a two-page vignette dealing with the author's own characters set on another ship in Starfleet.

The zine has an excellent Kirk/Spock/McCoy cover by Chris Soto, and internal illos by Brett Barham. It is well produced, with good clear printing and an attractive layout.

Basically I tend to prefer not to mix Classic Trek and TNG in the same zine, but here the TNG stories only take up 13 pages out of 199, so unless you dislike all mention of TNG, I don't think it harms the value. I would certainly recommend this zine to Classic Trek fans who enjoy good relationship and interesting characters.

\$25 OS airmail, \$18 USA, \$19 Canada. Laurie Haynes, P.O. Box 189, DeRidder, LA 70634, USA

ERADANI 9 (86 pages) Published by Orion Press: US \$9.25, Europe \$12.75, Asia \$13.75, available from Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Drive, Albany, Georgia 31707, U.S.A. Reviewed by Jeff Martin.

From the steamy foreplay of Data and Troi in the opening story to the blunders and highjinks in the concluding story, Eridani 9 is a very pleasurable read.

I wasn't expecting much in a romantic encounter between Data and Troi, but Cyndi Bayless Overstreet's To Care For Someone (12 pgs) was a delight. This is a short post-Tin Man story that picks up on the final scene in which we see Data and Troi staring out the observation deck windows at the organic ship known as Tin Man. For those who don't recall, Data discovers that finding a place where one belongs and cares for others is an important fact of being Human. The remarkable accomplishment of this story is that after 3 years together without any hint at intimacy between Data and Troi, Ms. Overstreet has established credible motivations for their romantic encounter.

Since I haven't seen Captain's Holiday, the episode upon which it is based, I don't feel I can comment adequately on Dessert (3 pgs). But from what I've read of Chris Dickenson's work I expect to enjoy it once I can read it in the light of the events which precede it.

Denise Hay's, Exactly What Happened (5pgs) was the least pleasing of this issue's offerings, largely because I don't subscribe to the view that Data's attempted killing of Fajo was a preventative execution. The story takes place after the events in The Most Toys. During a debriefing of the command crew about the events which took place on Fajo's ship, Data admits to pulling the trigger and tries to justify his actions. A particularly annoying aspect of the story is Geordi's melodramatic attempt to get Data to speak about the event.

A Little More Time (8 pgs), by Janna Stockinger, is a nice look at Data and his remorse at not having childhood memories. Following the events depicted in Where No One Has Gone Before, Data spends some time in the holodeck wondering why he was not affected by the space/time at the end of the universe that caused so many of his crewmates to experience things from their past. Bringing back Picard's mother to

console him is a nice touch on the author's part, though the means are a bit contrived: there just happens to be a bubble or pocket of the space/time encountered at the end of the universe left floating around the holodeck? Sure.

I wasn't expecting much from *The Book* (35 pgs) since I found Jo-Ann Lassiter's *More Than Friends* in Eridani 10 such a disappointment. The latter had such a ponderous tone, was weak in plot, and was not that well written, all faults which I had no complaints with in *The Book*. The story's title refers to a gift the Enterprise crew wants to give Picard for the third anniversary of the launching of the Enterprise's five year mission. The problem is the Captain already owns the book; it's an original edition that Geordi wants to repair. Before he can do that however the crew has to arrange to "steal" it from the Captain's quarters.

The story is a delightful romp that had me laughing out loud at times, the writing style is economical and the plot and characters are well developed. She also makes the direct reportage of her characters' thoughts work in this story, since she uses them sparingly and when the information is relevant, which is exactly what I thought she failed to do with the convention in *More Than Friends*.

WITH HOOPS OF STEEL by Meg Wright Reviewed by Jenny Turner

This zine starts with McCoy shouting at Kirk because he is leaving the Enterprise. Spock has also left to go to Vulcan to take the Kolinahr. McCoy tells him he will regret it, but Kirk will not listen. "One day," he tells Kirk, "you'll understand what you have lost."

McCoy leaves and Kirk goes to Earth to a desk job, also entering into a contract with Lori. Some time later at their home Kirk is pacing up and down as he finds out from McCoy that Spock has had an accident on Vulcan and they are not sure he will live.

Lori is furious, as they are moulding him into what they (Starfleet, that is) want him to be. Later Kirk finds out that Spock is going to be okay.

Two years later he has the chance to go back to the Enterprise. Spock also returns; Kirk needed him so he came. Kirk was overjoyed when Spock told Scotty, "My task on Vulcan is completed." After talking for a long time and saying that the danger was in front of them now, not behind then, they decide on a bond link. They need help achieve the link, and they meet a Vulcan girl called T'Yana who agrees to help them, but when she does Kirk cannot break through to Spock for the bonding as he's frightened he'll hurt Spock. Things go wrong and there is an earthquake, and Spock goes missing in a shuttle; if Kirk cannot find him he will die...

This is an excellent zine, one I can read over and over again. This is out of print (it was printed by ScotPress in 1981) but well worth searching for.

[Ed - The Small Printers have reprinted *With Hoops of Steel*, £4.25 inc P&P - contact L R Muir, 1 Moor Park Ave, Leeds LS6 4BT]

TO CATCH A BUTTERFLY by Shirley Buck - Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

This is a series-based novel set after *Journey to Babel*.

The Enterprise is ordered to Mercia, a former colony planet, which reports problems due to an alteration in its climate. Upon arrival Kirk is told by the Governor-General that they only require assistance for a few months; there are food shortages, but the situation is not serious. However, survey scans reveal a critical situation with food and water shortages becoming serious. Refugee camps have been set up, and in one of these, designed for the Hill People, conditions are desperate. The full resources of the Enterprise are needed to tend even a small

proportion of the people, and further aid from the Federation will come too late for many. The presence of the Enterprise crew is vital to the resolution of the situation.

