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Newsletter 23

"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, Bjo Trimble.

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Hi, everyone, and welcome to another newsletter. First we would like to apologise for this newsletter coming out a week later than we said it would. We found that with the holidays and Contagion, and also Janet getting to know her new computer, we just didn't have the time to do everything we had to. So as Frank, the printer, was on holiday until the 8th we just decided to take another week to finish the newsletter.

With this newsletter being so late you are really going to have to get your skates on to send submissions in for the next newsletter as the closing date is September 16th. We have some items on hold but need more - the more the merrier. Postbag submissions were actually down for this newsletter - we hope you're not getting tired of writing.

We had a great holiday at Jacqueline Comben's in South Gower. It is a beautiful part of Wales, with sandy beaches, cliffs, caves and numerous walks. I think we all - including the dogs - decided that we could happily live there and we've already invited ourselves down next year. We'd like to thank Jacqueline very much for her hospitality - we'd a great, if all too short, time; and Valerie

has a personal message for Ray Dowsett - You're right, I wouldn't go near that cliff so-called 'path' either! Shona and Cindy also want to say hi to Truffle.

Susan Sackett was over in Britain for a couple of weeks holiday and Contagion and after spending a couple of days with Janet in the west of Scotland she came with all of us to South Wales. We enjoyed her company very much. Hurry over again soon, Susan. We're all missing you, including Shona, Cindy and Ile.

Contagion turned out to be a great convention and we're looking forward to the next one. The convention only had one problem - the Central Hotel just wasn't big enough and they had to turn over 200 day visitors away. Next year the convention will be held in a much larger hotel and hopefully there will be room for everyone who wants to go. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Frances Abernethy (Sheila wouldn't be able to get away otherwise) and Stephen Rothwell for their help during our holiday and at Contagion, and also Helen for covering the guest talks.

Did anyone manage to get videos of the news reports and Telethon items from Contagion? If so we'd love a copy. Write to Janet about this.

Helen White spent a few days holiday with Janet and Sheila after Contagion, although Janet left Sheila to take Helen for a trip round the scenery on the Tuesday while she made some inroads into the backlog of mail. The only problem about going on holiday is that it takes ages to catch up when you get back. Don't take too long till you come back, Helen!

We would like to thank all those of you who sent in your comments on our proposals to raise dues by £1 to £7.50, and increase the newsletter to a maximum of 100 pages. The overwhelming response was in favour of doing this - in fact there were a few suggestions that we went higher but we won't do that. And NO!, we have no intention of putting out a monthly newsletter. There were a few people who said they would prefer us to keep the dues and the length of the newsletter down but dues had to go up to £7.00 to cover costs and we feel that increasing the newsletter length to 100 pages will give us much more flexibility. The new dues are UK £7.50, Europe £9.50, USA £13.25 (\$26.00), Australia/Japan £14.50. Those of you due to renew with this newsletter will find a blue mark on your address label and a renewal form in the envelope.

We would like to introduce you all to Janet's new computer - Archie. Not exactly an original name, but for those of you who are computer minded Archie is an Acorn A5000 with 4Mb RAM and 105MB hard disc. The main software we are running is Impression and Multistore. We are hoping that Impression - a desk top publishing program - will allow us to spruce up the newsletter a bit. We are making a start with this newsletter and plan to double column a lot of it but it is going to take Janet a while to get to know the program. Please bear with us while we experiment with layout, as for one thing we don't know what things will actually look like until we get the newsletters back from the printer. We do welcome your comments on the layout, print legibility etc. Let Janet know what you like, what you don't like and by all

means make some recommendations. We'll try anything practicable. Hopefully, between us, we can improve the look of the newsletter.

We do have a scanner on order and when it eventually arrives we should be able to print some artwork and, possibly, cartoons, in the newsletter. So we are looking for submissions - preferably b/w line type drawings. These are likely to come out best.

Archie has the advantage that as well as reading Archimedes and BBC discs, he can also read PC-DOS discs and Atari ST discs. So if you have any of these computers please do send your submissions to Janet on disc - preferably 3.5" discs although as we still have the BBC Masters we can still read 5.25" discs plus the 3" discs of the Amstrad PCW's. Files need to be saved as ASCII text, preferably not indented and unjustified (or justified left). Archie can also read in picture files from some other computers but we haven't explored that aspect much yet. We have managed to read Amiga files but they had to be transferred (thanks to Eddie Yau) to a DOS disc first. What Janet needs to do now is find out whether Archie can manipulate these 'foreign' files and convert them to a form we can use. One thing to remember is that coloured pictures will not print out well on a b/w printer - they will tend to be too dark.

Anyway that's enough about computers. We'd like to thank everyone who sent in designs for new logos - there were some quite good ones. We aren't printing any this time as we are hanging on in the hope we might get the scanner in time for the next newsletter - otherwise it will mean a cut and paste job. We are still open to receive logos if any of you artists would like to send them in. For those of you who aren't artists but have some ideas, you could send us a rough draft and if we thought they were good we could get an artist to draw the design. As we said in the last newsletter we would like the logo to incorporate the IDIC design and both original Trek and TNG. B/W line drawing will tend to reproduce best.

In the last newsletter Rick Prestien wrote a report on the 5th Anniversary TNG Con and in it he offered details of next year's

Pasadena Convention and a seating chart to any members who wrote to him. Unfortunately we forgot to put in Rick's address. We have forwarded any letters you asked us to but if anyone else wants a copy they can write to Rick Prestien, 6404 Nutwood Circle, Dallas, Texas 75252, U.S.A. It would be nice to enclose a couple of International Reply Coupons.

Our thanks to Frances Abernethy, David Mark Atkins, Peter Buckman, Barbara Ellams, Mark French, Donnie Macleod, Lorraine Poole, Jim Redrup, Moira Russell, Jon Vernon and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

The observant among you (everyone?) will have noticed that although we said there would be a raffle, there were no raffle tickets with your newsletter last time. Sheila forgot about them. A few people did send in money for tickets, but not enough to make a draw feasible, so we're holding these tickets for this month's raffle in aid of the IDIC Guide Dog Fund. The prizes are two boxes of rubber stamps of the characters (one box is Classic Trek, the other is TNG) as well as the usual year's membership of IDIC - you may state 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 September 16th. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter. Note: Please do not send cheques or POs for less than £2: we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £1).

Aero has now qualified and we are printing a photo of him in this newsletter, which we hope will come out okay. We now have £800 towards the next dog so we are hoping that we may have enough to sponsor another dog before the end of the year.

Thank you to Bev Ambrose, Jean Barron, Claudia Baschke, Sandra Blackwell, Avril Brown, David J. Burns, Sandie Cayless, Melanie Claessens, D Clark, Pam Clarke,

Martina Copple, Nic Farey, Mark French, Gloria Fry, Katleen Glancy, the staff and borrowers of Glasgow libraries, George Hagarty & Contagion, Joe Healy, Caro Hedge, Katrina Heintz, David Houston, Muriel Jarrett, Kari M John, Brenda Kelsey, Robert Kirkwood, Marysia Kolodziej, Ruth Kurz, Gary Leeke, Lloyd Lewis, Page Lewis, Helena Luckhurst, Karen MacGarvie, Maggy, Stephen McCall, Masako Noguchi, Barry O'Doherty, Jon Obee, Baerbel Schmidt, Michael Schramm, Lesley Shelton, Sue Sneath, William Taylor, Betty Turner, Jenny Turner, Linda Watt, Helen White, J Wicks, Julie Woolaston, Gaile Wood, Claudia Wutke and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten or who didn't give their name who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

It's occurred to us that although we always mention Sheila's Chain Gang as stuffing newsletters in envelopes, we never nowadays mention them by name. There has been a slight change in membership over the years, but most of them have been helping us for many years. In alphabetical order, they are - Frances Abernethy, Lorraine Goodison (now Poole), Carol Kean, Hilde McCabe (now Barrie), Allison Rooney, Lesley Walker, and the one man in the group, Lorraine's husband Peter. (For fan purposes, Lorraine and Hilde are - at least for the moment - retaining their maiden names.) Although not a member of the Chain Gang (he works nights) Stephen Rothwell also gives some occasional help. We really do appreciate the help these Dundee and Perth members give - without them, getting the newsletter out would be a nightmare. (We suspect they'll say that getting the newsletters out is a nightmare anyway!)

