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April 1992

Newsletter 21

"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, James Doohan, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt.

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Hi, everyone, and welcome to another newsletter.

We would like to welcome Ernie Over as an honorary member of IDIC. Ernie was Gene's personal assistant and Janet met him when he was over in London with Gene in October 1991 and again when she was in LA in September. Ernie joined a group which included Janet, Susan Sackett, Richard & Denny Arnold, Susan Sackett and members of the BSFR group in celebrating ST's 25th Anniversary on September 8th. Ernie is now working for Majel and he is assisting Gene's official biographer, David Alexander, with research and editing on the book.

In his letter Ernie tells us that in this year's Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, Nestle company sponsored the Starship Enterprise (NCC 1701-D) as their float. It was the largest float ever entered in the 103 year old event and it was a crowd pleaser, drawing prolonged cheering from over 1,000,000 parade watchers along the route. Ernie sent us a nice photo of the float but unfortunately it wouldn't reproduce in black and white.

We haven't heard from Richard Arnold yet as to whether he is being successful at getting his job back. We're keeping our fingers crossed for him and Guy.

Many of you will have heard about the Celebrity Premiere of STVI in London on February 14th. There were 500 tickets available to fans and Kim Farey was handling the sale of them. Kim did contact us to see if we would give UCI labels with members' addresses so they could send flyers out but regretfully we had to refuse. We just don't feel that we can give out members' addresses like that. A lot of you wouldn't mind but some most definitely would. We do apologise to those of you who missed out on the premiere because they didn't know about it - we could not finance a special mailing to 800 members ourselves.

We will be adding new questions to the membership and renewal form asking if we may give out your address to firms who sell ST merchandise or running ST events. We also need to know if you are willing to appear on TV - especially in costume - and if you are willing to be interviewed. After being contacted by ITV Terry Griffiths had a frantic phone round trying to get people to appear in an interview on This Morning. Janet did give her the phone numbers of members in the Liverpool area who had agreed for their number to be released to the TV or press but we need something more specific. Members are unlikely to be contacted for TV shows unless we have their telephone number as these things are usually set up in a hurry.

If you are not due to renew with this newsletter you might like to write to Janet answering these questions:

Do you want your address given out to firms selling ST merchandise?
 Do you want your address given out to firms organizing ST events?
 Are you willing to appear on TV in costume? Give interviews? Appear in the audience? If yes please give both a day time and night time telephone number.

We may never have the occasion to give out your address, but we do need to know if we can.

If your answer is no to these questions you do not need to write in as we will never give out addresses or phone numbers without permission.

We have a couple of postbag submissions this time which we cannot print because they do not have a name on them and we can't work out who they are from. It is important to put your name on all submissions, whether hand written, typed or sent in on computer disc, as they do get separated from covering letters. It also helps if you would put submissions for different sections of the newsletter, and ads etc. on separate pieces of paper, as they do go in different files.

By the time you get this N/L, Sheila will have joined the ranks of Those Who Do Not Work. She's taking early retirement as of March 31st. It still hasn't quite sunk in; however, what it does mean is that she will have more time available for fannish pursuits. Because of this she has volunteered (been coerced!) into taking on the typing of all the postbag submissions, articles and reviews for the newsletter. This will ease things on Janet slightly as she has to deal with all enquiries, memberships, renewals, anything submitted on disc, final corrections, layout and printing of both newsletter and zine masters. She might even find some time to write to penfriends - but don't hold your breath! These are the new guide lines:

Janet - enquiries, memberships, renewals, all disc submissions (both newsletter and zines), all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandising info etc. for the newsletter.
 Sheila - Postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter, TNG submissions for zines.
 Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines.

Due to the release of ST VI in Britain this newsletter does lean rather to Classic Trek, but it should rebalance itself in future. Also we have had to edit the postbag quite drastically this time but we've tried to do it fairly. We hope you will enjoy reading comments from so many members.

To those of you who looked for us at the Away Team meeting in Glasgow on March 1st, we're sorry we had to give it a miss. Valerie was tied up at home, Janet was busy with the newsletter, while Sheila's mother was in hospital recovering from pneumonia and Sheila didn't, obviously, feel like going gallivanting. (Incidentally, the sister on the ward turned out to be an IDIC member, and we hope she'll be joining Sheila's Chain Gang.) We'd like to thank Frances Abernethy once again for looking in on Sheila's Mum (who is now home again) so that she could get away this weekend for the newsletter.

Our congratulations to Clint Aiken who wrote a 24,000 word graduate thesis on Star Trek. It netted him 64% on marking, well above the course average.

We'd like to thank Dundee member Stephen Rothwell for his help with the flyers for N/L20. Stephen works nights so can't come to 'chain gang' meetings, but he gave a great deal of help with the flyers that went out last time.

Our thanks to Frances Abernethy, Clint Aiken, Irene Ambrose, Angela Brown, P. Buckman, John Byrne, Sandy Cayless, Barbara Ellams, Mark French, Peter Fryer, Michael Grouch, Katerina Heintz, Peter Hughes, Z.T. Hunt, Sara Jackson, Muriel Jarrett, Brenda Kelsey, Stacey Lucht, Martin Montgomery, Ann Neilson, Jim Redrup, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Rothwell, Moira Russell, G.A. Shaw, Karen Sparks, John Talbot,

Dennis Taylor, S Trick, Jenny Turner, Jon Vernon, Linda Ware, Eddie Yau and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

Thanks to all of you who bought tickets for the raffle. The winners are: Sue Embury - Enterprise Hologram, William MacArthur - TNG Coasters, Karl Leonard - 1 years membership of IDIC. Congratulations.

We have another raffle in aid of the IDIC Guide Dog Fund in this newsletter. The prize of a hologram of the Enterprise from A.H. Prismatic proved so popular last time that we have decided to offer another of these this time; second prize is an unwrapped cassette version of Brent Spiner's 'O! Yellow Eyes Is Back'; plus a runners-up prize of a year's membership of IDIC. The hologram will be drawn first but you may indicate a preference. Please put your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 (or \$2) for the strip of 5 - please note that if you want £2's worth you can send both strips back (it is your name on the ticket that counts, not the number of the ticket.) Please send your tickets (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by May 15th. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter. Note: Please do not send cheques or POs for less than £1 - we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £1).

Jade (the GS pup donated to the GDA by Joyce Devlin) has now been in training for some three months. Her training is coming on well, and the trainer considers that she is showing good potential. Unfortunately Shepherds are one of the breeds that can suffer badly from hip dysplasia, and an X-ray shows that her hips are not good, although as yet they are not giving her any trouble. This is disappointing, as her litter-mates (including IDIC's current dog-in-training, Aero) all have good hips.

Thank you to Bev Ambrose, Mark Armstrong, David Banks, Jean Barron, Lynne Buckley, Sandie Cayless, Derek Clark, Jacqueline Comben, Karen Davies, Lisa Dearnley-Davison (with thanks to her mother and Londsedale Belts and Denims), Mary Eta Duncan & Operation Tribbles, Mark French, Peter Fryer, Beverly Golesworthy, Katerina Heintz, Bill Hupe, Muriel Jarrett, Kari Melissa John, Michael Johnson, R Jones, Carol Kean, Cory King, Marysia Kolodziej, Lloyd Lewis, Pippa Lightfoot, Stacy Lucht, Helena Luckhurst, Nina Lynch, Nancy Mackay & friend, Donnie Macleod, Maggy, Shirley Maiewski, Janis Miller, Douglas Moxey, Antony Mullany, Ann Peters, Morag Phillips, Marion Pritchard, Jim Redrup, Margaret Richardson, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Rothwell, Shirley Shatner, Sue Sneath, Clare Solomon, John Stubbley, Bill Taylor, Lesley Thompson, Helen Thurlow, Lesley Thompson, Leah J. Turner, Jenny Turner, Joyce Urquhart, Helen White, Gaile Wood, Julie Woolaston, Claudia Wuttke, Waltraud Zucha-Glass and everyone else who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Sol III. You should be able to find at least one of us at the IDIC/Scotpress table if you would like to come and chat - if we are busy on your first visit do come back. We will be having one table selling items in aid of the IDIC Guide Dog Fund and we will be grateful for any donations of ST merchandise or books that you no longer want. If you are going to the con you can just drop them off at the table, if you are not going please send them to Sheila. We also hope to hold a raffle.

The closing date for the next newsletter is May 13th (May 8th for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, discs and everything else to Janet. And PLEASE put your name on all submissions. We hope to post it out around June 3rd.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 7/3/92

LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quanton

Celebrities and stars of the Next Generation were at a posthumous award to Gene Roddenberry for raising standards in Maths and Science. Majel received the award and said this would probably be the most important award to him.
Entertainment Tonight 12/2/92.

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

Rumours and Mutterings by Rick Prestien, USA

It's official! Or at least as official as things get in Hollywood short of an announcement from Paramount. "Entertainment Tonight", an American network TV show which has a reputation for accuracy, reported on January 20th that ST:TNG will have a spin-off TV series debuting in January, 1993! It's called Star Trek: Deep Space 9 and is currently in pre-production planning with actual episode shooting to start in July or August. Casting begins in April (as you get this newsletter). It is anticipated that characters from ST:TNG will make guest appearances on ST:DS9 and vice-versa.

Following this announcement on the next day, January 21st, the national newspaper USA Today reported the same story and added these details:

- 1) ST:DP9 will be set on a space station, probably a science-oriented research station, which will be located in deepest space, beyond the immediate help of the Federation or its Starships.
- 2) DS9 will be near a large and stable wormhole, through which will travel all sorts of aliens to visit our sector of the Universe, some intentionally and others by accident.
- 3) The lead character on ST:DS9 will be a "man of action" (a la James T. Kirk) who is raising a 12-year old son alone. Another major character will be a "blob of jello" who can take on different shapes and appearances. Three other major characters will also be cast although their roles are still being decided upon.

In addition to the above, the Seattle Times newspaper also reported on January 21st the pre-production planning on ST:DS9 and that Rick Berman has left ST:TNG to be the executive producer on ST:DS9. His energies in future will be devoted exclusively to the new show.

Finally, Richard Arnold, appearing at a February 1-2 con in Seattle, said that some characters from ST:TNG would be joining the cast of ST:DS9, but none of the "major" characters on ST:TNG would be involved. Richard went on to say that the big 5th Anniversary Con to be held in Los Angeles in late March will have full details.

I have since learned from a friend that at least one computer bulletin board service (BBS) over here has reported that Chief O'Brien and his family (including Keiko) will be permanently transferred to DS9 and will be regular characters on ST:DS9. Also, speculation on the BBS has it that Ensign Ro will be a regular character as well.

So here in the States we face the giddy prospect of having two original Star Trek shows on television at the same time (during 1993). Alas, however, it is expected that 1993 will be the final season for ST:TNG (the 6th season). The reason is that all the major actors were originally signed on 6-year contracts which will expire, and most will choose not to renew, choosing instead to be free to do movies, plays, and other TV shows. Or, if the stars are willing to renew, it is anticipated that they will demand more money than Paramount is willing to pay. Assuming they leave the show, we then have the possibility of more Star Trek movies with two different casts! An interesting time warp, don't you think?

In any event... stay tuned to this channel... I plan on attending the 5th Anniversary Con in Los Angeles and will have full details, as well as the latest rumours, in Newsletter 22. And speaking of rumours: Is it true that Queen Elizabeth II named one of her Welsh Corgi dogs "Spock"???

Eddie Yau heard on the Computer net - Paramount have said that ST:DS9 will begin airing in syndication in January 1993 with a two-hour premiere movie (which means it will last 90-odd minutes minus the ads.), followed by 19 one-hour episodes. Shooting is slated to begin in June 1992 at Paramount's sound stages in Hollywood.

According to Starburst 163 ST:DS9 was created and will be produced by TNG's executive producers Rick Berman and Mike Pillar.

STAR TREK VII ???

Hollywood producers are beaming up old and new Star Trek crews for yet another blockbuster, despite saying the old stars had reached the final frontier. Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock and Dr. McCoy will join TV successor Jean Luc Picard for Star Trek VII: The Deadly Years. The story zooms Kirk and Co 75 years into the future after a freak accident. There, they help the modern Enterprise and Captain Picard to destroy evil aliens. "It's what every Trekkie has dreamed of," a Hollywood source said last night.

TV bosses are now working on a third series for next year, to be followed by Star Trek VIII, starring the Next Generation crew.

Today 26/2/92

STAR TREK FILMS

There have been various showing of all six films around the country. There was one at Gateshead and one at Clydebank on 23/2/92 and another at the Empire Leicester Square on 1/3/92. There may well have been others as well. The one at Clydebank sold out and the cinema were planning another on 8/3/92.

STAR TREK VI

ST VI premiered in London on the February 14th. There was a Celebrity Premier followed by a party at a night club. 500 tickets were available to fans for £20 each and Kim Farey of UFP Cons handled the distribution of the tickets. We think she contacted everyone she had an address for.

Susan Schuleit says the latest figures she has seen show that STVI has already made over \$80 million.

STAR TREK ON TV

The Star Trek: 25th Anniversary Special was shown on the Sky Movie Channel on February 8th and 14th. A very edited version was shown on BBC 2 on the 26th. For those who buy the boxed set of ST 1-5 on wide screen a copy of the 'special' is included free. I suspect CIC may eventually offer it separately.

Star Trek V was also shown on the Movie channel on February 20th.

The Star Trek Animated series is currently being shown on Sky One on Saturdays at 11.30am. It is now being listed separately instead of being just a part of a cartoon programme.

Due to the release of Star Trek VI in Britain there have been a number of Star Trek items on TV recently.

MTV Special: The ST Logs (January). This had Deanna Troi on the bridge of the Enterprise looking back on the adventures of the crew of 1701 A and there is a reference to the 'Unification' episode as Deanna says, and I quote, "a renewed interest" in their predecessors. There are also interviews with the entire

original ST cast and clips from the series and all the movies including ST VI.
(Info Russell Withyman)

Note: Guy Vardaman is credited with Computer Graphics Animation

Film 92 (BBC 1 4/2/92) reviewed ST VI.

The Word (Ch 4 7/2/92) reviewed classic Trek, ST:TNG and ST VI. There were some nice compilations of clips.

Blue Peter (BBC 1 10/2/92) Had a mock-up bridge with presenter, dressed as Kirk, Spock and Uhura. They showed various clips from the original series, TNG and ST VI. They announced the showing of the 25th Anniversary Special on the 28th and also said that the original series is to be re-run on BBC 2 starting in May.

This Morning (ITV 11/2/92) interviewed some fans and showed some clips.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

We would like to thank Eddie Yau for the following 5th season information which he got off the computer network.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION Season Five Broadcast Schedule (1st Screenings only)

Dates indicate the days of satellite uplink, 'PC' denotes Paramount Code.
Stardates will be added when known.

Ep	Date	PC	Stardate	Title
110	04/01/92	210		New Ground
111	25/01/92	211		Hero Worship
112	01/02/92	212		Violations
113	08/02/92	213		The Masterpiece Society
114	15/02/92	214		Conundrum
115	22/02/92	215		Power Play
116	29/02/92	216		Ethics
117	14/03/92	217		The Outcast

***** The following is RUMOUR only *****

118	21/03/92	218		Cause and Effect
119	28/03/92	219		First Duty
120	04/04/92	220		[Lwaxana Troi story]

A Short Episode Synopsis.

113. "The Masterpiece Society": Picard's efforts to save a genetically engineered society from a natural disaster threaten to destroy it.

114. "Conundrum": While suffering an unexplained case of amnesia, the crew find themselves fighting a war they do not remember or understand, and puts each crewmember in strange circumstances: Data in the bar, Worf as Captain, and romance between Ro and Riker!

115. "Power Play": Alien fugitives take hostages in Ten-Forward (this implies that this is the story previously known as "Terror in Ten-Forward").

116. "Ethics": Worf is seriously injured and faces possible paralysis. Apparently, Patrick Stewart is hardly in this episode, as it was recorded while he was performing 'A Christmas Carol'.

117. "The Outcast": Riker falls for a person on a planet devoid of gender distinctions... where it's a crime to commit any form of sexual encounter.

These are the rumoured storylines to the rest of the season.

"Breach of Mind": An alien being rapes people's minds.

"Cause and Effect": A deja vu story. A captain (played by Kelsey Grammer, "Cheers" Frazier Crane) of a Starfleet ship is caught in a time loop. It is a original series model/original series uniforms. Rumour has it that by the end of the 4th act, the fans will be hitting the ceiling.

"Duelling Q's": Q story (what a surprise!). Rumours abound that this may end up cancelled due to cost overruns. The basic plot involves our Q and another Q in some sort of Olympiad, and ours naturally decides to field a team from the big E. There's a *possibility* that the other Q will be played by none other than... William "Are you challenging me to a duel?" Campbell.

"First Duty": Everyone's favourite boy genius Wesley, is involved in some serious problems at Starfleet Academy! Picard and Beverly travel to the academy to find out what's going on. Ray Walston plays Boothby, the Academy groundskeeper.

"I, Borg": The Borg are back, and they brought more ships with them this time! Apparently the theme is along the lines of Asimov's "I, Robot" and has been written by Rene Echeverria (who did "The Offspring" and "Transfigurations"). She is known for writing "people stories", and this will be a people story about the Borg. Possibly this season's cliff-hanger!

"Invisible Friend": A little girl's imaginary friend isn't imaginary any more.

"Past Perfect": Finally. This is the episode they've been telling us about for a couple of years and involves Beverly having flashbacks of Jack Crusher.

"Rascals": Crewmen are reduced to children. Unsure if this means physically, mentally, or both.

"The Rivals": A Geordi Story. Plot unknown.

"[Title not yet known]": Barclay is back. Plot unknown.

"[Title not yet known]": Lwaxana is back. It will involve her taking poor, motherless Alexander under her wing.

Other news: Jonathan Frakes will be directing one episode this season. Brent Spiner was thinking about directing, however he has decided against it. We'll see Deanna Troi beating Data in a game of chess. Also, there will be more love interests for her in future episodes! There will also be a shot of a poker game where Geordi actually sees the cards.... and lets the others win.

MISC

The 1992 TREK FEST will be held in Riverside, Iowa on March 22nd. They have held this before, to commemorate the Future Birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk. The Mayor of the City of Riverside has proclaimed that day in honor of Captain Kirk's future birth. There will be a parade, carnival rides, Trek Happenings, a demolition derby, kids tractor pull and a volleyball tournament! (info STW)

STAR TREK on BBC

According to TV Zone 28 The BBC have confirmed the purchase of the final four 3rd season TNG episodes but have not yet purchased season 4. The series will not be shown during the Olympics and several other sporting events. The BBC have confirmed that negotiations are under way for future seasons and that the majority of complaints about the series have been to do with its scheduling.

On the subject of the banning of High Ground the BBC felt uncomfortable with promoting the idea of a successful 'Irish unification' early in the next century. They also felt that there were more references to the Northern Irish

dispute scattered throughout the programme. For instance they objected the the character of Finn because the name sounded Irish!

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

Ep.	Title	Date shown	Viewers	Position
55	The Enemy	27/11/91	5.31	2
56	The Price	04/12/91	5.15	6
57	The Vengeance Factor	11/12/91	5.15	6
58	The Defector	18/12/91	5.16	6
59	The Hunted	08/01/92	5.51	1 !!!
60	The High Ground (not shown)	N/A	N/A	N/A
61	Deja Q	15/01/92	5.56	1 !!!
62	A Matter Of Perspective	22/01/92	5.15	2
63	Yesterday's Enterprise	29/01/92	5.19	1 !!!
64	The Offspring	05/02/92	5.23	1 !!!
65	Sins Of The Father	26/02/92		
66	Allegiance	04/03/92		
67	Captain's Holiday	11/03/92		

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 in the info sheets.

STAR TREK THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 84 March/April 1992.

A special issue for Gene Roddenberry. Articles include excerpts from past interviews with Gene, How Gene's Optimistic Vision evolved with the world, Personal Thoughts and Observations on Gene by David Alexander, who is currently working on Gene's biography, Nichelle Nichols and Richard Arnold remembering Gene, What is Star Trek Today?.

STARLOG 175 February 1992.

25 page tribute to Gene Roddenberry, plus interviews with William Shatner, Nichelle Nichols and Michael Dorn.

STARLOG 176 March 1992.

Interviews with Kim Cattrail, James Doohan and Wil Wheaton

STARLOG 177 April 1992.

Interviews with Don Mankiewicz who wrote Court Martial, Nicholas Meyer and Ralph Winter

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION 18 (Starlog)

Articles on Jay Chattaway (New Composer on TNG) & Leonard Nimoy. Mission reports on Redemption II, Darmok, Ensign Ro, Silicon Avatar, Disaster, The Game, Unification I & II, A Matter of Time.

TV ZONE 27 March 1992.

Part 2 of an article on Novelizing Star Trek, article on Carel Struycken (Mr Horn), reviews of Unification by Jeri Taylor, Pocket Books and The Animated Series Vols 1 & 2 on CIC video, credits for TNG Season 5 Redemption II - The Game (1-6).

TV ZONE 28 April 1992.

Part 3 of an article on Novelizing Star Trek, article on the second pilot Where No Man Has Gone Before, reviews of Spartacus by Terry Mancour, Pocket Books and The Animated Series Vols 3 & 4 on CIC video, credits for TNG Season 5 Unification I - Violations (7-12).

TV ZONE SUPER HEROES & BEINGS SPECIAL

Articles: Superbeings in Star Trek, Michael Dorn and James Kirk.

STARBURST 162 February 1992

Interview with Nicholas Meyer, Report on Leonard Nimoy at the LN Convention.

STARBURST 163 March 1992 - Gene Roddenberry Tribute Issue.

How the media reported Gene's Death, Part 2 of an interview with Nicholas Meyer, Part 2 of a report on Leonard Nimoy at the LN Convention, article on Gene's writing in Star Trek, preview of ST VI.

STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 13 - Articles on Romulans, Conspiracy and The Neutral Zone.

Issue 14 - Articles on Season One Retrospective, The Child and Where Silence Has Lease.

Issue 15 - Articles on Guinan, Elementary Dear Data and The Outrageous Okona.

Issue 16 - Articles on Gene Roddenberry, Loud as a Whisper and The Schizoid Man.

STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY THE OFFICIAL MOVIE MAGAZINE Trident

Full of photos and interviews with all the regular cast plus Kim Cattrall, Christopher Plummer and Michael Dorn.

CINEFANTASTIQUE April 1992.

This devotes a hefty 31 pages to Star Trek VI and associated topics. The numerous articles cover behind the scenes information; material dumped from the final film; comments from Harve Bennett; comments from Kim Cattrall and the development of her character, Lt Valeris; a look at the aliens in Star Trek VI; a tribute to Gene Roddenberry; comments from Nicholas Meyer as writer and director; ILM's special effects; the continuity between ST VI and ST:TNG; design details from the film and a general overview of the previous Star Trek films. The articles are accompanied by numerous colour and black and white pictures.

There is plenty of interesting information, but, this being 'Cinefantastique', it is not all delivered with rosy warmth. We get Harve Bennett calling James Doohan a liar; Doohan (and several others, but few so prosaically) speaking out against William Shatner; suggestions that things rarely ran smoothly during the making of either the original series, or any of the films; suggestions that there is friction between the casts of the original series and the Next Generation and very veiled intimations that the filming of Star Trek VI was hampered by conflicts involving just about everybody except the President of the United States himself.

As but a humble viewer I can hardly comment on the accuracy of such claims, but I would be surprised to learn that ANY television series, or film, could be made without conflict between the various creative, technical and financial parties concerned. On 'cast relationships', nobody can like everybody and some bad feeling is surely inevitable. After twenty five years, however, they are still working together, which speaks volumes for their professionalism, if nothing else.

For those who like to view their Star Trek through decidedly rose-coloured glasses, this issue of 'Cinefantastique' will disappoint, but for those who recognise that nothing, even the world of Star Trek, is necessarily perfect and can tell the difference between fact and deliberate rumour-mongering, there is much to entertain. - Z.T. Hunt.

"Paramount Explores a New Frontier in TV Syndication" Wall Street Journal.

Article about Paramount offer of two new series, The Untouchables and the new Star Trek chronicle, Deep Space Nine, directed to the syndication market.

"Gene Roddenberry's final frontier" Modern Review Winter 1991/92.

The article looks at Gene's career and mentions that he received the American

Humanist Association's Arts Award: "The Enterprise crew, with a reliance on science and reason, not superstition, co-operate with and encourage each other; they give equal respect and dignity to every individual - whether Human or alien; and they promote tolerance, open minds and non-violent solutions."

According to the Movie Spot in The Sun 23/12/92 ST VII will start filming this summer.

"Gene at the GFT" Glasgow Evening Times 23/12/91.

Article about the Glasgow Group The Away Team, sponsoring a seat which will be named in Gene Roddenberry's honour at the Glasgow Film Theatre. A plaque inscribed "In memory of Gene Roddenberry - creator of Star Trek" will go on seat G15.

"Beaming up in Walsall" Libr Ass. Rec. 94 January 1992.

Short piece about Walsall Library and Information services staff who are celebrating ST's 25th Anniversary by touring with a display which looks at the history of the characters and technology.

"Last Date with the Starship Enterprise" Flicks, January 1992.
A Look at ST VI.

"Ears to Spock" The Sun 3/1/92.

A ST fan paid £880 at Christie's auction in London for a pair of ears worn by Mr. Spock

"Ban on Star Trek" Today 20/1/92.

Article on the banning of the TNG episode The High Ground.

"Trek Team Make Mark" Glasgow Evening Times 20/1/92.

Article about The Away Team calling at The Glasgow Film Theatre to hand of a £350 cheque for the seat they have sponsored in Gene's name.

"Clever plot can't energise these spaced out Trekkers" Daily Express 23/1/92.

A review of A Matter of Perspective. "The series endures because of our continued fascination with what might be Out There. But since they beamed up - for good - Scottie, Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock, the Starship seems to have lost something of its sparkle. It's just not the same, baldly going with Captain Picard (Patrick Stewart).

"Trekkies Slam BBC Ban on 'IRA' Episode" Glasgow Evening Times 25/1/92.

This goes into some detail and quotes Cathy Melrose of The Away Team who points out that High Ground has a clear anti-terrorist message. Heather Clark, BBC spokeswoman, said, "We feel it would be insensitive to show this episode, especially in the recent events in Northern Ireland. I doubt it will ever be shown."

Also "Star Trek Axe" Daily Mail 20/1/92 & "Terrorism's a Sell-Out" Daily Mail 25/1/92. (The writer, a fan, bought the CIC tape and didn't think it was much good.)

"Star Trek" Satellite Times February 1992.

Article looking at Star Trek's history and the merchandise.

"Keep on Trekking" Daily Star 5/2/92.

Article giving some info on ST - Deep Space 9.

"Spock's Final Trek" Colchester Evening Gazette.

Article about Leonard Nimoy and ST VI.

"The Men Who Baldly Go" News of the World Magazine 9/2/92.

Article talking to the regular cast about ST VI.

"Behind the screens" Sunday Times 9/2/92.

Short article about Star Trek - Deep Space 9. They seem to have their facts wrong

as they say it will feature a sister ship.

"You Stitch Me Up Scotty!" The Sun 13/2/92.

"Captain Kirk's a Big-headed Berk" Daily Record 13/2/92

Articles saying that some of the cast, mainly Jimmy Doohan and Walter Koenig, don't like working with William Shatner. They obviously got the story from Cinefantastique.

"A Massive Trek to the Movies" Daily Record 14/2/92

Article about the Away Team making a block booking of 205 seats for the first showing of ST VI at the Cannon Cinema in Glasgow. The cinema has never had a bigger booking.

"Mass Trek" Glasgow Guardian 14/2/92

The UCI in Clydebank will screen all 6 ST movies in a 12 1/2 hour extravaganza on 23/2/92. "Hannah is Trek Winner" article about Hannah Green who won a national Star Trek competition run by Titan Books

"All Phased Out" Evening Times 15/2/92.

Article about Star Trek and the Away Team meetings at the Central Hotel in Glasgow, where more than 200 fans meet to watch videos.

"Star Trek Special" Bella Issue 6, 15 February, 1992

Two page colour article on William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and Jonathan Frakes. Includes some Trek Trivia and a quiz.

"Glasnost In Space" What's On 19/2/92.

Article about Nicholas Meyer.

"Klingon to Your Corset" Today 19/2/92

"Making up is so very hard to do" Daily Express 19/2/92

"Make me up, Scotty" Evening Standard.

Articles saying make-up etc. took longer on STVI because of the actors' ages and this is one reason Leonard Nimoy decided not to direct.

"Museum Enterprise brings a beam to the eyes of grounded Trekkies" Guardian 27/2/92

Article about the launch of the Star Trek Exhibition at Washington's Smithsonian Institute.

SOME STAR TREK VI REVIEWS

"Across the Final Frontier" Daily Record 6/2/92

I have to confess that - despite all the high-tech advances - I still prefer the cheapo-budget original TV series to the big-screen adventures of the Enterprise today. Even if, as Spock would say, this is not logical. But Star Trek VI is good fun ...and no doubt Trekkies everywhere will love it.

"Such Enterprising Antics" London Evening Standard 13/2/92.

Surprisingly, given the collective age of the participants, the Enterprise's last voyage is a very lively affair, nicely paced and with some terrific special effects (I especially liked the globules of purple Klingon blood floating about in anti-gravity), that manages to remain absolutely faithful to the moral spirit of Star Trek whilst playing around with the more sophisticated technology now available. And, augmented by the likes of Warner and Christopher Plummer, the usual crew of William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and the rest give it their best before finally hanging up their phasers. A worthwhile Enterprise.

"And finally, a worthwhile Trek" Daily Mail 14/2/92.

It's a nonsense of course, but engaging, thrilling nonsense, making ST VI an outstanding movie of its kind.

"Spaced Out" Glasgow Guardian 14/2/92.

It's a grand show for kids and many loyal fans. While the rest of us can wallow in

the sheer simplicity of the space epic.

"Starship's final frontier" Daily Express 14/2/92.

The performances combine with Nicholas Meyer's snappy direction and a tongue-in-cheek script to make this Star Trek fast, furious and fun.

"A Star Romp Finale" Bristol Evening Post 14/2/92.

It's an unmissable must for die-hard followers and an enjoyable, unchallenging movie for everyone else.

"Keep on Trekkin" and "Just Watch This Space" The Sunday Times 16/2/92.

Almost a two-page spread. The first article looks at the film, the second the writer meets the crew. The article says STVI has so far made \$70m.

"Blast-off with 6 Appeal" News of the World

This is the best of all the Star Trek movies, with a sensible murder-mystery plot, some great one-liners, wonderful special-effects and decent performances.

ACTOR INFO

compiled by Janet Quarton

William Shatner: "Capt. Kirk: UFO Saved My Life" National Enquirer 21/1/92.

This article, which was released by the New York Centre for UFO Research, says that William Shatner came off his motor cycle in the Mojave Desert, near Palmdale, Calif. one day in the 1960's. He was at the rear of the pack when he came off and was knocked unconscious - his friends didn't notice he was missing. When he came to he realised he was in trouble, the sun was hot and his throat was parched. But suddenly, "I thought I saw something," Shatner says. "After that, I didn't feel weak and dehydrated anymore. It was more a sensing, a feeling, a shadowy phantom. All I know is that I felt better."

Shatner picked up the heavy motor cycle, which wouldn't start and soon got tired pushing it, then squinting into the sun, he saw something in the distance. "I thought I saw somebody, another cyclist, waving me on," says Shatner. "So I continued to struggle with the heavy metal monster until I stumbled upon civilization in the form of a gas station in the middle of the desert, at the side of an old, paved road." The gas station provided cool relief for Shatner, who realized how close he'd come to dying from the heat. "It was then, off in the distance, that I saw an object glistening in the heavens," he recalls. To this day he still wonders who - or what - gave him the strength to escape death in the desert.

William Shatner's Saddlebred weanling Day by the Sea (Sultan's Great Day x Evening Sea) won the National Horse Show Breeders Jackpot. (info STW)

Leonard Nimoy: "Film about Holocaust Survivor is more relevant than ever, says star" Jewish Chronicle 29/11/92. Article about Leonard Nimoy being at the Oxford University Union to mark the British premiere of his film, Never Forget.

"Enterprise Culture" Jewish Chronicle 9/9/91. 3 page article about Leonard Nimoy.

"To boldly go, on stage..." Daily Record 27/1/92

William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy are to team up for a stage play. Their new roles - escape artist Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Harry and Arthur has been written by Shatner. It's based on a fictional clash between Doyle, a leading light in the 1920s spiritualist movement, and Houdini, a firm disbeliever in the afterlife.