Interwoven with the main theme of the novella are several sub-plots: the story of the child Zahira, one of the Hill People; Kirk's relationship with Serena, a doctor working with the refugees; Spock's decision to resign from Starfleet and return to Vulcan; the source of mysterious energy pulses noted on the planet.

This zine was a pleasure to read. It is literate, grammatical, and displays an excellent command of language. It is also a compelling story, well told, that arouses and sustains the reader's interest. The writer handles her theme with realism; she has captured the misery and despair of a dying people with compassion. I found her use of description to be well developed; her account of the burial ground was horrifying, yet did not descend to sensationalism. The character Zahira is beautifully imagined, touching without sentimentality.

I was also pleased to note that the author did not fall into the trap of portraying the arrival of the Enterprise as an instant cure for all ills; the resources of a Starship may be immense, but they are still limited, and on the scale of Mercia were soon exhausted, thus throwing an even greater burden on the crew. I might add, too, that I was impressed with the treatment of McCoy, a character too often neglected or reduced to insignificance.

I did find some weaknesses in the story. The obligatory romance between Kirk and Serena struck a jarring note, particularly in the speed of its development. This is, however, a common problem with writers, professional and fan, who seem to find it difficult to create a female character without throwing her into the arms of one of the Enterprise crew.

My second quibble is also over a situation which I find all too often. Why is it generally assumed that Sarek, having married a Human, should be illogical enough to demand that his son be fully Vulcan? The man is intelligent, for heaven's sake - he's going to *know* that Human characteristics will inevitably appear. I believe it is possible to depict that father/son conflict without weakening the character of Sarek into someone who denies the consequences of his own actions.

In fairness I must say that these two points, which I consider weaknesses in the plot, are purely subjective; they will not bother every reader. Even with them, I thoroughly recommend this zine as one of the best I have read. I do not think you will regret buying it.

To Catch a Butterfly: 135 pages, £4.50 incl p&p. Order from Shirley Buck, 158 Westway, Raynes Park, London SW20 9LS.

NEW ZINES

Check Zine Ads for ordering details.

ScotPress/IDIC

IDIC LOG 6 - Uhura goes on a training course; the Orions have attacked the nocturnal Dihcro; an alternate universe story where the Federation makes contact with Vulcan; and others. 100 pages, U.K. £3.85

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 85 The Enterprise is lost during a Command test - but Kirk refuses to accept it; even Vulcans write home; the planet Vulcan disappears, with horrifying consequences; the bridge crew finds that Spock can call their bluff; Romulan blood is the problem - and the cure. 101 pages, U.K. £3.85

MAKE IT SO 5 - the crew meets some old friends... who just happen to be dead; is Wesley Picard's son? Well... maybe; and others. 96 pages, U.K. £3.85

ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin. Captured from Norway in 1942, Wiseman manages to escape and returns to Scotland in 1939, still determined that Hitler should win World War II. £3.10.

A GIFT BEYOND PRICE by Gloria Fry. Kirk has just taken command of the Enterprise; he has asked for Gary Mitchell as his First Officer, but Starfleet promotes Spock to the position. Mitchell resents being passed over, and Kirk has to cope with him, establish his position on the ship, and get to know his Vulcan First Officer. £3.00.

LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey. Because of the tribbles incident, the Enterprise is in quarantine for thirty days. To take up the time, she is assigned to take a group of diplomats to Pilar Majoris - a world that everyone wants to visit. But the trip isn't as simple as it ought to be... 96 pages, £3.35.

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CONTINUUM IV A TNG short story Genzine. 1701 A-D, 37 Branksome, Southend on Sea. Essex SS2 4HG.

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Price £3.30 for BSFR members, £3.90 for non members. Please add 60p p&p for Britain. Dave Uppington, BSFR Zines, 10 Wedgwood Close, Fortfield Green, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9YE.

STAR VOYAGES 1 BSFR Short Story Zine. Issue 1 contains five short stories set in the universe of 'Classic' Trek. The writers are; Glyn & Lynda Probert, Oriei Cooper, Rod Summers, John A Mariani & Steve Farthing.

Price £3.50 for BSFR members, £4.00 for non members. Please add 60p p&p for Britain. Dave Uppington, BSFR Zines, 10 Wedgwood Close, Fortfield Green, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9YE.

ZINE ADS

You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. While we will try and print them in full we reserve the right to edit for length if necessary. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update.

IDIC/Scotpress

IDIC LOG 6 - short stories by various writers. Uhura goes on a training course; the Orions have attacked the nocturnal Dihcro; an alternate universe story where the Federation makes contact with Vulcan; and others. U.K. £3.85; U.S.A \$15.75 air, \$11.75 surface; Europe £4.85; Australia £7.25.

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CAPRICCIO ITALIEN by Sue Jones. The Enterprise picks up a Priority 1 call from Leonardo's Planet, but when the ship arrives there, everyone denies having sent it. Things however are not as peaceful as they seem. The Governor is an old friend of Kirk's; but does his Klingon aide, who claims to be a Leonardan, know more than he is telling? U.K. £3.85; U.S.A \$15.75 air, \$11.75 surface; Europe £4.85; Australia £7.25.

CITY WITHOUT WALLS by Alinda Alain. A sequel to One Among You. Although he has already been defeated, Mitchell's jealousy of Kirk and Spock forces him to keep on trying to destroy them. UK £2.90; USA \$13.00 air, \$9.50 surface; Europe £3.90; Australia £6.90.

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ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion Van der Voort. The adventures of Captain Bill Sava, First Officer Radin and Dr. Teddy Bhaer of the Aquarius. THIS IS NOT STAR TREK but there are many resemblances. On embarkation leave, Bill and Radin get to know each other; and we learn something about the Empire in which this series is set. Due June, not yet priced.