The closing date for the next newsletter is September 16th (September 12th 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 October 7th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 9/8/92

GUIDE DOG AERO



*Presented to The Members of I.D.I.C
with grateful thanks from
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association*

LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

STAR TREK ON TV

I am sure you all know by now that the BBC finished their present screening of TNG with the Best of Both Worlds Pt. 2, which is actually the first episode of the 4th season. It was announced that Star Trek would be back later in the year, but by this the BBC meant a repeat of original Trek, not a continuation of TNG. The reasons behind this are best explained by a letter from the BBC which was printed in TV Zone 31:

"The BBC has not yet acquired Years four and five of ST:TNG as when the original negotiations for the series took place in 1988 we failed to predict its huge success so entered into a joint venture with Paramount TV and Sky Television allowing the BBC exclusive rights on the series until July 1992 and Sky exclusive rights until July 1994, so we cannot show Years Four or Five until this date at the earliest.

The original series of Star Trek will start its repeat screenings this Autumn."

So that is the BBC's story. Unfortunately it still doesn't tell us who will buy the new seasons of TNG. If it becomes a fight between the BBC and Sky, and if Sky wins, there will be a lot of very unhappy fans around.

On TV we will be able to enjoy the repeat showings of the original series on BBC2 starting later this year - one worrying report from TV Zone 33 says that the BBC bought in standards-converted video tape copies for the original ST screenings, while they usually use PAL film copies. This could mean a poorer quality picture. I can't help wondering whether this means that we'll at last get full versions of the episodes, rather than the usual cut versions.

Sky One viewers will get the repeats of the first three series of TNG. This will probably be stripped, showing five or more days a week and, possibly, shown twice a day.

The ratings for TNG on German TV are not very good. It is showing on ZDF on Fridays at 4pm and has between 0.7-0.5 million viewers. The original series is faring better, it is being shown by a private cable channel, SAT1, on Saturdays and Sundays at noon. *Miri* made it into the top three of that day with 1.17 million viewers. Many episodes made it into the top five. (info Martin Stahl)

STAR TREK ON VIDEO

In the meantime, those who can't wait for the continued screening of TNG on TV, will be able to start buying the CIC videos of the 5th season from September.

STAR TREK VI - the Director's version, complete with extra footage, will be available for rent around September/October.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION

Filming has now started on the 6th season, and the second part of *Time's Arrow* has already been filmed. Jimmy Doohan is to appear in the 4th or 5th episode. The story does not involve time travel and Scotty will not be 150 years old.

There is no word yet on anybody signing up for the 7th and 8th season of TNG. Richard Arnold said at Contagion that he thinks Patrick Stewart may be reluctant to sign up for another two seasons as he wants to move on to other things. Michelle Forbes (*Ensign Ro*) has left the series and she will not appear in the 6th season.

There are two Q episodes planned for the 6th season.

The producers have promised a return to Science Fiction story telling, first and foremost. To back up this new commitment, during hiatus the production team invited

members of the Science Fiction/Fantasy Writers of America to submit scripts. (info TV Zone 33)

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

Construction has started on the DS9 sets on stages 4, 17 and 18, although the sets are not dressed yet. The command centre and corridors are on stage 4; the promenade is on stage 17 - it will be run by the Ferengi. (info Richard Arnold).

From an interview with Rick Berman and Michael Piller in the Official ST Fan Club Magazine No. 86:

They were asked if they could reveal more about the characters.

Berman: Sure, but please keep in mind that these could change between now and when the show airs in January. In fact, the title of the series could change. The lead character of DS9 is Commander Benjamin Sisko who is aboard our space station with his son, Jake.

The shape shifter is called Odo. A new character is the science offer on the series who is a Trill - the species that was introduced in the episode The Host. This will be an attractive young woman in her late 20's named Jadzia Dax. She has a little worm inside of her that is hundreds of years old and has been in several different hosts. She is a joined species - she is a combination of a host and a symbiote - which is this worm-like creature within the humanoid body. The last host this creature was in was a man.

Piller: The other people among our regulars that we haven't mentioned are the Ferengi barkeeper whose name is Quark. He is a friendly adversary to our people. He is a typical Ferengi who runs the bar and probably has his hand in any illegal activities that might be going on in the space station including some slightly crooked gambling and running the holo-suites upstairs. If it suits his purposes, he might give us a helping hand once in a while but, at the same time, he's also a little snotty about the Federation and Starfleet. It's a very interesting conflict

between him and our regular characters.

Berman: Another character we haven't mentioned is Doctor Julian Amoros. Dr. Amoros is a latecomer into our development. He is Human and in his late 20's. He is a brilliant young doctor out of Starfleet Medical. He's kind of cocky but he's looking forward to action and being on the frontier. He's like the doctor who leaves Harvard and goes out to the Indian Territories because he thinks it's going to be filled with adventure but first, of course, he has to stop and get himself fixed up with all the finest frontier clothing. He goes out being relatively naive about the realities of what is waiting out there. He is a brilliant doctor but not a brilliant person when it comes to life experience. He will be learning a lot during his tenure on DS9.

Piller: the primary recurring character, who is introduced in the two-hour premiere, is the religious, spiritual leader of the Bajoran people who is a woman named Kai Opaka. Opaka is her name and Kai is her title, like Pope George. That pretty much covers the main characters.

Berman: there are some cross over characters from The Next Generation that we really are not able to discuss yet.

When asked if they would have problems with the series set on a stationary Starbase rather than the U.S.S. Enterprise they replied:

Berman: Well, the first two Star Trek series dealt with the Enterprise and, yes, the Enterprise is a signature element of Star Trek. But it doesn't mean that a Star Trek series or concept cannot work without the Enterprise. We are not just making a third Star Trek series here, we are making a unique series that is definitely part of Star Trek, but that doesn't mean it has to be identical down the line. I would also say that by putting this space station at the mouth of a permanent, fixed wormhole that is going to open up another quadrant of the galaxy, we are placing our characters at a very, very crucial hub. This is unique to our galaxy. So, in a sense, yes, things will come to us in the same way things would come to you if you were at the mouth

of the Panama Canal when it opened. There would be a tremendous amount of exploration in both directions.

Piller: We're also going to have ships on this space station and we're going to get into those ships and we're going to fly places. We are designing a new Starfleet spacecraft for a maximum of 25 people. We're calling them

Runabout class vehicles. To me, the whole issue of can Star Trek survive without the Enterprise is false. The Enterprise and Star Trek represent not just an exploration of a universe, but also an exploration of ideas and the Human condition. It certainly is something that we, as creators and writers, will be bringing to the series.

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

Ep.	Title	Date shown	Viewer	Pos.
73	Transfigurations	22/04/92	4.98	6
74	Best Of Both Worlds	29/04/92	5.26	4
75	Best Of Both Worlds, pt.2	16/05/92	5.15	4
--	Star Trek III: The Search For Spock	14/06/92		

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STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Qarton

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.

ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 86 July/August 1992.

Articles on Kim Cattrall - "The Voice of Valeris", The Creation 5th Anniversary TNG Convention, Christopher McDonald & Tricia O'Neil (Richard Castilli & Captain Garrett in Yesterday's Enterprise) plus an Update on Deep Space 9.

STARLOG 180 July 1992. Includes articles on Mariette Hartley (Zarabeth in All Our Yesterdays), Gene Nelson who directed The Gamesters of Triskelion & Cliff Eidelman who composed the scores for STII & STVI.

ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 20 (Starlog)

Articles on Bebe Neuwirth (Lilth Crane in First Contact), Robert Scheerer (director of The Measure of a Man & Next Generation

Trivia. Mission reports on: New Ground, Hero Worship, Violations, Masterpiece Society, Conundrum, Power Play, Ethics and The Outcast.

TV ZONE 31 June 1992. Includes articles on "The Mysterious Vulcans" & the 'banned' TNG episode, The High Ground, plus reviews of The Disinherited (Titan 54) & The Klingon Dictionary.

TV ZONE 32 July 1992. Includes an article on Denise Crosby and a review on Imbalance (Titan TNG 22).