Nimoy, who'll play Doyle, said: "It will be fun to work together without being Spock and Kirk. I'll wonder where my big ears are!"

George Takei was honoured in New York by the Asian American Legal Defence and

Education Fund for his work on Star Trek TV series and films for advancing equality for Asians. Entertainment Tonight, Sky Movies 4/2/92. (info Mark French)

Michael Dorn was in the film Jagged Edge, BBC 2 11/1/92. He also did the voice of "principal elder" in Dinosaurs on 19/12/91; William Shatner starred in the film Visiting Hours shown on ITV in most regions on 5/2/92; DeForest Kelley was in Gunfight at Comanche Creek, BBC 2 6/2/92 and also recently appeared in Warlock and The House of Bimbo. (Info Mark French, Z.T. Hunt, Gloria Rigg.)

MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Quarton

BOOKS -

Feb TNG20 Spartacus by T.L. Mancour Pocket Books.
Mar P58 Faces of Fire by Michael Jan Friedman. Pocket Books.
Apr TNG21 Chains of Command by Bill McCay and Eloise Flood. Pocket Books.

Star Trek: The First 25 Years by Gene Roddenberry and Susan Sackett. This book now seems unlikely to be published. According to Cinefantastique April, 1992, Leonard Nimoy reportedly reserves the right of approval on ST products that bear his image, but was not consulted on it and reportedly vetoed the book. One wonders why, as the book was by Gene and had his name on it. If Leonard Nimoy didn't like the book no one is stopping him writing his own.

'Collectors Edition' boxed set of wide screen versions of the first five Star Trek films plus a free copy of 25th Anniversary Special. Price around £50 - £55.

U.S.S. Enterprise Hologram A.H. Prismatic have produced a very nice 4 1/2" x 3 1/4" hologram of the series Enterprise set in a 10" x 8" black mount. It is expensive at £19.95 but very nice. They are also bringing out an Enterprise 1701 D - it may already be available - at the same price.

Prismatic have also introduced holographic embossed stickers, badges, boxes, magnets, bookmarks and keyrings, although, unlike the Enterprise, these are cartoon type. They will also be introducing commemorative laser discs (diffraction foil discs which create 3D light patterns when spun), for the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of the original series.

These items will be available in museum shops, gift shops and novelty stores throughout the UK in the very near future.

You can order the U.S.S. Enterprise by mail order:

R1021/88PM Enterprise 1701 Hologram..... £19.95 (inclusive of VAT & postage)
from Star Trek Merchandise, AH Prismatic Ltd., New England House, New England Street, Brighton, E. Sussex BN1 4GH.

The Hamilton Collection are doing a set of Star Trek Plates over 18 months at £21.50 each and also have The 25th Anniversary Commemorative Plate @ £28.00 plus p&p. They are only available by reservation but if you haven't seen one of their adverts in the papers try writing to The Hamilton Collection, Copenhagen Street, Worcester, WR1 2HB. Tel. No. 0905 726606.

William Shatner's new novel "Tek Lab" is out now in hardback from Ace Putnam, priced \$19.95.

VIDEOS -ST:TNG

Transfigurations/Best of Both Worlds I (37)
Best of Both Worlds II/Family (38)
Brothers/Suddenly Human (39)
Remember Me/Legacy (40)
Reunion/Future Imperfect (41)
Final Mission/The Loss (42)

Due Next
 Data's Day/The Wounded (43)
 Devil's Due/Clues (44)
 First Contact/Galaxy's Child (45)
 Night Terrors/Identity Crisis (46)
 To the Nth Degree/Q Pid (47)
 The Drumhead/Half a Life (48)

ST-ANIMATIONS - £10.99

All 22 episodes have now been released on 7 videos - 4 on the first volume and 3 on each of the rest.

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 700-750 words or one of 'our' pages. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. Longer letters will be edited for length. Where more than one person responds to a question with similar answers we may edit out some of these just so that we can get more in the newsletter.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters.

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

Sue Embury - Monmouth, Gwent

To Christine Snow and Laurie Haynes, I agree with your remarks about the value of diversity in the English language, or any other language for that matter. It would be a dull world without variations in dialect and pronunciation, and I hope that when and if planetary unity is achieved, it need not be at the expense of diversity. Like you, Laurie, I hope that Gene Roddenberry's dream of a unified future may come to pass, but individual differences were very much a part of that vision. And here is one point where I differ from you - I would have difficulty accepting a new casting of the principle characters in classic Trek. I know it would give unlimited scope for further Kirk and Co. stories, and I know that Leonard Nimoy is not Spock, but to me Spock is Leonard Nimoy. The same goes for Captain Kirk and William Shatner. In TNG, Riker was meant to take on the Kirk role, but no way is Riker a substitute for James T Kirk! - though I can accept him as a totally new, independent character. When the time comes, and I'm not convinced that it has arrived yet, I'd rather see the old crew hand over the torch to TNG.

To Ann Peters - Like you, I was never convinced by Tasha Yar as Security Chief. I much prefer Worf in that job.

To Mike Mullen - yes, Worf does still spend a lot of time glowering in the background and issuing dire warnings, but with nine plus regular characters, they can't all be in the foreground in every episode. I would also point out that Worf's dire warnings frequently turn out to be correct, though the rest of the bridge crew usually ignore his advice at least until the ship is on the brink of disaster. If I remember correctly, in Samaritan Snare he suggested Counselor Troi be consulted before lending Geordie to the Packleds, but Riker overruled him. On that occasion, I have to agree with Worf that Deanna's talents would have been useful, but as Jon Vernon points out, there would have been little or no story if she had warned them of the deception at the outset, hence she was kept away from the scene until Geordie was firmly in jeopardy. Perhaps it was a mistake to create

a character endowed with such powerful empathic abilities. Apart from the difficulties of using her in the plot, the idea of someone who could detect everyone's innermost feelings sounds like an invasion of privacy to me; at least as bad as having an unscrupulous telepath snooping into people's thoughts. It's one thing for a sympathetic person to imagine the way someone is feeling and to offer advice - this is more or less the way Guinan comes across - but it's somehow threatening to have someone around who can actually feel what you feel. Surely feelings are private things that should only be shared voluntarily. Marina Sirtis is actually doing the best she can with a difficult part, and there have been a few good Deanna episodes. The best that I've seen was "Night Terrors", which was excellent, but overall I think Troi is a very difficult character to utilise fully. I'm quite prepared to believe that she has command abilities though, and I look forward to seeing the "Disaster" episode.

To Jackie Marshall - I once read of a piece of research which revealed that one person can know and recognise 400 to 450 individuals; about the population of a small village, or the size of your primary school, or the crew of the original Enterprise. According to this, the crew of the new Enterprise is too large for everyone to know everyone else. Captain Picard could not be expected to know all the individuals on his ship, but Captain Kirk probably did know the names of all his crew.

John Marshall and Matthew Conway take very opposite viewpoints concerning Gene Roddenberry's influence on Star Trek. I disagree with both of them.

To Matthew Conway - I've always understood that Gene took a very practical interest in Star Trek in all its forms, as detailed by Janet.

To John Marshall - Notwithstanding that Star Trek is very definitely Gene Roddenberry's creation, I do not believe that he would have wished for production of Star Trek to be wound up simply because he is no longer around to oversee its direction personally. Surely it is the greatest compliment, and the greatest achievement, when a creation outlives its creator. I believe that Gene Roddenberry would have been happy to think that his ideals were still being presented in the ST format, even after his death. Perhaps we fans can exert some influence to ensure that future Star Trek does not stray from those ideals.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth, Staffs

Re: N/L 20

Sooo, Mr. Cohen believes there is no need for the Star Trek office, does he? Thinks that liaison with the fans is 'nonsense'? Just goes to show how some people are remarkably myopic, and stupid to boot. Doesn't the man realise that if it were not for the fans he's decrying so vehemently there wouldn't be any Star Trek, and, therefore, no fat salary for him!

The information Bjo Trimble has given is very disturbing, not just because of the way Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman have been treated, but also because of the repercussions which could reverberate around fandom. It makes me wonder - now that Gene Roddenberry's influence is no longer guiding Paramount - exactly what it is they have in mind for the programme. Sacking three of the most knowledgeable people, the ones with the closest ideas of what the Great Bird wanted for his creation, seems... ill-advised at best. Sinister at worst.

To Mike Mullen - I agree about Worf. I think he's certainly developed into one of the more interesting characters of T.N.G.. Like you, I believe that all too often the writers don't take account of the effects his Human upbringing must have had on him. In the fifth season episodes I've seen so far, he doesn't seem quite so intense, almost as if the learning experience of being involved in the Klingon civil war has made him reappraise his position. That's not to say I don't find the character to be quite the little chauvinist at times; I do. The Klingon versus Human approach he has gets on my wick (I realise the dichotomy between what Worf perceives himself to be and what he aims for and is has to be put over), though how

much this has to do with Michael Dorn's approach to the character...? What I feel is that there is a great deal more under the surface of Picard's 'guard dog', and hopefully, with the right scripts, we'll be allowed to see this develop.

The Troi versus Guinan article was interesting. I tend to agree that Troi is underused, and seems to be little more than the pretty bimbo on the bridge - as she's written at the moment. Like Eddie Yau, though, I can't see the parts interchangeable. They're both very different people, but whether that is due to the actors playing the parts or the writing...? There really should be plenty of room for both of them on the Enterprise.

However, anybody who can candidly admit that she's 'never met a chocolate she didn't like' has got my vote. As the lady says, 'Chocolate is a serious business', and don't I know it!

Janet Quarton - Lochgillhead, Argyll

To Kathleen Glancy - William Shatner was the 'Star' of the original Star Trek series in that he had lead billing. Leonard Nimoy had second billing ('Also starring') with DeForest Kelley getting third billing as from the start of the second season. A lot of the general public tended to think of Spock when Star Trek was mentioned because he did kind of stand out - no other regular character in a series had pointed ears. As far as the fans are concerned, I remember when we did a poll for STAG after ST:TMP was released and Kirk and Spock almost tied as the most popular character, with William Shatner being the most popular actor.

Alan Miller - Cardiff, South Wales

As a relatively new member, I congratulate you on the Newsletters. I've always needed up to date news on TNG. "Cinefantastique", "Starburst" and "TV Zone" are always a little out of date.

I have a technical question which I hope some like-minded IDIC member can answer for me. I work in film production and have been amazed at the quality of FX on TNG. Being a dyed in the wool film person, the video composite effects of the show not only surprise me but almost convince me that video FX are as good as film FX. I stress "almost". I've read and re-read the technical magazines (I'm no Data, but hate being ill-informed or even ignorant about subjects I'm enthusiastic about) but the post-production on TNG still defeats me. In Newsletter 20 you quote from "TV Zone" and that helped me win a bet. My problem is the idea that somewhere along the line the NTSC master tape is transferred to film... I'll explain.

In your "speeded up videos" explanation, you said; *"The new system DEFT - Digital Electronic Film Transfer. DEFT converts film which runs at 24fps to NTSC video by duplicating frames in sequence which is not perceptible to the human eye. DEFT re-converts the 30 fps of NTSC information back into 24 fps of information."* So does DEFT convert the 35mm film image - the original film rushes shot of the show - "on its way" so to speak to be edited ending up with the final NTSC tape master? If so I'm still with it... Here's a quote from page 5 of "Cinefex" No. 37 (a third of which is devoted to the post production of TNG). *"One of the things I had to do was to bring to everyone's attention the fact that if we went with video, we would never be able to release the show on film. That was a big issue for the studio."* Peter Lauritsen: Associate Producer Star Trek: the Next Generation. Fair enough. I'm still with it up to now. No film end product. Later, in the same, there's an anomaly... *"Finishing the new Star Trek series on video meant that the shows would have to be transferred to either film or foreign video format..."* My underlining. Huh? Are we contradicting ourselves here? And on page 6... *"Live action is shot on 35mm (sic) as are almost all of the elements involved in the creation of the FX sequences - everything is ultimately transferred to videotape for the final presentation."*

I guess the questions I need answered is this: Is there any transfer from a TNG Master NTSC tape to film and why? Well, I'll leave that nasty question to be answered by someone infinitely more qualified than myself, someone reading this, I hope.

P.S. Are there any IDIC members out there with a Macintosh Computer? I have a hand held scanner and if you send me a disc, I'll cram it full of Macpaint Trek pictures - don't forget to state preferences (Classic, TNG etc.) and return postage.

[Janet - Just a couple of points. While DEFT works in both directions I assume that CIC are only using its ability to convert the 30 fps of NTSC information to 24 fps. As to the rushes - I saw some of the rushes for "The Game". The rushes for the each day's filming were delivered to Gene Roddenberry's office on video tape the following morning. When I recently saw the finished episode some of the scenes I'd seen now had special effects added.]

We hope some members will be able to answer your questions - if they can't we'll ask Richard Arnold.]

Lloyd Lewis - Abercynffig, Mid Glamorgan

To Sheila Clark - re sexism in the young. My wife and I have, in all ways, treated our 2 children the same BUT - as soon as they became old enough to choose Cai went for soldiers, tanks etc and this Christmas, Rose 2) chose an ironing board and iron. Incidentally, at the moment I'm a house husband, so it isn't just role modelling.

It is obvious that a Claymore could not have been a suicidal weapon - if it was it wouldn't have been used. The Scots did not use 'rank and file' - that was the English. Logic says that if the dagger was superior then everyone having seen it in use would have adopted it. Constant training would have made the Claymore user strong enough, and dextrous enough, to use it more like a sabre than the traditional two handed sword.

To Ray Dowsett - Have you read the Gene Roddenberry interview by Sheldon Teitlbaum (I kid you not!) in Cinefantastique December 1991? As you yourself said "An exploration vessel fitted with A, B and C, is still an exploration vessel".

To Bill Taylor - I don't know about your Bird of Prey query *[where Bill could get a model]* but 'Mums and the Boys' manager Roger, on 021 558 8884 will - best of luck.

To Steve Davies - For years my wife Julie has 'tolerated me being a Trekker'. The change has been gradual but she's cancelled a meeting at work today to be home in time for "Yesterday's Enterprise".

Steve Howe - Shenstone, Staffs

To Bill Taylor - As far as I know, there are two models of the Klingon Bird of Prey available. The first is made by a company called Warp and is cast in resin. It has a ten inch wing span and is in scale with the regular ERTC Enterprise kit. Their model is very expensive at £42 but it does have superb detail. The second model is a Vac-form plastic kit with a wing span of fifteen inches and costs around £53. I don't have this model but I do know that Vac-forms don't have much detail and they take AGES! to make.

I hope that the above is of help to you and other fans who've been after a Bird of Prey in a good size. These models are only available (I think) at: Comet Minatures, 46-48 Lavenderhill, Battersea, London. Tel: 071 228 3702

Michelle Drayton - Glasgow

Did anyone read the article in the December issue of OMNI written by Melinda Snodgrass? It was titled 'Boldly Going Nowhere?'

The writer had a whole page to herself on which she stood on her soap box and told us all *exactly* what she thought of ST:TNG, which she described as being populated by "...bloodless automatons" and the "...godlike-alien-of-the-week." Her main argument was that it no longer was just a show, "...so he could make money", referring to Gene Roddenberry. It has become a sounding board for celluloid wrist

slapping with cunning subliminal messages about poverty, slavery and ecological cock-ups. Although I agree with her that both versions have done little to change the world I personally believe that it has made a lot of people stop and think. Whether they go ahead and do something about it, like joining Greenpeace, or not is their concern and good on them.

I do not believe that the new crew are any less or more "passionate" or "flawed" than Kirk and his mob. She suggests that the original series was more "...swashbuckling, (far) better entertainment"; ST:TNG has had its fair share of exciting and highly original entertainment. Consider Yesterday's Enterprise, Sins of the Fathers, Best of Both Worlds and The Hunted. It is still very good S.F.

I don't begrudge Ms. Snodgrass her opinion but I think a lot of her arguments were a bit below the belt. Okay, it's (just) a TV show but it didn't get where it is today without the fan following it now boasts and it certainly isn't because it touches the moral chords of our hearts. ST:TNG is entertaining despite its faults (which can be said for both series and some of the movies) and it does not deserve the derision which she obviously holds against it.

Jacqueline Comben - Rhossili, Gower, Swansea

Star Trek without Gene? We all know what happened to 3rd season Original Trek, and if that is what Trek without Gene is all about, I would agree with John Marshall's say that no Trek would be better. However, if those schooled by Gene continue to remain true to his vision, surely he would want his creation to live on? It is not the same as a series of novels written by one author. I am not suggesting Bond was great literature, but without Ian Fleming it really wasn't Bond. Nothing written about Holmes is truly the same as a genuine Conan Doyle story...etc. etc. Trek has always had many writers. The difference now will be that Gene cannot vet the scripts, but I am totally sure that Janet, Sheila and Valerie could. I am equally sure that someone in Paramount is as able as our friends from IDIC. So it all boils down to the question of who ends up in charge. Paramount's sacking of the Star Trek Office staff does not bode well... but we can all hope for the best. Does anyone know whether Gene had vetted all the season 5 TNG scripts, as if not, we should all keep our eyes open for a sudden change. If there is no obvious move towards 'crumpet of the month' and/or 'let's have a battle'... we can be encouraged. I do suspect, however, that the recent move towards accepting scripts from fans has probably been reversed, and I will be very interested to see how season 6 turns out.

Lesley Arrowsmith - Rugby, Warks.

To Elena Bond - I completely agree about Zen, Orac and Slave. I remember being close to tears when Zen 'died'. As far as my husband is concerned, though, the android in Red Dwarf is superior to Data (I don't agree with him).

To Helen White - The awful book about brain transplants was made into an awful film, but they did it the other way round. The brain of an attractive, tall model was put into the comatose body of a small, plain woman, who had great problems with all her old model friends not recognising her.

Finally, thanks to Sheila Clark for her excellent article on fanzines. It was only the fact that I was slightly bullied by members of Starship Excalibur (as was) that started me writing fiction, and since then I've written non-fiction for a parish magazine and a booklet on a local graveyard, which is now kept in the church for visitors - another example of Trek broadening horizons.

Shirley Majewski - Hatfield, MA, USA

I continue to be amazed at the quality of IDIC! You folks have more news in your publication than any I see over here! I wonder, however, if you will be able to still have as much, now that Richard Arnold and Susan Sackett are no longer working at Paramount. Of course you may have other sources of information, I do hope so! I am very upset about the way the Star Trek office was closed and those two old friends were treated. Someone told me that many businesses handle discharging that way nowadays, with security guards and locked doors. Isn't it a

shame the way trust in other people has deteriorated. What has happened to respect for others? Obviously, this is a good example of Big Business only being interested in the Bottom Line - MONEY! Gene Roddenberry always understood how important the fans were - makes one wonder what will happen, now he is gone, doesn't it? Oh how we miss you, Gene!

Onward and upward.... Kathleen Glancy - the best way to treat those rags like National Enquirer is NOT to buy them! Unfortunately, many people do, but I, for one, would never give them my hard-earned money! I know, one is attracted by seeing something about Star Trek on the cover - you can be practically sure that what is inside is a bunch of junk, as we put it!

To Mark Hulme: The cover you saw on Peter David's book, *The Rift*, was one that slipped by the author - at first! Over here it was changed to a cover depicting Kirk in a uniform worn in the movies, with a picture of the young, Cage, Spock in the lower right-hand corner. Mr. David was very upset at the mistake, you may be sure! You know, of course, that he is a prime example of a fan who has capitalized on his fondness for Star Trek to become a professional writer - and, in a lot of our opinions, a fine one. Nothing like a fan who understands what Gene Roddenberry intended, to write good stories!

Re the "Ensigns of Command" discussion - the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language has a number of definitions, one of which is "any standard, as of a military unit" and another as "A standard-bearer". Data was obviously a standard-bearer - acting in accordance with Picard's orders. Still, it is confusing! I liked the Shakespearian titles of Classic Trek, much better than TNG ones.

Speaking of Shakespeare - I am puzzled that there isn't more discussion of your fine British actor Patrick Stewart's appearance in TNG! He is extremely popular here - many of us made a trek to New York City in December to see him in his one-man show of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* - a real treat for everyone who saw it! Even the New York drama critics, who can be extremely harsh at times, raved about how fine he was! Sold-out houses, standing ovations - all so well deserved! 180 of us had the great privilege of meeting with Mr. Stewart that weekend - one woman came all the way from Japan! We are so fortunate to have an actor of Mr Stewart's calibre to enjoy each week! He is a fine director, as well; we just watched his efforts in an episode called *Hero Worship*, where a young boy, who has been rescued by Data, decides that being an android is the thing to be! Yes, we are well into the 5th Season now, with new episodes after a long string of reruns.

I could go on for pages, but will leave space for others. I'd love to be able to afford to "cross the Pond" to one of your conventions! They do sound like great fun! I hope many of you get to go to the one with George Takei that is mentioned on page 28 [*Contagion*] - he is a marvellous guest! Take your jogging shoes, he is bound to invite you all to go jogging or running with him! Good luck at keeping up, however! This man has run marathons!

One more thing - I have only one complaint about IDIC - I don't get any sleep when it comes - I just have to sit down and read it through, no matter how late it keeps me up! Joking, of course - it is well worth a few hours lost sleep! Can't wait for the next issue! Love and peace to all.

Ann Peters - Kidderminster, Worcs.

To Helen White: I'd be the first to agree with you that there's an awful lot we don't know. It's true we can't hear bat cries, but we do at least know what noise is, and because we know what it is, we are able to build devices to detect it without relying solely on our ears. I don't think rocks are alive, because they don't do any of the things living things usually do. They just sit around and get eroded century after century. We need to define what we mean by 'alive' very precisely if we're going to investigate the life status of rocks, because unless we know what we're looking for, it's difficult to know when we've found it. Biologists certainly don't consider rocks to be alive, but some of them are less

sure about how they would classify intelligent machines, if ever any were constructed.

To Sheila: I notice that you insisted on spelling Mrs. Manheim's name 'Jenice'. The Starlog TNG magazine spelt it 'Janice', and I wondered where you got the 'e' from. *[Janet: The official Paramount Promo for "We'll Always Have Paris" gives her name as Jenice. So does the ST:TNG Poster Magazine No. 12 which lists all the credits for the episode.]*

And still to Sheila: Men don't so much THINK women are shallow as WANT them to be. Surely you've noticed how the vast majority of men are attracted to 'dumb blondes'. They like women who don't present a threat to their own illusion of superiority.

To Ed: I'm very relieved to see that you're not going to start assigning ranks to us all. I think it would lower the tone of the club, as well as being a complete waste of time.

Helen White - Bracknell, Berks

First of all, many thanks to all the people who've sent me opinion poll replies; if anyone else wants to send theirs, please do - the more the better! The first time I did a poll for IDIC, I had 22 replies, which was about 10% of the club's membership at the time, so this time I thought that I should get about 100 or so, if I was lucky. So far, I've had 219; that'll keep me busy for a while! Thanks also to those people who wrote me notes/letters or sent me odd items; all much appreciated.

This year is proving to be great for new Trek; not only STVI, but fifth season TNG, which so far is absolutely brilliant, especially Unification. If you're a Spock fan, you must see it!

To Gaile Wood - I think head transplants are a lot more feasible than just brain transplants. For a start, you don't have the problem of 'plumbing in' all the cranial nerves directly to eyes/ ears/ spinal cord etc; all you have in the way of connections is a neck, containing a spinal cord. Much easier to make one join. It's common now for all sorts of transplants to occur, and also, severed limbs can routinely be replaced; in three hundred years, it should be a doddle, relatively speaking, to reattach a head to a body (or, equally, to attach old to new.) Besides that, faces are such a basic part of one's self-identity that I think that you'd get massive psychological problems with a new face; it would be enough to cope with just having a new body.

To Matthew Conway - I too only became a 'proper' Trek fan in the late 80's (1987 to be precise), yet I feel deeply affected by Gene's death. He was hardly 'just a figure-head'; he had the final say-so on all Trek and related items. If it wasn't for him, we would not now have The Undiscovered Country, we'd have the horrendous-sounding academy story instead. He had direct involvement in TNG; as Janet says, he always checked the scripts, and he also had right of veto on the novels. Star Trek was very much his 'baby'. Besides that, even if 'all' he did was to invent the Trek universe, that's one hell of an achievement. How many people have come up with such an enduring idea?

To Gloria Fry - re age statements. You have to state that you're over eighteen when you're buying those sort of zines through the post, and with K/S you have (I think) to say that you understand what K/S is and therefore aren't going to have a rather large surprise when you start reading.... Mind you, when I've bought K/S zines at cons, no one's ever asked me whether I know what I'm getting!

Heather Gibson - Glasgow

Hello to everybody in IDIC.

To Karen Sparks - your description of the story you wrote when you were young brought to mind an 'epic' a friend and I started when we were about 12. It was a

Blake's 7 'story' to start with but soon Dr Who, Star Trek, Space 1999 and anybody else we could think of found their way in too. I can't remember the main story but we had to give up after 10 pages because there were so many sub-plots (and people getting off with each other) that the whole story fell apart.

To Eddie Yau - in your article entitled "Troi and Guinan" you seem to base your estimation of each character against physical prowess, ie Guinan is a better character because she can shoot a mean phaser. You find the idea of Troi engaging in hand-to-hand combat "unpleasant". Why? Afraid she would break a nail? Smudge her make up? I'm sure if Troi felt herself sufficiently threatened she would fight back like the rest of us.

I think the question is irrelevant. I can't see why there can't be Troi and Guinan, in different roles. Troi's role is more specialised than Guinan's. She would deal with emotional and personality problems ie obsession, grief etc. If you had a small problem - had an argument with someone or wanted to discuss philosophy - you would bend Guinan's ear. Besides, as a final thought, who counsels the counselor?

Derek Clark - Harrogate, N. Yorks

To Joe Vernon - I think the reason for the different rear ends of the Enterprise is that, the one with the slots within a curve is a PB-31 Mod 3 warp unit, while the one with the ping-pong end is a PB-32 Mod 3 warp unit. I think the Enterprise must have at some point been refitted and had the PB-32 installed.

I think my worst ST:TNG episode is The Hunted. For me there were too many mistakes; at one point an emergency was called and a picture of Security is shown responding to the emergency by walking to the scene. Another is when Worf confronts the Prisoner, and the lighting fails, Worf simply looks up at the lights.

To Mike Mullen - I agree with you, Peter David writes excellent books with excellent humour, Q-Pid is excellent. I did not however like his portrayal of Wesley in Strike Zone, but it is a good book. He "paints" a very good image in his giant novel Vendetta.

Edward Woo - Liverpool, Merseyside

To Pam Baddeley - The book I was referring to that you wanted details of is called The Making of the Next Generation, from script to screen; written by Edward Gross, A4 size book, published by Schuster and Schuster, 1988. I think it is out of print now and not well known. It has about six chapters exploring the first 5 episodes of TNG and interviews with writers, directors and Marina Sirtis. It also has a chapter about Data a.k.a. Questor. It has some interesting facts but lacks detail because it was written early in TNG's first season. I've seen a new version of this book advertised. You mentioned that The Enemy was the least favourite of yours because of the unbelievable events. You are correct in saying that La Forge and the 2nd Romulan were suffering the ill effects on the planet. Why didn't this continue when they were aboard the Enterprise for a while at least before clearing up? And how did the 1st Romulan deteriorate so badly and die? A possible solution - the 1st Romulan could have suffered more extensive physical injuries and lowered his threshold to the lethal energies. The answer for La Forge and the 2nd Romulan is more difficult; a half answer would be that the length of the exposure was not long enough, and normality could return very quickly.

To Kirstie Jordan - I agree with your comment that Geordi La Forge has returned to the Away Teams and not being stuck in engineering. Why can't we have Deanna Troi participating in away missions as well? I had a relook at The Enemy and your comment about Wesley's head seems quite correct. Wesley did leave the bridge and when we looked at the view screen again, his head and shoulders are there, no doubt about it. Well spotted, no doubt a bit of bad editing.

To Jon Vernon - Regarding Data's batteries. I wonder if he has very tiny ones that could last for years, or the alternative that Lt Cmdr Data has a nuclear fusion power pack inside him to generate the desired energies. Apart from this

point, does Data ever sleep or rest in a quiet state? I'm not sure I would like to think so if he wants to act Human.

I do agree with you that Counselor Troi's empathic abilities can make her a very powerful person seeing through the subterfuge of a story, but we could have stories that involve her being a Terran.

The Ultimate Computer is one of my favourites as well. I think that when the M5 computer drops its defences, it means the defensive field surrounding the computer itself and the ability to draw power from the Warp Engines (remember that crewman who was vaporised). When Kirk drops all his defences it means he had power for the shields but not communications, so he kept his shields down trusting to Commodore Wesley's judgement.

You mentioned the question of the stock photography of the Enterprise's rear nacelles being either ping-pong ball types or slots in a curve. You prompted me into thinking about it. All original Constitution class starships were originally classed as cruisers when they were built or being built. As technology progressed through experience and conflicts Starfleet decided to uprate the design to Heavy Cruiser. This meant new specifications called the Bonhomme Richard specifications.

So the Enterprise was duly modified when it regularly returned to a Starbase. The original Enterprise had PB-31 Mod 3 Warp drive units, the spiked front end caps and the rear slotted nacelle ends. The new specifications resulted in some design changes, but the overall shape was the same. The biggest change was the new PB-32 warp drive units which were far superior to the PB-31's. Other improvements included a new main deflector, a lower profile for the primary bridge, enlarged landing bay and reinforced structural support for the warp drive units.

Sources: Famous Spaceships of Fact and Fantasy, Ships of Starfleet Vol One.

To Jean Sloan - I do agree with your comments about Paramount's hasty decision to dismiss the ST Staff Office. How can such an organisation do such a thing? It's the publicity and liaison with the fans that generate interest in such a programme and the money Paramount earn from it. With the untimely death of Gene Roddenberry who actually controlled the rights to Star Trek, can Majel do anything about it?

To Angela Brown - Yes, I whole heartily agree with you that I would love to see Marina Sirtis at a British ST Con as I have heard so much about her talks. I thought you would like to know that there is a Star Trek Group being formed, part of the Northern Starfleet Alliance, called Cumbria Starfleet, trying to drum up numbers. The contact is D. Robinson, 79 Dacre Road, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 1BP. If you know of any more fans in the area who are interested, write to him for more info.

To Chris Brown - In The Enemy, at the end of the story, the Enterprise is intending to escort the Romulan warbird to the Neutral Zone. I believe it does it. As the Romulans head towards the Neutral Zone, the Enterprise probably make a wide sweep, following the warbird at a discreet distance behind it. Escorting a ship I think does not mean travelling side by side, but close enough to keep watch.

To Ann Peters - I did think about this question of TNG Enterprise doors opening promptly when needed when I read your question. I did think of a technical answer quickly, plus I also checked my Technical manuals. Here are my answers:

i) Bad direction like you said.

ii) As a crewman walks up to a turbolift door or a door which he/she has authorised entry, the doors will open provided there is a presence there, the face and retina have been scanned and a sufficient delay time. However if you walk up to the doors and turn you face away to talk to some one, it won't open till all four entry requirements are completed. This would actually take milliseconds. I hope you like this, as it's the best one I can construct presently.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

I read the letters on the speed of the 3rd season TNG tapes with some

interest. Although I've been keeping up to date with the CIC tapes, I hadn't got round to playing any of the most recent ones, so a few days ago I decided to see what I thought about them. I started with Yesterday's Enterprise, and found only one voice that seemed too high and too fast - Tasha Yar's; but then Denise Crosby's voice always did sound very high to me (she seems to use a lower register in her fourth/fifth season appearances, and maybe that's another reason why her voice seemed too high on the tape). I then played another couple of episodes, and in both there was one speech of Riker's in the teaser that seemed fast to me. Apart from that, I quite frankly didn't notice anything wrong with the speed.

Britain has always had Trek at a different speed from America. I think the only time I was ever aware of it was the first time we saw Empath on 16mm film at a con and the voices sounded very deep!

To Matthew Conway (and Rick Prestien) - re Picard as Wesley's father. To be honest, in the early days of TNG, when a budding romance between Picard and Beverly was implied in a few of the stories, if only by Beverly's behaviour, I said I reckoned it was only a matter of time before some 'Picard as Wesley's father' stories appeared on the scene, considering what some writers do with the slimmest of suggestions. In fact, I've been agreeably surprised that a plethora of these stories has *not* emerged. We printed one, which was a spoof; I've read one that was meant to be taken seriously (in Beverly File 3 - Jack Crusher was infertile and Bev had slept with Picard because she wanted a child). As a spoof the theme works; taken seriously, no, I don't think it does. Actually, I don't see any potential for romance between Captain and Doctor; I don't think they have anything much in common except their mutual affection for Jack Crusher, and as far as Picard is concerned, Bev is as much 'hands-off' now as she was when Jack was alive. With regard to Final Mission, perhaps (once he was on board the Enterprise) Wesley, deprived so young of a father he can barely have known, came to regard Picard as a father-figure?