Many other titles available, SAE for list. Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. USA - we have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America and Canada.

We are soliciting submissions for IDIC and Scotpress zines - stories, poems, artwork - of both original Trek and TNG material, either short stories for IDIC LOG, ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES or MAKE IT SO, or long ones suitable for printing on their own. No stories about death of main characters (except Yar!) or explicit sex; stories should include at least one character who has appeared in aired Trek. These are, after all, the voyages of the Starship Enterprise... (in either incarnation). Send submissions to Scotpress, Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland, or Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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TREINDEX - the ultimate guide to Star Trek fanzines. Supplement 6 Vol 1, author/title/subject listing of 400 Trek fanzines (classic and TNG). Looking for the Kirk/Uhura story? Spock as a Mouseketeer? Even a Wesley love story? Treindex will tell you where to find it! \$15.50 + postage (2 lbs) All back supplements are available. Supplement 6 Vol 2, Poet/artist listings for zines indexed in Vol 1. Want to find every poem by Robin Hood? Every piece of art by Robert Jan? This is where you'll find it! \$9.25 **DATA ENTRIES** 1 - 11 - the Brent Spiner/Data newsletter. 1 - 4. \$1 each, 5 - 11, \$1.50 each, postage on each 1/8 lb. Order from Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, Suite 50, 920 Trowbridge Rd No. 2, East Lansing, MI 48823, USA. All prices in US dollars. Many other titles, both Trek and other media, available. Janet Ellicott (see below) is acting as Bill's agent in Britain - SAE her for British prices.

WHO WAS THAT MASKED MAN? Biographical info and credits listings. No. 1 - **STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION**. £1 within Europe, £2 elsewhere. No. 2 - **ORIGINAL TREK** £2 within Europe, £3 elsewhere. Many other zines also available, including some from Bill Hupe and from Australia. Send large SAE for list. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

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Merry Men Press

FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required. **FIRST TIME** is always on time. All inquiries and orders are promptly filled, no-one's left to hang on the line. SAE (addressed envelope and 2 IRCs) for more info. **FIRST TIME** 1 - 28 available.
WITHIN THE MIRROR - an all mirror-related K/S zine. Full of first time stories, and on time. Within the Mirror I is nominated for several awards. Within the Mirror II - V are also currently in print. **BESIDE MYSELF** 1 & 2 - well-illustrated K/S zines exclusively written by Robin Hood and her assorted pen names. **FETISH** - a K/S novel by Jenny Starr. Winner of 1988 Best Novel. **PORTRAITS** - A K/S novel by Charlotte Frost. **SCATTERED STARS** 1 & 2 - an alternate universe K/S fanzine. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA [Ed - Better SAE before sending money - US postage went up earlier this year but we haven't had an update changing prices yet from Merry Men Press.]

DUET (K/S zine) is now being put out by Carole Weatherill and Janice MacDonald. If ordering Duet K/S material an age statement is required. Anyone wishing to submit stories (long or short) please submit to both Carole Weatherill and Janice MacDonald. Apologies to all readers for the long delay in putting out zines. Orders to Janice MacDonald. Prices as follows: U.K. £5.00, USA \$20.00, Europe £6.00, others £9.00. 2 IRCs and an SAE should be included for foreign enquiries. Carole Weatherill, 8 St. Margarets Grove, Twickenham, Middx. TW1 1JG
 Janice MacDonald, 10 Lorne Gardens, Laurieston, Falkirk, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

UNIVERSER & UNIVERSER 2 - Star Trek poetry and prose. Price each: UK £2.00, Europe £3.00, Aust/Japan £3.50, USA \$5.00, including postage. Also available - zines containing stories about other characters played by Leonard Nimoy. Copyright Tsaela Press. All available from Linda C Wood, 186 Copland Road, Glasgow G51 2UN, Scotland.

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Kathleen Resch

K/S zines - age statement required

T'HY'LA 9 - new. Stories by Eva Stuart, Vivian Gates, Greta Foulard, Natasha Barry, Susan Douglass; art by Chris Soto, Deeb Cairns, Lori Lee and others; colour cover by Gayle Feyrer. T'HY'LA 1, 3-5, 7-9 (short stories) \$24.00 each, air, \$20.00 each surface; No. 2, novel 'The Things I Cannot Change' \$24.00 air, \$20.00 surface; No. 6, \$18.00 air, \$15.00 surface. No. 10 is open for submissions;
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 Kathleen Resch, PO Box 1766, Temple City, CA 91780, USA. [Ed: Send an SAE for info on increased prices due to U.S. postal rise.]

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HOOPS OF STEEL by Meg Wright. (Reprint) £4.25 inclusive of p&p.
 Star Trek and Professionals zines, new and reprinted. SAE for prices and availability to L R Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT.

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A LEGEND BEGINS by Barbara Alleyn. A biography of the early life of James T. Kirk. 200+ pages. Printed on A5 with card covers and spiral bound. Price £5.30 inc postage US price \$14.00 inc postage. Cheques should be made payable to Barbara E. Ellams. Hiatus Press, Flat 2, 32 St Mary's Road, London SE15 2DW

THE PARTING OF THE WAYS by Sue Embury. How was it that Kirk, Spock and McCoy were

leading such separate lives at the start of TMP? What persuaded Kirk to give up his ship, and Spock to join the Kohlinahr discipline? Price U.K. £3.95 Overseas rates on request. For each copy sold 50P will be donated to the IDIC guide dog fund. Order from Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL

LONE STAR TREK (hurt-comfort/action-adventure). No. 1 \$20 OS Airmail, No.2 \$25 OS Airmail, No.3 (available March 1991), classic Trek and TNG stories. Kirk and Sarek evaluate Kzinti readiness to join the Federation; an alien energy web traps ships from all over the galaxy; Troi confronts Riker about their previous relationship; and others. \$25 OS airmail, \$18 USA, \$19 Canada. LoneStar Trek, c/o Laurie Haynes/Jan Meek, P.O. Box 189, DeRidder, LA 70634, USA.