TV ZONE 33 August 1992. Includes and article on The Cardassians and a review of Ice Trap (Titan 55)

TV ZONE TIME TRAVEL SPECIAL. Includes articles on Time Troubles in Star Trek (Classic Trek) and Time for The Next Generation.

STARBURST 166 June 1992. Includes part 2 of an article on Undiscovered Matte Worlds - behind the scenes of ST VI and review of

Ne'A'Driar Convention.

STARBURST SUMMER SPECIAL No. 12. Includes an articles on Star Trek Sex, The Female Frontier.

STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 21 - Articles on Brent Spiner, Pen Pals and Q Who.

Issue 22 - Articles on Michael Dorn, Samaritan Snare and Up the Long Ladder.

Issue 23 - Articles on Marina Sirtis, Manhunt and the Emissary.

Issue 24 - Articles on Jonathon Frakes, Peak Performance and Shades of Gray.

Issue 25 - Articles on Season Two Retrospective, Evolution and Ensigns of Command.

Issue 26 - Articles on LeVar Burton, The Survivors and Who Watches the Watchers.

FINAL FRONTIER 1 July, 1992. Articles on Starfleet Legacy, Star Trek: First Season Classic Trek episode guide, Star Trek: The Motion Picture, Refit and an Interview with Leo Penn. *[We think most of these are reprinted from Starlog.]*

"Enterprising Coup by Sky" Daily Record 6/6/92. Article saying Sky has the rights to TNG until July 1994.

Daily Mail 11/6/92. Reports that Eileen Roddenberry, Gene's former wife (they were divorced in 1969) has won a half share in profits from future repeats and a spin-offs of Star Trek.

"It's Out of This World" Colchester Evening Gazette 16/6/92. Full colour page spread on TNG.

"The Spacemen Are Coming" Glasgow Evening Times, 27/6/92. Article about the forthcoming Contagion Convention and George Takei.

"Star Trekking with Sulu" What's On July 1992. A short article about Contagion.

"Fit Me Up Scottie!" Daily Record 18/7/92. Short article about George Takei getting fitted out for a kilt. There's a lovely photo of him wearing the kilt.

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ACTOR NEWS

William Shatner: The Daily Star and Daily Mirror 17/7/92, and The National Enquirer 21/7/92 all carried a story about William Shatner falling from his horse and being knocked out for 20 minutes. They also say that he is now suffering from blurred vision, and the Enquirer says that Doctors plan to recheck him with a CAT scan.

At Contagion on the 19th July one person asked Richard Arnold about this but he hadn't heard anything. Barbara Ellams has written to say that she spoke to Mary-Jo, Bill's PA recently, and yes he fell, and knocked himself out, but has not had any after effects. The fall was some time ago but Bill mentioned it on a chat show a couple of weeks back and the Enquirer took it from there!

William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy & DeForest Kelley: At Las Vegas the three main original Trek actors were recently inducted into the National Association of

Broadcasters' Hall of Fame

Patrick Stewart: A scheduled performance of Patrick's one-man show "Uneasy Lies The Head" in Los Angeles on Saturday May 2nd had to be postponed till Sept 19th, due to the curfew imposed because of the riots in LA. It's a bit difficult to perform, when neither you nor the audience can actually get to the venue... Filming was apparently halted at Paramount Friday May 1st, when the rioting was at its height: TNG was on hiatus by this time, but other productions were disrupted.

The movie Patrick will be involved in during his break from TNG this year is an adaptation of the Alistair MacLean story "Death Train". This version is being made by Granada and HBO, and stars Pierce Brosnan as the spy hero of the story; Patrick plays Malcolm Philpott, Brosnan's "controller", and is supposed to have quite a large role. Shooting is taking place in parts of what-

used-to-be Yugoslavia. "Death Train" should air on ITV sometime in December.

According to Variety 11/5/92, "Patrick Stewart has joined the cast of the modern-day western 'Gunman', a Davis Entertainment Co presentation of a Laurence Mark production. Film stars Christopher Lambers and Mario van Peebles, and is directed by Deran Serafian. Twentieth Century Fox will release the film." Patrick recently spent three or four days shooting this small movie part in Mexico. [Info from Britgazer, a publication of I.A.A.P.S. UK.]

Patrick Stewart recently signed to star in the sequel to the movie Annie - he will play Daddy Warbuck.

George Takei will be appearing as the Mirror Master, in the pantomime, Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs, at the Dome, Brighton from Fri 18th December, till Sat 9th January. (info GHT)

Barry Ingham: The London production of "Aspects of Love" ended on June 20th and on June 21st Barry was due to fly out to Chicago with his wife. He is to repeat his role as Sir George Dillingham in the American touring version of "Aspects". He will play four weeks in Chicago and five in Washington D.C. The rest of the tour has not been finalised, but he will be staying in the U.S. until at least February, 1993. (Info Pam Clarke.)

The following info is extracted from Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum, May & June 1992. Subscription Rates for 6 issues of STC are: USA \$5 Bulk mail, \$8 First Class, Canada \$9 Airmail Printed Matter, Overseas \$12 Air Printed Matter. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, 2059 Fir Springs Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339-1701, USA.

Gene Roddenberry, creator of Star Trek, was posthumously awarded The George Pal Memorial Award for his creativity in the SF TV genre; Majel Barrett-Roddenberry accepted it at the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films ceremonies. SF author Arthur C Clarke suggests that a site

on Mars be named after GR & appeals to the 1993 International Astronomical Union Nomenclature Committee to bring up GR's & Heinlein's names.

Gene Roddenberry will receive the 1992 Retinitis Pimentosa International "People of Vision" award on June 28th. Majel Barrett-Roddenberry will accept it.

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry wants any articles about Gene's death.

William Shatner was in "Love Letters" with his wife at Bucks County Playhouse near Philadelphia June 10-14. His new book, "Believe" was written with Michael Tobias [Berkeley Books]. It is a physic adventure with Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Leonard Nimoy will produce and direct Double Boy, about Siamese twins and, with wife, Susan, is developing Baggage, a film about step-parenting. Nimoy's son Adam and wife Nancy presented Nimoy with his 5th grandchild.

Patrick Stewart won the New York Theater Journalists & Critics 1991-92 Best Solo Performance DRAMA DESK AWARD for "A Christmas Carol". After the performance of "Every Good Boy Deserves Favour", Patrick auctioned TNG items to benefit the Orange County Symphony Orchestra & Amnesty International. Patrick's 6' 4" son, Daniel, was Captain Picard's son in the TNG episode "Inner Light".

Jonathan Frakes kicked off the April New York City Supercities Walk for the MS Society.

Whoopi Goldberg won the NAACP Image Best Actress Award for "Long Walk Home". She co-hosted HBO's "Comic Relief" charity show.

Marina Sirtis was married to musician Michael Lamper on June 21 - congratulations! Marina will guest in a new series, Fifth Corner. If you adopt a pet or donate to animal rights, send the receipt to Marina for a personalized note.

Nichelle Nichols has formed a fund to help LA riot victims: TREK FOR PEACE. c/o AME Church, 2270 S. Harvard Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90018, U.S.A.

Walter Koenig opens in Reno soon as Larry the Liquidator with wife Judy Levitt, in "Other People's Money". Walter's screenplay, "Turtle Summer" is on the market, as is "Moontrap II".

Jane Wyatt (Spock's mother) will be 80 on August 12.

Denise Crosby was in a recent episode of Hal Linden's "Jack's Place". She is also in "Dolly Dearest", a horror film already released in Europe and due for USA release soon.

Actor Spotting by Mark French.

James Doohan appeared in a recent episode

of the Twilight Zone - "Valley of the Shadow" (Ch.4).

William Shatner also appeared in an episode of the Twilight Zone - "Nick of Time" (Ch.4) and there was a repeat showing of an interview he did in The Best of Clive 7/7/92. On 11/7/92 BBC1 screen "The Secrets of a Married Man", starring **William Shatner**. Also starring in the film is **Michelle Phillips** of the Mamas & Papas fame. She was also a guest star in a recent episode of Hooker (Skyl) - "Love Story". She is better known to Star Trek fans as Jenice Manheim, Picard's old flame, from the episode "We'll Always Have Paris".

MGM Home Video are releasing the Man From U.N.C.L.E. episodes on video. Volume 1 has the episode "Project Strigas Affair" which guest stars **William Shatner** & **Leonard Nimoy**.