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

On a suitable charity for Gene's tribute - how about something that helps child victims of AIDS? Knowing the kind of man he was, I'm sure Gene must have detested the judgemental attitude of the general public to AIDS sufferers, and the way children who are already paying the ultimate price for the crime of being born to infected parents get treated by playgroups, schools etc would be particularly abhorrent to him.

Re the London Evening Standard story suggesting that the mind-meld might have sexual implications, since Spock forced it on Valeris (albeit for good reason), they are presumably also implying that he is a closet rapist. He has also had some very odd relationships in the past. It puts me in mind of the old joke (in which the original participants were army officers and a horse) which could be adapted thus.

McCoy: Jim, I'm worried about Spock. He's in love.

Kirk: Well, I'd have thought you'd have been pleased for him.

McCoy: No, you don't understand, he's in love with a Horta.

Kirk: A Horta! Is it a male or a female?

McCoy: Female, of *course*. There's nothing queer about Spock.

(I should explain again, as I have no wish to offend any gay members, that this was an *old* joke and if you substitute any more politically correct word in the punchline it stops being funny.)

Turning to my own letter - really, Sheila, you or Janet, whichever it was perpetrated 'Jane Austin' should think black burning shame on herself. As there may be fellow JAS or JASNA members out there I want it made PERFECTLY CLEAR RIGHT NOW that I did not spell the great novelist's name as anything but AUSTEN. *[Sheila - Mea culpa. It was a typo I often make, hitting the key with the right finger of the wrong hand. However, either Valerie or I should have caught it at the proofreading stage.]*

To Kirstie Jordan - I don't know that an argument to the effect that everyone who has ever served on the Enterprise has been tall, beautiful and slim, especially the last, can be wholly sustained. I suggest that the reason for the dearth of fat people in Starfleet is that entrants have to pass very stringent health tests (which would eliminate anyone who had some inherent condition which led to their being overweight) and once in are fed a balanced diet and required to exercise regularly. That takes care of fat. There could be a height requirement, necessary so that officers could use standard equipment comfortably. That takes care of short. Beauty, at all times, is in the eye of the beholder. There are millions of short, fat people around but they don't get into Starfleet so we don't meet them often.

To Karen Sparks - I just want you to know that I will probably *never* be able to watch *City on the Edge of Forever* again without hearing an imaginary 'cuckoo' at the climactic moment and bursting into inappropriate laughter.

To Wynne Jones - It is generally accepted that the Guardian has a personal protective field so that those standing close to it are not affected by any changed in the time stream. That is why Kirk, Spock and Co. continued to exist and retain their memories of the real past.

To Marcia Pecor - As you are too polite to say directly, the ego which should properly be bruised by my comments on your use of "Oh Captain, my Captain" in the Shatner profile is mine, for using incorrect language. A Shatner fan who was less than literate would not be in a position to form any opinion at all on either profile or poem. I meant literary, of course. I can quite see your rationale for using the poem. You might perhaps get a little argument from Ray Dowsett about your picture of Lincoln as motivated wholly by his ideals, though in fact in the context of your profile it doesn't so much matter what Lincoln was really like as what Kirk *believed* him to have been like.

To Ann Peters - The female equivalent to 'sir' in our armed and civilian forces is not 'madam' but 'ma'am', which sounds quite forceful. Does anyone know what the American army, etc, uses for female officers?

To Gloria Fry - Chancer in *City Lights* has also sported Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Mickey Mouse, Beano and Dennis the Menace (the British, not the American one) T-shirts, so I doubt if his Kirk and Spock T-shirts have any personal significance to the actor. I suspect, given the *character*, that Chancer once bought a lot of T-shirts for his stall at the Barras, found himself unable to sell them because they had been produced without licences from Paramount, DC & Marvel Comics, Disney, D.C. Thomson et al, and is wearing them out himself. This seems quite feasible - Disney, especially, is well known for pursuing even the tiniest unauthorised use of Mickey Mouse to the utmost extreme of the law.

Oh, come on, Sheila, what was it that made that particular Mary Sue story stand out as the *worst* you ever read? Against such strong competition, too, since you get a hundred dire Mary Sues to every good one. I enjoyed your Fanzine Review very much, but why no mention of the other major sub-genre, the hurt/comfort story? Perhaps you considered that to be already covered by the mention a few issues ago of Janet's sub-sub-genre, the Kirk-bonkers. Considering Janet *likes* Kirk, I have never been quite able to fathom her enthusiasm for having bodily injury happen to him - a trait which some people might feel would be more appropriate to me. [Sheila - Mary is 14, satisfies Spock's next *pon farr* and turns out to be Kirk's daughter...]

I see William Shatner is to appear as Houdini and Leonard Nimoy as Conan Doyle in a new play. Presumably on the theme of Spiritualism, in which Doyle believed strongly while Houdini was noted for exposing fraudulent mediums and claimed he had never met any other kind. Nimoy will now need to attempt a Scots accent, and I would remind Miss L. Wood, who is rumoured to have volunteered her services as dialogue coach, that Doyle was an *Edinburgh* man so I should get first dibs!

John Stubley - Boston, LinCs

To Lloyd Lewis - The word 'robot' is Czechoslovakian, Isaac Asimov simply picked up the word. As far as I can remember, in the late 19th century a Czechoslovakian wrote about Man-machines which took over the world. The Czechoslovakian word for them is 'robot'. I agree about the Greek myths, though. Prometheus brought us fire (against the wishes of the other gods) and suffered horribly himself. Zeus created Mankind from clay and then breathed life into us.

To all - Imagine if all 750-odd members all wrote in to the Postbag section! It is with this in mind that I keep it short (and sweet). I enjoy reading your opinions/views/suggestions.

Matthew Conway - Lambourn, Berks

To Janet Quarton - Criticising Gene Roddenberry was always going to be somewhat controversial, and the editorial comment to my letter in N/L 20 certainly put me in my place - as will a huge deluge of other replies, I suspect. I certainly accept much, if not all, of what you say about the degree to which he was involved, but I would still maintain that his was a diminished - and diminishing - role: how else did the abysmal Spock's Brain ever get filmed, a criticism that can also be levelled at much of Star Trek's substandard third season as a whole. Roddenberry has been described by Richard Arnold (Conduit 1991) as being very much opposed to the fourth season TNG episode First Contact, but he never invoked his ability to veto it; I can't imagine that ever being the case in Star Trek's younger days. And while we can all be thankful that 'Starfleet Academy' was halted in its tracks, I don't believe that "he did read and make comments on all the [movie] scripts and... changes were made" constitutes a major role in film production, a belief I recall - although I could be wrong - being echoed in William Shatner's account of the making of Star Trek V: The Final Frontier. However, I happily accept that Roddenberry's contributions to Trek were greater than those for which I perhaps gave him credit.

In the ongoing CMO debate, I'm registering my vote firmly in favour of Beverly Crusher. Part from the male-chauvinistic comment that Gates MacFadden is a stunningly beautiful actress, it's nice to see a Starfleet Doctor capable of conducting her duties - and her life - without a constantly abrasive manner. Add to that the fact that Katherine Pulaski was a blatant McCoy clone - hating transporters and goading an unemotional crewmember are old hat - and Beverly is a clear winner. Of course, I haven't even mentioned the possibilities of her relationship with Picard...

To Mike Mullen - I was initially distrustful of ST:TNG when I heard about it in 1987. However, two things changed my mind; 1) Patrick Stewart's appearance on Wogan long before I had ever seen an episode, and 2) seeing my first episode - a much under-rated one, namely Lonely Among Us - and instantly forgetting any qualms I might have been harbouring.

To Lloyd Lewis - According to my Collins Concise Dictionary, 'robot' is a 20th-century word first used in the play RUR by Czech writer Karel Capek (1890 - 1938) and coming from the Czech 'robota' meaning 'work'.

To Edward Woo - I can't agree with your defence of Deanna Troi as a potential Starship commander. While she may hold the rank of Lieutenant Commander, she does not occupy a position in the chain of command, and it's pretty unlikely that she received command training at Starfleet Academy. After all, Dr. Crusher is a Commander, but there's no way she could ever take command of the Enterprise, short of everyone else falling ill - as occurred in Angel One. Personally, I'd rather Chief O'Brien - a mere Lieutenant, but a former tactical officer aboard the USS Phoenix - took the centre seat in a disaster rather than Troi or Crusher.

Maureen Hollinsworth - Lake, Isle of Wight

I would like to thank IDIC, The Sheffield Space Centre and Merryman Press in the States for their prompt service and never-ending patience with my enquiries. In fact, the only person ever to let me down was the auctioneer at last year's

Manchester con. I am still waiting for my record, sir.

To Sheila - I greatly enjoyed your history of fanzines. Perhaps you could write one on fan clubs and how the number of members has increased or decreased over the years. I suspect it's on an up at the moment.

To Linda Wood - I enjoyed your report on the LN con as I did the others; however, you made one comment in your article which puzzled me. I quote, "Everyone there, even the Bill Shatner fans who came along, was impressed, etc..." Is there any reason for you to think we wouldn't be? I admit I am first and foremost a Shatner fan but Leonard is very close behind. I do belong to both fan clubs and it has given me a great feeling of satisfaction that the first person from either series that I have actually seen was Leonard. I just hope that one of these days I may get to meet Bill Shatner, then my cup would runneth over. To my regret the one sour note at the LN con was the anti-Shatner brigade - only small, I admit. In fact I might not even have noticed them except for one young lady who took great delight in expounding her views to all and sundry at the top of her not inconsiderable voice. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but these people, who have given us so much for so many years, deserve, if not our love, then at least our respect for remaining loyal to their characters.

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

Sorry - I left a gap in my letter last time, meaning to look up the name of the biologist/palaeontologist I mentioned, rather than rely on my memory. Stephen Jay Gould was the person I meant.

Thanks to everyone for the explanation about the videos. I have several Classic and TNG tapes but only 4 of the TNGs have the stickers. Can anyone tell me what merchandise is offered and where you write for it (assuming that 4 stickers are any use!)

To Gaile Wood - Yes, witches were burned in Scotland. But in England, not only heretics and Catholics were burned (depending on who was on the throne). Women convicted of 'petty treason' - murdering their husbands - were also burned. (Needless to say, there was no male equivalent of petty treason.)

To various people about head transplants - We get the New Statesman on circulation at work so I no longer have the issue concerned, but an article appeared about this last year. Someone in America is freezing either whole bodies (where the deceased can afford it) or just the head, in the hope of eventual brain transplant into 'donor' bodies. A British man was on their books too. A certain faction believes in its eventual feasibility, presumably in the light of various experiments on dogs and monkeys. Personally I think it's open to all kinds of abuse and the deterioration of brain cells would seem to put a limit on this particular method of life extension (leaving aside the fact that cryogenic freezing doesn't work at the moment because freezing the water in the body cells causes damage to the cells anyway.) The brain is the only organ which doesn't constantly generate new cells - presumably because this would disrupt the continuity of brain function, especially memory, so even if Alzheimer's etc can be avoided, deterioration must put an upper limit on this.

Re the new CIC process. I bought The High Ground and agree that Picard and Riker occasionally sound like Pinky and Perky (2 squeaky-voiced pig puppets for those too young to remember!) Thankfully, it's only now and then. Some people sound fairly O.K. - Worf, the Crushers - though Data and Troi have lost 'depth', in Troi's case quite drastically. She usually sounds so distinctively exotic - that's quite gone on the tape and is really disconcerting. In view of the BBC's plan to keep us waiting years for the rest of series 3 onward, while they show their edited versions of the Classic series, this is particularly aggravating!

To Lloyd Lewis - It is a late Greek legend that, after the flood (the Greeks had their own version of Noah in one version of the myth) Prometheus recreated humans from clay.

To Matthew Conway/Ann Peters - Presumably the reason for using 'Mister' as an all-purpose form of address is that till recently only men were in the navy! I don't think Ms Saavik would have sounded odd. As for the female equivalent of 'sir', I suppose it might sound odd to say 'ma'am', but that is how you address the Queen, after all!

To Rick Prestien - Yes, we're seeing season 3 on BBC2 (or would be if they didn't keep taking it off for sport; it has just vanished for another three weeks). Some people have seen later episodes at cons or via US contacts. I'm hoping to see some at SOL III in May. Incidentally, have you heard that the BBC have banned The High Ground? Having bought the video, I did not find it sympathetic to terrorism; it just showed terrorists could be completely sincere, while still making the point that their actions were wrong. The Beeb tends to be very over-sensitive.

To Keren Breen - I'm not sure we disagreed with Riker for the same reasons. Personally I agree with women's 'right to choose' as it is euphemistically known. I meant that Riker's objections to cloning were daft because they would not be carbon copies of his personality; I agree that the colonists should not have taken the samples without permission, but found his original objections ridiculous.

Finally, a note to Marcia Pecor who advertised in the small ads; the BBC advertised Lord of the Rings on cassette so you might be able to get the tapes from a store which imports UK tapes or, alternately, by writing to BBC Enterprises. I don't have their address, but if you wrote to BBC TV Centre, Wood Lane, London W12 they should send it on or tell you where to write - with any luck; the BBC are an odd lot and don't always reply, unfortunately.

Jenny Turner - Birmingham

I met Gene at a con quite a few years ago. Some friends and I were sitting on the floor talking; we were all wearing T-shirts with funny messages on them. Mine had SPOCK DOES IT WITH LOGIC on it. All of a sudden, Gene was talking to us. He saw my shirt and made some comment. I was so in awe of him I forgot what he said! Anyway, I went bright red. He struck me as a warm-hearted, kind man who would have a laugh and a joke with anyone. I was very upset at his death. Star Trek was Gene Roddenberry. If it hadn't been for him, the dream would never have happened.

I was shocked to hear they had sacked Richard and Susan - what on earth are they doing? Have they gone mad? I hope this won't affect the info we get too much. We don't get that much here anyway. Also I hope it doesn't affect the merchandise side. I've sent for stuff (some last year - I'm still waiting for it) and some recently from shops in this country. It is ridiculous the time you have to wait for it. Paramount, I think, has now got the attitude 'to hell with Star Trek, it's finished now Gene has gone' (I know they still have TNG). Well, the fans will prove them wrong! So there. Why is it that people never say or do nasty things while people are still alive, but wait till they are dead? (I know - because they can sue when they are alive!)

Gene might have been beamed up to the Final Frontier, but I for one will never forget him.

Fiona McOran-Campbell - High Wycombe

Re Ensigns of Command - 'Ensigns' in this case is surely being used in its true meaning, i.e. badge(s) or emblem(s). In other words, this particular episode is about someone earning the ensigns ('colours' would be a good parallel) of command, probably in the figurative sense here, in which case I suppose ensigns could be taken as duties/obligations; but it can also be used in the literal sense, in which case Captain Picard's four little circles on his collar would be his ensigns, i.e. his rank insignia.

I'd like to say something about Wesley Crusher/Wil Wheaton now that the prejudice (for want of a better word) seems to be dying down over ST:TNG. I am 20 years old and when I joined IDIC (my first ST club) I would have called myself a Classic Trek fan on the basis of two James Blish books, Star Trek III and Chain of

Attack by Gene DeWeese, and only very vague memories of the series. I still would probably call myself this if I were forced to categorise myself in fandom; though I still have not seen even half the episodes. However, I never imagined there would be such a fuss about TNG that STILL seems to be going on. Of course it's different, of course it got off to a slow start, but it's been around a while now and it was GENE's vision.

It does seem that attitudes to TNG are reflected in attitudes to Wesley (and vice versa). I know Wes was a quite unbelievable pain in the neck at first - everyone seemed to dislike him (and I think it was worse in Britain where the sight of yet another cute/smart alec American brat was just too much!) I hated him along with the best of them; but then someone told me Gene R. had based the character on himself, and indeed Gene's middle name was actually Wesley. This set me thinking (incredible!); Gene as a child could easily have been Wesley. Was Gene a child genius? Judging from all the things he did during his life it is certainly possible! Realising this, I deliberately set out to see if I could learn to like Wesley and I found I could (especially after the episode *The Final Mission*). He is actually very nice! Like it or not, *he* is the future of Star Trek. Wil Wheaton got the most fan mail of the lot on set, didn't he? So he's got the future fans too! So perhaps we should not knock him, or ignore him, so much. Do you think perhaps Gene meant Wesley to become Captain of the Enterprise-E one day. It is certainly possible from a Third Generation point of view.

Did anyone read about that new scientific breakthrough concerning damaged nerve cells regenerating themselves? Green regen gel, here we come!

Thanks again for an utterly stupendous newsletter. Do it again!

John Marshall say - Portsmouth

Reading through my letter published in N/L 20 I find I made a couple of mistakes. Firstly I gave the impression that Gene Roddenberry wrote all the scripts himself; what I really meant to say was Gene must have had the final say in which script was actually made into an episode, therefore any script he okayed should be made, and those that weren't shouldn't, if you see what I mean. The second mistake was to call the animated series a cartoon; that was very stupid of me. *[Janet: I thought animation and cartoons were the same.]*

Changing the subject somewhat, Data is said to be the ultimate android. Didn't they say that about Dr. Roger Korby's android in the Classic Trek episode *What Are Little Girls Made Of?* And what about Rayna, created by Flint in the episode *Requiem for Methuselah*? If Starfeet was ever interested in acquiring androids, why didn't they ask Dr. Korby or Flint to create an android for them? An interesting question maybe you can answer.

"Beam me up, Scotty" was never actually said in any episode of Star Trek, or so they say. If you watch the animated episode *The Ultimate Vulcan*, Kirk actually says "Beam *us* up, Scotty" - not the same, but nearly. So you never know, I might get the credit for solving the problem of how the saying circulated in the first place.

Finally, did you know the first aircraft named Enterprise was actually a balloon? It was flown during the American Civil War and was made and flown by Thaddeus Lowe. It made an important contribution to the Union war effort. On the 18th June 1861 he was the first man to use telegraphic equipment from the air, therefore the first aerial communicator, and the first message was transmitted down the cable to the President, Abraham Lincoln; all this in the Enterprise. He also designed an aircraft carrier from a converted coal barge. So maybe someone looking back in history when deciding on a name for a new aircraft carrier thought that Enterprise was most appropriate, therefore starting a name that would last well into the 24th century. I thought that it might be interesting to anyone who is trying to find out the history of any craft named Enterprise for school/college projects, or to anyone who likes to be in the know.

Mark Rigg - Leicester

I was distressed to read news in TV Zone 27 suggesting ST:TNG may come off the air unless the BBC stop dithering and buy the rights to show the rest of season 3 and onwards. Maybe we'll know more by the time of the next newsletter? Pleased to read in the same issue of their plans to show Classic Trek (even if it is 6pm on Fridays!)

Will be interested to see the outcome of Helen White's IDIC Star Trek Opinion Poll next Newsletter.

Would also be interested in any other members' opinions as to why Starfleet did not pursue Daystrom's M-5 experiments, using - say - Spock's engrams.

Lyn Johnstone - Bristol

To Eddie Yau (N/L18) - I think I prefer Dr. Crusher to Dr. Pulaski. She was a bit 'prickly' for my liking. Dr. Crusher has a much more soothing effect, which is what you need if you've just been mangled by some alien creature or other! Apart from the ones in The Dauphine, that is! You could beat *them* off with a paper bag! Does anyone know why they were so awful when in other episodes the creations have always been pretty good? Did someone have an 'off' day?

To Matthew Conway (N/L19) - It's all very well you saying that there can't be any argument over the fact that Data doesn't have emotions and using the way he reacts when his relationship breaks down at the end of In Theory to prove the point. The thing is, what about the end of Legacy when he discovers his trust in Ishara Yar has been betrayed? Surely that *does* give the impression that he has emotions of some sort or other. Personally I think it is all a big ploy to keep us watching... AND IT WORKS!

To Ann Peters (N/L20) - Re the doors on the Enterprise. Could it be that these were designed by the same beings who did the ones on the starship Heart of Gold (see Hitch-Hikers' Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams)? The sales brochure for that ship said (and I quote) "All the doors in this spaceship have a cheerful and sunny disposition. It is their pleasure to open for you and their satisfaction to close again with the knowledge of a job well done." As the door closed behind them it became apparent that it did indeed have a satisfied sigh-like quality to it! So perhaps the ones on the Enterprise are just being helpful and automatically know whether you've finished your conversation or not before they open! Well, it was just a thought.

I agree about Riker's chat-up lines being awful. He'll be walking around wearing black leather trousers, open-to-the-waist shirt and a medallion round his neck the way he's going! Come to think of it, didn't he wear something like that in Angel One?

Re favourite bits - I liked the part in Unification when, just after Spock, Picard and Data have been captured by Commander Sela, she is complaining to them how part of her job involves writing speeches and Data quite innocently asks, "Have you considered changing your job?" The look she gives him!

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

I recently bought the first animated video and was most pleasantly surprised. I had not seen them since the 70's and had forgotten just how good they were. True Trek with all its values, the SF element, and stories of excellent standard. One like 'Yesteryear' would have made a fabulous live-actor episode.

I enjoyed the varied reports on LN Con in n/l 20. Every one was different. You lucky people to have been there.

To Nicole Comtet - one of those lucky ones. Do I get the impression that you rather like Leonard? So do I. So I will forgive you for thinking my haggis story farfetched. I could prove it to you, for I have a haggis at home who wears a tartan cap, has eyes, nose, mouth and ears, but suspiciously resembles the Tribble

which recently arrive from Outpost. It is very strange.

To Janet Quarton - I'm glad you enjoyed 'Enemy Mine'. Read the book if you can find it. It was originally a novella and won - I think - both Hugo and Nebula awards that year (can't remember which year though, sorry). I first read it in a compilation of the years awards. I believe a novelisation based on both the novella and the film was done later by Barry Longyear and another writer. That was put out in paperback. It certainly had more than a touch of Trekkiness (is that a word?) in it.

To Sherry Golding - Your article in n/1 20 was most interesting. I agree with you up to a point, but if someone rejects TNG because they cannot warm to it and prefers the original, then that is their prerogative. They are not rejecting Gene's philosophies at all, but are happy with his original creation. New Trek - for example - the movie ST VI is just wonderful, but for many TNG leaves much to be desired. Only now am I finding episodes which are interesting and SF enough for my enjoyment, e.g. Yesterdays Enterprise which used the Time Travel theme well, changed the characters and made them more interesting and viable for me. Even Denise Crosby who I always found completely unbelievable as Tasha was convincing in that one. 'Deja Q' was another one which was excellent, largely because of the larger than life portrayal of Q by John de Lancie. But it has taken three long series before we have been given episodes of this quality. I hope it continues to maintain this kind of standard.

Marion Pritchard - Plymouth, Devon

Like most people reading this month's IDIC I have also seen IT! And I loved every minute. I would like to thank the kind-hearted person (whoever it is) for the info about the screening of ST VI in London. [Janet: most flyers were sent out by Kim Farey of UFP.] However, with my sort of job, I can't just take a day off like that. Just picture the scene. Me: Good morning, Headmaster. Could I have a day off for a special occasion? HM: what might that be? Me: Ehm. It's the screening of ST VI in London. HM: ***** Anyway, I am sure that those who went had a smashing time, but spare a thought for those of us with a ball and chain (sigh). One week before the film was due to be screened in Plymouth, members of our local SF club did a promo appearance in costume, and guess who was up front in the photo in the paper (in costume with 'funny' ears) and guess whose reputation at school took a dive? (I saw you in the paper, Miss...)

Due to the courtesy of friends I have also now seen the first 8 episodes of season 5, and Unification and ST VI tie up very neatly. I think they really have got their act together across the Atlantic, but also hope that they will not bungle it all, now that Gene has gone. I find all the news emerging from Paramount very worrying, and do hope that good people like Richard Arnold and co. will either be reinstated or found other niches in the Trek world.

To Kari Spindler: when I read your story last month, my heart went out to you, as I seemed to be in a very similar situation about 4 years ago, i.e. a relationship (marriage) breaking up and facing the prospect of maybe having to go back to Germany. I would like to wish you the very best in your new life and job, and hope that you will be happy.

Fanzines: I have read the exchanges on fanzines with interest. Years ago I stumbled across some in a London bookshop, and being starved of Trek at that time (especially living in Germany), I bought some and read them all. Some of them were quite good, or 'interesting', but some of them were also of the K/S variety, and as an unsuspecting reader I felt like hit over the head. Those are simply not my cup of tea. I have not bought any fanzines since, partly because of the K/S ones, but I have kept the others and cherish those. A couple of years ago my then boyfriend brought me a fanzine he discovered at a con, and guess who is teaming up in that story (which is good in parts and a bit illogical and scrambled in others) but my two favourite people: Spock and Ilia Kuryakin [Janet: in case you feel like trying some more zines I can assure that we only publish gen zines. We do not approve of 'slash zines', as they are called, being sold to anyone who does not know of and

accept the subject matter.]

To Mike Mullen: your problem 'where to put all those stickers' can be easily solved: send me some, I've still got lots of space for stickers at home and at work. However, I disagree with you on the episode 'Royale'. This episode really had me intrigued. I am one of those people who did not like TNG at first, but I can't honestly say that I remember the exact time when my attitude changed. I think TNG sort of crept up on me as the characters developed and took shape and as the plots got better. I think my change of heart is mostly due to the fact that the TNG characters convinced me as time went on that they were not busy shadow-boxing. Does this make sense?

Karen Sparks - Exeter

In n/1 20 I particularly enjoyed Sheila's article which gave an interesting insight into the trials and tribulations of zine production. I for one am more than grateful to those editors who spend half their lives slaving over a hot keyboard and arguing with recalcitrant printers, often with little or no recognition or thanks. I cringed at the account of the way Kraith dealt with their writers; one can only suppose they must have felt the end product was worth it to endure such drastic treatment. I would never have lasted five minutes if my first (or indeed any!) editor had taken that approach with me!

I remember well the days before I knew zines existed, when the Blish adaptations were the only printed words about Trek. Then came the heady excitement of finding the first novel "Spock Must Die" - and also the utter bewilderment and disappointment when I read it - it was cold and hard, and it wasn't Star Trek to me. However, years later the next book I found was Vonda McIntyre's "The Entropy Effect" which completely restored my faith in Star Trek writers - it has always remained one of my favourites.

Kari Spindler's "Tale of a Lonely Trekker" evoked very familiar memories of my first con. I am sure everyone remembers that incredible confusion of feelings at their first con, especially if they went on their own with no-one to prepare them for the experience, or shield them a bit from the strangeness of it all. Remember the worries - what if no-one talks to me? What if I don't understand what everyone's talking about? The amazement at the first encounter with a dealer's room. The heady excitement of seeing your first Trek actor in the flesh - for me it was only my desperate longing to see De Forest Kelley that made me overcome my shyness and timidly venture (no boldly going for me!) to Midcon. And above all, the relief of finding a place to talk freely about Trek, a place where you would be considered odd if you DON'T like Trek, not, as is usually the case outside, if you do.

I would like to extend moral support and fellow feeling to Kari - I know those feelings she mentions at the end of her article; I'm sure many of us do. I wish her luck for a happy, Trek-filled future back in Germany.

Lesley Hatch - Warley, West Midlands

To Kathleen Glancy: I would agree that the family histories of Presidents would be a matter of historical record, and certainly every tiny detail could be significant, so they would have to be very careful. I don't think, however, that Gillian Taylor would be treated in the way you suggest. Aside from everything else, is there evidence that the Federation had the technology to perform mind-wipes? Perhaps the Vulcans could do it, but I suspect that they would not do anything like that on moral grounds.

To Kimberly Pederson: So, another admirer of Khan! I've just re-watched Space Seed, which I hadn't seen in a long time, and it's lost none of its attraction to me. Of all the episodes, it had (to my mind) the most potential for expansion into a movie.

Also regarding your review of The Next Generation Technical Manual, I would suggest that the waste water referred to includes perspiration and tears and not

just the most obvious sources.

To Maggie Bradfield (and Eddie Yau): if you want good one-liners from Worf, wait for the episode 'Disaster' and his reactions to Keiko when she's giving birth. These are nothing short of hilarious...

To Lloyd Lewis: The word 'robot' is indeed Czechoslovakian. The exact meaning I'm not sure of, but it was first used in a play by Karel Capek called "R.U.R" or "Rossum's Universal Robots".

Helena Luckhurst - Maidstone

To Pam Baddeley - Yes, some of the TNG titles are a bit enigmatic at the best of times, aren't they? I suggest that the 'Freedom' in The Arsenal of Freedom is the freedom from a planet's security worries that a good arsenal of weapons for defence would supposedly give. However this explanation seems a bit incomplete; how can a dead race feel the benefits of such freedom? Perhaps this irony is the whole point of the title. Also Up The Long Ladder was all about cloning which involves the transfer of genetic material. DNA carries genetic information and is also like a twisted ladder structure and perhaps going up the long ladder of DNA is the process of transcribing DNA or replicating the DNA material, which presumably could be used in cloning. Does anyone else have any TNG titles from the screened seasons that they can't solve? I could easily become addicted to working them out!

To Kirstie Jordan - re the lack of 'fat' people in the future, Sarah and I concluded that what makes a person fat is either a) a genetic disorder b) determined by genes or c) diet and exercise. Assuming a) and b) will be solvable problems by the 24th century, people wouldn't be 'fat' because their exercise seems timetabled for them and perhaps the food slots will be advanced enough to calculate who is ordering, work out how many calories they've had that day and synthesise the food with a certain amount of calories so that everyone gets the correct 2000, or whatever it is. The trouble comes when you've already ordered, say, food equalling 1990 calories and wanted some chocolate. Could you synthesise chocolate with only 10 calories in it? I wish we could!

One thing I'd like to ask everyone; how realistic does everyone think the technology is in the 24th century? Will we really have advanced to ST standards in 400 years? Will we ever see anything like a Starship Enterprise in the distant future? I hope so, but I don't think so.

Marysia Kołodziej - Troon

This is my first letter, so bear with me if I babble!

To John Marshall - how can you think that Gene would want Star Trek to stop at his death? In Star Trek Gene left a part of his soul and as long as Star Trek survives so does he. As mentioned in Star Trek many times, if there is no growth or change then a thing will stagnate and die - is that what you want? Star Trek must continue to grow, for Gene's sake, for all of us.

To Marion Pritchard - I can understand why you might prefer Dr. Pulaski, but I find she is too like Dr. McCoy - not that I have anything against Bones, but one of him is enough. Some people say Dr. Crusher is too tender-hearted, but when she treats Q's back in Deja Q we can see this is not the case!

To Chris Brown - As to how fast brains process information. At night, a dream is only supposed to last a few minutes, yet they seem to last much longer. Does this mean your subconscious can process information faster than your conscious mind?

To Gloria Fry - I had just switched off a TNG video and found Enemy Mine on so I watched it. It was great and was very similar to the Romulan episode. I loved the Dracs. Why don't we see more reptilian races in Star Trek? They must exist; after all, if the dinosaurs hadn't become extinct the Earth might have had an intelligent reptilian race.

To Gaile Wood - re Klingon lovemaking. I don't claim to be an expert (though I'm willing to learn) but in Pawns and Symbols it seems to be about the same as Human lovemaking. (If someone can disprove this please do - I was hoping for something more intriguing.) Having read Pawns and Symbols and The Final Reflection, I have to say I am now a fully fledged Klingon fan. I always thought Worf was gorgeous and now I have another proud symbol of Klingon manhood, Kang! Some people don't agree with books which don't feature characters from the TV series, but these two are well worth a read, especially for Klingon enthusiasts.

To Kirstie Jordan - re less than beautiful people. They aren't exiled, they're made into Admirals. Have you seen a good-looking TNG Admiral yet?

A couple of questions to anyone who can answer them - 1) In ST III why can't Bones do the Vulcan neck pinch? With Spock's knowledge he should know how to position his hand and we know non-Vulcans can do it (Data in Redemption). 2) Who are the science officer and the communications officer in TNG?

My favourite TNG episode so far has to be Offspring, mainly because of one part, Lal and Riker - fabulous. Lal has found the solution to Riker's dreadful lines, just grab him before he gets started. Doesn't Data make a splendid father? "Commander Riker, may I ask what your intentions are towards my daughter?"

As to remembering the original series, I was very young when it was on and in fact a few scenes are all I remember from that time - especially Spock mind melding with the Horta in the mines. I have always been interested in the powers of the mind, astronomy and science fiction/fantasy; perhaps Star Trek has something to do with this.

Requests - Does anyone have soundtracks of ST films I could get copies of? I'll send a tape and pay postage. Is anyone going to Contagion who would be interested in entering the quiz with me? Reply to 21 West Crescent, Troon, Ayrshire KA10 7BL.