TO CATCH A BUTTERFLY by Shirley Buck. A full length Classic Trek adventure story. The Enterprise is sent to help a planet stricken by famine to find that not even the resources of the starship are enough to cope with the catastrophe. This was originally published several years ago; it is a limited run and will not be reprinted. Price £4.50 UK; £5.85; £5.65 Europe (special printed rate) USA; £7.65 Australia. All prices include postage and packing. Only sterling payment accepted. Write to: Shirley Buck, 158 Westway, Raynes Park, London SW20 9LS.

T-Z-S Ent Inc.

Submissions (& artwork) are sought for a new American-style K/S zine for publication this December (or sooner!). Classic Trek/TNG but anything considered as long as it's raunchy, interesting or amusing. Please send SAE for info to

T-Z-S Ent Inc., 124 Rosslyn St., Aigburth, Liverpool, Merseyside L17 7DP

STAGE STRUCK - an occasional series of interviews with actors. No. 2, Beauty, Royalty and Genius - a rare interview with Derek Jacobi. A 28-page insight into one of Britain's leading actors, containing 11 pages of photographs from his stage and television work, including I, Claudius, Breaking the Code, Hamlet, and his latest stage success, Kean. Send £2.50 plus 40p p&p (Europe 70p, elsewhere £1.50) for each copy required. Foreign orders must be in British currency. Make cheques payable to P.M. Clarke. Order from Ms. Y. Parkin, 44 Wimslow Close, Redesdal Park, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear NE28 8TB, England. Sold in aid of the British Diabetic Association.

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

CONSTITUTION 5th - 7th July '91 at The Tollgate Motel, Watling Street, Gravesend. (Please note change of hotel.) Organised by the Intrepid Star Trek fan club to commemorate Star Trek's 25th anniversary. Attractions include Friday Night party, Saturday Night Disco, Star Trek books, magazines and other merchandise for sale, a chance to see episodes from the series, the films and from Star Trek: the Next Generation, as well as other Science Fiction and Fantasy Films. Registration for the entire weekend will be £12.00 Adults (£8 children 5 -16 and OAPs); one day registrations will be £9.00 Adults (£5 Children and OAPs), under 5's Free. Overnight Accommodation is also available. Write for further details to: Colin & Mandie Taylor, 5 Seymour Walk, off Betsham Road, Swanscombe, Kent DA10 0NF.

Note: Constitution will have a Charity White Horta Stall, all proceeds being donated to the Ellenor Foundation, the Convention Charity. They are appealing for donations of any Trek-related items that can be used on the stall. All donations will be gratefully received and should be sent to Constitution, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1ST.

SILVERCON '91 13-15 July 1991. Central Hotel, Glasgow.

Guests: John de Lancie, Richard Arnold & Marnie Mosiman - Marnie was the female chorus member in the TNG episode Loud as a Whisper and also happens to be John de Lancie's wife. All subject to the usual professional commitments.

This will be a non-stop convention, with round the clock fun and entertainment including video rooms, art & sales room, a role playing games room, disco, ceilidh (for Sassenachs, that's a Scottish knees-up!), competitions and games. Further guests to be announced in due course.

Room Rates: £28.00 per person in twin/double, single room plus £10.00 supplement. Rate includes VAT, Service and Breakfast.

Registration: £25.00. Children under 5 free, 5-14 years half price.

Please send SAE to: SILVERCON '91, c/o Losley Atkinson, 2/2,5 Regent Moray Street, Glasgow G3 8AJ.

NE'A'DRIAR IV One day Star Trek Convention + on Saturday night a murder banquet (space limited, ticket only). Date: Night 27th July 1991 & Day 28th July 1991.

Venue: Shepperton Moat House, Shepperton, Middx.

Registration: Saturday & Sunday £8, Sunday only March-June £9.00, - July 13th £9.50, on the door £10. For details and registration form please send SAE to: Mrs Clair Saunders, 12 Saville Crescent, Ashford, Middx TW15 1SX.

CONDUIT The 32nd British Star Trek Convention 23rd - 26th August 1991.

Sasha's Hotel, Manchester.

Full Registration £25 (£30 on the door), Fri/Sat £15 Sun/Mon £15 (£20 on the door). Room Rates: £24 PPPN in Twin/Double rooms, £32 PPPN in single rooms inclusive of breakfast and VAT.

Guest talks, video programmes, Dealers' Room, Games Room, Zine Library, Art Show, Fancy Dress, disco, theme party.

SAE to Tina Hewett, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1ST.

WARP THREE CONVENTION Nuernberg, Germany. August 23rd to 25th, 1991. James Doohan will come to Germany!! Don't miss an "out of this world" weekend and celebrate 25 years of Star Trek together with Jim. Join us for our "old fashioned Star Trek Con". For more information please contact: Warp Three Convention, c/o Linda Junggunst, Maxfeldstr. 26, 8500 Nuernberg 10, Germany.

MIDCON '91 Holiday Inn, Leicester. 4th - 6th October, 1991. Registration: £22.50 per person until June 30th. £30 per person from 1st July. Accompanied Children: under 3 years FREE, under 14 years HALF PRICE. Hotel Room Rates: Single Room £40 per night, Double/Twin £55 per night, Triple Room £74.50 per night. Midcon '91, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

HOLODECK NEW YEAR'S EVE 31st December 1991, Angel Hotel, Northampton. Latest videos in the afternoon, a full buffet in the evening with party games and entertainment from Ronnie Carroll's Joker disco. Ticket price of £35 includes all the above plus your hotel room for the night of the 31st and full English breakfast. Tickets payable by instalments. Extra nights b&b £18. HOLODECK NEW YEAR'S EVE, P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG.