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MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Quarton

BOOKS -

- June P60 **ICE TRAP** by L.A. Graf. Pocket Books.
- July TNG **REUNION** by Michael Jan Friedman. Pocket Books - now in paperback. Captain Picard's past and present collide aboard the USS Enterprise when he is united with his old crew of the USS Stargazer for the first time in over a decade. The reunion turns deadly when an assassin begins to eliminate the Stargazer crew one by one.
- Aug P61 **SANCTUARY** by John Vornholt. Pocket Books, Titan. The planet Sanctuary. A fabled world in unexplored space which is thought to be the last refuge of the persecuted, home to both the justly and unjustly accused. Though its name has been translated into every language in the galaxy, Starfleet has never known its exact location. When the crew of the USS Enterprise is assigned to capture a dangerous criminal their pursuit takes them into unexplored space. Kirk, Spock and McCoy continue pursuit in a shuttlecraft, following the criminal to the planet Sanctuary, where they are soon locked in a life and death struggle on the planet which harbours deadly secrets and never releases its visitors.
- Sept TNG23 **WAR DRUMS** by John Vornhold. Pocket Books, Titan. The planet Selva - a lush colony world settled by a hardy group of Humans, who found the planet already inhabited by a small gang of young Klingons. When violence erupts between the two groups, Captain Picard and the USS Enterprise are sent to render assistance. Worf leads a landing party and he and his party find that the old hatreds and prejudices between Humans and Klingons are revived.

IMZADI by Peter David. The 2nd TNG Pocket Books Hardcover. It tells the story of Commander Riker's and Deanna Troi's tempestuous history together.

VIDEOS -ST:TNG

CIC will be continuing their release of TNG videos in September/October with the 5th season. Tapes to watch out for:

Redemption II/Darmok (51)

Ensign Ro/Silicon Avatar (52)

Disaster/The Game (53)

Unification I & II (54)

A Matter of Time/New Ground (55)

Hero Worship/Violations(56)

GNP Crescendo Records will be releasing two new Star Trek soundtracks shortly. The first features The Naked Time and Shore Leave. Second is a TNG collection which is tentatively set to consist of music from Yesterday's Enterprise, Hollow Pursuits and Unification. Backing up these two will be an album of sound effects from TNG.

[Info TV Zone 30]

STAR TREK 1991 SERIES TRADING CARDS - Impel. "On April 15, 1992, Impel Marketing Inc. changed its name to SkyBox International Inc... These cards and the special offers (Albums) are not available internationally at this time. We are aggressively working on a program to distribute them internationally in the future. (Info Frances Abernethy, from a letter she received from SkyBox.)

STAR TREK: THE GAME Classic Games. The game is advertised in Starlog 181 as coming in June. The advert is beautiful with a painting of Kirk and Spock and the Enterprise (series), but it doesn't tell you anything about the game. When we find out anything we'll let you know.

STAR TREK Ultra Games for the Nintendo Games System. \$54.00.

When a failed warp experiment tears a hole in the fabric of space, you must assume the role of Captain Kirk and guide the USS enterprise through uncharted territory. Dilithium crystals are needed to make the voyage home, so you'll have to visit many undiscovered countries with Spock, McCoy, Scotty, Sulu, Chekov and Uhura under your command. Explore strange new worlds with a landing party or seek out new life and new civilisations like the Klingons, Romulans, even Harry Mudd.

Provided you live this long and prosper, you'll also have to travel back through time, find the key to saving a lost civilisation, take on the Romulans, withstand the Neutral Zone and reach Federation space safely. With all these features, it's a nice surprise that Ultra's Star Trek also offers some very impressive 8-bit graphics for a NES game and captures much of the mood, dialogue and feel of the TV series on which it is based. (Starlog 181, August 1992)

Star Trek: The Next Generation - The Official 1992 Anniversary Medal. Minted in Sterling Silver. Price £150, or £39 in pewter. Write for info to Franklin Mint Limited, Bromley Road, London SE6 2XG.

A.H. Prismatic have now released a Hologram picture of the Enterprise 1701-D and they also have many Star Trek holographic embossed stickers, bookmarks, gift boxes, keyrings, laser discs, badges and magnets. They will soon be releasing laser visors. You should be able to obtain these in various shops which sell Star Trek merchandise.

William Shatner And Leonard Nimoy -25 Year Mission - Live! Creation Con. We can't tell you where to get this at the moment but Richard Arnold brought a copy over.

The Man From U.N.C.L.E. Vol 1 contains the episode "The Project Strigas Affair" which guest stars both William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy. This video is now available for £10.99. (info Kay Stag)

If anyone is visiting London soon they could do worse than visit the HMV or Virgin Megastores. Both are selling a boxed set of 3 Trek CDs for only £12.95! The set contains The Cage, Where No Man Has Gone Before, The Doomsday Machine, Amok Time, and sandwiched in the middle is the ST:TNG CD Encounter at Farpoint. Great value for money. (info Paul Hulford).

In Cardiff there is a sci-fi shop called "The Forbidden Planet", it is in Castle Street opposite Cardiff Castle, and is good for all sci-fi and Star Trek mags, books, videos, you name it. (info Sue Williams)

☆☆☆☆

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'.

Lorna Elliott - Stevenage

Like many others I grew up on the reruns of Star Trek, being too young to appreciate the first showing in the late sixties. I used to forage around in second hand bookshops for any ST novels that I could find and my early collection consisted of wholly second hand copies. Most kids went to bed with a teddy bear for company - not me. I had a model of the USS Enterprise which had to sit on my bedside table.

When word of a new Star Trek series was rumoured and later confirmed I tried to

imagine what my reaction would be to Star Trek without the characters that I had come to know and love. Before the BBC started to screen the series I managed to hire some episodes from our local video shop. When I watched these episodes - namely Encounter at Farpoint, The Naked Now and Code of Honor, I made the mistake of comparing them to the original series and in my heart it failed miserably. When the BBC started to show TNG I again watched it, but this time I tried to view it for what it is a series set in the ST universe 75 years or more after the events depicted in the original Trek, about a new, larger, Starship called Enterprise and her crew. It worked. I still feel the early TNG left me dissatisfied but I have now started collecting the videos to stand alongside my already complete set of Classic Trek (something, I might add, that I swore I would never do).

The series is growing in stature with every season. One thing I personally like is the way in which events are cross referenced between episodes, giving realism to the fact that the crew is on an 'ongoing mission'. I hope they keep up the good work and I will view Deep Space 9 without making the mistake I did with TNG.

I have noted in some letters that you have commented on your likes and dislikes concerning the 6 movie soundtracks. For my own curiosity I was thinking of running my own opinion poll to find out the top six in order of popularity. Perhaps Janet could let me know whether the committee would have

any objections as I know that Helen usually conducts opinion polls. *[Janet: Any member is welcome to run a poll, it is just that Helen is the only one who has offered so far. We will send out polls with the newsletter as long as they are no longer than one sheet.]*

To Chris Brown (N/L 21) - I agree with your views on DS9 and the idea of a story involving the exploits of Captain Sulu and the Excelsior sounds great - if not as part of Star Trek on TV then maybe as a series of novels. Let's hope!

To Marysia Kolodziej (N/L 21) - McCoy was not actually conscious of the fact that he held Spock's Katra. It remained dormant most of the time, surfacing on odd occasions. I think his attempt at the neck pinch was instinctive but without knowledge. Even after he was made aware of his situation by Kirk, he retained his own identity, lapsing into the Spock persona only once. This is my theory, anyway.

Since the release of ST VI:TUC a lot of comments have been made regarding the reaction of Kirk & Co towards the Klingons. I totally agree that the sudden prejudice was overplayed and definitely out of character, especially in the case of Kirk, but (and here it comes) after seeing the film for the seventh time I tried to rationalise their reaction.

The Enterprise crew has been together for 25 years or more, and in that time have experienced Klingon brutality on more than one occasion, including their more recent confrontation when Kirk's son is killed. Added to this is the fact that the only reason for seeking peace negotiations at this time is due to the destruction of their moon, resulting in the imminent extinction of their race.