W MacArthur - High Wycombe

I saw the premier of ST VI on Thursday (13 Feb) and at the party afterwards, a video was shown that at the end announced a new series in 1993. Is there any more info about this from other fans or from Paramount Pictures?

Nina Lynch - Hull

Re National Enquirer article - someone gave me this article to read thinking I would enjoy it because it mentioned Star Trek. They know nothing of ST and totally believed every word that was written in it. I was quite shocked when I read it, and wonder how many non-Trekkers read it and believed it.

To Kirstie Jordan - All the less perfect people on another planet - can I extend that even further? Why is it that no-one ever seems to get out of bed the wrong side and have an 'off' day, drop things, forget, suffer PMT, get argumentative, make mistakes... like the rest of us.

To Elena Bond - re computers. You ask what Avon would think/make of Data. I don't think Avon would be impressed, except that he could make a lot of money from him. Avon was annoyed when a robot got destroyed, but also annoyed when Zen insisted that it was 'Zen' and not a machine. I think Avon wouldn't like Data to analyse situations and give his opinion unless *he* had instructed 'it' to do so. Avon likes to control and I don't think he could control Data. I personally like a computer box-shaped, but is Data a robot or a computer? In his humanoid form it is difficult to comprehend his lack of emotion and feeling. I wouldn't, however, like to make Data a 'box-like computer'. Data is unique and totally undefinable.

To Edward Woo - Spock with a beard? No, thank you. Why cover an already perfect picture? I enjoy the episode Mirror Mirror, but not because Spock has a beard. Kirk gets beaten up on one ship and locked away on the other. All Kirk/WS fans queue for revenge!

To Ann Peters - re doors. I'm sure Edward Woo can give a good explanation as to when the doors know when to open, but here is mine (for what it's worth). Perhaps the doors are so finely tuned that whoever wants the door opened blows gently on it, or whispers "Ssh". Reilly exaggerated it in Naked Time.

I would like a T-shirt that says "I love ST. I hate sport!!!"

Children at cons - I have three of my own, but no way would I take them to a con, no matter how well behaved they were, or even how much they love Star Trek (which they do). I couldn't enjoy it without worrying about them. Perhaps at 16 or over they can go, when they can safely be left alone.

Bev Ambrose - Leicester

I have been a member of IDIC for just over a year now and I would like to say what a pleasure it has been. The newsletters are excellent - informative, lively debate and a really great read.

I would like to voice my appreciation for The Royale. It wasn't that bad. After all, it's the sort of situation in which Kirk and company would often find themselves, such as The Squire of Gothos, Catspaw or Spectre of the Gun. These were all images created by an alien force, just as The Royale was; places that didn't exist. I found the episode to be original, different, humorous and entertaining. I also liked the revolving doors in the middle of a black void - very surreal.

Since we were on the subject of favourite quotes, I think Worf has some great lines too. One of them has to be in Deja Q when Q said, "What do I have to do to convince you?", Worf's answer being, "Die." Classic!

To Edward Woo - I don't think Riker or Picard having a family would work, it could turn the show into a soap opera! The idea of having another Neighbours is unbearable; it's bad enough with just one! Although I like TNG, I think the families on board has diminished the excitement of the programme. It still is an exploratory vessel but they don't appear to get in as many 'scrapes' as Kirk and Co., like battles with hostile aliens. A vessel exploring the unknown is not the place for families.

I went to see ST VI the other day. I thought it was much better than V and I think it will be one of the favourites. There was action, humour, mystery and a few surprises. By the way, what was all this rubbish about Spock having a girl friend?

John Sherratt - Stoke on Trent

I am writing as a new member of IDIC, having just received and read N/L 20. I must say I found it very interesting and well written - all in all, a very entertaining read.

I notice in this week's issue of Radio Times that the BBC's own figures show ST:TNG to be the second most watched show on BBC2 with over 5 million viewers. This is ahead of Thunderbirds and second only to Victoria Wood. Yet TNG has again 'vanished' for two weeks to allow daily coverage of the Winter Olympics. This just does not seem right. I suspect however that letters written to the BBC to castigate them over this would be categorised as from 'cranky science fiction enthusiasts' and filed away with letters about the Dr. Who campaign. Perhaps a more subtle approach, praising the BBC for putting the show on and urging them to purchase the fourth and fifth series (if they have not already done so) and maybe even show them a little later in the evening would be more productive. I suppose at least we should be grateful it is not shown by ITV with commercial breaks!

I have just read in Starburst that Paramount say they are to produce a new series tentatively called Deep Space Nine (or ST:DS9 as it will no doubt come to be known). They said that it would provisionally start shooting in June, with an air date in USA around February. The article went on to say that it is set on a space station next to a wormhole at the edge of Federation territory, at the same point

in time as TNG. Some characters (Chief O'Brien and Ensign Ro were mentioned) may transfer over from TNG. What does everyone think of this idea? Part of me says that more Trek is a good thing, but another part has some misgivings. Will this new series run alongside TNG or will there now be no sixth series? Part of the strength of all Trek is the use of the starship to carry the characters quickly from one scene to another and to visit all manner of planets without taking dramatic liberties. I wonder if this will be lost if the action is transferred to what will, I presume, be a static space station. Nevertheless, I await developments with interest.

Incidentally, I wonder if some correspondents could be a little more careful about referring to episodes of TNG that those of us who are at the mercy of the BBC have not yet seen - for example, the fact that Worf's lady friend K'ehleynr is to be bumped off, as revealed in N/L 20. I do try to find out as little as possible about an episode before seeing it, and it is frustrating to have so many details revealed beforehand. Could we perhaps have a warning when such items are printed to avoid giving away too much to those who do not wish to know? *[Ed - we do try not to give too much away, and we're holding a lot of comments on episodes that haven't been shown yet, but because we have seen most of the fourth and fifth season episodes it isn't always easy, when there is a reference to an episode in a letter, to remember if it's an episode the BBC hasn't shown.]*

Gerry Turnbull - East Kilbride

Well, my first letter to Postbag comes at the end of a Star Trek weekend, beginning with The Undiscovered Country, through the latest TNG tapes and ending with the wide screen movies on video - whew!

I have to say as a fan of Classic Trek, I was more than impressed with this 'final' mission of the best bridge crew in the Galaxy. Full to the brim with gems of trivia and patter! It also helped me complete my history of the Enterprise, with help from the Tech. Manual and films.

Kirk's five-year mission was from 2265 - 2270. Upon returning, he was promoted to Admiral, Spock returned to Vulcan and McCoy retired from Starfleet. Scotty helped plan the refit of Enterprise. About three years later, V'ger appeared, and the Motion Picture happened.

Kirk returned to the admiralty, McCoy and Spock remained and the Enterprise was at some point decommissioned from the Fleet, taking her place as a training ship at the Academy. In 2284, Khan returned - this is now 15 years after Space Seed. The Enterprise is destroyed and NCC 1701-A is launched in 2286 - this covers roughly STII - V. McCoy states that he has been ship's surgeon for 27 years, so this puts VI roughly in the year 2293.

There are quite a few 'missing' years, where I'm sure stories for further films could be laid (please).

If anyone out there has anything different to suggest, I'd really like to know.

I was really chuffed for Sulu; his promotion was long overdue. Does the Excelsior have interchangeable bridge models also? It was completely different from the one in III.

The latest video releases for TNG continue improving story by story - can't wait for Redemption! My own highlight was getting the wide screen versions of the first five movies. If anyone hasn't seen these, you wouldn't believe what you're missing!

Lorna Elliott - Stevenage, Herts

I joined IDIC last month and having read n/l's 19 & 20 I have to ask myself what took me so long to join a fan club? It's great.

No longer do I walk around thinking that I am an overgrown child indulging in my fantasy world of Captain Kirk and the crew of the Enterprise. No longer do I have to cringe when people see the many bookshelves filled with Trek novels and videos and laugh as if I am a nutter. I used to think that I was one of a crazed few who took Star Trek into their hearts in a way that only other true fans could understand. How wrong I was. Not only do I find that Star Trek fandom exceeded my wildest dreams, but that people take it as seriously as I do. I've been told that I am obsessed with Star Trek. If collecting novels, videos, zines, photos etc. is being obsessive then I suppose I must agree, but I have always thought of Star Trek and its universe as a place that one day may well happen in some form or another. The stories of the Enterprise and crew give me a window into that universe where I can pretend I belong. The characters come to life for me and I can believe in them and join in their adventures. No other TV series has had as strong an impact on me as Star Trek and I'm glad that there are so many of us who feel the same way. Long may it continue.

To Rick Prestien: Thanks for including the tribute from Arthur C. Clarke. I thought it was well written by someone who honestly understood Gene's concept.

Is it only me or is everyone else fed up with the way that the cast of Star Trek VI are referred to by the media as "Geriatric" or "needing their Zimmer Frames"? Am I just being over sensitive because it really gets under my skin. I think the characters are believable because of the fact that they have aged; after all they are only Human..., or Vulcan.

Baerbel Schmidt - Asford, Kent

The only competition between Guinan and Deanna I see is that Whoopi Goldberg often gets parts that were originally designed for Marina Sirtis. If you wouldn't know that, I don't see any competition between these two. Guinan is the hostess of Ten Forward and usually stays there. Deanna's usual place is the bridge. It is not Deanna's fault that the authors didn't give her many opportunities to really show what she can do. But what I saw and read so far shows me that Deanna is indeed a good character with lots of potential.

I like "The Enemy" very much. It is an excellent Geordi-story, probably his best. But I also like the idea of the original script. Come on, also Geordi hadn't a big hand to hand combat with the Romulan! The Romulan knocked Geordi unconscious from behind and then he was his prisoner. Deanna is surely not Tasha, but I am sure sure that she has at least a basic training in self defense. She wouldn't be helpless. Deanna would use her empathic skills and her training as a psychologist in that situation. She would talk to the Romulan and try to reason with him. I think it is much more interesting to watch a conflict solved this way than by force. I think anyway that a skilled negotiator like Deanna can get a much better result than an armed conflict. I would like to ask the scriptwriters to finally also give Deanna these opportunities in the TV-series! Send her on away team missions where her skills as a negotiator and counselor can be shown! Deanna is not a beautiful but helpless fragile female, but a grown woman, a professional who knows her job.

Cathy Halford - East Finchley, London

Hello all in IDIC. The following all refer to points raised in issue 20.

To John Marshall - You said you expected stick (p.35) so here is is: John, what are you *talking about*? *No more films?* (infer intonation similar to Lwaxana Troi's "...an Earth wedding?!")

Yes, Gene Roddenberry created Star Trek, and maintained input into both the films and the series until his death, but why cancel plans for future movies now that he's gone? Is this supposed to be a tribute? Very misguided, if it is.

Gene didn't write every word of Trek, and although I agree that aspects of it could change now that his direct influence is absent (and we might not like some of them), I can't agree that this is a valid reason to call a halt to further ST and TNG films. I wouldn't presume to know Gene's mind, but in his place I'd like the

creative process to continue, utilizing the talent that exists amongst writers, technicians etc. to build on a phenomenon which is as popular as ever.

You say that when TNG first started you "weren't happy with the idea", but that Gene made it a success. True, and so did a lot of other people. Now you're not happy again (sound familiar?). Perhaps your fears will be justified, at least from your point of view, but perhaps they won't, and if plans get shelved we'll never have the chance to find out. Personally, I'm dying for a TNG film to come out.

To Rick Prestien - the Beeb is currently running season three of TNG, but fans see 4th and 5th season episodes at cons - I saw Unification last week on a CIC master tape (time-code an' all).

To Gaile Wood - KJB Enterprises have TNG uniform and Troi dress patterns. Tel. (0243) 266635.

Finally, someone please set me straight. Is it Dr. Noonian Soong or Singh? I could've sworn it was Soong, but I've seen Singh written twice now and it's bugging me. *[Janet: According to Paramount's handouts it is Dr. Noonian Soong.]*

Sara Jackson - Leeds, Yorkshire

I have finally taken courage in both hands and set pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard to be more exact). I would just like to start by thanking the committee, Janet, Sheila and Valerie, for putting together such an excellent newsletter and delivering it so promptly. I'm sure I can speak for all of us when I say we truly appreciate all the hard work you put in.

Janet, you said you weren't sure how Best of Both Worlds was to be released by CIC? Well if you look on the inner cover of a third season video you will just be able to make out on the final tape of the collection (the one with Borg/Picard) the episodes Transfigurations & Best of Both Worlds part I. It looks very much like Part 2 will kick off the fourth season collection. I also noticed on Hollow Pursuits/The Most Toys a great trailer for STVI - boy, but CIC sure know how to torture a person.

Many thanks to Pam Baddeley for the information on Brent Spiner's album - you're a life-saver.

To Mike Mullen - I was extremely wary of watching TNG but when a copy of Encounter at Farpoint was shoved into my hands (many thanks to my brother - who is not a Trek fan) I hurriedly viewed it before it went back to the video library. My immediate response to Picard was "Hey, I like this guy!". Data I completely fell in love with since he was not the 'Spock-twin' I had feared. Despite my rather quick acceptance of TNG I don't think I would take too readily to a Third Generation; I haven't spent enough time appreciating this one yet. Congratulations, Mike, on raising £2,000? for St Gemma's Hospice with your Video Marathon. (When's the next one?)

To Lorraine Ware - You've just given me the news I have been dreading for some time. The 'original' crew to meet Next Gen in Star Trek VII! I'll probably get lynched for this but I'm finding the time-warp scenario is old hack (I cringed a bit after reading a brief synopsis of Yesterday's Enterprise, but have to admit that on seeing the episode it was well done - then again I've always had a soft spot for the much maligned Tasha Yar). If Star Trek VII is to follow this line they might as well call it When Worlds Collide. I have an equal amount of love and respect for ST and TNG but I believe that an interaction of the two would somehow only serve to undermine their own individual uniqueness. If TNG is to reach the big screen then it deserves to do so on its own merits and not, as some critics will no doubt jibe, needing the pulling power of the original crew for a full length feature. I'm sorry, but Picard meets Kirk is my worst nightmare.

I'm sure that by now everyone will have taken Bjo's advice and written to

Brandon Tartikoff over the firing of Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman. Let's just pray that Mr. Tartikoff will have the far-sighted wisdom to reinstate these much loved gentlemen to their respective positions.

Just one last point regarding the 'speed-up' of Third Season videos via CIC. I did find the problem a little annoying at first but have chosen the lesser of two evils. I am still purchasing 3rd Season as I don't want to rely on scissor-happy Auntie Beeb - and let's face it, I wouldn't even have a chance of seeing the High Ground since it seems to have been banned. I think we should all start writing now to the BBC over their hesitation in purchasing the TNG Fourth Season.

Finally, is it just me or does Hollow Pursuits/The Most Toys seem to have returned to normal speed? There certainly is a distinct lack of picture quality on my copy - very much like the First Season recordings.

Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W. Sussex

Things don't seem to be OK in the ST universe at the moment. Firstly the sad and tragic death of our leader Gene Roddenberry in October and now Richard Arnold and Guy Vardaman losing their jobs at the ST office. What was supposed to be our happiest year has been marred by these two events. I hope Richard and Guy will get their jobs back soon. Perhaps we should contact Richard and Guy and let them know we support them 100%. I hope things are resolved shortly.

On a happier note I watched the MTV Special on ST called The ST Logs. All in all it was quite enjoyable and I count myself lucky I had a spare video cassette to tape it as very few people receive MTV. I hope CIC decide to release it for the other fans.

To Rick Prestein - What episodes are really good from Season 5? I have seen virtually all of season 4 (bar 6) and was wondering what the quality of season 5 was like. The ones that sound good are Darmok, The Game, Unification and New Ground. Also does anyone know if season 5 has new opening credits?

Cheryl Howell - Tavistock

Regarding your ideas about naming guide dogs in memory of Gene Roddenberry, I think that's a great idea. At Armadacon this year we put the money we raised at Armadacon III together with that from Armadacon II and had enough to buy not only a dog but a puppy too. As we had representatives from the Guide Dog Association there they said we could name the dogs. We had a "mini-auction" to choose the names and although we are a multi-media con and not specifically a Trek con the two overwhelming winners were "Geordi" after Geordi La Forge and "Roddy" for Gene.

I think that naming dogs that help the dignity and independence of human beings is a very fitting tribute to a man who valued personal freedom so much.

[Janet: Unfortunately while we can donate the money in Gene's memory I don't think you get the chance to name the dogs in Scotland.]

David Cameron - Glasgow

Never mind kids at conventions, what about the adults? At a recent Away Team meeting The Naked Time was being shown. Now for those of you who don't know, the Away Team programme is predominantly TNG as most fans seem to be more interested in seeing new episodes than the old classic ones. This is great, and I feel really lucky to be able to see all the new 5th season episodes, but it results in people who don't want to see Classic Trek wandering out and then coming back in towards the end to catch the start of the next TNG episode. Anyway, towards the end of The Naked Time, when Spock was becoming emotional, two adults trooped in and sat down near me. And what did they do when they saw Spock trying to control himself - they laughed! For goodness sake, this was one of the most important parts of the episode and here were two fools chuckling their way through it!

I'm lucky - I've got The Naked Time on video and can see it whenever I like, but what about the other people who were watching the episode? Did they really

deserve to put up with this atmosphere-ruining humour? I think not, and wish that some people would be a little more tolerant of Classic Trek; without it there wouldn't be a Next Generation. I'm sure those two people wouldn't have liked it very much if a couple of other fans started chuckling halfway through The Measure of a Man or The Best of Both Worlds.

On a lighter note, favourite TNG quotes. Mine must be Worf's "Extremely unfortunate - we will be dead." in Peak Performance, Q's "You were never like this before the beard" (to Riker in Deja Q) and of course Riker's "Let's get the hell out of here!" in just about every episode, this line surely deserving a place in immortality along with "He's dead, Jim!" and "You cannot change the laws of physics."

One last thing, if it's true about the Paramount merchandising department "taking over", so to speak can we expect an upsurge in obscure merchandise? How about Klingons which cling-on to the car windows, Riker beards or even Teenage Mutant Ninja Tribbles?!

Carol Ranger - Stevenage, Herts

Re letter from Gaile Wood asking for info on patterns of TNG or Troi outfits. I suggest she tries Simplicity 9394 (Adult), 9397 (Children).

Eddie Yau - Hove, East Sussex

To Pam Baddeley - I can see your point of view on "The Enemy". I didn't notice the slip-ups until you mentioned them. They're just a minor irritation, but I can live with it and still say that it's one of my fav. 3rd season episodes. Mind you, how anyone can fall down that depth of a hole and not end up with serious concussion or a few broken bones at least is beyond me!

To Ann Peters - I think I can reasonably guess/speculate how Troi would have fitted into "The Enemy", and why the writers took her out of the 2nd draft. Of course, I could be totally wrong! Anyway, if Troi had been on the planet with Geordi, she could have sensed the Romulan's presence, and that would have given the game away. Then, (a) Geordi/Troi would set up a diversion and capture the Romulan, or, (b) as (a), but the Romulan would somehow capture Geordi/Troi and Geordi/Troi surrenders. If (a), then all they would have to do is go to the beacon, modify the pulse and end-of-story. (b) would be better, so I can only assume that the writers thought either way, Troi gave Geordi too much of an advantage, so they took her out.

As it is there is, in my opinion, no way that Troi could physically defeat a Romulan in hand-to-hand combat unless he/she was seriously wounded or incapacitated (unless she had a weapon). Without being too sexist, seeing Troi in physical combat would be too off-putting for me and a lot of other guys for pretty obvious reasons (unless you're a sick person, in which case you need to see a psychiatrist). Denise Crosby is/was far more physically suited for the job of Chief Of Security, which is probably why Gene & Co. decided to swap their roles around.

Re: "The Dauphin" - you liked it? I suppose someone has to! It's just that Wes was so innocent it made me want to throw-up. Still, I reckon 16/17 year old boy geniuses have to act somehow! As to "The Game", it was a "Wes-saves-the-crew-of-the-Enterprise-again" plot, even if it was indirectly. Give me strength! I mean, in "Final Mission" he saves Picard before going to Starfleet Academy (see later). Then he comes back in "The Game" and saves the crew & possibly the Federation. What next, the galaxy, the universe?

To all you Wesley fans - just to prove I'm not totally without heart, am objective and will listen to both sides of the story (as various Wesley-loving pals of mine well know), I liked "Final Mission" - there! Satisfied? (Probably not!) I feel that it was good drama and I really enjoyed it - Wesley acted like a responsible man (even though I wouldn't have minded if Picard wasn't fast enough in a certain scene and Wes got killed!)

To Sheila Clark - Re: your review of the STVI novel. I find the conspiracy between the Klingons, Romulans and Federation entirely possible.

Did everyone notice scenes in the STVI trailer that weren't in the movie? You never saw the Federation & Klingons enter the peace conference room at Camp Khitomer, or the Romulan Ambassador saying "There has never been a better time." Perhaps they will be put back in for the video release?

Tim Knight - Tunbridge Wells, Kent

As a new member, I feel I should put my tuppence worth in on the Wesley/Picard debate. I find it very hard to believe that Picard was Wesley's father - and let's be honest, there has been no solid proof of this - it just couldn't have stayed a secret for so long. Picard was a good friend of Jack Crusher and it is just not in his character to have cheated on him. Beverley, too, has made it quite clear that she and Jack were very much in love.

As for Picard talking to Wesley and not the other children on the Enterprise this is simple - he is the son of Picard's old friends (the Crushers) and, as Matthew Conway pointed out in n/1 20, The Traveller told him to keep an eye on him. And it is also quite natural for Wesley to treat Picard as a father figure, because he is a great role-model and after his natural father, the Captain has been the most influential and dominant male figure in his life.

If the TNG writers were suddenly to spring this "son of Picard" sub-plot on us at this late stage of the series I for one would feel very cheated. That would be a very cheap, soap-opera type of plot... why should Wesley be Picard's son? Can't people accept that he is the son of Jack and Beverly?

[Janet - Tim, I just wonder if you realise that what is being discussed here is pure fan speculation - and how fans love to speculate! - not anything which has come out of Paramount. Welcome to the debate.]

Helena Luckhurst - Maidstone, Kent

I find IDIC invaluable, a real must for any Star Trek fan. I have benefitted from it so much over the past year and especially for all the latest news from America; if it wasn't for IDIC I would have been much more in the dark about ST generally. Also, to have a newsletter which is so orientated around the club members and the fact that anyone can write in and discuss anything in the Postbag section is a very precious element and something which I think everyone benefits from. One of the most exciting facets of the club, I feel, is that the club is for Classic/Original Star Trek fans as well as The Next Generation fans and is another invaluable part of IDIC as I hope that reading letters from both 'sorts' of fans will bear fruit in inspiring respect in fans for each others' likes and views in ST and, by this, encourage a unity which I believe is needed if we're going to make the legend of ST live on.

Liz Caldwell - Penrhyndeudraeth

I have read in several magazines and newspapers recently about the new Star Trek-based series Paramount is proposing to start later this year, "Star Trek: Deep Space 9". My first reaction was disbelief and dismay, but then I remembered how I felt the same feelings of dread about TNG and now I'm totally hooked on it. I understand that DS9 will be in the capable hands of the TNG production crew, but I still can't bring myself to feel optimistic and enthusiastic about this forthcoming series, and I'd be interested to know what other fans think.

I'd also very much like to know if Gene Roddenberry had anything to do with the initial ideas for this new series, or are Paramount just jumping on the band wagon now that he's gone and want a new Star Trek series to take over when the TNG sixth series comes to an end.

[Janet: My initial reaction to DS9 is much the same as yours but I'm trying to keep an open mind. I'd be very surprised if Gene had anything to do with it as Star Trek to him was the Enterprise and her crew. We should find out more for the

next newsletter from Richard Arnold at Sol III.]

John Francis Byrne - Paisley

Further to your report in n/1 20, I took your advice in writing to Mr Brandon Tartikoff at Paramount Pictures, asking him to clarify the studio's position re. closing the 'Star Trek' office. I'll let you know what Mr Tartikoff has to say in reply to this enquiry.

In the meantime, perhaps 'Trek' fans Stateside could phone, fax or wire Paramount Pictures? Paramount's Los Angeles telephone number is: 213 468 5000. Fax: 213 468 5555. Telex: 6831958. British fans might find it worthwhile getting in touch with Paramount's London office. Their phone number is: 081 741 9041.

Jean Barron - Manor Park, London

I thought I'd just make a comment appropos the issue of a creche at conventions. About two conventions ago, the SOL III committee did invite parents to volunteer to run a creche - we would supply the room but felt strongly that stewards should not be expected to take on the responsibility of other people's children. There was not a single response, even from the one or two people who had previously written to us on the subject! I can't help agreeing with those fans who suggest that, if you know your child is going to get bored or troublesome at a convention, they simply shouldn't be there. It isn't fair on them, or on attendees who are there to enjoy the weekend. I hope this doesn't mean I'm going to get 'hate' mail from parents!

Chris Brown - Spilsby, Lincolnshire

While I was reading the ST VI movie magazine I noticed that most of the main characters seemed to have the same number of pins on their service bars - does anyone know what these actually represent? Is it a pip for one years service and a squeak for five, or a pip for five years service and a squeak for a Starfleet commendation with a special pip for ten years service?

Re use of ST to promote other products - surely the prize must go to BBC VIDEO, who use various quotes and cliches in their terrible adverts for Dr Who, Blake's 7 and Red Dwarf!

Re Deep Space Nine - At first the idea did nothing for me, but on further reflection I think it might be all right. I doubt it will last more than two seasons. A more viable alternative would have been the Captain Sulu series, with a blend of action adventure akin to the original and good stories and effects similar to TNG it would result in a good show for all ST fans.

Your Questions

Maggie Bradfield - Last letter I said you had to send dollars when ordering zines from the States. This isn't strictly true since I've come across at least one dealer over there who'll accept sterling cheques, which does make a life a little easier.

Now I've got a question. How DID Jack Crusher die? In the novelisation of the pilot episode, "Encounter At Farpoint", by David Gerrold, it is clearly stated that Jack Crusher died while serving on an away team to an alien planet. However, in "Reunion", by Michael Jan Friedman, Crusher supposedly dies while effecting repairs to the Stargazer. Given that both the books are published by the same people it does seem somewhat strange - which one is the official version of his death?

[Janet: Neither. We do not know how Jack Crusher died as it has never been explained in aired Trek. The novels are only 'based' on Star Trek.]

James Miller: The zine adverts occasionally have "K/S" and an age requirement. Now I may be either very innocent or slightly corrupt, but does K/S have some homosexual overtones? Perhaps the newsletter could explain the phenomenon to the

non world wise like myself. If my thoughts are correct, how could anyone write such rubbish and even worse, why would any Star Trek fan buy it?

[Janet: Yes, K/S zines do portray the characters in a homosexual relationship. As to why fans write and read this material, well different people like different things. There are many magazines portraying women in lesbian relationships available for men, and I suppose this is just a case of women exercising the same freedom. This type of literature is not restricted to Star Trek but is available across a wide range of media. As long as the zines are clearly advertised so that no one buys one by mistake, then it is a case of 'if you don't like the premise, then don't buy the zine'.]

We do not want to get involved in discussing K/S in detail in the newsletter as the newsletter is aimed at the general market and we have some young members.]

D MacLeod: i) Does every Galaxy Class vessel have a Counselor?

ii) How is Dr. Crusher not in the chain of command when she outranks all but the Captain?

iii) We know the Commander Riker's next move up would be to Captain, but what position would Bev hold in the event of promotion?

John Stubleby: Has anyone ever produced an official Vulcan-English dictionary, and if so, where can I get my hands on one?

[Sheila: As far as we know, there is no official Vulcan dictionary. Linda Wood did a short one, based on words that were used in the episodes and films, that was printed in an IDIC newsletter some time ago. If you would like a copy, send an SAE and a loose 5p stamp to Valerie - address at end of newsletter.]

Julie Daniell: While I was reading n/l 19 I was impressed by the grief which many members obviously felt upon hearing the sad news of Gene's passing. (A grief I shared.) An idea occurred to me regarding the need many writers mentioned, that of wanting to contact other friends when they heard the news. Has there ever been, or have you ever considered setting up an answer-phone service exclusively for Trek? I don't mean those dreadful 0-800 numbers, but a simple answerphone with a recorded message for news items, and a tape for people to leave messages on? It could carry up-to-date information on newspapers and TV events as well as convention updates (Who's appearing etc) and, oh you get the idea. If such a thing does already exist, could I please have the number...

[Janet: We don't know of any such service. It is an interesting idea and could be very useful but it would be very difficult to finance - you would probably need to have a 0898 number to cover the costs of buying the equipment and renting the line. It isn't something we could set up but maybe someone reading this would like to try.]

Mala Laroiya: Could you please supply me with the address of the Games Warehouse you mention in your last newsletter that stocks ST merchandise. Also so you have the addresses of any companies who come to conventions selling models of the Enterprise 'cos I'm desperate for a miniature model of the above and am having no luck in locating one.

[Janet: You will find at least one address elsewhere in the postbag. Can anyone provide other addresses?]

We have a query as to where the zine "Aavik" can be obtained. We think it is a BA zine. Try writing to Sue Toher, 56 Spring Lane, Bishopstoke, Eastleigh, Hants, SO5 6BA.

Lloyd Lewis - In ST VI after Kirk had been kissed by Martia McCoy says "What is it with you anyway?" I've missed the next two lines on both occasions due to the ensuing laughter, any ideas?

[Kirk: "Still think we're finished?"

McCoy: "More than ever."]

Suggestions

Ann McHale: Please seal the envelopes. On the past couple of occasions the

envelopes were not stuck down.

Janet: All the envelopes are stuck down but unfortunately some do come unstuck again. If this is spotted they are sellotaped.]

STVI - THE BRITISH PREMIERE

a report by Helen White

Having spent four weeks driving my work colleagues to distraction with talk of STVI, the day had finally arrived. Jim, Jo, Maureen and I all piled into Maureen's car and drove into London. After a certain amount of getting lost, we arrived at the carpark, left the car with the NCP, and walked round into Leicester Square. The Empire was being cordoned off by several policemen, and as we walked through, we became ever more excited. We went into the Burger King for a quick drinky before the main event, so to speak, and a gentleman gave us a Vulcan salute (Jim and I were in uniform); he turned out to be Lloyd Lewis, hello Lloyd. At the appointed time, we all sauntered back over to the Empire and milled about. The police came along and said that anyone with a ticket was to go over by the doors, and everybody else had to go behind the barriers. We all stood there chatting with various friends and enjoying the sensation of being 'special', then we were allowed in. After acquiring items necessary to film-viewing, such as ice-cream, we found our seats and amused ourselves watching for celebrities. These included Gloria Hunniford, Jim Davidson, Ulrika Jonsson and Lorraine Kelly. Lorraine was clearly having a whale of a time; she was chatting to a large group of Klingons (they were at WFP '91 and Midcon '91) who had won the fancy dress. Their prize was a Klingon spear.... between ten of them! Maureen and I found ourselves sitting behind Sadie Logan, who'd come second; she won a TNG presspack, which was superb.

One of the most amusing things about the premiere, as far as I'm concerned, was seeing all the chaps who usually wear jeans and T-shirts attired in lounge suits and with hair neatly combed! It was quite hard to recognise some of them....

At last, things got underway; a cinema chap introduced the audience to Nick Meyer, who was greeted with applause and cheers, then Nick introduced us to Stephen-Charles Jaffe and Iman. After that, it was time for the Film. Silence fell on the assembled crowd like a cloak (poetic, huh?) This lasted about two seconds, because as the film came on and the opening credits went up, people went mad. There was much applause as each familiar name came up, then we settled down to watch the film. It was great. There is nothing on earth like watching a Trek film with an audience composed entirely of fans; the atmosphere has to be experienced to be believed.

When the film finished, there was much applause; indeed, it got about a quarter of a standing ovation (that's how many people stood up and clapped.) We all left the cinema and went in search of the party. As we came out of the cinema entrance, people were still packed in behind the cordon, and we felt like stars. The effect was somewhat spoilt, however, when we found that we were walking in the wrong direction, and had to turn round....

We reached the nightclub where the party was being held, and everyone squashed in. We all received a free glass of Romulan Ale, then dispersed across the dance floor. Richard Arnold was there; I asked him whether he'd got his job back. He said no, and he was now doubtful as to whether he would, but he acknowledged the support that he had from the cast and the fans. He thinks he'll get a pay-off.

After having a bop to the very good music (Fleet uniforms are NOT designed for being active in; I was boiling) we were shown a highly interesting promotional film. Basically, a new Trek thingy starts filming next January. It's set between original Trek and TNG, and is to be called Deep Space 9. I'm reserving judgement, but it could be great - fingers crossed! It'll be interesting to see if it carries

on the 'proper' spirit of Trek.