WE 3 ARE KLINGONS! 6-8 March 1992, Angel Hotel, Northampton. A Klingon weekend. Following on from We Are Klingons! and We Are Klingons, Too!, a change of venue brings the representatives of the glorious Empire to Northampton. Qapla! Registration £12, room rates to be advised, but will be around £22 b&b. Tara Dyson, Dept. of Chemistry, University College, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0AJ.

SOL III '92. The 33rd British Star Trek Convention 1st - 4th May, 1992. Venue: The Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Full Registration: £25.00. (Further details on request). Room rates: £25.00 per person per night, inclusive of VAT and full English breakfast, and irrespective of type of room. Guest speakers (to be announced); theme parties; disco; fancy dress; auctions; competitions; video programmes beginning at noon on Friday. Our charity is the Royal National Institute for the Deaf. For further information and an application form, please write to SOL III '92, c/o Heather Hillsden, 148 Reede Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8DX, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

REC-CON: The 34th British Star Trek Convention. 28th - 31st August, 1992. Guests to be confirmed. To be held at the Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester. Registration until 6/5/1991 £23.00, after 6/5/1991 until 4/8/1992 £25.00. Room rates £28 per person per night in Twin/Double rooms. £40.00 per person per night in single room. Contact: Tina Hewett, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1ST.

IFT CONVENTION '92 9th-12th October 1992. Holiday Inn Leicester. Guests to be confirmed. Convention Charity to be chosen. PROGRAMME Video (Original/Next Generation), Art/Model Display, Dealers' Room (Professional/Clubs), Competitions (Art/Fiction/Poetry/Fancy Dress), Disco, Theme Party, A KLINGON HUNT???? Further details send an SASE to; IFT CON '92, Fiona Barrowclough, 129 Westfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3HN.

NON STAR TREK EVENTS

MASQUERADES '91: 1st Major British Beauty and the Beast Convention. 23-26 August 1991, at The Grand Hotel, Birmingham. Registration £25. Room rates: £22 per person per night in twin/double, £26 per night single. Dealers tables, video rooms, competitions, disco, fancy dress, masked ball etc. Confirmed Guests: Armin Shimerman (Pascal - also played numerous Ferengi in ST:TNG) and Ritch Brinkley (William). Roy Dotrice hopes to confirm at the last minute. For full details send SASE to: Jacqui Clarke, Helpers Network UK, 12 Jessop Close, Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8LJ.

THE ELEVENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 1st - 3rd, 1991, at the Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain.
Registration fee: £14.00. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

ARMADACON 3 Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention. 9th/10th November 1991
Astor Hotel, Elliot Street, The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon.
Guest to include Terry Pratchett, Ed Bishop*, Michael Keating*, Adrian Cole and Brian Lumley. (* subject to work commitments).
Registration: To 30th June £18.00, from 1st July 1991 £20.00.
For more details write to ArmadaCon 3, c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL. Tel: (0752) 267873.

FRIENDSHIP COLUMN

Friendship adverts will be printed in two consecutive newsletters.

Hi. I'm very hard up - having only my sickness benefit to live on, and read with some frustration the details of all the wonderful sounding zines available. Is anyone out there prepared to lend me their copies of zines? I would look after them and return them promptly. I could also pay for postage. I'm interested in all zines but particularly adult/K/S. Ellen Foley, 14 Marram Close, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5PJ.

Hi! I'm a fan of Trek in all its forms. Also SF/Fantasy in general and American Comics. Many other interests. Have recently discovered K/S/ Want to write? Ellen Foley, 14 Marram Close, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5PJ.

I am 41 years old, single, and a foreign language teacher in a German grammar school. I've returned to active Trek fandom after a two-year absence; I like both TNG and Classic Trek, my favourite characters being Worf, Wesley, T'Poling, Saavik, Stonn. My other interests include sciences such as evolution, palaeontology, plate tectonics, ecology, then also writing letters, reading, watching birds. I appreciate humour in the style of Gary Larson or Terry Pratchett (thanks, Karen Broadribb!) and would enjoy hearing from fans who like to write regularly. Charlotte Davis, Postfach 1352, W-6270 Idstein, Germany.

Hi! My name's Edwin Yau, but call me Eddie. I would like to get in contact with fellow Trekkers from anywhere on the world. Any age and sex - male/female/android/non-organic etc. - all are welcome! I enjoy all SF/fantasy, writing, going to the movies, Formula 1, computers, most types of music except for heavy metal and Bros., and I love cheesecake! To find out more, please write to: Edwin Yau, 16 Hogarth Road, Hove, East Sussex BN3 3RG.

My name is John and I would like a penpal who's interested in ST, old and new. I'm 26 years old and my hobbies include art, creative writing, and video. (I once played Spock in a Trek take-off at college.) So if you're interested get writing to: John F. Byrne, 1 Castle Brae, Newport-on-Tay, Fife, DD6 8HW.

Are there any local Star Trek groups in the Portsmouth area I can get in touch with? If not I would like to meet up with people, male or female, with the same interest in Star Trek as me with a possibility of going to some conventions. Any enquiries: John Marshall, 62 Horsea Road, Hilsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO2 9SR or phone 0705 660172 from 5pm to 6.30 pm or 0705 693524 from 7pm to 10pm. If you phone the latter number ask for John working in the Youth Club.