I would expect the crew to react with some misgivings and reservations as to the Klingons' sincerity, and I thought the crew portrayed this lack of trust well. After reading the novel adaptation I can understand Kirk's heated reaction, even if I do not fully condone it. I also feel that part of his anger was directed at Spock for what Kirk must have felt was an insensitive act when he volunteered him for the job of escort.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Claudia Wuttke - the Klingon comment about a 'Humans-only club' isn't limited to ST VI. Certain SF editors in the old pulp days, notably John Campbell, definitely held that opinion. Any writer who wanted to sell anything to Campbell had to fall in with the editor's 'Galaxy of Humans' viewpoint.

However, from the point of view of Trek, although the 'mixed-crew' presentation of some of the Trek novels is interesting, in fact it does make sense for all crew members on any given ship to have similar physiology, not too different psychology, and similar environmental needs; eg it would be very difficult for anyone eight feet tall to manage on a ship designed for a maximum height of 6 feet 6 inches; it would be equally difficult for anyone three feet tall to manage comfortably. It would be difficult for a crew whose members had marked differences in gravity, temperature and breathable atmosphere needs to work comfortably and efficiently together, no matter how well they got on socially.

To Lee Sansome - actually, I think Whoopi Goldberg is thinner than her costumes make her appear to be. However, assuming you're right and she's better... er... padded than I think, we could assume that for her race Guinan is thin and beautiful. After all, to a bull elephant a young elephant cow probably appears to be svelte and good-looking!

To Paul Hulford - while I agree that some people do seem to have a gift for remembering everyone they've met, I suspect that most people will recognise and name maybe a hundred people at most, and remember the faces of maybe a hundred more without necessarily being able to put a name to them, unless they're in a situation where they're mixing/meeting regularly with a lot more. Perhaps someone with psychological training would care to comment. As for Picard knowing everyone... we know that Kirk didn't know everyone on his Enterprise, with a crew of 430, and Kirk has always struck me as being a little more extrovert than Picard. I think Picard would only know by name the crew with whom he came in regular

contact, know the faces of those who were regularly on duty any time he was going round the ship, and not know the ones he rarely saw because they were usually on one of the opposite shifts. He might know the names of all his crew, but I would doubt that he could fit all the names to the appropriate faces.

To Euan Lees - For a long period of convalescence, Crusher's bedside manner would drive me round the bend! But then I have the wrong glands to appreciate 'a smile or two from her'. Seriously, her behaviour might reassure some folk, but it would leave me suspecting that I was sicker than she was letting me know. I much prefer Pulaski's matter-of-fact approach.

Jennifer Cobbing - London

I don't care for the 'official' reason for the kitchen on the Enterprise. The first time I saw the film, I, like other fans, thought it rather odd, so I came up with my own idea. I decided the kitchen is the for preparation of meals exclusively for senior officers, real food being one of the perks enjoyed by senior members of the crew.

To John Stubbley - You're right about the photon torpedo smashing through the Enterprise - it's almost as heart stopping as when the ship was destroyed in TSFS. I love the way the Enterprise and Excelsior blast the Klingon Bird of Prey again and again. That sounds a bit violent, but it serves them right! And it's little things like that that make the characters more Human.

To Janet Quarton - I agree with your comments about the rift between fans at conventions. I like to keep up with TNG but, after a couple of cons spent trying to catch up with episodes and enjoy the con as a whole, I gave up. So now I do all the things one does at a con when not restricted by the timing (and queueing) of the next episode. This didn't of course, happen before TNG and there definitely seems to be a difference between those of us who enjoy cons the way we always have and the newer fans who are eager to keep up to date with TNG. It helps that I'm not that fussed about TNG, but I can catch up at the London Group Meetings

organised by Kim Farey. As you suggested, the opportunity to see new episodes at other times does help.

To Lee Sansome - I don't believe Star Trek was the first 'buddy' series on television. Route 66 was very much a buddy series, as was Laramie (one of the Westerns so popular in the 60s) and both preceded Trek by three or four years. However, Classic Trek was still far ahead of its time and was as innovative and exciting in its time as many fans find TNG to be today.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie - I'd be more than happy to pay a little extra for a bigger newsletter, especially to have a bigger postbag as I love to read what everybody else thinks.

Bill Taylor - Kelty, Fife

To Lloyd Lewis and Steve How. Thanks for info on Birds of Prey in N/L 21.

Re video quality - coincidence? but similar questions are surfacing about Dr. Who videos.

Marysia Kolodziej, Troon

Following up on Helen White's PMT joke... Why do men marry women? Answer, because sheep can't do the dishes.

Interesting fact No. one: a note for anyone who's interested in the Genesis device. According to a physics teacher I know sub-elementary particle waves are only theoretical, they do not actually exist. But then he also claims that a car wheel can go 0ms at the bit that touches the ground and 20ms at the top bit. At the same time!?!)

To Graeme G Lowe - please, please, please don't write an article about time travel paradoxes! I always end up with a headache when I try to think about them.

To Kathleen Glancy - the main reason for having so many single fathers on TV is because there are so many single mothers in real life. Fathers are often passed over for custody simply because they are fathers (though I believe this happens much less now). Writers try to show single fathers so

that people become used to them and prejudice against men bringing up children is lessened. Also re Gillian Taylor: what I don't understand is that in ST IV (the book) everyone spends so much time worrying about changing the future and then no-one looks twice when they take Gillian into the future. It seems a little contradictory to me.

Re nerve pinch. Hate to harp on, but in ST IV (the book) Kirk uses the Vulcan nerve pinch on a doctor. Perhaps no-one remembered that in ST III McCoy had failed when he tried.

To Stephen Shaw - my brother was brought up in a house where no-one has the slightest interest in guns or wars. Yet he still spends all his time drawing guns, fighter planes, tanks, vicious monsters with blood dripping from 10 inch fangs, etc. I don't understand what went wrong.

To Lee Sansome - I love Hollow Pursuits because of the wonderful way the actors fit into their holodeck characters, especially Geordi, Data and Picard as Musketeers and Wesley as a page. Priceless.

To Ann T Robertson - Perhaps that's a good argument for manufacturing an army of Datas. Then we could all have one.

Re doors on the Enterprise. Perhaps they open every so often (eg every five minutes) and so people stop and talk outside them to wait until they open! On the other hand, perhaps I should leave technological explanations to someone else.

To Anyone - is it true that originally ST II did not have Spock giving his Katra to Bones? He definitely doesn't in the book of ST II I have. (20p for a hardback in perfect condition. I love second hand bookshops!)

To Matthew Conway - if one condition to being alive is the ability to reproduce, shouldn't people who are sterile be a little worried? I mean, according to that they are not technically alive. I am also suspicious that certain people I know do not respond to external stimuli...

To TQ from Preston - I doubt that nerve impulses could travel at the speed of light because if they did then reaction time would be so infinitesimal that it could not be measured easily.

To Gloria Fry - Spock married? Did I miss something important when watching Sarek? [Ed - In the episode Sarek, Picard said that he had met Sarek at his son's wedding. Unless Spock has yet another brother as well as the deceased Sybok, that has to mean Spock.]

To Ann Peters - if Earth was attacked by hostile aliens I wouldn't care which Captain saved us. As long as we got saved, it could be Captain Pugwash who did it!

Interesting fact No 2 - Mintaka (Who Watches the Watchers) is 2300 light years away and is situated in Orion's belt - it's the one furthest to the right. Mintaka is a magnitude 2.2 star; binoculars reveal a magnitude 6.9 companion. Close observation shows it to be an eclipsing binary which varies by mag. 0.1 every 6 days.

Cathy Halford - London

To Stephen Shaw - I'd just like to give you (and anyone else) a word of warning re tribble merchandise. I don't know your son's age, and I don't know whether tribbles from Star Tech are the same as those sold by Lincoln Enterprises, but in case they are, please be aware that the 'fur' on these cute balls of fluff has a tendency to fall out if given a tug. So check before giving them to children who haven't got beyond the 'It doesn't exist unless I stick it in my mouth' phase. Having said that, these tribbles do look sweet so don't let me talk you out of buying them if there's no danger of a baby or toddler getting hold of one and choking on it.