Following the film, we were given our 'party packs'; T-shirt, badge, five very nice posters and, for reasons unknown, a pair of highly tacky plastic Spock ears. Having received our goodies, the four of us tootled off home; I had a cold and we were all tired by now anyway, as it was past midnight. We drove home and crashed out, setting the video to tape TV-am, in case Lorraine mentioned the premiere. What a brilliant day!

P.S. We went to see it again the following afternoon, and it was even better the second time!

STVI - THE BRITISH PREMIERE

a report by Jean Barron

I arrived at the Empire, Leicester Square, with a party of thirteen (no, we're not superstitious!) to find crush barriers all around the entrance to the theatre and quite a crowd gathered to see the celebrities arrive. A policeman asked us to go into the foyer if we were holding tickets and, when we explained that we had to wait for the last member of our party to arrive as we had her ticket, he offered, very deadpan, to take the ticket and "sell it to her when she gets here" - we declined his kind offer. The missing member of our party turned up minutes later, looking slightly sheepish with a police escort. We hung around in the foyer, hoping to catch sight of someone interesting (someone had said that Terence Stamp might be there!) but eventually gave up when we heard that everyone who was anyone was being shepherded into the auditorium via a 'secret' passage. Not that we really minded - after all, it was STAR TREK VI we had come to see. As you might expect from the audience consisting mainly of Star Trek fans, the opening credits were greeted with roars of approval - with a special cheer when the words 'For Gene Roddenberry' came up on the screen. It must have been quite an experience for the celebrities in the audience - I don't suppose they're used to hearing cheers during the credits of a film!

THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY is fantastic - I need to see it a few more times to take it all in, but my impression at the end of that screening was of an exciting, fast-paced story with all the warmth and humour that we hope for (and don't always get) when we go to see a Star Trek movie. The special effects are wonderful, the Klingons as menacing as you could wish for, and the dialogue between Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the rest of the crew is excellent. I haven't been as impressed with a Star Trek movie since my personal favourite "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan". I can't wait to see Star Trek VI again!

After the premiere, we trooped along to the Xenon nightclub in Piccadilly - not to mingle with celebrities as we had assumed (we were separated as we went through the doors!) but we were greeted by Richard Arnold who later helped give out special 'party packages' consisting of a Star Trek VI t-shirt, 5 posters (the Spock one is the best I've ever seen), an Enterprise brooch and, horror of horrors! - a pair of Vulcan ears - I wouldn't have minded so much if they had been *green*, but they were bright pink!! All in all, the £20 was well spent - the t-shirt alone must be worth £12.00.

BERLIN - THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

by Martin Stahl

This time I decided not to wait until Star Trek VI starts in Germany on March 5th. I heard of several cinemas that show American movies in their original version several weeks before their German presentation. But this time the new Star

Trek movie was stopped for all cinemas in Germany, because it was shown on February 16th at the Berlinale Film Festival (special screening out of competition). When I heard of this my first thought was: How do I get tickets for this presentation? My second: Where can I sleep in Berlin? But fortunately all problems have been solved. UIP stood 200 Star Trek fans (in costumes) free tickets for the gala premiere. When I heard this I blessed the day I received my movie uniform. I spent hours at the telephone (I fear the moment my parents receive the telephone account) until it was clear that I was among the 200 fans who will get their free ticket. I found a fan where I could sleep at the weekend, and fortunately Heidi lives quite near the cinema.

There had been rumours that Shatner and Nimoy would come as guests of honour, but they remained just rumours. I travelled to Berlin on Saturday and met in the train some friends, and we talked until we arrived in the afternoon. Heidi waited for us at the platform, and at first we walked to the cinema near the station where we discovered the announcements for ST VI. In the evening we met several other fans at the cinema and went to an Italian restaurant where we held a Trek Dinner.

On Sunday I walked with two friends through Berlin and we drove to the Kongresshalle where the presentation for the press was in the afternoon. But all tickets for this presentation had been sold out and there was no chance for fans to get into the press conference. At 3.00pm we met most of the other fans at the cinema and drove to the Grand Hotel Esplanada where we had a photo session with Iman. The Esplanada was a grand hotel as I knew it before only from films, with red carpet, porter etc. I would like to know what he thought when about 50 Starfleet officers, Klingons, Vulcans and other aliens rushed into the foyer. While we waited for Iman three camera teams interviewed us. The first question was: "What are you doing today here?" I was angry at this stupid question and answered quite logically: "We watch Star Trek VI." Then 10-15 fans in uniforms were invited to come to the small foyer. A Starfleet Admiral, a Caitian crew member and a Klingon had been photographed with Iman for the newspapers and magazines. Then all of us in uniforms had a group photo with her.

The only way to get into the small foyer was with a press identity card or with a Starfleet uniform. We also saw Nicolas Meyer for a short moment. We went to a neighbouring steak house and had our Trek Dinner. The free tickets were distributed at 8.30pm and when we arrived at the cinema at 7.00 pm the foyer was filled with Trekkers. Most fans I know from conventions or from newsletter articles/letters were there. The feeling was like being at a convention, and although the foyer overflowed with fans, we had a lot of fun, and the time until 22.30 pm was over very soon. The press was there again. Sometimes it was funny to watch their interviews and answer their question, sometimes it was just annoying. We waited patiently until the owner of the cinema opened the door. When we entered the "holy halls" about 15 reporters filmed and photographed us. The cinema has 1200 seats and was sold out after 15 minutes. The fans with free tickets were distributed among the whole hall. It was nice - wherever you looked you saw a familiar face. Before the movie began we sang "Row, row, row your boat". Nicholas Meyer, Iman and the producer appeared at the stage and vanished a minute later. We applauded at every name that appeared on the screen.

Although The Undiscovered Country is not the best of the movies I like it. Sometimes there were too many jumps in the story, especially at the beginning. Valeris appeared a little arrogant, but I accept it as part of her character. But there are things which should not have happened. Even in the original TV series there were food processors in every room and then this movie introduces the kitchen. The cooks with aprons in this little room and with those little pots (for 500 crew members) are hard to believe. The scene with Uhura speaking Klingonese was funny, but do you really think they don't have the Klingon language in the memory of the computer? I don't believe they really have to look into dictionaries. Nor do I believe that the Enterprise is able to pinpoint Kirk's exact position on Rura Penthe at a distance of several light years. A better solution would have been that Spock receives just a beep, signalling that they are outside the magnetic barrier. When they reached orbit at Rura Penthe, then they

should be able to pinpoint Kirk's position. By the way, at least once they could have shown the Enterprise in orbit around the penal colony.

I said I like the movie, and here are the reasons: The special effects are very impressive once again. My favourite is the space dock seen from below. Every one of the characters has his/her scene, and Uhura especially was very good. It was nice to see the Klingon ship from ST-TMP again. I like it much better than the Bird of Prey. The discussion about *human* rights was very good, as was the idea to have an alien be the president of the Federation. He could be of the same race as the helmsman of the Saratoga (ST IV). Although headquarters are in San Francisco his office where he met Sarek and the other ambassadors was in Paris - in the background you can see the Eiffel Tower. The ending with all the main characters beaming down to the conference was moving, although Sulu beaming down with two of his officers reminded me of "The Omega Glory". I hope this will be really the last of the movies as any ST VII would destroy this touching ending.

What I've written now has been only my first impressions. I have to watch the movie several times before my opinion is definitive. ST VI was screened in its original version with subtitles, and it was very exerting to see the picture, listen to the English dialogue and read the German subtitles at the same moment. I discovered that it is impossible not to read the subtitles when you see them. After the movie we had once again a group picture (all fans in uniforms/costumes) for the press, and after we stood patiently until they had all their pictures I asked the reporters to take photos with *our* cameras as we don't know if one of these pictures will ever be published in the magazines. UIP had organised a disco for us, but when we arrived at the disco we were very disappointed. This was a disco for the Berlin scene, but absolutely not for Trekkers. Some of us went in, the rest separated in several groups, and once again we had a Trek Dinner in a pub. Some time between 4.00 and 5.00 am. I landed in my bed.

I know, it was mad to travel 600 kilometers only to see a movie that starts 3 weeks later in the next cinema, but it was worth everything. It was a mixture of a film premiere and a ST convention, and I would do it again at once.

STAR TREK VI - THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY

John Byrne - There'd been so much publicity surrounding the UK release of ST VI, I decided to attend its first night at the Cannon Film Centre in Glasgow, on a wet St. Valentine's Night.

As always, there was the first night atmosphere of audience anticipation as die-hard 'Trekkies' awaited the latest Star Trek adventure... the feeling that 'The Best Is Yet To Come.'

And we weren't disappointed! The audience in the Cannon's Cinema 1 was treated to a first-class screen entertainment - with a feast of visual FX from ILM and the sound FX from the original series all contributing to the film's dramatic presentation.

The movie's an ensemble piece -- the first time the entire cast of Star Trek has been utilized, commented Nichelle Nichols in a recent Starlog interview (re-printed in Trident Comics' Star Trek VI: The Official Movie Magazine.' It's a 'must' for all the fans of Sulu, Chekov, Scotty and Uhura - there's something for everyone to marvel over in this lively and highly entertaining tale. The appearance of Janice Rand added a wonderful 'grace(!) note' to the occasion.

At journey's end, as the starship Enterprise sailed off into the distance - and as the regular cast literally 'signed' themselves off the Big Screen - there was a wave of spontaneous applause - a very rare occurrence among moviegoers these days - which just shows how much Star Trek has influenced people's lives. A big

'thank you' to Star Trek (and to Gene Roddenberry) for the gift of love and compassion over the past 25 years.

Sharon Lamb - I really enjoyed the film, but I don't think it's the best one as many people are saying. The person I went with to see the film almost fell asleep! He said he thought STV was a much more exciting film.

Kirk and McCoy really made the film, they are just so brilliant together and the best moments for me were with Kirk or McCoy. I really thought Spock was a little over the top at times. He seemed a little out of character, but that's just what I think!

I really missed the familiar music. I don't like the new tune, but after seeing it a few times it might grow on me.

The ending was just so sad, it's hard to believe this is the last movie of all, I shall really miss them. I think all the actors, especially Bill Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and DeForest Kelley, all deserve a special award for all they've done over the past 25 years.

Helen White: What a marvellous tribute to Gene. Star Trek VI is not only excellent Trek, it's an excellent film full stop. I have now seen it four times, and each time I pick up new bits. It's hilarious and deadly serious by turns, the timing is superb, and it's now my favourite of the six films.

Everything about it is great; the music is the best of all the films, it's so atmospheric. The special effects are breathtaking - especially the scene where the Enterprise leaves Spacedock - and all the better for it being a 70mm film. The plot and script are really good; all the main cast have a decent bit to do, and there are so many 'in-jokes' - you can tell who's a fan in the audience by who laughs where! The new characters are most impressive, especially the Klingons, and it was good to see so many different races - lots of variety. As usual, the acting is excellent, and you can tell that they all enjoyed making the film. I'm off to see it again tomorrow!

Heather Gibson: I really enjoyed STVI. I went to see it with my friend Jean at the Cannon Cinema in Glasgow with The Away Team. The cinema appeared to be full of Trekkers. This made the atmosphere brilliant. Jean (a closet Trekker) thought everybody was really friendly, it was like going to the cinema with your family. (Linda Wood - I was that woman shrieking at you across the stairwell. No wonder I got some odd looks!)

The best line for me was Spock's at the end "If I were Human, I believe the correct response would be to go to hell. If I were Human" (or something along those lines). The signing off before the end credits was lovely. I felt it was a goodbye to all of us.

One quibble though. I felt, like Mary Frost, that Spock's forced mind meld with Valeris was out of character. I know she was a nasty piece of work who had consigned Spock's best buddies to an icy wasteland and she was his protege and he was disappointed in her or it might have been in love with her (if that's possible), but to apply a "double mind meld" (if that is what it's called) to get the location of the conference was totally unnecessary. Especially if all they had to do was ask Sulu on the Excelsior. Uhura's reaction said it all to me. I felt uncomfortable with that scene.

Janet Quarton: I enjoyed the story of Star Trek VI, the characters and character interplay, although I did feel the crew were shown as being too 'anti-Klingon', especially after ST V. They were almost xenophobic at the dinner and they should have had enough contact with aliens to tolerate another race's eating habits.

What bothered me most was Nicolas Meyer's portrayal of the Enterprise, which is far removed from Gene Roddenberry's portrayal in both TV series. The Enterprise

in STVI is a stark battleship, more reminiscent of a 20th century submarine than a 23rd century starship. I love the original Enterprise and I although I did not like what Robert Wise did to the Enterprise in ST:TMP I still have a fondness for her and I've never been able to watch the destruction scene in ST II. In ST VI I watched holes being punched in the ship and felt nothing.

One of the things I do not like about the movies is the way they have turned Starfleet into more of a military service and the Enterprise into a battleship. Gene Roddenberry never wanted it like this as can be seen from both TV series. Meyer seems to have decided to ignore the established technology of the series and apply dramatic license without restraint. Here are some questions that come to mind:

What happened to the Enterprise's food and clothes replicators?
 What happened to the Enterprise's shields? Her hull was damaged by the first hit from the bird of prey. That could never have happened in the original series.
 Why was the Excelsior heading back home from a three year mission at full impulse? Since that is sublight she would be unlikely to arrive in the lifetime of her crew.
 Why was the wave from the explosion of Praxis described as being in subspace when the Excelsior was in normal space, and why was it flat instead of a globe?
 Why were the Enterprise crew expecting to see Sulu at the meeting with the CinC when he had been away on a three year mission, and wasn't it odd that the Enterprise was still missing a Helmsman? Also why were there only humans at the meeting?

I could go on but I won't. It was a good film which I enjoyed - I saw it four times in two days which must say something. I just feel that with a little more thought it could have stayed closer to Gene's Star Trek without detracting from the story. I know most fans are willing to ignore the points I've made because the characters came over so well. Unfortunately for me the Enterprise is just as important a character so I can't ignore them.

The end of the film does seem to leave the way open for ST VII, since Kirk does not appear to intend to return to the Starbase as ordered. I didn't think the crew look old or ready for retirement although I have to admit that Scotty was looking a little stiff. Spock does look far older than he should do being a half Vulcan but I suppose that can be explained by his aging on the Genesis planet. Before Kirk goes on his final cruise though it would make sense to get the holes in the ship patched up. The actors signing off was a nice touch although I think it would have been more effective if it had been the characters signing their name as originally intended.

Derek Clark: I have seen Star Trek VI a few times, each time the film gets better and better. It was good to see Captain Sulu in command of the Excelsior, a nice ship. Christopher Plummer brought great style to Klingon. I enjoyed the pun of Shakespeare being best in its "original" Klingonese. The shape shifting was very good, I wonder if they used the Terminator 2 software? The signatures of the stars at the end is a nice touch. An excellent movie; even my friends who do not like Star Trek enjoyed it.

Edward Woo: Having been unable to get to the UK premiere in London, I saw the film the following day in the late Friday night film slot. I already knew the story and waited in eager anticipation for the opening sequences. The film is very good and is an improvement on STV:TFF. I will be returning to see ST VI again in a few weeks for a second look. As I write this review I am not sure how good the soundtrack is but I do remember some nice themes. The second viewing will no doubt help me to decide.

The film begins with the Excelsior under the command of Captain Sulu hit by shock waves. The idea of the broken cup and saucer was good especially as the Japanese do like drinking tea. Communications Officer Rand makes her cameo appearance. I would have Cmdr. Kyle and Lt. Saavik on Sulu's ship as well.

Finally we have the return of the old Klingon Battlecruisers carrying the

peace delegation to the rendezvous with the Enterprise. The dinner conversation was amusing and I would have liked more of it. The assassination was well executed and now we know Klingons have pink coloured blood. Don't the Klingons realise that Kirk and McCoy would not have beamed over to the battlecruiser if they had planned the murder? The Klingon court room scenes were quite dominating and promoted a guilty verdict.

From the movie collectors' guide to ST VI, a Starfleet Officer was meant to brief the UFP President on a plan called Operation Retrieve to rescue Kirk and McCoy. I would have liked to have seen this in the movie. Iman on the penal Colony was much better than I expected after seeing her on the Jonathan Ross show.

Lt. Valeris looked like a very capable officer until her treachery was revealed. Spock's mind meld on her was tense especially concerning the question of where the peace conference was to be held. The idea that a phaser discharge on the Enterprise would be detected by Security is a good concept but is it possible? Surely a stun discharge should be detected as well. Admiral Cartwright a traitor to the peace is hard to believe.

The climactic battle with Chang, Kirk and Sulu has very good battle scenes. One I disliked was a phaser shot that burst right through the primary hull of the Enterprise - quite devastating. The only confusing thing was the explanation of how the Enterprise's photon torpedo found its target as I partly missed the dialogue. No doubt on my second visit I shall listen more carefully. The ship battle could have lasted longer with more extensive ship damage before the Klingons were destroyed.

With so many UFP, Klingon and other delegates, how come there were no ships in orbit to protect them, as the Enterprise just warped through undetected to the peace conference. Chekov and Spock were doing the detective work but Uhura missed out again. I am still awaiting the ST VI novel which I feel could fill in one of the gaps in the story I am looking for.

To sum up, the film is good, well made and written, but I would have liked it to run a little longer with more scenes that I have indicated in my review. I await ST VII, under Captain Sulu.

Gloria Fry: We went with a group from the Away Team on the opening night. There was a marvellous atmosphere in the cinema as the audience cheered and clapped at the beginning of the film, various points during it, and the end. About the movie itself, for me it is the best film I have seen for years. All the actors, the regular and guest cast, were fantastic. Everyone had their bit to do and everything meshed together beautifully. This meant everything worked; the relationships - the adventure - the humour - the plot - the stunning ice-planet scenes - The Enterprise herself, a real working ship in appearance and the other wonderful sets of the conference chamber, the Klingon ship and the prison.

The one-liners were terrific, and even funnier was the delightful way they even poked fun at themselves, e.g. the insinuation that Kirk has a Narcissus complex, and his remark that once again they have saved civilization as they knew it. I will definitely go to see it again soon, but from my first impression, several scenes stand out in my mind. The dinner with the Klingons, who certainly lacked table manners. The forced meld with Spock and Valeris (brilliantly acted by them both). Kirk's fight with the giant alien in the prison. The scene in Spock's quarters as he and Kirk regret their own actions. The movie was full of shocks, twists and turns which left us breathless, and there are certainly many different layers to it awaiting discovery on subsequent viewings.

Christopher Plummer and David Warner gave a dignity to the Klingons which, for me, has been lacking since the original series characters Kor and Kang. They both were brilliant in their parts and obviously relished them. Rosanna DeSoto was excellent as Azetbur and Kim Cattrall made a convincing Vulcan woman, although there seemed similarities to Saavik.

To those 'critics' who bemoan the age of the stars, well I can only put it down to sour grapes. Bill and Leonard looked terrific and their acting was brilliant. De looked much better than he did in STV, Jimmy, although rather large, was Scotty at his best. Nichelle looked as stunning as ever, and her scene with the Klingon guide books and border guards was one of the high points of the film. George, who never seems to change, was highly convincing as Captain of the Excelsior, and Walter was delightful, as always, as Chekov. One cannot deny the cast is older, a fact which is taken into account in the story, but the 'critics' seem to practise double standards and do not gripe about other actors of that generation such as Sean Connery.

If it is the last movie with the original cast, it is a real cracker to end their marvellous 26 years. It showed the magic we all responded to in the original series and everyone connected to it should be proud of their achievement.

Karen Sparks - an initial reaction to Star Trek VI.

At the time of writing I have only seen the film once, so I don't want to commit myself too much. However, a few points struck me right away, which I wonder if anyone agrees with? In no particular order:

The special effects were brilliant yet unobtrusive, as they should be.

The location filming was superb - can we really have a place as beautiful as that on this abused, over-crowded planet?

McCoy was delightful - just as grumpy and brave and wry humoured and dedicated as ever.

I found the constant Shakespeare quotations extremely annoying after a short time.

Mr Nimoy's acting was surely at its best, especially during the mind meld with Valeris. This scene had me squirming in empathy - with both of them, although I felt it hurt Spock much more than Valeris.

Action and plot seemed to tumble over themselves to fit on the screen, which doubtless appeals to non-Trek fans. But whatever has happened to the characters' relationships with each other? I wasn't expecting anywhere near the same level of interaction as there was in STV, but this was a major disappointment for me. You would hardly think that Kirk and Spock even knew each other, let alone had served together so closely for all those years. They were suspicious, misjudging and misreading each other, and just not listening.

I realise that the issue dealt with in the film was one they all felt strongly about but what happened to open minds and true diplomacy and wanting peace? - and I'm not just talking about Kirk's reaction. One would hope for better than prejudice, intolerance and hostility from such experienced officers - but perhaps that's the trouble, perhaps they are all a bit TOO experienced now, and not so receptive to new ideas? As they said, it would be hardest for this generation.

After watching TNG, Kirk's command chair looked painfully alone, stuck in the centre of the bridge on its own. I decided that during Kirk's command, a time and motion study was carried out to record the time Kirk spent moving from his chair to Spock's station, and the resulting figure made the powers-that-be realise how much wear and tear on future Captains would be saved if their First Officers sat beside them.

I don't feel I can make an overall judgment on ST VI yet or put it into a like or don't-like category. I need to see it a couple more times, and hopefully I will pick up details I missed which might improve the bits I was uncomfortable with.

Jillian Webster: I have now seen ST VI, and I agree with many of Mary Frost's

comments. I thought Spock's mind meld with Valeris most out of character. For him it seemed almost violent. And Valeris - most unVulcan like. What was the shared tea and candlelight supposed to mean? I did enjoy it but will have to see it again before I make up my mind as to where it will fit in my own order of preference.

Gerry Turnbull - The film (ST VI) flew along at a cracking pace, as if they were trying to cram as much as possible into an hour and a half. Am I right in thinking that the President's office was in fact Ten Forward?

I thought the one liners were fantastic, especially Bones to Kirk after his close encounter with Martia - I nearly fell off my seat! Spock's claim to be a descendent of Sherlock Holmes was magic. I got the impression that the cast had a tremendous time making this film.

I have to admit that there was a tear in my eye as Kirk made his final log entry. "There are always possibilities," Spock said - I really hope this isn't the last voyage - why is the Enterprise always being decommissioned?

Gillian Walton - Having just seen ST VI, I feel I must write to share some views. I was disappointed with The Final Frontier and rather apprehensive about seeing The Undiscovered Country, but I left the cinema feeling elated and eager for a second viewing. It was so good to be reunited with old, familiar characters and to see them all (with the possible exception of Scotty) given decent parts. I do however have some criticisms to offer.

Firstly, I thought Kirk's reaction to the Klingons was overdone. We know how much he has lost in past dealings with Klingons, but surely the Kirk who in Mirror Mirror says, "In every revolution there's a man with a vision" or in Day of the Dove, "Here's... a way to survive. Mutual trust and help" would not damn *all* Klingons in a blinkered, sweeping statement. Kirk is a military man, but also too much the diplomat, too seasoned a space traveller, too tolerant and too humane to take such a xenophobic view. The mantle of embittered old man which threatens to envelope Kirk in the early scenes is out of character for me; maybe a few seconds extra footage to show that his "I hate all Klingons etc" speech was taken out of context or to emphasise the fact that he was interrupted in recording his personal log would have made his apparent attitude more acceptable and understandable.

I also found the time scale of the two plots following Kirk's arrest difficult to reconcile. On the one hand, Spock & co. investigate events and search for the assassins - a task I imagine taking days to complete - whilst on the other hand Kirk and McCoy are transported to their trial, tried, sentenced, transported to a penal colony, 'introduced' to fellow convicts and tricked into an escape attempt - a chain of events I imagine taking *weeks* to unfold - especially if the Klingon legal system grinds along as slowly as the British one!

I have heard some people complain about Spock's forced mind meld with Valeris. At first I, too, was uncomfortable with this; after all, it goes against everything we know of Vulcan ethics, but after some deliberation I find it easier to accept. Spock had to consider a basic moral dilemma - the rights of an individual to the privacy of her own thoughts as against the rights of countless millions to a life of peace unthreatened by Klingon/Federation hostilities. Time was of the essence and Spock chose to over-ride the rights of one who had betrayed her shipmates and endangered innocent lives. The cost of this action would be borne by himself, and in my opinion he followed the only logical course.

Having said all this, of course I must emphasise that I *did* enjoy the film enormously and the above comments have been made after *only one* viewing. I accept that many will disagree with me and that I may have missed things and that my opinions may change slightly in the future.

Now for all the good bits! The Klingons were a worthy bunch of adversaries, with Chang looking particularly chilling and villainous, and David Warner was excellent as the Chancellor. I loved the Klingon costumes - although I bet they

were hell to wear! It was good to see the Worf link with the Next Gen. and I was especially pleased to see Sulu with his own ship.

Some gems I'll always cherish are -

"What is it with you anyway?" (McCoy to Kirk)

"Logic is the beginning of wisdom, not the end." (Spock)

and "Everyone is human." (Kirk)

I loved the interplay of expressions between characters - especially when McCoy throws his head back and sighs in exasperation as yet another woman (?) tries to seduce Kirk.

Thanks for letting me express these thoughts. All that remains for me now is to organise a second outing to the film - not easy these days, with babysitters to find - and to read the J M Dillard novel.

P.S. - Can anyone explain the colours on the Starfleet uniforms? I assume white is for command, green for medical dept, but what about the rest?

Sheila Clark - Having read the book, I knew that the story of ST VI was one I could live with. It was said 'way back that if we liked TWOK we'd like TUC. That worried me because I *don't* like TWOK, but that's a soapbox I'll stay off. Suffice to say I thought TWOK badly paced. However, I found TUC much better paced. I do have a few quibbles, though, mostly concerning Kirk's attitude towards the Klingons. (The other ones I can mostly ignore - though not necessarily happily.)

Kirk is not so petty as to blame all Klingons for the actions of one; but even if he was, I feel that his thoughts regarding David are way, way over the top; he was carrying on as if David had been the most important person in all his life. He wasn't. Maybe I'm cynical, but I don't believe in the automatic tie of blood. Kirk and David didn't know each other. They had met for the first time only a short time before David died, and weren't even together for much of that time. David was a stranger to Kirk. If his attitude had been, "Because of the actions of a Klingon I never got a chance to know my son" I could have accepted it more readily, felt it a more credible reaction. In addition, in the past Kirk had shown respect for Kor, been allied with Kang, and had participated in a dinner/reception with Klaa and his crew (so the dinner shouldn't have been the disaster it was). He might say "Some Klingons are treacherous." He wasn't suddenly going to turn round and dismiss the entire race by saying, "Let them die. They've never been trustworthy."

Klingon blood - a nice pale lilac shade, but I thought it would have been better darker. It seemed a bit opaque for blood, too - too like paint. I saw some artwork in the classroom of one school I'm in and instantly thought "Klingon blood". The colour was exact!

The music - not a hummable score nor one that is instantly recognisable if heard out of context, I feel, but it's the type of music I like. (I still prefer the music for TMP, but this probably comes second, followed by ST:V. I don't like Horner's scores at all.)

Incidentally, is there anyone else out there who was at the first ST con in Leicester who went around wearing a handwritten badge saying "Sulu for Captain"? There were quite a few of us as I remember. It's taken a long time, but he finally made it!

I noticed that Spock seemed to have been taking lessons from Chekov. 'Old Vulcan proverb' and 'ancestor' indeed!

Helen Cakebread - There are no words I can find for this wonderful film. It has

everything - music, superb acting, action story and humour; and most of all a togetherness that only they have. It was great seeing them all again; they might be old but they've all got charm.

And what a film for that dear, lovely man to be remembered for - Gene Roddenberry. Not that anyone would forget, but what a way to finally end. I hope in some ways it is not the end and that they do make another film; but without Gene it will be a hard task to follow.

Maybe in time TNG can wholly take its place in ST hearts; but for me it will be a long time yet as I have not found that wonderful feeling in TNG.

Jenny Turner - I loved the film. The ending was great. The one who plays Worf in TNG was in it, so it does tie together. I felt so sorry for poor old McCoy, he should have been sitting in the sun somewhere with his mint julep, not being frozen to death. I like the bit where Kirk fought himself! And the bit with Scotty was great when he said "There's nothing wrong with the bloody engines!" It seems sad to see them go, even sadder I think when I watched Sarek and Unification; poor old Spock on his own again.

We have some lovely memories to look back on.

Russell Withyman - I can't restrain myself, I've got to write another letter about ST VI - TUC as I've just seen it. I thought it was very good - definitely one of the best of the series, although after thinking about it, I don't think there were any Classic Trek moments in it, and very few stand-out jokes; but the story was good (much better than ST V) and the special effects were again fabulous. I quite liked Kim Cattrall as Lt. Valeris, and Christopher Plummer was also very good. It was unfortunate that Mark Lenard and Michael Dorn had very small parts and I thought George Takei didn't have a great deal to do either - very sad as I'm a great Sulu fan. I thought the end was great - again, very sad. I just hope they do decide to do another one.

Marysia Kolodziej - Well, I've seen ST VI and I feel this has to be said. Klingons have pink blood? Apart from that I loved the film, especially the shape-changer. Nice to see Kirk getting a bit of a surprise in what he assumed was yet another female conquest.

Helena Luckhurst - What can I say? It was well worth waiting for. Although less knowledgeable about Classic Trek (than TNG), I thought it had an excellent storyline with all the plot twists keeping just the right pace. It's just one of those films which gives you the works; every detail of every aspect of the film from the script to the musical score feels like it has been treated with importance. The end scene shows the Enterprise vanishing into the glow from our sun and has such an air of touching finality and a fitting end that I feel that ST:VII with the classic cast would mar what ST:VI has achieved and undo all the ends that it has tried to tie up.

Nina Lynch - I have now seen the film three times and each time really enjoyed it. It was a very good whodunnit, one that Agatha Christie would have been proud of. Each of the 'main' crew had a chance to shine - true Star Trek. Although I knew the story when I went in, it still held me spellbound and I jumped at the first explosion of Praxis, gasped as the shockwave hit the Excelsior and cheered when the Bird of Prey was blown up.

But... My biggest disappointment was the music. The beginning was great; however I would have liked to have heard the Star Trek theme a few times. Just once in the intro would have been fine - after all it is a Star Trek film! There were a few other places it could have been used to great effect; when the Enterprise left spacedock just called for the ST fanfare, it was so spectacular and had they used that music, I would have reached for the Kleenex!

I didn't like Lt. Valeris from the moment she told the two crewmen to "Snap to

it!" and I certainly wouldn't let her near my kitchen!

There are a few questions puzzling me. Where did the kitchen come from? I know in *Charlie X* they were supposed to have one, but have all the replicators gone on the blink? What on earth had Kirk done - or not done - to be given a room the size of a converted toilet? Why did Spock appear to be sleeping (resting) in the bulkhead with all those girders? For the two top men on the ship their quarters seemed small and dingy. The crewmen's seemed brighter. What was that blue 'vase' supposed to be? I couldn't see Vulcans having anything so OTT in their rooms. Why was there no 'Klingon death howl' when Gorkon died? I was waiting for it, but there was only silence, and Chang was supposed to be a warrior. I understand why they couldn't use the universal translator, but *dictionaries*? Couldn't the computer print what they had to say? It would still have been funny hearing Uhura talk Klingonese.

I enjoyed the trial scene but spent more of it (first time) wondering if Kirk had a 'flat tribble' on his back. If I had been McCoy I would have pulled it off ("Piece of fluff on your back, dear chap!")

Why did Martia keep her own voice when she changed until she became Kirk? Why when Kirk was fighting himself at McCoy's feet did they suddenly roll over him from his arms?

Special effects were great - although I would have thought Klingons to have darker blood. (I say it's pink but everyone else says purple - who am I to argue?) but I thought it great when gravity was resumed and the blood dropped like pink/purple blancmange.

Spock's scene with Valeris in sickbay was one of the best performances of Leonard Nimoy I have ever seen. The cool, calm, logical, unemotional Vulcan we all know had such a look of intense anger on his face; the same when he forced the mind-meld on her. The force shown in his face was breathtaking. Well done, Mr. Nimoy!

The obvious lighter moments were dealt with beautifully by all, but again I felt let down by the music. I could go on saying what else I enjoyed, but I am sure it will be repeated by other reviews. It is a film I will go to again, and add to the collection. I haven't worked out where it comes in my order of the other films yet.

One final question. It may be me just being a bit slow (after all it took me 4 viewings of *Yesterday's Enterprise* to understand it) but *who* did fire the torpedoes?