Penfriends wanted: I would like to hear from Brent Spiner/Data fans anywhere in the world. I will reply to all letters. Donna Macey, Flat 2, c/o J Woods Antiques, 47B Upper Tything, Barbourne, Worcester WR1 1JZ.

My name is Julia Foster and I am 30 years old, married, but have been a fan of Star Trek since it first came out. My favourite characters are Kirk, McCoy and Spock,

therefore I would be willing to write to anyone with the same interests. Julia Foster, 6 Sycamore Court, Tringham Close, Ottershaw, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0NB.

Wanted: penfriend in Britain or Europe who is like myself a big Scotty fanatic. I love reading, art, animals and music. Richard Fuller, 141 Clonmacnoise Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Eire.

Elena Bond (Rikerphile) would like to hear from anyone who similarly adores Riker/Jonathan Frakes, especially if you live in the London area. One of my special interests is writing TNG stories for zines. I have been a Star Trek fan for over twenty years and am also a great Kirk fan. Why not join with me and we could start a Riker Appreciation Society in this country. Anyone interested please contact Elena Bond, 65 Nutbourne Street, London W10 4HW.

I am 37 year old, mum to 2 teenage girls (both Trek mad also). I'm a great TNG fan, favourite character Picard, but I also like Riker, Data, 'Q', etc. My other hobbies include X-stitch embroidery, gardening, stamps, TV, reading and the absurdities of life in general! I'd love to hear from any female fans who'd care to write, who don't object to ramby letters! Mrs Cath Russell, Autumn, 4 Oakland Park, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 2BZ.

Help! I am desperately seeking anyone I can write to who can lend me copies of 2nd, 3rd and 4th season TNG episodes. Matthew Spires, The Eyrie, Houndscroft Lane, Amberley, Stroud, Glos. GL5 5DG.

Gloria Fry would like to make contact with others in her age group, late 30's early 40's, in the Glasgow area, preferably original Trek fans - for conventions, outings etc. Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, Glasgow G41 3XG.

Carole Weatherill would like to hear from anyone over 40 who loves Kirk and K/S. Carole Weatherill, 8 St Margarets Grove, Twickenham, Middx TW1 1JG.

SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts will be printed in one newsletters only.

Please remember it is illegal to offer videos for sale, except for official copies - although there is no law against asking. It is also in breach of copyright to advertise photocopies of zines, and unfair to request them, without the permission of the editor. Adverts will therefore be edited if necessary.

FOR SALE: The Fate of the Phoenix by Marshak and Culbreath - brand new - £5. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

FOR SALE - 10 mint condition VHS BBC Dr. Who videos - £70 for all ten, may split; also 3 New Avengers videos, £20. Also 4 Star Trek and several horror videos on Betamax - best offer secures. Contact Mr. Scott Carrick, Craigview, Craigton, North Kessock, Inverness IV1 1YG, Scotland, tel. 0463-73-584 evenings.

FOR SALE - one black, one white T-shirt size M, STNG, bought in USA; £8 each inc P&P. Also some science fiction books for sale. Send SAE for list. Maggy, 22 Purefoy Rd, Cheylesmore, Coventry CV3 5GL.

FOR SALE: Original ST series videos - Mudd's Women & Enemy Within, Man Trap & Naked Time, Doomsday Machine & Wolf In The Fold, Bread & Circuses & Journey To Babel, Mirror, Mirror & Deadly Years, Ultimate Computer & Omega Glory. £5 each cassette. I will also consider swops for anything, especially TNG 3rd/4th season episodes or Red Dwarf! Phone Edwin on Brighton (0273) 734860.

FOR SALE: Zines - both gen and K/S, books and a few other ST related items. SAE please to Miss Jill Walker, Dumbelly Barn, Orlingbury Road, Isham, Nr. kettering NN15 1HW.

FOR SALE: Offers: Star Trek DC Comics. These are mint condition "1st Run" copies not the "2nd Run" from 1989 onwards. Includes a rare 1st Issue from Feb '84. I would like to swap the comics for old fanzines on a one for one basis. Send a SASE for details to Ian Robinson, 76 Dacre Road, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1BP.

FOR SALE: Star Trek novels and zines (zines mostly K/S). SAE for list to Sue Burdfield, 5 Solent House, Redlands Lane, Fareham PO16 0TZ.

FOR SALE: Zine - Jean Lorrain's Collection. Brand new reprint. £4.00. Marise Morland-Chapman, 12 Marsh Court, London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1EW.

FOR SALE: 3 colour photos of Nichelle Nichols from adult magazine, also Star Trek magazines available. Please send SAE to Graham Probert, 38 Abertillery Road, Blaenau, Gwent, South Wales NP3 3DW.

FOR SALE: Star Trek merchandise, both original series and Next Generation, including uniforms, books, models and figures, and lots more. If you are interested please contact me and enclose an SAE for merchandise details. Joanne Aylward, 54 Ascourt Drive, Hornsea, North Humberside HU13 1HF.

FOR SALE: SPOCK & PICARD designs on scarves. Head motif on each end. Also Holmes/Watson and Poirot. £7.50 each. Other designs considered depending on practicality. Enquiries to Mr. M. Simpson, 'Hambleton', Upperfields, LEDBURY, Herefordshire, HR8 1LE.

FOR SALE: NEW LIST: ST and Leonard Nimoy items, including commercial videos, magazines, photos, slides, books etc. SAE to Simone Mason, Seranis, Danehill, West Sussex RH17 7JQ for full list.

WANTED: I'm desperately trying to find the following zines - R & R III and The Unique Touch 2. I will pay a good price just to borrow these zines if you do not want to sell. Please write if you have them or know where I can find them. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

WANTED - Does anyone have a copy of Price of the Phoenix by Sondra Marshak and Myrna Culbreath that I can buy or borrow. I have the sequel but it doesn't make much sense without reading the first book. Sue Sneath, Alamo, No. 3 Field, Freathy, Whitsands, Nr. Torpoint, Cornwall PL10 1JP.