To Steven Gibb - I hadn't noticed that TNG Klingons have 'points at the end of their noses', but there are a couple of unoffical reasons to explain why Classic Trek's smooth-headed Klingons turned into the boney versions of the films and later series:

a) The 'bone-heads' are of the Imperial Race, as opposed to the rest of the Klingon species who don't have ribbed foreheads, and

in Kirk's time the Klingon Defence Force had no Imperials in its ranks

b) In Classic Trek the only Klingons we saw were 'Human fusions', ie Klingons deliberately altered by surgery.

Both explanations fit in with a cold-war scenario, depicting an Empire anxious to keep the Federation in the dark on all frontiers, right down to the characteristics of its people.

Incidentally, in Ethics (5th season) we see that the ridges on Worf's head extend right down to the base of his spine. My own theory on what these ridges are stems from what we know of the Klingon homeworld; by all accounts it has a hot climate, and I reckon the boney bits form cooling cavities which allow these mean and gorgeous aliens to get rid of excess heat. Evolution has done similar things to species on this planet. Any more suggestions, anyone?

Karen Davies - Birmingham

I am dismayed to see that Paramount is now considering scripts for Star Trek VII. Personally I think that they should leave it at ST VI, for the reason that no matter how good the film was - and it was brilliant - our friends at the press and critics are only interested in commenting on the ages of the crew. Why bring them back again to be ridiculed? I think it's time for the Next Generation to take over the big screen; but having said that, I think I must be the only person who actually liked the idea of the Original meets TNG script.

To Janet Quarton - I was at SOL III. It was my first convention, and it was very enjoyable, but I think I must have been one of the fans you heard moaning about not seeing the new episodes. On the Saturday afternoon my friends and I were really looking forward to seeing the episode Hero Worship, which was cancelled because a few people insisted that ST VI, which had already been shown that morning, was shown again. I travelled to the hotel from home every morning and I managed to get there in time to see it. When you consider the fact that ST VI has recently been in the cinema for months and Hero Worship is a brand new episode that hardly anyone will have seen, I don't think it was

really fair.

To Bryan Tarry - Thanks for letting us know about Star Trek being shown on the German satellite programme. I am also lucky enough to have cable TV and have started watching it. I don't speak German either, but I can at least get the idea of what's happening, especially if it's an episode I've seen before.

By the time this letter is printed we may also be watching TNG on Sky One, although at this time (mid-June) we don't know when it will be on, or which season(s) will be shown.

On a satellite TV programme recently (Showbiz Today) they showed an interview with Patrick Stewart and his son Daniel. Watch out, girls! If you think Patrick is gorgeous, wait till you see Danny!

Maria Nausch - Germany

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - I do not share your opinion about the Enterprise crew not being able to speak and/or understand Klingonese. It's just the same nowadays - or do you really believe that any American or European politician who ever had negotiations with the Soviet Union or the CIS really speaks Russian? Some niceties, maybe, like "How do you do?" or "I'm honoured to meet you," but certainly not more. And Russian is an easy and logical language compared with Klingonese - believe me, I tried both! I don't think that things will change that much in the next 200 - 300 years. In ST VI you can see that all negotiations, the dinner and the Khitomer conference, English is used. That explains why Spock still does not speak Klingonese after months of negotiations. As to Uhura - I think so far the Klingons have lived outside Federation space (with the exception of a few incursions on Federation territory from their side) so the chances of coming across a Klingon transmission at the exact same moment when the computer is not working (how often is there a computer malfunction of that magnitude?) are extremely low, I'd say. She really does not need to speak Klingonese.

Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

To Steven Gibb - I think Deep Space Nine can work very well. When I first

learned about TNG from American pen pals I was very suspicious, I admit. I had prejudices because I doubted that a Star Trek series without the original cast would work. I quickly learned that it does, and it even became my favourite series. Also the new episodes produced after Gene's death are mostly excellent. Gene was the creator of Star Trek, but he worked with a good team and this team is following Gene's ideas. I see DS9 as a spin off from TNG, and so I see no danger that it could be a failure. The more I learn about it, the more curious I become! Hopefully Ensign Ro and the O'Brien family will really be in DS9 and play an important role in this series. I also like the idea of a shape changing being like Martia in there. I keep wondering if Martia, this being and the shape changers from The Dauphin come from the same race.

To Eddy Yau - This is the first time that I learned from someone that he thinks Yesterday's Enterprise and Sins of the Father are very average. Both of them are among my favourite episodes. They showed me again how powerful and sophisticated the characters of TNG are, not only one (Spock) as in Classic Trek. Unfortunately Classic never used the full potential the characters have. You only learned a lot about Spock, not only his character but his parents, his past and Vulcan. We learned some traits about Kirk and McCoy but not much about their pasts or families - which I always regretted. And the rest? We learned even less about them. Classic has many great Spock episodes but no episodes featuring mainly Sulu, Uhura or Scotty. I would have liked that.

Well, the movies became much better in that regard (ST VI is great!) but this is one of the main reasons why I prefer TNG. I think that the TNG crew worked very well in Best of Both Worlds. Spock certainly wouldn't be able to connect himself with the collective consciousness of the Borg as Data did and Kirk certainly is a different character from Picard. Also, who of the original would impersonate Riker, Deanna and Guinan? This shows that most Classic characters are not as sophisticated as Spock is. Therefore I am surprised that you found Unification boring. I think it is a great episode! It is a quieter one,

nothing like Best of Both Worlds but nevertheless on the same level. The characterisations are very impressive and I learned a lot about the relationship between Spock, Sarek and Picard. The topic about a possible reunification between Romulus and Vulcan is fascinating and I liked it for what it told us about the Romulan society. It reminded me very much of the Roman Empire. I found the end, when Spock and Picard mind melded, very touching. Hopefully Spock will return in TNG or Deep Space Nine.

No, I see no difference in Tasha's or Deanna's 'build'. I see that you have prejudices against Deanna and can't imagine her in a combat situation because of her beauty and her profession as Counselor. Hopefully you learned that you are wrong from Violations and Power Play!

To Ronald Reid - Data and Worf are my favourite characters in TNG. In Classic Trek, Klingons were always the bad guys, with the exception of Day of the Dove, one of my favourite Classic episodes. There you could finally see, for the first time, that Klingons are much more than brute villains. Now it is hard to believe that at first Worf was not supposed to become a regular character. I think it was unfortunate that he was developed late and we never got the opportunity for a good Worf/Tasha adventure. Hopefully there will be one in a novel one day.) I think nowadays he is the most developed character. I enjoyed the Klingon chapter very much (except K'Ehlyr's death) and his role as a single parent to Alexander makes him even more complex. Even if they had used Tasha more I doubt that she could ever have reached Worf's complexity. On the other hand, I also liked Tasha and regret that she got so few good episodes.

Valerie Piacentini - Saltcoats

To Stephen Shaw: We don't cover K/S in detail in the N/L, because although it is designed for adults, we are aware that many young people read it. However, as there is a large minority of fans who are interested, we do review K/S zines from time to time. I try to give as much information as possible, and

an idea of the plot, without going into explicit detail. To answer your questions, (1) Yes, they are almost exclusively written by women. There was at least one male writer in America who wrote K/S, but he was killed some years ago: does anyone know of any others? To be blunt, women write and read them as their version of the fantasies written by men in the soft-porn magazines you'll find in any newsagent. However, while there is some utter rubbish written, the best K/S includes some of the finest fan writing ever printed.

(2) Why K/S? In general, fan fiction started as action/adventure stories, then moved on to relationship, where the writers were interested in developing the friendship between Kirk and Spock - it was assumed that Kirk and McCoy were friends, but the writers wanted to show that the 'unemotional' Spock could and would respond on the deepest levels of friendship. These stories became more intense (if you can get hold of copies of the American zine *Contact* you'll see what I mean) and gradually developed into K/S as we now know it. Actually, there had been such stories around since the earliest days, circulating on the network, but there were very few zines. It is my theory that the K/S zines became much more evident about the time of the first movie, when it was feared that Spock would not be in it - the fan writers were determined to keep Kirk and Spock together somehow, and used the idea of a bonding to ensure that they would be. While the stories vary from the very mild to the very explicit, most of them do contain the idea of a bonded, exclusive, lifetime relationship, a situation which many women seem to find attractive.

To Euan Lees; and further to above, if you would like to try some easily available K/S, contact Village Press, address in zine ads. These are excellently written, well produced quality zines, mostly not very explicit, but with strong story lines. Be sure to give an age statement, and enclose an sae if you are enquiring rather than ordering.