John Sherratt - What a marvellous film! I think it really does justice and great service to the original spirit of *Star Trek*. The film will stand out as good by any standards, and I plan to go and see it at least once more before the end of its run at the local cinema. Any minor faults or inconsistencies cannot detract from the enjoyment.

Simon Trick - *Encounter with the Empire*

Trekker's Log, Old Earth Date 15th February 1992. Despite being unable to achieve the original rendezvous time (OED 14th February 1992) due to the completion of a vital mission (choir practice!) a new rendezvous time of 24 hours later was attained. The rendezvous point was the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, an attractive edifice with advanced, technological special effects, but an expensive entry charge (£8) to go with it.

After purchasing our vital supplies of refreshment (large diet Coke!) we took our places, ready to meet with the crew of the *Enterprise* on possibly their last mission to "The Undiscovered Country".

At the outset of the meeting, an important credit produced a spontaneous and heartfelt response from the hundreds of Trekkers present - "For Gene Roddenberry". And then something strange... the familiar introductory fanfare - the welcome theme for Trekkers everywhere - was not present. Instead, the dramatic, pounding theme of newcomer Cliff Eidelman raised our consciousness and pulses to a new level. We greeted the return of our old comrades, particularly Nicholas Meyer whom we have not seen for some considerable time.

The mission itself was an incredible experience. We were overjoyed that Commander Sulu had at last achieved his goal of captaining a starship. The Excelsior is surely worthy of his abilities. May he have many missions ahead of him. He has already displayed admirable command qualities under pressure. We were sad to learn that the crew will be standing down in a short period of time. If this turns out to be fact, may we wish them well in whatever future awaits them.

So, the beginnings of the peace which the Organians foretold some 2.5 decades ago have been initiated. It was hard for Captain Kirk to overcome his own deep-laid prejudices, fired by the Klingon murder of his son. Yet he has been able to do so - a great achievement for an individual.

Mr. Spock seems to have come to terms with his Human side to an extent we have never before encountered. His display of almost Human pride, followed later by outrage at what he saw as betrayal; the mind meld was excruciating and tormented both participants.

Fortunately, despite the agonies that the crew were put through, they retained their sense of humour. It was good to see Uhura's contributions being shown to good effect. Too often her contribution is kept in the background; here she had a change to show her mettle.

By the end of our meeting, I felt profoundly moved and saddened that this may have been the end of an era. At the same time I felt hope for the future as James T. Kirk bequeathed their legacy to their descendants, one in which they could "Boldly go where no man - no-one - has gone before".

As our encounter with the Enterprise and its crew ended, the Trekkers could be heard expressing their views avidly. "It was really funny when that shape-changer changed into Kirk." Or "I'm not normally a fan of Star Trek, but this one was great."

As we warped out of the Empire, I knew how greatly we have all been affected by the friends to whom we have wished farewell. Our lives have been enriched; and perhaps those too of the next generation.

Linda Wood - From the moment the film began it was like being in a Grand Prix racing car, going up to top gear in seconds and staying there till the end of the film. And, indeed, Star Trek VI is truly the Grand Prix of the six films, with all the ingredients for adventure and excitement that the original, so-called 'classic' Trek series displayed.

Some of the characters showed different, and not always attractive, aspects of their personality. Jim Kirk expressed openly and in public his hatred for the Klingon Empire, fired by the death of his son, and Spock, with Kirk's permission, committed what can only be described as mind-rape on a female Vulcan. It was, of course, for the good of peace, but Spock's action was the most ruthless and violent deed I've ever seen the character commit. The residual catch in Spock's voice, in the aftermath, could be interpreted as either a remnant of Valeris' emotion, or his own regret at having to commit such a repulsive act. Apart from this scene, it was quite apparent that no-one was enjoying himself more in the making of ST VI than Leonard Nimoy. For this tour of duty, he has given Spock a dry, flippant sense of humour that had the first-night audience laughing. He looked breathtakingly elegant in the new black and gold Vulcan robe he wore in the scene in his cabin with Valeris. And, at long last, they've got the ears right again! The

pre-release publicity about the supposed 'romance' between Spock and Valeris was just a lot of hot ether. This was a business relationship, nothing more. However, if the character had been Saavik, her betrayal and his action to extract the knowledge from her would have been far more poignant and dramatic.

DeForest Kelley's McCoy was once more totally in character, irascible as ever and this time sharing Kirk's captivity and hardships in the Klingon dilithium mines. One of the funniest lines was his; when Kirk had been kissed by the female form of the shape-changer (played with orange-eyed alienness by Iman), he turned to Kirk in amazement and said "What is it with you?" Well may he ask.

Of all the other principles, I enjoyed George Takei's Captain Sulu the best. How nice it was to see him at the Con of the 'Excelsior' coming to the aid of his old shipmates in a pincer movement, evoking thoughts of how it might have been if we had Captains Spock, Sulu, Chekov et al, all with their own commands, and Commodore Kirk's 'Enterprise' as Flagship. George Takei gave Sulu a quiet confidence and elegance never before seen in the character, and I liked this Sulu very much.

It was nice to see Mark Lenard again, although Sarek's appearance was only token to the plot.

I was a little disappointed, during the trial scene, at the ineffectual pleading of Michael Dorn's Worf (grandfather of his ST:TNG character). All the evidence was too damning against Kirk (but why McCoy as well?) and his appearance was easily forgettable.

I also thought it a bit odd at the end of the movie when Kirk was ordered back to Starfleet Headquarters to decommission NCC 1701-A. Already?! It cannot have been that long, even in Stardate time, since the new 'A' ship was commissioned!

The special effects were excellent and non-intrusive on the plot, the shape-changer being the most spectacular, although something very similar had been seen recently on 'Terminator II'. When the shape-changer alters a duplicate Kirk and Chang (beautifully played OTT by Christopher Plummer) zaps one of them, the audience does not know, after the two Kirks have fought, which Kirk is the real one. [*This was the Klingon jailer, not Chang.*]

I was not too keen, however, on the strawberry custard-like texture of Klingon blood, but I did like the effect of the zero-gravity globules floating around and playing a vital part in the identification of the assassins.

I did not enjoy the musical score as much as in previous films, although it did depict the ambience of the Klingons' warlike nature. Maybe I will grow to like it, but for me it lacked the initial impact of, for example, the scores of II and IV.

Many people have remarked on how old the Crew looked, but I find I must totally disagree. Of course, time stops for no-one (but maybe a little more for Vulcans!), and everyone looked well and as though they were thoroughly enjoying this final (?) foray to the final frontier. Some of the one-liners were classics, and everyone had their share this time around.

At the very beginning of the movie the simple dedication was "For Gene Roddenberry". On many occasions the loyalty of Leonard Nimoy, who has now directed III, VI and co-wrote, executive produced and, of course, co-starred in VI, has been brought into question. His commitment from Day One of Star Trek, through all the movies, and in being instrumental in creating such a magnificent final film, must surely quash all such thoughts once and for all. If this really has to be the last movie for the original crew, then Leonard Nimoy has made Star Trek VI a shining epitaph to the Great Bird of the Galaxy.

Roger Buck - Well, I actually liked it, and that's a very pleasant relief. In

fact, it's a downright *joy* to have one last decent piece of original Trek after the fears I had. Those fears were mainly based on the fact that of all the ST episodes (Classic and Next Generation) and films, there is nothing to me that feels more removed from the feel of Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek Universe than ST II, and I put that down mainly to Nicholas Meyer, who in interviews has often declared his failure to understand the original series. (He once said the only purpose of making a Star Trek film was, in effect, to make right something - ie the original series - which for him never quite worked.) I therefore regarded the new film with caution. On the other hand, my favourite of the non-Roddenberry films are III and IV and I imagine that much of the credit for re-establishing the feel and values of Trek in these films belongs to Leonard Nimoy. Because of Nimoy's involvement, I did have cautious hopes for VI.

These hopes paid off. With reservations, ST VI does feel like my experience of Star Trek, and a good film to boot. I particularly enjoyed the first two thirds, though I found the last space battle sequence a bit tiresome. I enjoyed the character interaction and the final scene on the bridge. I appreciated the fact that, unlike ST II, this film does have ideas and values to share. My reservations? Well, as much as I like William Shatner, I can't help feeling that the Kirk of the films is not the same character as the Kirk of the series (particularly the first season) or TMP, nor a logical extension of that character. Kirk, under Gene Roddenberry's supervision, is a man with flaws, but he has a cool professionalism, a nobility, that seems missing from recent films. However, Kirk here was a great improvement on V, where I feel Kirk almost comes across as a buffoon in comparison with the man he was in, say, *City on the Edge of Forever*. I actually enjoyed Shatner's performance in the film - there was something both tragic and beautiful about his final creation of the character - but in at least some scenes I can't believe he's the same figure as the one in the series/TMP. I also definitely enjoyed Kelley's McCoy and Nimoy's Spock, although I would have liked to see more of the latter. Although I am a Big Three fan, Spock is my favourite of all Trek characters old and new, and I would have liked to have seen more of him, as I find the growth and development of the character and his philosophy fascinating. Still, I am grateful for what is seen of Spock here, and for Leonard Nimoy's giving us so much more in TNG's *Unification*.

In the end, then, I'm extremely grateful to have one last instalment of First Generation Trek as successful as ST VI. I have come to have lesser expectations of the films, as I think Gene Roddenberry was extraordinary and very few writers and producers, even Leonard Nimoy, can match his skill and insight. This film, like the others, may lack the special integrity I think Roddenberry brought to both television series, but I love Trek so much, and particularly the original crew, that I am thrilled and delighted to have a final film with them that I can enjoy as much as III and IV; a film which also had the same attempt made to explore the humanistic values to which Roddenberry was committed.

Chris Brown - On February 14th I dragged a friend along to the nearest cinema screening the "final" film with the original crew. The thirty odd mile car ride to Lincoln seemed to last a mighty long time and worrying thoughts of not getting a seat ran through my mind.

We arrived with time to spare and joined the surprisingly short queue.

The film started, up came the dedication - silence in the audience - the credits and then - BOOM - Excelsior - BANG - WOW! and so on...

Two hours later we enjoyed a Trek related discussion during the journey home, frequently punctuated by quotes from the film - had it reinforced the belief of a semi-Trekker?

The film, although not quite as good as TWOK, certainly took me by surprise. From the first news of this film it has been, in my view, severely hyped up - rumours circulating from Spock's love life to the demise of the entire crew, neither of which, I'm glad to say, are true. I had been expecting a slow Miss

Marple type investigation by Spock and the rest of the crew - boy was I wrong!

The trouble with reviewing this film is where to start - there were no particular strong or weak areas, just a constant high.

The FX - possibly the best I've seen anywhere - especially the scene where Excelsior is hit by the energy wave.

The plot - true it was a bit weak at times, but even then the action kept the film going.

All the characters were well played, and when Lt. Valeris began quoting regulations the fact that the part was originally Saavik's broke through.

ST VI again introduced us to new parts of the Enterprise, which was one of ST V's good points. In this film we get to see the ship's kitchens where special meals are prepared - don't forget starships have food processor units.

Another area was what seemed to be a VIP briefing room, and the crews' quarters - bunks three high to maximise capacity.

Personally I feel the Shakespearian quotes and undertones were a mistake as it seemed to falsify what the story was trying to do - since when do Klingons quote the Bard in the midst of battle?

The aim of the movie series was to recreate the atmosphere of the original TV series and ST VI comes pretty close, so all in all I think it's a good addition to the ST universe but not quite the best.

Re my comments in n/110 - Ok, I was wrong about Kirk, but I still don't like Kim Cattrall's Valeris - she came over as smug and too darned English (obviously a Vulcan bad apple!), no wonder Spock was slightly annoyed with her in the sick bay scene, and to correct myself Valeris wore a Lt. Commander's pin, not a Commander's pin - simple mistake!

I am glad though that Kirstie Alley declined the invitation to play Saavik in ST VI - because Saavik wouldn't do the things that Valeris did.

I agree with Rick Prestien, those one liners were legendary. My personal favourite was McCoy's "I'd give real money if he'd shut up!"

It is my belief that people may have got the wrong impression when Kirk announced the crew was due for retirement in three months time - surely this meant the crew as a group of people would be split up - Kirk would probably return to his Admiral's desk job, Spock returns to Vulcan to begin his ambassadorial duties, Uhura may get a job as Communications at a Starbase/Star Fleet Command (as she did in STIII), Scotty would become engineer of a new ship or oversee refits (or design engines that COULD take it!) and Chekov would get promoted and take command of a new ship - probably not the size of Excelsior, a ship similar to Reliant perhaps? Lt. Valeris would get life mining borite on an asteroid belt.

One final point on the film - what a relief that new Bird of Prey got destroyed - not only was it able to fire while cloaked, it also was armed with photon torpedoes which were powerful enough to sail through a full set of shields.

Solution to Crossword

Across 1) T Negative, 5) Hill, 7) Bynars, 8) Nazis, 10) Warrior, 13) TPring, 15) Blue, 16) Deela, 17) Legs, 18) Gorn, 21) Sol, 22) Ion, 23) Sam, 24) Genesis, 25) Kling, 26) Us.

Down 1) Ten Forward, 2) Enterprise, 3) Talos, 4) Vulcan, 6) Lore, 7) Benzite, 9) Ligonians, 12) Tiberius, 14) Pagh, 19) Bones, 20) Kirk.

YEOMAN RAND - THE LOST YEARS

by Chris Blenkarn

What happened to Janice Rand after episode 23 (evidently not her lucky number). Where did she go, and less surprisingly perhaps, why wasn't she missed? Did Captain Kirk ever find his non-regulation string vests? Sadly, we do not know. She re-surfaced years later at Starfleet Headquarters so it's tempting to speculate on what happened during the interval. Perhaps she was sent on an executive training course in sorting command socks. Perhaps Charlie spirited her away to Thasus' Latin quarter. Perhaps she listened to too many Leonard Cohen songs and couldn't take it any more (if you are under forty ask your mother - this is a sixties series, after all).

Any attempts to solve the Rand Enigma must start with an in-depth look at her early career. Just what was a product of Starfleet Academy doing spending her time folding the Captain's shirts anyway? It must have been really frustrating to do all those courses in quantum physics and hitting people over the head in innovative ways only to end up using a phaser to make coffee. Not that she was very good at combat techniques, as far as I remember - she certainly didn't put up much of a show against the half-Kirk, so perhaps she went for retraining. She can't have got much job satisfaction getting *clipboards signed and jettisoning the odd recorder buoy. (*Many of us have wondered about those clipboards, but more of that later.)

An obvious answer to the mystery is that she resigned out of boredom. She may have gone off in search of a more fulfilling way of life, something a bit more organic than wandering the universe in a tin can. On the Enterprise you not only have to live in a small room with a compulsory orange and scarlet bedspread, you also have to put up with the attentions of the odd salt vampire, pseudo-Kirk or paranormal teenager prowling about the corridors when you want to go to the bathroom. I bet that wasn't mentioned in her conditions of service. No wonder if she decided to seek a more solid purpose in life, like working out the ultimate meaning of that Beatles track played backwards (see your mum about this as well).

If not a new way of life, perhaps a new career. Starfleet may have taken pity and released her to do something useful. There has to be a place for marketing the post-Miri bicycle or inventing a device, suitable for all life forms, for opening fruit juice cartons without squirting half the contents onto the floor.

Yet another possibility - she left to get married and start a family. Unfashionable but normal, so probably not the right answer, nevertheless... We never did find out what happened in the end to Mr. Bailey, and what about Mr. Kelso? Janice was a bridesmaid, and may well have got fed up with adopting exotic postures in the sonic shower and opted for a double bed. Or lit the blue touch paper and retired.

This theory presupposes that she'd got over her infatuation with Kirk. Now the Captain is so obviously not good husband material that this is perfectly credible. It's bad enough that he has a woman in every spaceport, is constantly getting holes in his shirts, won't eat his salad nicely and is a lousy driver. On the rare occasion he gets a holiday, all he wants to do is go camping with a man who throws soup about. Even worse, as Chapel told her over a friendly cup of cocoa, he can't tell the difference between a woman and an android. Now this inability may have a sinister cause. The question must be asked - was Kirk himself an android? An electronic brain might explain both his legendary flair and his standard attitude to anything that looks female. Rand could have discovered the awful truth; she may have found him in his cabin, stuck in command mode and unable to get out of it. She may have fled in mortification and Starfleet, fearful lest she reveal the truth, have conspired to have her removed and brainwashed. An alternative view is that Rand was an android, recalled for her 100-year service and then reassigned, which is why no-one missed her.

More on conspiracy theories. Those clipboards - why are they needed in an age of telecommunications? Just what is Kirk signing - duty rosters, sick notes, order forms for Laurel and Hardy videos or messages so highly secret they cannot be entrusted to the computer system? Was Rand an undercover agent? I think we should be told.

The truth may be more mundane. It's entirely possible her room-mates got so sick of her maundering on about the Captain's never noticing her legs that they abandoned her on some Class M planet. According to this scenario, she eventually came to her senses and set up a shirt-ironing scheme on an Enterprise allowance.

My own pet theory is that the answer lies in the hair. Rand's hairstyle was a totally impractical construction, very difficult to maintain. Was she a Klingon spy, in which case it probably hid a radio transmitter? Or did it conceal her pet tribble? The tribble must have escaped into the air conditioning system, she went after it and is still lost in there. No, that can't be the answer, she would have been heard when they picked up Finney. Back to the drawing board. Most probably she took off in search of the ultimate hairdresser, he of the interactive technique and active ingredients, the one man who could re-energise her very structure with his volumising agents and dynamic hold. I bet Kirk couldn't manage that.

KIRK OR PICARD?

by Edwin Yau

This is probably one of the biggest debates ever in Star Trek history, if not the biggest. However, that honour probably falls to the question "Which Trek series do you prefer?" But, as any self-respecting Trekker will know, you shouldn't compare the two. In that case, you may ask, why are we about to argue the question "Who do you prefer as Captain of the Enterprise and why?" Well, our cousins Stateside recently had an article in the 6th Sept, 1991 issue of "TV Guide" regarding this, and had a phone-in poll done asking the question "If Earth was under attack by hostile forces, and the only hope was the crew of the Starship Enterprise, who would you rather have in command?". Kirk finally won, taking 18,895 (60%) of the 31,491 votes, whilst Picard took the other 12,596 votes (40%). This set me wondering which of the Captains we (mainly British) Trekkers would vote for.

Before I start, please note that there are references and therefore possible plot spoilers to 4th & 5th season TNG, and "Star Trek VI : The Undiscovered Country". You have been warned!

The Two Captains!

Everybody needs a hero, and for many Trekkers this person would be either Captain James Tiberius Kirk or Captain Jean-Luc Picard. The "Kirk or Picard" question is one of the few that can keep Trekkers debating until they go "green in the face". Many people who argue this question only think of the TV era youthful Captain Kirk against the mature Captain Picard. What they forget to include is the more mature movie era version of Kirk and, of course, the youthful Starfleet Academy Picard!

Naturally, there have been other captains of the Enterprise(s), not just Kirk and Picard. They are:-

- a) NCC-1701 (TV Constitution Class)
Robert April, Christopher Pike, James T. Kirk
- b) NCC-1701 (upgraded movie Constitution Class)
James T. Kirk, Willard Decker, Spock

- c) NCC-1701-A (Constitution II Class)
James T. Kirk
- d) NCC-1701-B (Excelsior Class)
unknown at this time
- e) NCC-1701-C (Ambassador Class)
Rachael Garrett
- f) NCC-1701-D (Flying Duck Class...sorry, I meant Galaxy Class!)
Jean-Luc Picard, William T. Riker

I'm sure that some of our members would vote for one of the other captains and not for Kirk or Picard, but this article will concentrate on them. You may also dispute the fact that the above were the only captains of the Enterprises. Yes, I know Scotty and Sulu etc. have been in command, but they don't count as they were just 'acting-captain' whilst Kirk or Picard were off the ship. William Riker is included as he was given a field promotion in "The Best Of Both Worlds" to Captain, and had to assume command of the Enterprise when something happened. I won't say what as I don't want to spoil it for people who haven't seen it yet. One thing that has always puzzled me - how come he was suddenly downgraded to plain old Commander again for the rest of the season? Can anyone answer me that?

Both Captains are explorers of space, though Kirk is definitely more the explorer than Picard, who is more a diplomat and ambassador for Starfleet. They command the best ship and crew of their time. Kirk is the more dramatic action-orientated of the two, but as he progresses through the movie era, we see a more mature Kirk, perhaps even Picard-like in some respects (well, he starts surrendering for real in Star Trek VI!) This comes as no surprise. Both Captains were based on Horatio Hornblower, only Kirk leant towards the more active side of Hornblower, whilst Picard leant more towards his authoritarian side.

Bear in mind that we know little of Picard's younger days, and can really only guess what he was like then. A clue can be gained from the TNG episodes "Samaritan Snare" (where he talks to Wesley about his days as a young Starfleet Officer, his fight at a bar and how he ended up with an artificial heart), and "The Game" (where he mentions to Wesley that he failed an organic chemistry exam, because of a certain female acquaintance whose initials are "A.F.", which he was caught carving into a prized elm tree). In fact, from what he said, it sounded as if he had just as much fun and action as Kirk did, only Kirk was careful enough not to end up with an artificial heart!

The No-Win Scenario.

If they were pitted against each other in hand-to-hand or ship-to-ship combat (same type and class of starship, of course), I have little doubt that Kirk would win. He has shown that he is a better tactical commander and military strategist than Picard, yet he wouldn't fight unless he deemed it absolutely necessary. The question here is at what point do you deem it necessary to fight?

Picture in your mind the "Kobayashi Maru" scenario, and ask yourself "how would Picard have fared in it?" Well, no-one can win - Kirk took the test three times himself before becoming the only cadet to beat the no-win scenario, and he cheated. He can never really accept a no-win scenario. For example:-

- a) Star Trek II - when he is 'trapped' on the Regula asteroid by Khan,
- b) Star Trek III - when he lures the Klingons into boarding the Enterprise before she self-destructs

As Spock has said "There are always possibilities".

Like all cadets, Picard would have lost his ship in the Kobayashi Maru but, unlike Kirk, I feel that he probably would have accepted it and not tried again.

Picard would surrender more easily than Kirk and admit defeat, but in truth both have surrendered many times already for one reason or another. The only difference is that when Picard surrenders, he really does surrender, whereas Kirk is always thinking up "Plan B". The best example of this is again in Star Trek III where Kirk destroys the Enterprise once the Klingons have boarded her.

The Prime Directive.

The Prime Directive a.k.a. General Order One is one major subject that divides both Captains. Kirk takes the Prime Directive as a guideline, a rule that should be adhered to, but at the same time must be flexible and work both ways. In Picard's case, he takes it as near-absolute non-interference. If Kirk sees that the Prime Directive has been broken, he is more willing to repair the damage that has been done if at all possible. Picard is most likely not to interfere even when someone else has broken the Prime Directive. Having said that, even Picard has had to violate it in the end. For example, he violated it in:-

- a) "Justice" to save Wesley from being executed by the Edo,
- b) "Who Watches The Watchers" to save Troi from being sacrificed by the proto-Vulcans.
- c) "Pen Pals" to save Data's friend.

Well, what sort of story would it be if he didn't violate it at all? I can just picture Picard deciding to leave Wesley to be executed by the Edo, and I bet some of you Trekkers out there wished he had! In all, Picard has violated the Prime Directive a total of 9 times up to and including the 4th season episode "The Drumhead".

One of the main problems with Kirk's style of leadership is that he perhaps wants the Prime Directive to work too much "for the good". However, I feel that most of his decisions were just, though with a few he should have consulted with Star Fleet Command before taking any action. For example, he clearly should not have interfered with the cultures in "A Private Little War" and "The Apple".

We can work out from this that he did seriously consider all other possibilities before taking any action. However, sometimes a person must consult with the people available, make a decision and go with it if there is no time to wait for consulting with a higher authority. Kirk would not have made Captain of any Starship, especially Captain of the Enterprise, if he could not judge and decide for himself what sort of situation warrants a particular action.

Picard's leadership is fine, but tends to go too much "by the book". He delegates his authority and in doing so actually ends up with less responsibility than Kirk did. With over 1000 crew aboard the Enterprise-D, this is probably a good thing, but sometimes he delegates and talks too much when something should have been done already (e.g. "Who Watches The Watchers" - he should have beamed down a little earlier to find the missing scientist). Watching him is sometimes a little too boring and the viewer is left thinking "Come on, get on with it!" By the time he decides on an action, it may be too late.

An example of this lack of action can be seen in the 4th season cliff-hanger "Redemption". I was frankly disappointed with this episode. What could have been an excellent plot ended up being very average. Some scenes lacked the drama and tension which would have injected life into the plot. One such scene comes into mind - Worf is aboard Gowron's ship (the Bortas) when it is attacked by two Birds Of Prey loyal to Duras's family, and Gowron sends out a general distress signal. This is what happened:-

- Riker.: Bortas has put out a general distress call.
- Picard: Ensign Reel, plot a course to take us safely away from the combat area, half impulse.
- Riker.: Captain, the Bortas is Gowron's ship. If he's the legitimate leader of the Empire, shouldn't we help him?

Picard: If we go to the aid of the Bortas, we'll be dragging the Federation into a Klingon Civil War.

Riker.: What about Worf?

Picard: Ensign, engage.

Now imagine the same scene modified for the original crew.

Uhura.: Captain, the Bortas is sending out a general distress call.

Kirk.: Chekov... turn to a heading of 383, 327, 282 mark 6.

Chekov: But Kepten, zhat vill take us away from the combat area.

McCoy.: Jim, what are you doing? The Bortas is Gowron's ship. We have to help him!

Kirk.: Bones, if we help Gowron, we'll be dragging the Federation into a Klingon Civil War. We can't let that happen!

McCoy.: Dammit Jim, what about Worf? We can't just leave him!

Kirk.: Sulu... ahead half impulse.

You can see what I mean (hopefully). With the original crew taking over the scene, there is definitely a greater feeling of drama and edge-of-your-seat excitement in the air.

The Conclusion.

Considering all factors, it must be said that who you would rather have in charge largely depends on the situation. When you think about it, they are really not all that different.

If the only way out is to fight, then I would prefer to have Kirk in command of the Enterprise. We would have a better chance at survival than with Picard. Imagine if Kirk and Picard found a few of those embryo eggs from the movie "Alien", and all those eggs turned into adult aliens and started to run around the Enterprise. Kirk would have hunted them down fairly quickly, but knowing Picard, he would have tried to make peace with them and communicate - NOT a good idea! I can imagine it now...

[A flash of light. Q appears.]

Q..... Go ahead, kill it. It's dangerous. It's an unknown isn't it?

Picard: No! We're civilised beings. We're not barbarians any more.

I won't harm....

[The alien opens its mouth, hisses and... CHOMP!]

However, if talking is a viable option, then Picard would be my choice. He is more a diplomat than Kirk, who was more the explorer.

As an all-rounder, my vote is for Kirk. This is based on the fact that even though Kirk would be more willing to use force, he wouldn't use it unnecessarily, and he has an added bonus of being a very good negotiator. Picard is the better negotiator, but his battle techniques and military strategies leave a lot to be desired. Watch the scenes in "Yesterday's Enterprise", where the Enterprise battles the Klingon Birds Of Prey and you'll know why. Don't forget that Picard does have his hands tied in that he has to think about the families & kids aboard the Enterprise-D, so he is in a much more difficult position when deciding if he should go into battle. Come to think of it, nearly every episode has the Enterprise-D in danger. I always wondered why Picard kept surrendering! It raises the question "Would Picard surrender if he didn't have the families & kids to consider?"

Finally, after conducting my own vote, 66.6% of the voters voted for Kirk to save the Earth from attacking hostile forces, while 33.3% voted for Picard. Many came to the conclusion that by the time Picard has decided on what his options are and taken action, the Earth would be doomed or annihilated, whereas Kirk would have engaged the hostile forces and saved the day (like he always does!).

IS TNG GETTING BETTER?

by Christine Snow

There are lots of you out there who like ST:TNG. I include myself. Some of you decided that you wouldn't like it but watched to see how it turned out. Others, like me, withheld judgement for a few episodes. Still more have taken longer, to the end of the first series perhaps or even well into the second. Few don't like it at all, and many are reluctant to admit that it is as good as the original. I still favour Classic Trek, as it has come to be known, but ST:TNG *is* good. Indeed, it's very good. But why has it taken some so long to realise this?

I've heard it said, read in so many magazines, even in IDIC, that ST:TNG is getting better. Is that why it's taken a while for some to like it? I'm not so sure. I think this apparent improvement is only perceived in the light of sufficient episodes, regardless of which of those episodes have been viewed.

As we get to know the characters and their relationships, the episodes become easier to view because we don't have to concentrate so hard. They become familiar. We only notice the deviations from what is expected. And we have come to recognise the expected because we have experienced enough of the same thing to know what is new. This is how we learn and retain any new information, be it formal study, everyday life or getting to know people. The more we see, hear or experience something the more we remember and understand it. We learned our multiplication tables by saying them over and over. We learn a skill by practising it. We get to know a person by interaction over time. And so it is with a TV series. As we get to know it, as we watch each episode, as we interact with it, what we learn about it becomes comfortable in our memory. Thus each subsequent episode builds on the foundation of the ones previous viewed.

Way back in the sixties, when we were either much younger or some not even born, there came to our TV screens a programme so new, so different, that we had nothing of consequence to compare it with. There was no benchmark to gauge it against. It was exciting, stimulating, believable. It told of a future that gave hope for today. It reached out to outer space and in to our inner thoughts. It made us think. I for one was quickly hooked. At 13, surrounded on one side by the Apollo missions and my science/maths majoring at school, and on the other by my awakening perception of injustice in the world, I could see a wonderful dream enacted in those stories of Star Trek. It is this kind of foundation upon which we view ST:TNG. The original Star Trek has given us the benchmark up against which we can measure ST:TNG. But a straight comparison is both difficult and unwise.

It is hard enough to compare episodes of the same series. One of the things that made Classic Star Trek so good was the diversity of the stories. The two series are different too. These differences are both obvious and at times subtle. The ship is different. The characters are different. The times are different. The series were made 20 years apart. Classic ST was beyond doubt different from anything we had seen before, but it was still very much a reflection of the sixties' culture. TNG, in its turn, is of the late 80s into the 90s. There are however elements common to both, most likely because they are still Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek.

It is because they are both Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek that we have the difficulties. They are from the same vision, the same dream, but they each became a reality under different circumstances, different restraints. Indeed, TNG came about as a result of the classic series. Consequently we are, consciously or otherwise, continually comparing the new information, ie TNG, with what we already know, ie the Classic series, and this is what I think has/is causing the perception that TNG is getting better. It's getting better because we have more of it to compare with itself, not only for quality but also for quantity. We now have enough to see TNG for what it is, on its own. Those firm foundations are far below; at last we are building, unconscious of the distant past, and are now

extending outwards with TNG, but still with nostalgic reviewing of the original series.

From this new vantage it can be seen that from very early on the main characters were well formed. Many of the differences that gradually, or in some cases suddenly, occur, are not necessarily due to better acting, lighting, camera work or better stories, but to the overall progression of the stories - the elements of the stories that have to be consistent with each other. These are such an important part to one's enjoyment of the series, but so often go unnoticed, at least consciously. They are essential to the building of TNG. They give it consistency. They make it believable. It is this believability that makes TNG good!

Acknowledging that TNG is good in this light, can we step back and still say that it is getting better? Helen White (N/L 18) has seen 94 episodes and thinks "they do get better and better". I reserve judgement until I've seen a lot more. In the meantime I'll keep building on what I have and will have, many fond, nostalgic reviews of both of Gene Roddenberry's Star Treks.

WHAT EVERY WOMAN NEEDS

by Ann Peters

For years I thought that what every woman needed was a Vulcan.

A Vulcan is not given to emotional outbursts and is extremely patient with the emotions of others. A Vulcan always remains calm in the most dire emergencies. A Vulcan's strength makes him a good protector. A Vulcan is loyal and gentle and is not subject to uncontrolled passion... well... hardly ever. And a Vulcan is always able to give a logical perspective on any problem you might have.

Yes, a Vulcan did seem to be the ideal man to have around the house. But I was wrong. Now I realise that what every woman REALLY needs is an android.

An android is also strong and calm in an emergency. An android is also unemotional and able to give a logical analysis of any situation. But an android is not organic and that brings with it the kind of advantages that most women can only dream of.

An android does not eat or drink except in minute amounts. Apart from the obvious saving on food bills, this means he would not sit in front of the television demanding to be fed or ask where his dinner was as soon as he walked through the door or feed himself and make a complete mess of the kitchen. He would not come home drunk at two in the morning and you would not find the toilet seat left up every time you went into the bathroom.

An android does not sweat. That would cut down on the washing considerably and there would be no smelly socks EVER. An android does not grow a beard so you would not find yourself snuggling up to a stubbly chin whenever he was too lazy to shave.