WANTED - does anyone out there do stuffed sehlat, tribbles or Spock teddy bears? If they do at a reasonable price, could they please contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX. I'm also looking for a black and white poster of Kirk and Spock with the Enterprise in front of them, if anyone is willing to part with one at a reasonable price.

WANTED: ST animated Volumes 3 & 4 episodes 9A - 22A which includes 21A How Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth and 22A Counter-Clock Incident which were not released by CIC. If you can help please contact Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 3SY.

WANTED: Did anyone Videod either Doohan or Stewart on Wogan? (on VHS or Betamax). If so please contact me now. I am also looking for any Trek interviews/documentaries, Red Dwarf episodes and TNG episodes from season 3 onwards. Phone Edwin on Brighton (0273) 734860 to discuss an arrangement.

WANTED: Anything on Brent Spiner (ST:TNG/non Trek) eg. photos, newspaper clippings etc. Write to Helen Wimble, 15 Kemp Court, Lansdowne Green Estate, Stockwell, London SW8 2BJ.

WANTED: Out of print Star Trek novels, any condition, not the ones currently published by Pocket Books and Titan. Even the loan of some books would do, I would be willing to incur postage and packing expenses. Ian Robinson, 76 Dacre Road, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1BP.

WANTED: Can anyone help with my request for a copy of This is Your Life starring William Shatner as I missed it on TV. I would love to see it. (reasonable price willing). Julia Foster, 6 Sycamore Court, Tringham Close, Ottershaw, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 0NB.

WANTED: Does anyone out there have a VHS video copy of James Doohan on The Wogan Show when he was interviewed in 1989. Also wanted 10x8 inch colour or b/w photo of Scotty from the original Star Trek series. Also a copy of Star Trek Official Fan Club No. 67. Richard Fuller, 141 Clonmacnoise Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Eire.

WANTED: ST bloopers on VHS video. Contact Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL

WANTED: A copy of The Making of ST-TMP book. Reasonable price paid. Contact: Edward Woo, 553 Smithdown Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 5AF, Merseyside.

WANTED: A 24 hour loan of the TNG episode The Big Goodbye which was missed when screened due to a power cut. All postage incurred will be paid. Many thanks. Dave Adams, 367 Spring Lane, Mapperley, Nottingham NG3 5RR. (Tel. (0602) 206573)

WANTED: A copy of the novel Star Trek Log 7 by Alan Dean Foster. Please state price. Dave Adams - address above.

WANTED: I have ST material for trade including in person photos. I am looking for anything on Jane Asher, no matter how small. Will give you ST material in exchange. Martha O'Connell, 1280 Coyote Creek Place, San Jose, CA 95116, USA.

WANTED: Any third or fourth season TNG episodes on video to borrow, especially The Best of Both Worlds Pts 1 & 2. UK Pal standard or USA NTSC it doesn't matter. Russell Witheyman, 12 Whistler Close, Tilgate, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 5DX.

WANTED: The two ST animated episodes How Sharper than the Serpent's Tooth and Counter-clock Incident which were not released by CIC. If you can help please contact E8202242, SAC J Tobin, Surv. Equip. Section, RAF Chivenor, Barnstaple, N. Devon EX

WANTED: TNG zines. I have the 4 Make It So issues plus Noises in the Attic. Are there any others? Reasonable prices paid. Mrs Cath Russell, Autumn, 4 Oakland Park, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, Devon EX31 2BZ.

WANTED: Videos of the Lord Peter Wimsey series. Liz Caldwell, 9 Bryn Llewelyn, Pant. Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd LL48 6ND.

WANTED: Has anyone got a novel or video of the film Silent Running that I could buy or borrow? - Thank you. Kari M. John, Room 21, Nurses's Home, Llanfrechfa Grange Hospital, Llanfrechfa, Cwmbran, Gwent NP44 87N.

WANTED - Anything on De Forest Kelley (Trek/non-Trek related) eg articles, magazines, particularly an Enterprise Incidents edition of DeForest (if there is one.) Please write to Kari M John (address above).

WANTED: I am looking for the Star Trek series picture novel from Bantam Books - No 3, Metamorphosis - which I need to complete my collection. I have written to the publishers and they say it is out of print. David Paul Blount, 42 Cumberland Drive, Mansfield, Notts NG19 6LS

WANTED: Does anyone have a copy of the Star Trek Way to Management, or a title something like that? As far as I know it is an American book that was written ages ago about the Kirk style of management. Lynne Baxter, 29 North Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8JA.

STAR TREK FAN AND ACTOR CLUBS UPDATE

We have available information sheets giving details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus actor clubs for Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, George Takei, Walter Koenig, Nichelle Nichols, Brent Spiner, Marina Sirtis and Guy Vardaman. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 17p stamp.

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

ENTERPRISE ORIGINALS is a 'pure' Star Trek club with no other media connections, provides a quarterly newsletter and sometimes publishes story zines which are available to members at reduced prices. We have a room party at each U.K. major Trek convention. Our members tend to be those of an 'older' generation who remember life before Trek, but anyone is welcome. Dues: U.K.: £4.00 per year, EEC: £5.50 per year (4 n/l's in each case), other countries: check with Pam below for costs. Honorary Members: Gene and Majel Roddenberry and Nichelle Nichols. Send s.a.e. to:- Pam Crabtree, 58 Beresford Drive, Southport, Lancs. PR9 7JY.