To answer a few queries we have had about zines, IDIC LOG was introduced to publish stories that fall outside the guidelines

for LOG ENTRIES - it is not, and was never intended to be, for LE rejects. It was intended to widen the range of topics that we covered, eg movie-based stories, and was started in response to the expressed wishes of some readers. The stories stand in their own right: it is simply that because they fall outside the LE guidelines, we would otherwise be unable to print them - we have in the past had to refuse excellent stories for that reason, and felt that this would enable us to publish a wider range of material.

Dave Smith - Northampton

I've just received my first newsletter since joining IDIC and I must say how impressed I was with its layout and content. The ideas and comments of the members all reveal one thing, a real love of Star Trek and a belief in Roddenberry's future for the Terran race. If there are any members in my area that would like to contact me I would be only too pleased to hear from them. My workmates, with a few exceptions, think that I'm crazy, but I don't have to tell anyone in this club about being regarded as a bit loopy, do I?

At the same time as I joined IDIC I sent off to the USA for membership of the Official Star Trek Fan Club, and as yet I'm still waiting for my membership package. I understand from a friend that things can take a while to travel across the pond, so I'm looking forward to its arrival soon.

I think the BBC have dropped a big clanger over the screening of TNG. Not everyone wants, or can afford, B-Sky-B, so rather than get a dish I'm buying TNG on video. One tape every month or so is not such a drain on resources as a dish would be, and I've not any unsightly white things hanging on the side of the house.

I went to see Star Trek VI on Feb 14th and was knocked out by its story and pace - so much better than Star Trek V, which was a disappointment to say the least. Let's hope that it's not the final voyage for the 1701-A. I think as long as the story is a good one, the fact that the crew are showing signs of age is immaterial (how slim do you have to be to fire a phaser?): the leaping about could be left

to younger (newer) members of the crew and the strategy and shipboard action played by Kirk and his mob. The main thing is to keep the idea alive and to keep boldly going where no one's gone before - so let's all hope that Star Trek VII gets made.

I've been a closet fan of Star Trek since the show was first shown on British TV, and although I think the original Trek was great I think TNG is even better; the characters, stories and SFX are just fantastic, and the new Enterprise looks brilliant. If the Classic Trek films are finished it would be great if a TNG feature film came into being, perhaps with Kirk and Co. in guest roles (holodeck images, perhaps?) I'm sure that fans across the world would welcome it, so I'll keep my fingers crossed.

I hope to attend my first con in November (TKon) and look forward to perhaps meeting fellow members there.

Ann T Robertson - Blantyre, Glasgow

I was watching STV:TFF for the zillionth time the other night when it occurred to me that there must have been a tremendous fashion change in between ST V and ST:TNG. Kirk and pals go camping in the ol' denims but you never see any of the non-crew in TNG wearing jeans. Even when Picard went on holiday there wasn't a Levi or Wrangler in sight. What has become of those that are stone washed? I guess you would have to be a 'jeanius' to work it out.

On the subject of favourite quotes, mine has to be from Deja Q where Q asks Worf if he has "eaten any good books lately?" If you are a big fan of Q you must read Q in Law by Peter David. It's excellent. Peter David manages to get Q perfect. The part in the story where Picard is checking the guest list for the wedding had me in stitches.

I am now in 'Damsel in Distress' mode. Can anyone in the Glasgow area tell me where I can order copies of Starlog. A relative of mine runs a newsagents and when he tried to order them he was told by Menzies that they don't issue it even although it was listed in their Magazine Directory. [Ed - If you can't get to Forbidden Planet (Buchanan

Street) or Future Shock (Byres Road) try At The Sign of the Dragon, Andromeda or Sheffield Space Centre, all of which do mail order.]

Finally to Rick Prestien - your con report was excellent. I bet there were a lot of aching ribs afterwards. I must admit I couldn't stop laughing especially at the part about Gates McFadden and the 'fifth season' script.

Jill Wadsley - Lincoln

To Stephen Shaw (N/L 22) - I have a copy of the album you have received. It is a record, not a tape, and was bought here in Lincoln from WH Smith about 8 years ago. There is very little on the sleeve apart from the address you mention and there are no copyright claims as on your tape. However, there is a passage in the information on the reverse of the sleeve which you may find interesting.

"This blooper record has been edited from six original on-set dialogue tapes. These tapes were found in Hollywood in a garbage can. As the story has it, the finder merely wanted some recording tape to use at home and took them with the idea that they could be erased, put on some smaller reels (the originals were on 10-inch professional hub reels) and recorded as he saw fit. It was only when he saw the magic words STAR TREK on the side that he thought otherwise and contacted a friend, a fan of the series, to see if he might be interested. The answer, of course, was an immediate yes, and the tapes then passed to another and another and another. However, on the way we were lucky enough to obtain copies of these tapes from which this blooper record was created."

To John Stuble - you are not alone! Well, you might be the only fan in Boston, but just up the road in Lincoln there is a small, thriving, friendly club with regular meetings, USS Lincoln. Come and join us!

Dawn Tittle - Birmingham

Having just received N/L 22 (my first) I felt I had to write and congratulate you all. I found all the articles very interesting, and the layout is excellent. I particularly enjoyed the

postbag, which raised some points I had never thought about before, but certainly will now.

I also enjoyed reading the review of the SOL III convention, as I was unable to attend myself.

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

To Sue Embury - I too noticed Spock's ears in ST VI. However, how do we know he can't move them at will and point one north and one south if he so desires? Just because he hasn't ever done it before doesn't mean he *can't*.

To Ray Dowsett - I said Marcia Pecor might get an argument from you because in an earlier comment she too had appeared to accept the conventional view of Lincoln as a wonderful person, motivated only by a desire to free the slaves. Speaking of which, did you as a Southern States supporter (but I'm sure not a supporter of slavery) have any view on the Drusilla debate? You are of course right about all history being subjective. As the famous poet Anon said -

"Treason ne'er prospers. Would you know the reason?

If it do prosper, none dare call it treason."

Janet, I too questioned whether the destruction of one Klingon moon could bring down the Empire. The only possibilities are -

It's a *small* Empire with a disproportionately large number of Starships. Whenever it tried to expand, some interfering bugger, usually one James T Kirk, thwarted it. Or

It's far more centralised than the Federation (logical, as non-democracies tend to be very centralised) and irreplaceable administrative computers are on the homeworld.

To Jenny Turner - re Spock's loneliness in the future - *McCoy* isn't dead, or if he is there's an individual who looks and behaves so like him Spock could hardly tell the difference. We don't know for *sure* Kirk is dead: Sulu and Chekov, who were

considerably younger than McCoy, could still be alive. Uhura certainly would be, as women have probably not lost their inbuilt superiority which, in any culture that has proper obstetric care, lets them live longer than men.

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - Janet's love for Kirk-bonkers, as I'm sure she won't mind my saying, has been a standing joke among her friends for more than 20 years. I am quite certain *she* would not have taken my comment on them to mean I was being derisive about her taste or that of anyone else who likes hurt/comfort stories. Actually, many of the stories she cajoled, bribed and for all I know blackmailed people into writing for her were quite good, and I personally prefer h/c to K/S or Mary Sue stories though my favourite subgenre is pure adventure, with humour coming a very close second. I liked your piece on The Undiscovered Kitchen - I'd been wondering about that phaser myself.

On Rick Prestien's con review, if I wasn't sure that Marina Sirtis was joking about Patrick Stewart and Shakespeare I'd have had to deplore her taste. I would personally be quite happy to hear him recite the Complete Works, and the doubtful Sir Thomas More and the even more doubtful 'Shall I Die', and anything else at all, really. He has such a beautiful voice. Perhaps Marina, given her heritage, would rather he got stuck into the Iliad?

Bettina Rackel - Krefeld, Germany

To Bev Ambrose - I agree that Kirk's feelings are more understandable in the book, but I think the film (any film) should be able to stand on its own: not everybody is going to be bothered about reading the book. Kirk's feelings will remain a mystery to those of the general audience who didn't read the book but have seen ST III (where Kirk reaches out his hand to the Klingon who murdered his son) and ST V.