An android has self-repair circuits so he would not take to his bed at the slightest sign of a headache and expect you to wait on him hand and foot. An android does not sleep so he would not drop off while you were talking to him, or keep you awake all night snoring.

An android has an 'off' switch, so if he could not stand your mother he could simply switch himself off whenever she came to stay.

An android NEVER has uncontrolled desires although he would be perfectly capable of indulging in a little gentleness and joy from time to time. And an

android does not reproduce biologically so there would be no need for you to go on the pill. Of course, an android would not love you but then again, neither would he fall in love with your best friend and walk out on you.

Yes, I do think an android is just what every woman needs but where do you get them? I thought Lincoln Enterprises would be the place but they don't seem to have any in their catalogue. Pity. If anyone were to market fully functional androids I'm quite sure they'd make a fortune.

A TERMINATION IN 36 EPISODES

by Alex Pidd

Troi made her way through the deserted streets. She was mad at herself for becoming separated from the rest of the away team when they'd left the banquet to investigate the disturbance. A cold wind whistled *as loud as a whisper* down the street and added to her feeling of unease. She made for the rendezvous point at *the Dauphin's palace, on the high ground* just outside the city.

The banquet hall was empty as Troi pushed aside the tapestry, noting the subtle *shades of grey* used in its construction. The view from the window this revealed was one of complete devastation. *The battle* which had been fought on the plain below was over. She saw *the survivors* helping *the wounded* across the river; sappers were already setting to *booby trap* the bridge. *The loss* of life was terrible and the scorched earth would be the *legacy* for future generations. As Troi gasped at the suddenness of it all, she made out a tall humanoid striding across the ruins and from the actions of those remaining it was clear it was *the enemy*. Troi sensed that this one being was responsible for the destruction. It ignored the river and made for the hill, revealing itself as a metal skeleton. Troi looked at her red shoes and found herself recalling a children's story with a cowardly lion and a *tin man*. This thought ended abruptly as the cyborg entered the hall, destroying most of the wall in the process.

Troi backed away and crashed into *the emissary* from the Federation. He stopped her escape by grabbing her roughly by the arm and pushing her to the floor. "You've brought my reward?" he asked, addressing the cyborg. The machine eyed the man like *the hunted* animal he'd now become, the cyborg's red eyes shifting their focus.

"*The price for your treachery,*" It spoke for the first time; Troi detected a heavy Austrian accent to the words. It fired its highly illegal disintegrator weapon and *the defector* vanished in screaming agony. "*The child* must be at this *coming of age* ceremony! *The offspring* of this *home soil* must be terminated! Where is she?" The cyborg was addressing Troi. She remembered the reason for their visit. Wesley was the last person she'd seen with the new Dauphin and she hoped they were both safe. It occurred to her that Wes might be employing lessons gained from Riker and *the outrageous Okona* to form an *allegiance* with the young woman as she got *the measure of a man*.

The sound of the door crashing from its hinges spun the cyborg around. Framed in the doorway was a second mechanoid, which apart from the poncho bearing the logo 11001001 was so identical to the first they could have been *brothers*. Troi felt the newcomer was missing the cheroot normally clamped in its well defined jaw. "Do you feel lucky?" The stranger addressed its counterpart, who quickly put *a matter of perspective* on the situation. The cyborg was battle scarred and outgunned; this new adversary from the *arsenal of freedom* fighters was fresh and in *peak performance*. The odds were not favourable and even if the act was possible he wouldn't have felt lucky. Slowly he backed out of the hall. Troi heard the words, "I'll be back" as it turned and made its way down the hill. The remaining mechanoid helped Troi to her feet. "*The conspiracy* against this democracy is over,

our *justice* system will deal with those responsible for hiring the assassin. Your friends are at a safe *haven*; they will join you shortly." He moved to follow the retreating assassin. "I have one *final mission*; some unfinished business..."

"A *manhunt*?" enquired Troi.

The stranger's head turned to face Troi. "Simply a *matter of honor*," it replied before exiting through the smashed wall.

Troi shook her head at the concept of such a machine embracing a *code of honor*. She turned at the sound of conversation and as she saw Wes, the new Dauphin and her *family* entering the hall, she heard a fanfare which was distantly familiar.

Troi awoke, and reaching from her bed manually silenced the alarm, not wishing to converse with a computer first thing in the morning (it reminded her of her mother). Resolving to stop watching those archive 2-D movies - they gave her the strangest dreams - she made her way to pick some clothes for today's banquet.

Now where are those red shoes? she thought.

BIRTHDAYS TO NOTE

compiled by Janet Quarton

20 Jan	DeForest Kelley	6 Aug	Michael Okuda
2 Feb	Brent Spiner	19 Aug	Jonathan Frakes
16 Feb	LeVar Burton	19 Aug	Diana Muldaur
23 Feb	Majel Barrett	28 Aug	Gates McFadden
3 Mar	James Doohan	14 Sep	Walter Koenig
20 Mar	John de Lancie	15 Oct	Mark Lenard
22 Mar	William Shatner	24 Nov	Denise Crosby
26 Mar	Leonard Nimoy	9 Dec	Michael Dorn
29 Mar	Marina Sirtis	10 Dec	Alexander Courage
1 Apr	Grace Lee Whitney	18 Dec	Nichelle Nichols
20 Apr	George Takei	18 Dec	Susan Sackett
28 Apr	Richard Arnold	26 Dec	Guy Vardaman
6 Jul	Richard Sternbach		
13 Jul	Patrick Stewart		
29 Jul	Wil Wheaton		

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION EPISODE REVIEWS

THE NEUTRAL ZONE Episode No. 26 Prod No. 126. Television story and Teleplay by Maurice Hurley, from a story by Deborah McIntyre & Mona Clee.
Synopsis by Sheila Clark. US Satellite Uplink Date 14/5/88.
BBC 2 screening 27/3/91.

While Picard is away at a meeting, the crew of the Enterprise amuse themselves by studying the surrounding space, and find a derelict Earth vessel in very poor shape. Data, accompanied by Worf, goes over to it and finds in it three Humans frozen in apparent suspended animation (as well as a few bodies that haven't 'kept'). Data chooses to bring the three bodies back to the Enterprise, where Crusher 'defrosts' them and repairs the condition that had killed them - they had, she considers, been already dead when they were frozen. (One had died of an embolism, one of a heart condition, and the third apparently of the problems that

accompany alcoholism.) They have come from an era when - if you had enough money - your body could be kept frozen until a cure could be discovered for whatever killed you.

On his return, Picard orders the ship towards the Romulan Neutral Zone, where contact has been lost with a number of Earth outposts. The outposts have disappeared without trace - but there is a Romulan ship in the area... the first that has been heard of the Romulans for fully fifty years. Picard refuses to respond to the Romulan presence with hostility, and the Romulan accepts contact. They, too, have lost outposts, but have reasoned that the destruction of these outposts argues a technology beyond anything known to the Federation, and agree to exchange any information that might be discovered on this one issue, which seems to point to a common enemy.

During all this, Picard is having his problems with the three 'refugees' - or rather, with one of them. The alcoholic was a singer in his past life, and refuses to worry about anything, feeling that since all his songs would be forgotten, he can start over and make a name for himself again using the same songs. Troi traces the woman's descendants, giving her a family where she can at least make a start on adjusting to her new existence; but the third was a go-getter business tycoon type, with a blinkered mind that could not conceive of anything other than Big Business - specifically his own - as being of any importance, with money meaning power, and he certainly can't understand when Picard tells him that 'now' that attitude has been outgrown. The discovery that his lawyer's business (one of the biggest of its day) no longer exists and all his money has gone does sober him, however; and the episode ends with arrangements being made to return the three to Earth.

Edward Woo: The Neutral Zone is an episode which has two stories. The first one concerns the Romulans and their return, which I liked. The second one about the three sleeper occupants I didn't really enjoy, especially Offenhouse, the financier. He's a troublemaker and - just a small point - couldn't they have cast a more representative spread of the Earth's people in the 3 sleepers? Say an Asian or Arab financier, a dark-coloured woman and a white-coloured man, which was O.K.

The Romulans look good and dangerous with their new Bird of Prey and improved cloaking device. We will no doubt see more of them in the future. I just wonder whether they know that the Federation and Klingons have an alliance/peace treaty and would they feel threatened enough to start a war?

The best line in the episode is the Romulans' threat that they have been negligent, with Federation outposts everywhere... and now they are back.

Ann Peters - It annoys me that this episode has been criticised for being a rehash of Space Seed. Apart from the fact that Khan wasn't frozen, it really shows how little some people know about science fiction. They seem to think that every idea that was explored in the original series was actually invented by it. TNG is no more guilty of copying than the original series was.

This is an episode I can watch over and over again because of all the wonderful interaction between the Enterprise crew and their 20th century visitors: ordering the Martini, the QE2, fainting at the sight of Worf - just a few of the many examples. Being a 20th century dweller myself, I was able to feel very involved with this story. The three characters were well chosen; they showed different reasons why a person might make use of cryogenic preservation and different attitudes on waking up. The Romulans provided a backdrop of tension, but it was the survivors from the past who stole the show.

The conversation between Picard and Offenhouse was brilliant. A lot is made in Trek about there being no material needs, but the financier rightly pointed out that possessions are only important for the power they bring. We'll never know what Picard's reply would have been because he was interrupted, but I suspect he didn't have one. And it's nice to know that such detailed 20th century records as Troi was able to find, managed to survive the post-atomic horror. It couldn't have

been quite as bad as Encounter at Farpoint let me to believe.

The very first time we met Romulans in Balance of Terror, I thought they were engaged in unprovoked attacks on Federation outposts. Perhaps Troi hadn't read those reports when she concluded they don't initiate conflict, although Riker obviously had.

I'm a little surprised that the BBC didn't cut Data's prediction of their own demise - no more TV after 2040 - because there are people around who take some of Data's predictions very seriously...

MY KIND OF TREK

TREK and what it does to you

by Marion Pritchard

An awful lot, actually. Anybody coming to my house is not left in the dark for very long about me. Who is staring down from the kitchen, the study, the bedroom walls? Just as well my husband is not jealous (but I keep telling him 'that is the dream, you are the reality'), and then he likes Trek, too. At Frontiers in Blackpool I ruined my finances buying a marvellous portrait of Mark Lenard that is now gracing the living room, next to a genuine Indian medicine wheel. According to my mother I am raving mad. Maybe I am, but am I having a good time with it!

I was not fortunate enough to grow up with Trek, but I stumbled across it while being an au pair in the USA in 1970/71. I have not looked back since. In spite of a first husband telling me 'You can't put *that* on the wall' and 'Is it not time to grow up?' I persevered, but the marriage did not. I don't blame Trek for that, mind you. I owe my second-and-still husband to Trek, because we met at the local SF club, which had started out as a Trek club.

Trek has given me a lot - many friends, like-minded people in a world where for a long time I thought I was alone, ideas, dreams...

One of our rooms is dedicated to all the books we have; a lot of shelf space is taken up by books about guess what. Slowly, Next Generation books are appearing alongside, and I have tried to wring my tongue trying out the Klingon dictionary that my (best) friend bought me in the USA. With my right hand (most fingers of which have been damaged by volleyball) I keep practising the Vulcan salute with varying success, depending on the weather. I go to conventions with plastic ears on top of my own, and sometimes with a green tinge as well. Just as well my mother has not seen me like that, otherwise she would ring the German equivalent of 999.

During the day I live the real life as a school teacher, but there is life outside school, maybe not as we know it, but I know my life would be a lot poorer if I had not switched on my TV by chance one evening in 1970.

LIVE LONG AND PROSPER!!!

AN EXTRACT FROM IDIC'S PERSONNEL FILE

Thomas Hicks

I have been a science fiction fan fan since I was a kid in the 50's reading Into the Unknown, Astounding Science Fiction and Other Worlds. I grew up before

TV, listening to Journey Into Space on the radio and of course going to Saturday matinee to watch H.G. Wells' Things to Come and various other low budget films. I joined the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm when I was 15 in 1963 - my first ship was the HMS Albion, an aircraft carrier - and sailed around the world reading science fiction books from here to Japan. What I did not realise, but know now - my experience aboard carriers and my fondness for science fiction was to lead me to fall in love with a ship that was the most beautiful ever designed: USS Enterprise, the true main star of Star Trek. I have walked her corridors, gone on shore leave with her crew and stood beside Kirk, Spock and McCoy on the main bridge, marvelling at her beauty.

I fell in love with the Enterprise, her crew, her adventures, one night in 1969. I had just come off watch in Air Traffic Control and was due to go ashore to meet my future wife, when on passing the commercial TV room I noticed a new science fiction show being shown and from then on I was hooked. My wife later forgave me for standing her up although to this day she thinks it was because I was given extra duty...

Only a person who grew up during the Kennedy assassinations, Martin Luther King, the Cuba crisis, the cold war, etc, can understand the despair for the future that was felt by our generation - even science fiction of the day showed that despair. A lot of the stories of the time would be based on Armageddon, either during or after it, and then along comes Star Trek with an alternative - a good positive future there, if we wanted it; and as the fans can now tell you, they do! I just hope it goes on. I am just glad to have been in at the beginning.

BOOK & VIDEO REVIEWS

SPARTACUS by T.L. Mancour Pocket & Titan TNG20 \$4.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

After being caught in a dangerous storm, the Enterprise offers assistance to the Freedom, another ship damaged in the storm. The crew claim to be refugees from Vemla, a war-devastated world. They are interrupted by the arrival of a small fleet of ships from Vemla; but the people commanding this fleet claim that Captain Jared of the Freedom and his crew are escaped slaves who had created the devastation, and demand the return of these terrorists.

Picard is left in the unenviable position of sitting between the two. On the one hand, the Prime Directive does preclude his taking action; on the other, Jared and his crew are indeed refugees faced with a death penalty if they are returned to Vemla.

This is another of the books I can't quite make up my mind about. The first few pages, while the ship was sitting being battered by the storm, I felt lacked urgency - in fact, it lacked urgency to the point where three pages into the story I was convinced that the whole 'storm' was a computer exercise! And that, I feel, is what was wrong with the entire book. I found it pedestrian. It's well plotted, well constructed and the writing is very competent - but throughout, I never felt I was being carried on by the impetus of the story. Even the one plot twist that could have come as something of a shock was thrown in almost casually quite early on. I can see *why* it was put in at that point, I can even agree that it was *necessary* to put it in at that point, but I think it might have been handled a little more dramatically.

I ended up feeling that the story was actually something of an (inferior) rewrite of Measure of a Man as the Freedom's crew tried to convince Picard that they deserved the chance to make a new life for themselves while Sawliru of the Vemlan fleet wanted them all destroyed. It does pose some interesting moral questions and it does present both sides of the question with reasonable

impartiality; but I feel it is more of a dining-room debate presentation than the 'fingers on the trigger' situation it is supposed to be. Maybe it was just the mood I was in, but I wouldn't give it more than 5 out of 10.

[Janet: I enjoyed it.]

FACES OF FIRE by Michael Jan Friedman Pocket 58 \$4.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

While on the way to Alpha Maluria VI to settle an internal dispute there, the Enterprise stops for McCoy to carry out routine medicals on a terraforming colony on Canzandia. One of the scientists there is Carol Marcus, who is accompanied by her ten-year old son David; she is determined that Kirk must not learn about David's existence, let alone that David is his son. Something is going wrong with one of the units being used for the terraforming; Spock remains behind to see if he can do anything to help.

Kirk reaches Maluria to find that the dispute is on the verge of developing into civil war. The cause is religious; neither side is prepared to give way an inch while both consider that the other is inflexible and unreasonable. Meanwhile, the Klingons are showing an interest in Canzandia...

As I have said before, I am not a great lover of the Klingons; the more we see about their culture the less convinced I am that they could ever have made it into space. Too much is about the Klingons for me to be able to say "I liked the book". Having said that, there is a lot in it that is good; Mr. Friedman is an able writer who tells a good story and develops good, credible characters. His David Marcus may only be ten, but he is a strong character (stronger than I feel he was in TWOK) who shows many of Kirk's strengths. (I'm trying to be objective here; David Marcus comes top of the many things I disliked about TWOK - which is my least favourite of the movies.)

The difficulty of following two storylines set so far apart is an unavoidable jumpiness - and this is added to by a third storyline following the Klingons. I'm not presuming to tell Mr. Friedman his trade, and I can understand the necessity of removing the Enterprise from Canzandia, but I found I was just getting involved in one storyline when the action jumped to another. And why are all Federation Ambassadors portrayed as insensitive bastards?

I'd give this about 7 out of 10, possibly grading into 8.

I AM NOT SPOCK by Leonard Nimoy. Reviewed by Jenny Turner

I recently went to a book sale where I was hoping to add to my collection of Star Trek books. I was surprised to find quite a few (I managed to find 12 in all) but best of all I found a copy of I Am Not Spock. I couldn't believe my eyes! It was in excellent condition... and they only charged me 20p each for them!

When I started to read I Am Not Spock I couldn't put it down. It was 'fascinating'! I learned things about Leonard Nimoy I didn't know before, and there were quite a lot of nice pictures in it. I would love to see him as Sherlock Holmes - he would make a smashing one. This book is entertaining and informative (and well worth 20p!) A short time afterwards I read the IDIC newsletter and found some copies of this book had been sold at Spotlight for £40 each. EEEK! I think mine must have been the Bargain of the Year. Get it if you can; borrow it if you can't buy it. Great stuff.

STAR WRECK: THE GENERATION GAP and THE ATTACK OF THE JARGONITES
by Leah Rewolinski. Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

Captain Ricardo and his crew join forces with Captain Smirk and the original crew of the USS Endocrine, who have come out of an 80 year retirement to feature in these parody novels. To be honest, the plot lines are almost non-existent, and the

joke has a very limited 'shelf life', but I found them quite amusing. The rivalry and inter-action between the two crews is well depicted, and some of the jokes are really inspired - try the futon torpedos, for example. The books are quite short (117 and 118 pages), but any longer and the author would have been labouring the point. Both volumes are illustrated with cartoons (my favourites are Wart waking up in his cabin, and Piker being served lunch.) The books are American imports - Future Shock in Glasgow charged £3.20, but check with whichever SF bookseller you use. I've not seen them on general sale.

One word of warning - I don't advise these for anyone who takes Trek too seriously, but they do make an amusing diversion. However, the two volumes I've seen are enough - I wouldn't look to read any more.

THE CARTOON HISTORY OF TIME by Kate Charlesworth & John Gribbin, Cardinal £4.99 (ISBN 07474 06804) Reviewed by Christine Snow

For those who read physics text books, technical journals and the like, here is a little light relief. It's also suitable for those who don't always understand, but wished they did, when Spock or Data explain something.

This serious, though totally humorous comic book, follows the New Scientist cartoon characters, Junior Chicken (a chicken) and Alexis (the Quantum Cat) over 64 large format pages, packed with colour, explanation and jokes. Newton's 2nd Law of Thermodynamics, Wave Particle Sheep, the Big Bang Balloon, Wormholes and Time Travel are among the topics encountered. We meet Einstein, Feynman and Alexis reluctantly playing Schrodinger's cat in such varied venues as Wonderland, a Scottish bog and aboard a starship that looks fresh from the 23rd century. It is here that we are treated to the niceties of Stephen (A Brief History of Time) Hawking's Black Holes, with the chicken assuming command in a gold shirt and Alexis sitting in for Sulu. The subspace waveband has "Search for Spock" on offer, and even the turbolift doors make the familiar "fwwoosh" noise.

The book is summed up on the back blurb as being "...the definitive study of Life, the Universe and (Almost) Everything." I'd go along with that (almost). It is however good fun, explains lots of physics so even a chicken can understand it, and for a few time warped pages boldly goes where no other Star Trek book has gone before.

Physics - 9 out of 10. Star Trek 8 out of 10 (for the laughs)

VIDEO REVIEWS No. 73/74 by Gloria Fry

THE LIGHTS OF ZETAR by Shari Lewis and Jeremy Tarcher

The Enterprise is taking Specialist Lt. Mira Romaine to oversee transference of new equipment to Memory Alpha - a central library complex upon an unguarded planetoid. Scotty has fallen in love with Mira - a much younger woman - much to the amusement of the crew and slight worry on the Captain's part. An unknown energy 'storm' destroys Memory Alpha and every living being on it and possesses the body of Mira Romaine. Only then is it discovered to be a community of life-units, the remnants of the inhabitants of a destroyed world - Zetar - who are seeking to live out their lives in a compatible mind and body.

Mira, outwardly an abrasive, no-nonsense young woman, has a tendency towards a too pliant and flexible response to new learning situations. The aliens seize on her pliancy and are able to change her brain patterns to their own; in effect, taking over her mind. Mira fights the possession, not allowing them to kill Scotty as he puts her into the gravity chamber. The pressure is increased until the aliens are driven from Mira's body.

McCoy, Spock and Scotty all agree on Mira's complete recovery - much to Kirk's shock - and Spock even admits that Scotty's love for Mira may have helped her through the ordeal the aliens put her through.

Jan Shutan as Mira was excellent in the part, especially during the 'possession' scenes, and the changes required at other moments when she was stubborn and uncooperative one second, then the sudden tender smile to Scotty. There is a hint as to why she would have an affinity to Scotty as her father was once Starfleet's chief engineer, and although there is quite an age difference between them, their romance comes across as one of innocence and charm.

Scotty seems to like younger women (Lt. Palamas was another example) but he always behaves like a true gentleman. A few comments on accents in this one. Christine's poke at Scotty, mimicking his brogue was fun, but why did Mr. Kyle, English throughout the rest of the series, suddenly become Australian? An interesting episode and nice to see Scotty get the girl for a change.

THE CLOUDMINDERS by Margaret Armen

Kirk and Spock beam down to the mines of the planet Ardana, to pick up a consignment of Zienite, a substance needed to stop a plague on another Federation world. They are accosted by the Troglytes - the underground miners - but are saved by the High Adviser Plasus from the cloud city Stratos. Ardana has a two tier society. The ruling class live in Stratos and devote their time to art and music, while the workers live out a harsh existence in the mines.

While Kirk and Spock wait in Stratos city as a search is made for the zienite, they meet the beautiful Droxine, daughter of the High Adviser. Spock is particularly attracted to her and while his attention is occupied in conversation with her, Kirk is attacked by the leader of the miners, Vanna.

As Vanna is tortured by Plasus, both Kirk and Spock realise the seriousness of the problems on Ardana. Kirk is drawn into the Troglytes' struggle for equality; he helps Vanna escape, but is then held prisoner in the mines. He is unable to convince them of McCoy's discovery that the gas emitting from the zienite is causing the miners to appear inferior in intelligence, and that a simple mask would prevent the damage.

Only after Kirk exposes himself and Plasus to the gas in a closed-in cavern does Vanna understand that he has been telling the truth. She calls the ship and the three are immediately beamed up, Kirk and Plasus still fighting one another until Spock forces Kirk to stop.

The zienite is delivered, and as Vanna and Plasus fight over the rights of the Troglytes, Kirk promises them Federation help to resolve their social problems. Spock leaves, almost reluctantly, from the stunning Droxine.

An outstanding feature from this episode is the fantastic Bill Theiss creation worn by the almost anorexic Droxine. The material - yards and yards of it - floats behind her in absolute perfection. A dressmaker's masterpiece.

Droxine is a spoilt rich girl as opposed to Vanna, the Troglyte freedom fighter, and it was interesting how they used the women to show the conflicting life-styles, rather than the men. Several scenes were cut from the BBC version (as usual), and ruined the flow of events. Did they think the sight of Kirk rolling around on a bed with Vanna too much for the kiddies? Also cut was part of Spock's conversation with Droxine, when they talked about the Pon Farr. Yet, how did Droxine know 'what no outworlder may know?'

Kirk's change from normal to the wild, aggressive character under the influence of the gas was well done, and the two actresses playing Vanna and Droxine were very effective. An enjoyable episode apart from some minor flaws.

STAR TREK 25TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL Reviewed by Jenny Turner

I loved it!

I prefer the characters now they are older and more mature - mind you, there are so many gorgeous guys in it, what with Picard, Riker and the one that plays Worf. The technology has come on in leaps and bounds since the early days; I couldn't believe how expensive the models they use were!

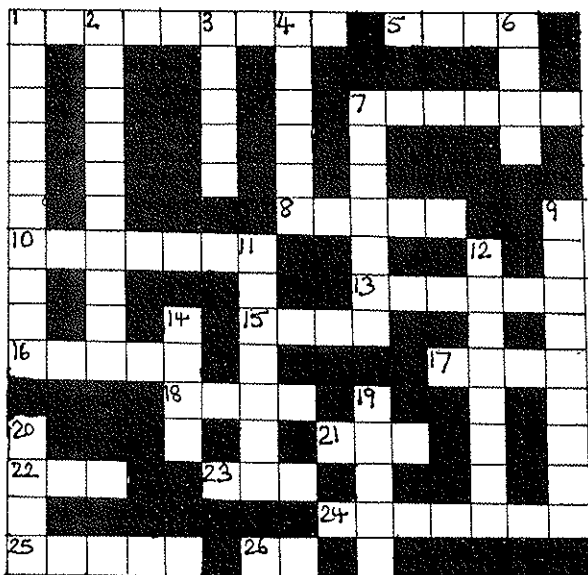
Is it me, or did Spock have his ear on the wrong way round when he was having dinner with the Klingons in ST VI?

I loved some of the comments made by Gene. I think Paramount thought at the end of the first series, *that's it*, but they had a hell of a shock! It was nice to see Kirk and Spock introduce it. I must admit, in close-up Kirk has got lovely eyes. They seem to sparkle. No wonder the ladies go for him! The bit with Data laughing was very funny - all the crew looked gob smacked. The bit with McCoy was touching - as irascible as ever! Still gets the last word in.

Maybe I'm greedy, but why do the BBC always chobble programmes about? Still, I don't suppose what the viewers want matters? As long as they pay the licence, it's 'what the hell'.

CLASSIC TREK AND TNG CROSSWORD

by John Marshallsay



Clues

Across

1. Spock's blood group: 9
5. Surname of Jean-Luc's detective: 4
7. 11,00,10,01 are members of this race: 6
8. Ekos was found to be ruled by them: 5
10. A Klingon is said to be this: 7
13. Spock's fiancée: 6
15. Colour of Medical Staff uniform: 4

Down

1. Guinan works here: 3, 7
2. The Captain's first love: 10
3. Planet which Spock risked his life to visit: 5
4. Saavik's adopted home planet: 6
6. Data's brother: 4
7. Mendon is a member of this race: 7
9. Race that kidnapped Tasha: 9

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 16. Kirk's lady friend in Wink of an
Eye: 5 | 12. Captain James --- Kirk: 8 |
| 17. Rand wanted Kirk to look at her -: 4 | 14. Riker's temporary posting: 4 |
| 18. Opponent of Kirk in Arena: 4 | 19. Leonard's nickname: 5 |
| 21. Our Sun: 3 | 20. Captain of the Enterprise: 4 |
| 22. Violent storm in space: 3 | |
| 23. Jim's brother: 3 | |
| 24. Device that killed Khan: 7 | |
| 25. Home planet of the Klingon Empire: 5 | |
| 26. Lonely Among... ?: 2 | |

Solution on page: 58

ZINE REVIEWS

FINAL FAREWELLS by Kimberley Pederson (IDIC LOG 7 pub. IDIC, £4.00)

Reviewed by Jenny Turner

Most of my zines are one-story ones, but I have a few short story ones and this is one of my favourites! Captain Picard and Riker are in dress uniform waiting to beam Spock and his family aboard. Picard steps forward and says he is honoured to meet them; he calls Saavik 'Mrs. Spock'. She tells him to call her Saavik. Riker shows them to their quarters.

Spock's little son (Jim) is not very happy as he thinks his father doesn't approve of him in some ways. Next day, Jim meets Melaun and they become friends. She asks him his name and when he tells her it's Jim she says it's a funny name for a Vulcan. He says he has an older sister named Amanda; his other sister is T'Meer. Jim says he was named after the Captain his father served under as First Officer.

Melaun then asks him if he would like to go to the holodeck, where they shouldn't really go without an adult. When they arrive, Melaun programmes the deck for the old Enterprise. Jim meets his namesake; Jim teases Spock and tells him he didn't know he was married. Melaun stops the programme and modifies it; they talk a lot to Kirk and then find they must leave for lunch. Spock asks his son where he has been and he lies; Spock knows but doesn't say anything.

The next day, Jim goes alone to the holodeck, calls up the programme and sits on Kirk's lap listening while 'Kirk' tells him about his father. Later, Spock wants to know where Jim is and asks Melaun; she says she doesn't know, but they find he is on the holodeck. They want to send a security guard, but Spock says no, he will go himself. When he enters the holodeck he comes face to face with someone he hasn't seen or spoken to for 70 years! The last part of the story centres around what happened to Kirk, and how Spock felt guilty about Kirk dying alone.

Get this zine if you can. This story is excellent.

MAKE IT SO 7 Scotpress £4.00. Reviewed by Karen Sparks

This TNG zine features an excellent cover illustration of Riker and the Enterprise. Its 98 pages contain a selection of artwork, poems and short stories.

"Iceworks" by Gaile Wood gives a very nice portrayal of an early Data, showing his innocence, naivete and eagerness to learn. The story itself is divided into definite scenes and proceeds like an episode.

MIS7 held a welcome surprise for me. I have discovered a new (to me) writer who will definitely go on my "Keep an eye open for other work by" list. I think that Gail Christison's two stories in this zine are quite outstanding. The first one, "The Daedalus Factor" holds something of all my favourite ingredients of a good Trek story. Picard breaks bad news to Riker who has great difficulty coming to terms with the memories and feelings it disturbs. All his friends in their own

way try to help him through this difficult time. Touches of humour are added with an alien creature accidentally beamed aboard the ship.

Gail's second story, the last and longest in the zine, is called 'Cinidh'. I do not usually enjoy Trek stories which are not set aboard the Enterprise at all, and which do not include at least two or three of the regular characters - I somehow feel cheated; but this writer's own characters and background are written so convincingly that I very soon became interested in their lives. Riker chooses to spend shore leave on a remote planet inhabited only by a married couple, a marine biologist and a botanist, close friends of his since his early Starfleet days. The planet, Bremah, is thought to have no intelligent life but Riker develops an affinity and compelling interest for its beautiful, whale-like inhabitants. The story deals well with a problem often ignored in fan fiction, that of scientists working completely alone on remote, inhospitable planets, with no communication, no convenient starships just over the horizon to provide help and resources. When Riker has an accident, the hopeless despair of his friend who knows there is no possibility of outside help, no rescue, no-one else to take over or give support, is extremely well drawn.

I would recommend MIS7 to anyone who enjoys good character writing, just for Gail's contributions alone.

THE BETTER MAN by Sue Embury, reviewed by Jean Sloan

This is a full length story based on the classic episode Turnabout Intruder. In Sue Embury's story, James T Kirk is trapped in Janice Lester's body, and Janice Lester's behaviour as Captain of the Enterprise is at first not sufficiently out of character to set the crew wondering. The only person who knows the truth is Spock, and no-one will listen to him, not even McCoy.

Kirk is sent to a mental facility for 'rehabilitation' and Spock allows himself to be manoeuvred off the Enterprise by Lester, as Captain, so that he can be with Kirk and attempt to find a solution to the problem.

The zine explores Kirk's reactions to being female and the relationship between Spock and the female Kirk - a relationship which takes an interesting direction. Meanwhile, the Enterprise is not a happy ship; morale is low; McCoy is unhappy and suspicious and so is the acting Science Officer, Lieutenant Commander Venables. The situation is eventually resolved, but not without some interesting twists and turns, eg the appearance of a delightful race of aquatic aliens.

I enjoyed the zine. Sue Embury's stories are well written - she has the ability to take you inside a character's head. Kirk's reactions to his new form are explored in interesting detail, as are 'his' reactions to Spock; and Sue solves the problem of what to call Kirk and Lester when they have swapped without causing confusion. Sue also manages to keep up the tension, even though the reader knows that things *must* work out.

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 7, 8 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £4.00.

IDIC LOG 6, 5 - short stories by various writers. Each U.K. £3.90.

IDIC LOG 4 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.80.

IDIC LOG 3, 1 - short stories by various writers. Each U.K. £3.60.

IDIC LOG 2 - ECHOES OF THE PAST by Christopher Ng. When the Excelsior disappears,

the Enterprise is sent to look for her. U.K. £3.90.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 86 - a shuttle carrying Kirk, Spock, an Ambassador and his family crash lands - and the Klingons are around; Spock is threatened with promotion; several seasonal stories and poems; and others. U.K. £4.00

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 85 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.90.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 84 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.80.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 83 - short stories by various writers. U.K. £3.70.