TEN FORWARD: Membership open to anyone with an interest in TNG. 3 A4 Newsletters per year. Sealed Membership card. Assignment to ship in the Ten Forward Fleet. Choose to be a Terran, Klingon, Romulan, Ferengi, Vulcan, Betazoid, Orion, Benzite or Andorian. Single and Family Memberships available: £3.50 single, £5.00 Family per annum. SAE for details to "Ten Forward", Fleet Command, 18 Beckwith Road, East Herringthorpe, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire S65 3PD.

Hello Star Trek Fans! A.S.T.A.F. is here, the Austrian Star Trek Association of Fans. Since January 1st Austria has its own Star Trek Fan Club. Our club committee consists of three Trekkers with many years of experience in Star Trek fandom. We were of the opinion that we had to do something to open a door to Star Trek here in Austria.

ASTAF publishes monthly newsletters (the first one was published in January). We also organize monthly meetings, where we have a lot of fun. We try to keep our members up-to-date and give them a lot of fun and amusement. For more information send SASE to A.S.T.A.F., P.O.B. 365, A-1211 Vienna, Austria. We would be very happy to welcome you on board.

THE KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP EUROPE Membership open to anyone who is or wants to be a Klingon. Choice of working for various sections of the Klingon Empire. You must have what it takes to be one of the Warrior Elite. Membership fee £2 - 3 n/l's per year. For more info send SAE to Commander Kraul Vestai-Krasson, 16 Bramwell St., Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

IAAPS: INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE ALLIANCE FOR PATRICK STEWART: An international club,

with its headquarters in USA, which covers the career of Patrick Stewart from Stratford to Star Trek. Membership runs January to December: 4 "Stargazer" n/l's a year. Whatever time of year you join, you will receive all four n/l's for that year. Membership for 1991 is \$24 direct from the States. Contact: IAAPS/STARGAZER, P.O. Box 2173, Norfolk, Virginia 23501, USA (note new address). British fans can join via the UK branch. Membership costs £15 for 1991, for this you receive the 4 U.S. "Stargazer" n/l's plus the British n/l "Britgazer" which is published periodically. Please enclose SAE with all enquiries. Cheques payable to IAAPS. Contact: Pat Mitchell, 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 4JU.

DATA ENTRIES - Note: William McCullars does not run Data Entries as we incorrectly listed in our info sheet. We currently have no address for this club.

WILLIAM SHATNER FELLOWSHIP Helen E. Molloy, 10940 North Moorpark, North Hollywood, CA 91602, USA - we have been told that this club has folded.

FANS OF MARK LENARD A new unofficial club starting up in January 1991. Get in at the start - send an SAE plus IRC to Michelle Perry, 11 Park Drive, Napanee,

Ontario, K7R 2Z3 Canada for information.

fffJF - friends, fans and followers of Jonathan Frakes Membership is \$16.00/year U.S. (\$21.00 U.K.) and includes a subscription to 'Ready and Willing' our quarterly newsletter featuring articles, reviews, profiles of members, a calendar of upcoming events, art, cartoons, short fiction, poetry, members classifieds, and other goodies we have yet to think up. SAE (plus IRC - UK) to fffJF, Suite 214, 145A Danbury Road, New Milford, CT 06776, U.S.A.

MICHAEL DORN APPRECIATION ORGANIZATION P.O. Box 185, Ellicott City, MD 21043, USA.

THE OFFICIAL COLM MEANEY FAN CLUB 92 2nd Street, West Fairview, PA 17025, USA.

JAMES DOOHAN - I am planning to set up an unofficial club for James Doohan who seems to be the only Star Trek character without a fan club. So come on Scotty fans; if you are interested in helping me I welcome you and your assistance. Please contact Richard Fuller, 141 Clonmacnoise Road, Crumlin, Dublin 12, Eire.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

LEEDS STARFLEET: SAE to Mike Mullen, 25 Claremont Road, Headingley, Leeds LS6 4EB. Meetings (incl. video programme) are held between 12 and 5pm on the following Sundays at the Headingley Community Centre, North Lane, Leeds: June 16th, July 14 and August 18th, 1991.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6-9 weeks, news sheet **STATIC INTERFERENCE**. SAE for info to Catherine Melrose, 127 Medwyn Street, Glasgow G14 9QJ

Attention - One Day Mini-Con Saturday 1st June, 1991. 10.00 am until 10.00 pm. Room 7, Partick Burgh Hall, Glasgow. 2 video rooms showing identical programmes and a sales room/refreshment room. £4 adults, £2 children.

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. A local group based in the south east of Scotland. Fortnightly meetings at the Ailsa Craig Hotel. The group can be contacted at: Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

NOTTINGHAM STAR TREK GROUP meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Byrons (near Trinity Square/Central Police Station) in the city centre from about 7.30pm onwards. Write or ring Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham, tel. no. 0602 296323 for further info and confirmation of meeting dates.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

The deadline for submissions (articles, reviews, ads, etc) for the next newsletter is July 3rd. Please send everything to Janet unless otherwise specified.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions/Renewals; anything for the newsletter including ads, articles, letters etc.; used stamps for The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.
Sheila - All zine orders.

Sheila or Valerie - Submissions of stories, poetry & artwork for zines; used stamps.

Helen - Submissions of crosswords, quizzes etc.

Note: it is okay to send newsletter items to Sheila or Valerie as long as they receive them at least 10 days prior to the deadline.

Committee Addresses:

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX, Scotland

Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH, Scotland

Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5EW, Scotland

Helen White, 34 Fletcher Gardens, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks RG12 1FJ

Dues UK £6.00, USA/Middle East Air \$22.00 (£10.80), Australia £11.40, Europe £8.50.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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Typing by Janet & Sheila; layout, initial edit and printing of masters by Janet; proof-reading and final edit by Sheila and Valerie.

Printed by Urban Print, 57 Perth Road, Dundee. Packed by Sheila's Chain Gang. 750 copies.