MAKE IT SO 6, 7 - short stories about the TNG characters. U.K. £4.00.

MAKE IT SO 5 - short stories about the TNG characters. U.K. £3.90.

Nos 1 - 4 out of print. Accepting submissions for issue 7 on.

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. U.K. £3.90.

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. U.K. £2.95.

A GIFT BEYOND PRICE by Gloria Fry - Kirk has just taken command of the Enterprise. U.K. £3.05.

KINDRED SPIRIT by Gloria Fry - sequel to Gift. Mitchell cannot control his jealousy of Kirk and Spock. U.K. £3.25.

RETURN TO THE SOURCE by Nicole Comtet. Spock must get some top secret information to Vulcan. U.K. £3.25.

LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey - The ship is in quarantine after the tribble episode and to occupy the time is carrying a group of diplomats to their destination. U.K. £3.90.

ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin. A sequel to From Starship to Lancaster. Wiseman, defeated in that story and sent to rehabilitation, escapes again and returns to Earth in 1939 to make sure that Hitler will win World War II. U.K. £3.15.

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. U.K. £5.00.

Still available a number of other titles. Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted.

Foreign prices: Europe, add £1 per zine; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC.

We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America and Canada; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

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 of TNG material to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland, and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage table.

Weight	Air	Surface
Up to 2 lbs	\$16.35	\$8.60
Up to 3 lbs	\$22.40	\$11.40
Up to 4 lbs	\$27.40	\$13.90
Up to 5 lbs	\$33.75	\$17.25

For higher weights, add \$4.50/lb air, \$2.25 surface.

FREE FALL 2 - A Classic Star Trek anthology edited by Zaquia Tarhuntassa. Features primarily Kirk, Spock, McCoy. \$14.00 + postage (14 oz)

KNIGHT PROGENITOR - Four persons of the Doctor on the bridge of the Galaxy class

Enterprise? Data as companion. Follow the Doctor's adventures through 14 years and 4 new sets of companions in the major work by Sharon L Reddy (includes 2 full length novels, novellas and short stories). \$20.50 + postage (2 lbs 4 oz)

TIME'S PASSAGES - Features the novel Time's Winged Chariot by S Lee Story, and a short TNG story by Linda Knights. When Picard decides to investigate a friend's mysterious disappearance 12 years earlier, he finds himself and his crew encountering elements which cannot be explained in the present, the past or the future he once dreamed of. \$10 + postage (14 oz)

BONDS OF THE MATRIARCH - a TNG novel by Taerie Bryant. The Enterprise travels to a planet from Riker's past, a barbaric world where telepathic women rule over bands of proud warrior husbands. Ensign Riker had to become one of them to survive; can Commander Riker go back? And what about Troi, his away team partner? \$15 + postage (1 lb)

DATA ENTRIES 13/14 - we now have copies of the latest issue as well as all back issues of the Brent Spiner/Data newsletter. \$3 + postage (6 oz)

BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR 1 - 4 - 1 & 2 feature adult heterosexual Star Trek material, \$5.25 each + postage (6 oz); 3 & 4 are half and half Star Trek and TNG heterosexual material, \$9 each + postage (1 lb 14 oz). We are now editing (and soliciting submissions) for No. 7.

We are authorised to reprint the following fanzines - Stardate Unknown 1 - 5, R & R, Archives, Showcase, Masiform D, Grup, Quartet + 2, all T'Kuhtian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy, Suite 50, 920 Trowbridge Rd No. 2, East Lansing, MI 48823, USA. Janet Ellicott (see below) is acting as Bill's agent in Britain - SAE her for British prices. America - Bill's address is now Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554.

Greycloud Services

Large number of zines available in several fandoms. US Star Trek zines include **DEFORREST KELLY COMPENDIUM** (£14); **ENCOUNTERS** (£10.50); **HELLGUARD SOCIAL REGISTER** (£10); **IN A DIFFERENT REALITY** 21,22 (£6.50 each); **LONESTAR TREK** (No. 2, £8, No. 3, £10); **KRAITH COLLECTED** (5 volumes, £8 each) (Age statement required) **R&R** (15 different volumes, £10 each) (Age statement required). Please add 10% of total order for postage & packing. I can accept payment in bank notes from overseas and personal cheques from the US only, otherwise payment should be in sterling. SAE for list of other zines and prices. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

Linda Wood -

UNIVERSE - Star Trek poetry and prose, all previously unpublished, featuring convention prizewinning poems and story, artwork by Sandra Finch. UK £2, Europe £5, Australia/Japan £6, USA \$8 inc surface postage.

UNIVERSE 2 - Star Trek prose and poetry, all previously unpublished, featuring convention winning poems. Artwork by Sandra Finch. UK £2, Europe £5, Australia/Japan £6, USA \$8 inc surface postage.

THE TSAR'S ASSASSIN - the life story of Count Alexei Mippipopolous, Leonard Nimoy's character from the TV movie The Sun Also Rises. Over 100 pages of murder, intrigue and sudden death! Artwork by Caryl Sibbett. UK £3.50, Europe £5.50, Australia/Japan £6.00, USA \$10 inc surface postage.

CENTRE STAGE - 3 stories of Leonard Nimoy characters - Stryker from Get Smart, Lord Achmet from Marco Polo and Ben Blacker from M-Squad. Artwork by Caryl Sibbett. UK £3, Europe £5, Australia/Japan £6, USA \$10 inc surface postage.

CENTRE STAGE 2 - 78 pages of stories and poems covering the whole range of Leonard Nimoy's characters, from Zombies of the Stratosphere to ST:TNG - Sarek, including convention prizewinners. Artwork by Sue Toher. UK £5, Europe £7, Australia/Japan £11 air, £7 surface, USA \$20 air, \$15 surface. Please state type of postage.

AHMAD - 200 pages of historical fiction on the turbulent life of Ahmat Fanakati, Leonard Nimoy's character from the TV miniseries Marco Polo. Adult statement required. Artwork by Sue Toher. UK £8, Europe £11.50, Australia/Japan £20 air, £11 surface, USA \$35 air, \$22 surface. Please state type of postage.

Zines copyright Tsaela Press. All available from Linda C Wood, 186 Copland Rd, Glasgow G51 2UN, Scotland.

ZINES by Kay Stagg

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class).

SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (Scotpress)) 95 pages, £3.60/ **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £4.80. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £4.80. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £4.80. For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information.

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** - 31 available.

New - **SHARING THE SUNLIGHT** - K/S novel by Jenna Sinclair. 200 pages fully illustrated by Chris Soto. Plot, love and Trek. What else can you ask for? **GAMBIT**, a Mirror/'our' universe K/S novel by Kay Wells. **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 & 3** - an alternate universe K/S fanzine. **PLAYFELLOWS 1 - 3 - MULTIMEDIA '/'** If you know what slash is, you don't need any more words. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. We are also looking for quality submissions of prose and art. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

ENTERPRISE ORIGINALS Publications

MANY A SLIP: a collection of short stories and poems of a humorous nature by various writers, edited by Sue James. Order from Jacqueline Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea, SA3 1PL, South Wales. Price; £1.25 for EO's members, £1.75 for others. Add 35p for Postage and packing. Cheques in sterling only to Enterprise Originals.

BSFR

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, Oriel 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.

AFTERGLOW a novel by Jacqueline Comben, sequel to **GREEN FIRE**. Price £3.45 for BSFR members, £3.95 for non members. Please add 60p p&p for Britain. Other titles still available. Dave Uppington, BSFR Zines, 10 Wedgwood Close, Fortfield Green, Whitchurch, Bristol BS14 9YE.

Kathleen Resch

K/S zines - age statement required

T'HY'LA 10 & 11 new. **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. 12** is open for submissions. **BEFORE THE GLORY** (short stories) \$24.00 air; **DAY OF VENGEANCE**, novel by Jean Lightfoot and C. Del Rio, \$19.00 air; **THE PRICE OF FREEDOM** - novel by Jean Lightfoot. Spock has disappeared; Kirk risks both life and career to find him - but when he does, he finds a drug-addicted stranger... \$26.00 air, \$20.00 surface. Zines from other fandoms also available. Kathleen Resch, PO Box 1766, Temple City, CA 91780, USA.

THE SMALL PRINTERS

New - **CLOSER THAN A BROTHER** by Meg Wright. (Reprint) £6.75 inclusive of p&p. **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.

HIATUS PRESS

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

LONESTAR TREK No. 4 Original Trek and TNG. Original Trek novellas by Lynn Syck & Mary Rottler, and Lorraine Anderson; stories by Laurie D. Haynes and Jan Meek; art by Kay Wells and Brett Barham. Special 25th anniversary colour cover by Kay Wells. Approximately 200 pages. \$19 US, \$20 Can, \$26 Europe, \$28 Pacific. Still available - No. 1 \$20 OS Airmail, No.2 & No.3 \$25 OS Airmail, Classic Trek and TNG stories. ST - **LONESTAR TREK No.5**. Seeking Classic Trek submissions for this issue which will be all Classic. Any length story is fine but must revolve around at least one of the "Big Three" (Kirk, Spock, and McCoy). Stories with a hurt-comfort theme are particularly welcome. No slash. Also accepting art submissions - send photocopy examples of your artwork. All submission should be accompanied by a SASE. Deadline Aug. 1, 1992. STNG - **SECOND GENERATION No. 1**. Now seeking art and story submissions (no slash) for this new Next Gen zine from the publishers of LoneStar Trek. High quality format, hurt-comfort, action adventure, and relationships. Must focus on at least one of the main characters. Gloss colour cover by Patti Prevett. Send photocopy examples of your artwork. All submissions should be accompanied by an SASE. Send orders and submissions to LoneStar Trek, c/o Laurie Haynes/Jan Meek, 335 Smith Lake Road, Vidor, TX 77662, U.S.A.

VILLAGE PRESS

THE EXTREMISTS by Eva Stuart. The Klingon Peace hangs in the balance. All eyes are on the Enterprise, the Ahrax and fleet. Their scientific mission must not fail. Human honesty confronts Klingon honour. Can the fighting really stop? K/S and adult relationships; age statement please. Price to be announced; SAE for flyer (U.S. 2 IRCs or \$1).

VOICE 5 - Dangerous intrigue at Starfleet HQ. McCoy has a 'little list'. Plague on New Paris. Contains a prequel to The Extremists. UK £5.50, Europe £6.50, Canada £8.50, Australia £9.50, USA \$21.00.

IN THE WILDERNESS 1 - Stories by Frances Rowes, Vivian Gates, Kathleen Resch and others. Highly original writing from some of fandom's best talents. UK £6.50, Europe £8.00, Canada £10.00, Australia £11.50, USA \$23.00

IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Why didn't Spock say his father was the Vulcan Ambassador? How does Amanda put up with husband and son? Why must Kirk and Spock take to the desert? And much more! Prices as ITW1.

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 is next in line. I would like more stories, preferably established relationship; political, original, humour would be nice but please no S/Mc, menage or death. New writers, gentle, caring editor would like to see your work. (K/S only please).

Please note **VOICE 1 - 4** are out of print. Orders already in for No. 2 will be filled as soon as possible. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants. K/S and adult relationships. Age statement, please.

THE BETTER MAN by Sue Embury. Based on the Classic Trek episode "Turnabout Intruder". In this alternative version the persona of Jim Kirk is trapped in the body of a woman, and Spock is the only one who believes him. Diagnosed as a psychotic woman Jim is committed to the psychiatric hospital on Benecia, while the Enterprise is under the command of a psychopath with the outward appearance of Captain Kirk. The story explores how Kirk copes with his dispossession, and how Spock and the Enterprise crew respond to the situation. Due November. Not yet priced. SAE for further details from: Sue Embury, Lower Baileia, Tregare, Nr. Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL.

Hailing all writers of *original* Star Trek stories and poems, both Gen and K/S!! and artists!! "OUTPOST" will be publishing both Gen (The Preserver's Chronicles) and K/S (The Preservers Secret Chronicles) zines in the near future and is looking for submissions. We are willing to consider *all* subjects, as long as they deal with

Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the crew of the Enterprise (including all the films!). All contributors will, of course, receive a complimentary copy of the zine in which their material is printed. Please send to: "OUTPOST", Bettina Rackel and Karen Hayden, Am Tannenbusch 31, 4192 Kalkar, West Germany.

If anyone who has written for ScoTpress or IDIC would like to see their stories translated into Italian, please send a copy of the story (with a mention of which zine it first appeared in) to Mariangela Cerrino, C.P.28 - 10048 Vinovo (TO) Italy. Classic Trek only, please. The zine (Log Plus) has been in publication for five years and is currently at number 11. Translation is done by professionals. Let Mariangela know if you want a copy of the Italian zine.

Spotlight - Leonard Nimoy International Fan Club
Zines available. For details send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

Tsaela Press

THE VULCAN WINKER The Vulcan Saga (8 episodes): This is a soap opera to outdo anything that went before (Dallas, Dynasty etc.) A tale of lust, madness, insider dealing, rampant sex, murder, hysteria and general mayhem. See Little Jim searching for his prey! Read all about Mr Spock's true love, etc. The Venus Saga (two stories): Ever wonder what happened to the Venus Pills after Harry Mudd left the Enterprise? Well, somehow they got into the wrong (!) hands and the resultant mayhem left most of the crew in an exhausted state. However, the pills purloiner did very well out of it ... and if you think you recognise some of the extra characters, you're not hallucinating! Written by Kate Lach, with illustrations by Fiona Graves. Price (incl of 1st Class p&p): GB/Eire £4.50. Overseas: SAE for details. (Because of its content, this 'zine will require an age statement). Please make cheques out to K. Lach. All orders to Kate Lach, 183 Liverpool Road, London N1 0RF. Limited edition, so first come, first served.

Disc Press

Disc Press are proud to announce that we are taking submissions for our Genzine **BEST OF BOTH WORLDS**. What we want is stories that cover both Classic Trek and Next Generation. It can be any kind of story you want it to be but we don't want any cross overs, death of main characters (Tasha Yar excepted) nor do we want any K/S stories as this is a Genzine for one and all. Let's see what's out there. If you're interested then write to the following address: Steve Moscrop, 47 Kirkwood, Burradon, Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 7PG.

CITYPRESS/OUTER ZINE

Boldly going where everyone has gone before, an all-new combined newsletter and zine! What more could you ask for??? (Please see our OUTER ZONE ad in the "Local Group News" section for details of The Outer Zone SF/Fantasy club.) Each issue costs just 85p inc. p&p! We have back issues of ZONE GUIDE Nos 1-4 available for just £2.00 inc. p&p. Just out is ZONE GUIDE - PHASE II, Issue No. 1 (January 1992 edition) which has the WHOLE plot to Star Trek VI and the latest TNG info, stories, art, a Blakes Seven column and more! Issue No. 2 (out April 1992) will see the start of an EXCLUSIVE! We will be publishing the first part of an ACTUAL SUBMITTED TNG SCRIPT called "The Ghosts of Yesteryear"! What are you waiting for??? Please send cheques/p.o. payable to Susan Parker, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ, or an SSAE for more details.

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: A newsletter that does not discriminate against either Trek, featuring articles, fiction, reports, detailed episode guides and many other goodies. For subscription info and/or a free evaluation copy, please send LASE to: K. Boginski, 4439 Washington Street No. 3, Brighton, MA 02135, U.S.A. (Out of US, send IRC).

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

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.

CONTAGION The Scottish Star Trek Convention 18-20 July, 1992
The Central Hotel, Glasgow. Guests: George Takei, Richard Arnold (STAR TREK Research Consultant), others to be announced. Star Trek episodes: Classic & Next Generation, films, quizzes/games, dealers room etc plus a Ceilidh and Scottish Folk Night. Registration: Adult (15 years+) - £30.00, Child 10-14 £15, under 10 Free. (Note: Children under 10 years must be accompanied by an adult. No creche facilities will be available.) Special discount for Silvercon '91 attendees - ask for details. Hotel rates (per person per night): Single £26, Twin/Double £22, Triple £18, Quadruple £16. Price is for Bed & Breakfast and includes VAT and Service. £15 per person non-refundable deposit at time of booking. For further info send SAE to: Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

NE'A'DRIAR V One day Star Trek Convention. 26th July, 1992, Runnymede Hotel. Registration: £13 (£14 on door). Pre-convention event: Saturday evening river trip. For details and registration form please send SAE to Mrs Claire Saunders, 12 Saville Crescent, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1SX.

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 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.

MIDCON '92 The 11th Annual Midlands Convention, boldly going longer than any other, breaking new ground each year... October 2nd - 4th, 1992. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Registration: £30.00 until June 1992, then £35.00 thereafter (payment by instalments if required). Full details from: Terry Elson, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

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.

UFP HOLIDAY TREK 92 Larnaca, Cyprus. 6th-9th November, 1992. A Trek con and holiday in Cyprus at much lower cost than with holiday tour operators. £285 for the weekend, or stay a week for £360: cost includes bed and breakfast, flights and con registration. Hotel is the luxurious four star Palm Beach, flights on scheduled CyprusAir. Monthly payment plan available. Send SAE for further details to Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

T'KON 1992 - Star Trek Convention 13th-15th November, 1992.
The Arcade Hotel, Birmingham City Center. Room Rates: £22 Twin/Double, £30 Single (inclusive). Registration: £12.00 weekend, Fri £5.00, Sat £6.00, Sun £3.00. Guest John Carrigan. Friday Night Cinema Showing of STVI, Sales Rooms, Games, Kings and Queens Theme Party, Laserzone Klingon Hunt, Next Generation Video Room and lots,

lots more...for an adult, £7.00 for one day.

WARP ONE: The 35th British Star Trek Convention. 30th April - 3rd May, 1993 At the Middleton Tower Holiday Centre, Morecambe, Lancs. Registration: £30, under 16s half price, under 5s free. Day and supporting registrations available. Accommodation: £26.70 PPPN if paying before 18/3/93, £33.30 PPPN after 18/3/93. Under 16s half price, under 2s free. The rate is for full board accommodation. Guests to be announced, parties, disco, video programmes, the usual competitions plus some surprises. In aid of Cancer Research. For more details and a registration form send an SASE to Warp One, 69 Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middlesex HA8 6JB.

HOLODECK The 36th British Star Trek Convention. 27th - 30th August, 1993 Telford Moat House Hotel. In aid of the Invalid Childrens' Aid Nationwide Charity. Registration: Full £25, Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £15, Sat/Sun £20, 1 day £10, Supporting £10. Child 10-16 half the above rates, under 10s free. Hotel Rates, per person per night, inclusive of full English Breakfast and VAT: £25 sharing a twin or double, £32 in a single. Send an SAE for further info and registration form to: Holodeck 93, P.O. Box 29, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9TG.

1974-1993 BRITISH STAR TREK ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION October 1st - 3rd, 1993. The Holiday Inn, Leicester. Registration: £40.00 until June 1993, then £45.00 thereafter (payment by instalments if required) - SPECIAL DISCOUNT for attendees of 1st BRITISH STAR TREK CONVENTION - LEICESTER 1974. Full details from: Terry Elson, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

SEA TREK CRUISE: Cruise Trek presents A Tribute to Trek Fans. June 5-8, 1992 on Norwegian Cruise Line's Starship SOUTHWARD. Sail from LA to Catalina & Ensenada, Mexico. Cruise along with 10 or more of the Star Trek and Star Trek The Next Generation cast. Enjoy 3 days and nights of unforgettable Star Trek fun! Price includes stateroom accommodations, all meals, entertainment, and Trek activities, plus special collectors' gifts. Price per person ranges from \$472 to \$770 plus \$33 port charges and \$27 pre-paid gratuities. Call Cruise Trek Now! (818)597-7570 (USA) or (800)745-7545 (USA).

WIN A FREE CRUISE! Enter the Trek Fan of the Year contest. For a contest application, send a self-addressed envelope (+ 2 IRCs) to: Cruise Trek, 5330 Derry Avenue, Suite F, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, U.S.A. No purchase necessary. Must be 18 to enter. Paramount is no way associated with Cruise Trek 92 which is produced by Cruises Cruises Cruises.

NON STAR TREK EVENTS

FAB 1 The First Two-day Thunderbirds Convention. August 8 & 9, 1992. Wolverhampton Civic Hall. There is a nearby Hotel, (Novotel) within walking distance which has a car-park and the rates are very reasonable at approx £42 for a double room (i.e. £21 each shared) or £35 single. We will be inviting as many Thunderbirds cast and crew as we can afford. There will be panels, episodic showings on a large screen, various competitions, dealers room etc. Registration: Weekend £30 (Fanderson Members £25), One Day £18 (FM £13). For further details send an SASE at FAB 1, 15 Fuller's Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

WHO'S SEVEN: Blakes 7/Dr Who Convention to be held on 30 Oct - 1 Nov 1992 at the Telford Moat House Hotel, Shropshire, England. For more information send a SASE (SAE & IRC for overseas) to Henry Eggleton, "Valhalla", 137 High Street, Plaistow, Broadway, London E13 9HH.

ARMADACON 4 SF & Fantasy Convention. 7-8 November, 1992 at the Astor Hotel, Plymouth. Guests to include (work permitting) Jon Pertwee, John Kerrigan, Adrian Cole and Fantasy Illustrators Roger and Linda Garland. Events to include: Guest Panels, Authors' Readings, signings, Turkey Reading, Displays, Dealers' Room, two video rooms. Registration Rates: until May '92 £18, one day £10, from June 1st

£20, one day £12. Special rates for students and unemployed upon request. For more details write to: ArmadaCon, c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL. Please enclose an SASE.

THE TWELFTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 20th - 22nd, 1992 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: £15.00. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

FRIENDSHIP COLUMN

Friendship adverts will be printed in one newsletter.

I would like to correspond with any ST fans in this country or abroad. I like both classic Trek and TNG. Other interests include reading, music, history, some sports, collecting bookmarks and postcards. Please write to Mrs Rosemary Irving, 56 Exeter Road, Southville, Bristol BS3 1LZ, England.

Penfriends Wanted: I've been actively involved in penpals for about a year now and I would love to hear from any 'Brent Spiner' enthusiasts. Please contact: Donna Macey, Flat 2, c/o J. Woods Antiques, 47B Upper Tything, Barbourne, Worcester WR1 1JZ.

I would like penpals either local or from around the world. I love Classic Trek, especially Mr Spock/Leonard Nimoy. I am 38, married and when not helping out at school or walking the dogs, I enjoy reading, Quantum Leap, swimming, writing letters (82 penfriends and I are celebrating our own 25 years) and more. Jillian Webster, The Pippins, Bridge Road, Potter Heigham, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5JB.

I would like to write to any fans of Quantum Leap that live anywhere on the continent generally known as Britain. Does anyone know of any British Quantum Leap fan club? My other interests include Star Trek (in all forms), Red Dwarf and all other science fiction programmes + most other programmes. I also like anything to do with science, and/or handicrafts. Please write to Rachel Lindfield, 67 Leylands Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 8AF.

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 newsletter 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.

Star Trek/Next Generation Phasers, Tricorders, Communicators, Costumes etc. All have working lights and sound as seen in Star Trek. These are fully working props. Lots more available from catalogue. For fully illustrated catalogue and details on how to order send £5 with name and address to: The American Prop Catalogue, The Neutral Zone, Mr. David Round, 10 Elm Street, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 EA3. Cheques, postal orders made payable to David Round. Foreign orders accepted.

FOR SALE: Star Trek (Impel) 25th Anniversary Trading Cards series I & II. Complete sets, £8.50 each series, plus £1 p & P. Single cards 10p each plus SAE. Send to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE: Star Trek VI Film Poster £5.00 inc. p&p. Star Trek VI Stardate Poster £6.00 inc. p&p. Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY.

FOR SALE: 2 Star Trek Jigsaws, 1) The Command Team, 2) USS Enterprise. 100pc

11"x 9" 1972 by Another Pleasure Products. Mint, unopened, still sealed in original plastic. Offers to: Graham Probert, 38 Abertillery Road, Blaina, Gwent, South Wales NP3 3DW.

FOR SALE: K/S Relay by Leslie Fish £5.50, Within Reach by Karen Humphries £5.50, Twisted Labyrinth by Karen Humphries £4.50, JKS Enterprises various £4.50, Krisis by Karen Humphries £4.50, Duet - various - £5.00, King Grope - Various - £2.50. All zines are K/S apart from King Grope. Also the book "The Making of Star Trek" lots of photos and info - £10.00. Please write cheques to S. Lamb. Sharon Lamb, 13 Sheridan Green, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9DY.

FOR SALE: ST Zines and Books, American and UK. Some McCoy-related zines. SAE for list to Chris Blenkarn, 15 Claude Ave., Linthorpe, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS5 5PR.

FOR SALE: 28 rare "original Trek" US Magazines £20 + a 3ft b/w poster of Spock £3.50. Please contact: Donna Macey, Flat 2, c/o J. Woods Antiques, 47B Upper Tything, Barbourne, Worcester WR1 1JZ.

WANTED: Any small photos of classic episodes or actors. Also any photos of Robert Lansing as Gary Seven (ST: Assignment Earth). Please contact Mrs Rosemary Irving, 56 Exeter Road, Southville, Bristol BS3 1LZ.

WANTED: Anything on Denise Crosby. Will exchange for assorted Next Gen/Classic Trading Cards. D. MacLeod, 13 Jamieson Drive, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis PA87 2TE.

WANTED: Has anyone got the following books? Star Trek: The Motion Picture, The Search for Spock, The Voyage Home, Final Frontier, also Spock's World and The Lost Years. I have been trying for ages to get second hand copies but they seem to be snapped up as soon as they get into the shops! I will pay any reasonable price for books in good condition. Also K/S zine Those Who Believe; I will pay any reasonable price. Please contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or ring 021-443-2995 after 6pm please.

WANTED - does anyone make stuffed animals at a reasonable price? My brother wants a Gremlin and a Critter for my sister and her friend. Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholme, Co. Durham DL14 8HN.

WANTED: Does anyone have a copy of William Hartnell, Doctor Who story called The Chase 1-6 episodes, also The Reign of Terror episodes 1,2,3&6? Please contact Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY.

WANTED: Does anyone have the 2 Audio Cassettes of William Shatner's Treklab, to buy or borrow. Also does anyone have copies of the 1-6 Star Trek films on Audio cassette? Please contact Peter Hughes. Address as above.

WANTED: I am looking for some audio recordings of any ST and TNG conventions and interviews etc. I will pay a reasonable price, and I will also pay for postage. Please write to Mr. J. Green, Block 14, Door B, Flat 10, Carwana Dingli Street, San Gwann, SGN 05, Malta.

WANTED: Marina Sirtis interviews on video (especially the one with TV AM last year) to borrow or buy. Please write to: Kari Melissa John, Room 4, Nurses' Home, Llanfrecfa Grange Hospital, Llanfrecfa, Gwent, Wales NP44 87N.

WANTED: Can anyone lend me the Star Trek 25th Anniversary Special on video - the version which was shown on the Sky Movie channel. Postage paid both ways. Katrina Heintz, 23 Birniehill Avenue, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 2RR

WANTED: "I Am Not Spock" Autobiography by Leonard Nimoy and any of his records. Either for loan or sale. Jillian Webster, The Pippins, Bridge Road, Potter Heigham, Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5JB.

WANTED: Has anyone got copies of the US fanzine Mindmeld by Sandy Zier? I am looking for Numbers 1 - 6 and I am willing to pay a reasonable price. Please contact Lorna Elliott, 88 Spring Drive, Broadwater, Stevenage, Herts. SG2 8BA.

WANTED: A copy of the zine R & R III. I will pay any reasonable price. Please write to Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

STAR TREK FAN AND ACTOR CLUBS UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 17p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

STAR TREK ACTION GROUP: Britain's longest running Star Trek Club. Six newsletters per year covering all aspects of the show. Merchandise available. Membership: UK £7.00, Europe £9.00, Africa & USA £12.00 (or \$ equivalent), rest of the World £12.50. For a copy of our latest newsletter please send 2 second-class stamps or 2 IRCs to: STAG, 49 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3 5AW, England.

GENESIS II Star Trek Club: Travel to the Frontiers of Fun with Genesis II, going boldly into a new look. Three newsletter per year, outings, meetings and even conventions (T'KON), Membership rate £4.00 per year. Full details available from Leigh Griffiths, 65 Linsworth Road, Kings Norton, Birmingham B30 3RN.

KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP UK (New Address) (Kezia) Alison Leary, 63 Waleron Flats, Old Kent Road, London SE1 5UX.

ATTENTION KLINGONS The Klingon Assault Group has come to Scotland. Any Scots out there who hear the cry of the warrior, who are willing to die for the honour of the Empire (or perhaps just themselves a little) write to: Kolorth, 2 Isles Terrace, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JZ.

NEXT GEN: Do you enjoy Star Trek: The Next Generation? Want to share your enthusiasm? NEXT GEN is a new ACT based fanclub full of news, ideas, friendship and fun! Interested? Then write to: The Secretary, Next Gen, P.O. Box 463, Civic Square, A.C.T. 2608, Australia. (PS We're non-profit too!)

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Anyone wishing to start a local group in the BATH area, please contact me. L. J. Turner, 21 Shaws Way, Twerton, Bath, Avon BA2 1QQ.

Anyone wishing to start a local group in the Bathgate area please contact me. I'd like to hear from you. Katrina Heintz, 23 Birniehill Ave, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR.

Is anyone interested in attending a one-day mini-Con in South Wales? I am thinking of trying to organise something very simple for Summer 1992 in Cardiff or Newport. If you would be interested, please let me know. Jacqueline Y Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea SA3 1PL.

Are there any Star Trek fans interested in starting a club in Dundee? Please get in touch with Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, DD4 6NP for more details.

WAKEFIELD STARFLEET a new Star Trek club, member of NSFA. Meets every third Sunday of the month at Ossett Community Centre, Ossett, Nr. Wakefield at 2pm. Fans may attend two meetings before membership of NSFA is required, NSFA members

attend free of charge! NSFA membership costs £4.00 per year. For further info send an SAE to Wakefield Starfleet, 14 Meadowfields Road, Crofton, Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

HULL STARFLEET Video programme, social outings, competitions. Meeting dates (Sundays 12.00 noon - 4.30 pm) 2nd February 1992 at 286 Dorothy House, Beverley Road, Hull (near 'Gas Flare'). Admission £1. For more information send an SAE to Tracy Beadle, 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE.

FARPOINT needs you! If you live in the Isle of Wight area then this new local group needs you. We are also looking for story zine writers who would like to have their stories printed. Adult considered but no K/S. The zines planned so far are: Farpoint Classic Encounters, Encounters the Next Generation and to come in the far future, Strange Encounters for cross-overs and stories that would not fit into either universe. We are even considering non-Star Trek original material. So keep on dreaming up those plots. Write those stories. Philippa Timms, Silver Glade, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight PO38, 1RW.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP: bi-monthly, Saturday, 11.00 am - 7.00 pm. For everyone in or within travelling distance of London. Latest videos, games, discussions. Please send SAE for further information to Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

LEEDS STARFLEET: SAE to Leeds Starfleet, Leeds LS6 4TE. Meetings (incl. video programme) are held between 12 and 5pm on the following Sundays at the Headingley Community Centre, North Lane, Leeds: April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, August 9th.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. at the Central Hotel, Glasgow, 10.00am - 10.00pm. Come along and watch the latest videos - you will also get the chance to chat with other fans and to buy merchandise. Entry £5.00. Forthcoming dates: Sundays 12th April, 24th May & 21st June. SAE for info to The Away Team, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

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.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Activities include days out, video evenings etc. Newcomers always welcome. Write to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

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.

STAR TREK: THE NEW GATHERING (U.S.S. Discovery). Local meetings held in the Community Room St Helens Library monthly. Write for details to Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

THE OUTER ZONE: WE'RE BACK, and still going boldly where everyone has gone before! The Outer Zone meet once a month in Brighton and chat, chat and... chat about anything Trek-related and all the latest news on SF & Fantasy, and sometimes go on the odd trip to the local movie theatre or con. As an extra incentive to all you would-be members, we also watch THE LATEST up-to-date TNG episodes (HOW can you pass that up!?) We also produce our own quarterly combined newsletter/zine called "Zone Guide - Phase II" which covers all SF/Fantasy (if we can get the information! See the the CITYPRESS/OUTER ZINE ad under the "Zine Ads" section for more details). Issue No.1 costs 50p (or 85p inc. p&p). For more details of the club and the newsletter, please send an SASE to Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

The deadline for submissions (articles, reviews, ads, etc) for the next newsletter is May 13th (May 8th for things sent to Sheila).

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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, renewals, all disc submissions (both newsletter and zines); all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandising info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

Helen - Submissions of crosswords, quizzes etc.

Committee Addresses:

Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, 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 £6.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00 (£12.25), Australia £13.50, 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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