To Steven Gibb (and Lorna Elliott) - Yes! Apart from the fact that 60 is not *that* old, it shouldn't matter from an actor's point of view. By the way, how old is Patrick Stewart? It's not as if he were half Shatner's age, is it?

Steven, I must admit I didn't like your favourite scene (the Klingon ship being bombarded by torpedoes) one bit! What was that supposed to be, on the eve of peace? A last sacrifice to Ares? In Balance of Terror Kirk tries to the last to save the enemy; I find it hard to believe he would take his personal feelings (whether for Carol or David Marcus) out on Chang. I do agree with you on DS9, though - I don't think it'll work either. It'll just be some sort of Space 1999... As for the changing looks on the Klingons - the book Faces of Fire attempts some sort of explanation, which I find pretty weak. How about the three different races of Klingons setting different priorities at any given time - and that's when the Federation has to deal with that race. Maybe the 'original' Klingons could crop up in TNG - and be against the peace treaty?

To Eddie Yau - Do you really think that a few catch phrases, giving people new friends and career goals and scientists some ideas, is all that Star Trek has done for this world? Even if it was, I don't suppose many people who watched Bonanza grew up to become cowboys! I do believe that Star Trek must have some other hold over people, otherwise not many would have remained fans for long. I don't remember Starsky & Hutch changing my life to any extent - Star Trek did. As for equalling ST II and VI - I agree. Mind, I dislike both, but both had their moments (fewer in VI, I think). Both have the same feel of brooding disaster, and I never watched Trek for that.

To Janet Quarton - I recently read (FIB Spring '92) that somebody didn't get to see any Original Trek at SOL III because of the programming. Many fans (even those with videos) enjoy watching Trek with other fans; I find that watching it with other fans often highlights a new scene for me, gives me an idea for a story... and often instigates a heated discussion with the episode fresh in mind. If we meet some of our friends only at cons and therefore value the opportunity to share an episode or two, I love your idea of the use of the inhouse system video!

As for the rift between Original and TNG fans - "We're the same. We share the

same history, the same heritage. We're tied together beyond any untying. Man or Woman, it makes no difference. We're Human. We couldn't escape from each other even if we wanted to." (Kirk - Who Mourns for Adonais) We could add "Original or TNG fan" to that. I think the rift will heal when TNG is no longer being filmed, and the differences between fans who love the Original and those who love what is up to date diminishes. We are "children of the same father", aren't we?

To Kathleen Glancy - thanks for the info about the Tek books being brought out as comics - but why did you say that Cardigan is drawn as a Shatner-type but "younger, of course"? I wish fans would stop putting the man in a wheelchair! Is it today's Tom Cruises who make everybody think a man over forty is old? Nobody ever said John Wayne should stop making Westerns - why should Shatner stop making action movies?

As for that claim by Iman - I think weak actresses like Iman (and Kim Cattrall - no, I was *not* impressed) are trying to make themselves look interesting by claiming that they have 'a love scene with Spock' or 'Shatner couldn't keep his hands to himself' - I agree, a seasoned actor just wouldn't do it!

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

I actually rather like the sound of Deep Space 9. If it is done properly and with the right charismatic actor in the lead role - perhaps Patrick Swayze (sigh) or Christopher Lambert (sigh)? I guess not - those two are big movie stars. How about Scott Bakula from Quantum Leap? If the main role is to be a 'hero' type let us hope they will not cast some pretty boy with no acting talent. I agree with Kathleen Glancy about 'not another single father' and also 'not another teenage boy'. At least why not give the main character a daughter?

Also let us hope that they find SF authors willing to submit scripts and don't rehash plots from Original Trek. Surely there are some different ideas out there waiting to be used. I would really like to see some decent aliens also. Remember the variety seen in Journey to Babel at a time they had

such limited resources? Surely it will be possible with all the money that will be available for DS9. Of course, money isn't everything. Journey to Babel had wonderful character actors like the ones who played the Andorian Ambassador and the Tellerite Gav, not to mention Mark Lenard as Sarek.

Will they give us some decent female roles? I doubt it, if TNG is anything to judge by. The women in that have not exactly done very much, even the regular cast. The only exceptional female part in my opinion was Ke'hylar, and I believe they disposed of her. Did they do that because she was too strong a character? In the episode I saw her in, I thought she left all the other actors in the shade. Too many of the TNG actresses are blonde, obviously American, and appear very cold, super professionals. Marina Sirtis is none of these, but she never seems to get the chance to show her abilities. The women in Original Trek got a much better deal. Who can forget T'Pol, the Romulan Commander, or Amanda and Uhura?

The Lost Prologue for ST VI would have given the film something extra. Too bad they were unable to keep it in. With all the quibbles over the lack of food processors and the inclusion of a galley, the lack of fabricators etc, it will be interesting to hear Nicholas Meyer's views at Rec-con. Are you going to grill him, Janet? If not you, I'm sure someone else will. Should be interesting.

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - your article in N/L 22, The Undiscovered Kitchen, was a delight. It really made me laugh. Congratulations on an unusual and excellent article.

Julie Burton - Derby

I've recently read an interview with Nicholas Meyer (Director of ST VI) and he stated that Merrick Buttrick, who played Kirk's son David, is dead. I've read nothing about this in IDIC newsletters and was wondering if anyone had any information on when and how he died. *[Ed - We did mention his death in N/L 5, though at the time we didn't give any details apart from the fact that he had died, because we didn't have any. He died in March 1989. We have since heard*

that he died of AIDS.]

Guy Wigmore - Southport

Re Picard V Kirk. I'd trust Kirk to save my planet. I'd trust the first Picard to save my planet. I wouldn't trust the second Picard. The second Picard? I mean, of course, Picard following his alteration by the Borg. For the first three seasons, Picard was a cautious but decisive leader. Dr. Crusher's medical team healed his physical wounds, but the man is just not the same. It's sad, but I don't think he is fit for command any more. Without the loyalty and advice of his current Bridge crew, built up over three years, I doubt he could cope with culture clashes, superpower negotiations and all the other humdrum daily tasks of Starfleet's senior Captain. It's time that Riker had a quiet word with him about accepting promotion to an Admiral's desk at Starfleet, somewhere where his experience could be put to use now that his leadership is faltering.

I write this in the light of the first four seasons of TNG. The weakening of Picard's character may be scripted (look at First Contact in which the attempts to introduce a new planet into the Federation are appallingly mishandled - I don't know how Picard avoided a court martial) but to a large extent I think it is due to Patrick Stewart varying his interpretation of the role.

Don't think I'm against the idea of Picard changing - it would be strange if he wasn't scarred by the Locutus experience. Indeed, I look forward to some interesting shipboard situations - I'd like to imagine Picard breaking down and being relieved of his command at the climax of season six, leaving Captain Riker in charge for the final seventh series - I suppose I'd have to allow Admiral Picard back for the movies, perhaps on a TV screen like William Hartnell in The Three Doctors.

You've probably guessed that I'm not a Picard fan. To be quite honest, I'm not satisfied that Patrick Stewart does more than stroll through most of his episodes - often with a monotonous de-de-dah de-de-dah delivery of his lines. He doesn't relish his part in the way that, for example, Michael Dorn so

evidently does. O.K., Stewart's scripting is usually several notches below Shakespeare, but it's what he's paid to say. I'd rather we had a less talented actor as Captain, but one who doesn't give the viewer the impression that he couldn't care less. In other words, Give Riker A Chance! (Bring back Shelby as First Officer and the scene is set for a marriage made in heaven!)

Matthew Conway - Lambourne, Berks

To Sue Embury - for me the most unbelievable part of ST VI:TUC is Spock's forced mind meld with Valeris. His anger, witnessed in Sickbay, at her betrayal of the Federation is certainly understandable for a half-Vulcan, and perhaps even so for a full Vulcan under the circumstances. However, I cannot help but feel that the meld goes against everything Spock stands for, amounting to little more than the mental rapes depicted in the ST:TNG episode Violations. This is certainly the impression given of Sybok's activities in Jean Dillard's novelisation of ST V:TFF, and the same author incorporated a mental acceptance of the meld when novelising ST VI:TUC, without which Spock's actions would truly have been unacceptable.

To Helen White - Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise certainly states that a long bar denotes five years' service and a pip one years'. However, I think this is probably one of those cases where makeup simply attaches a few flashy bits to the actors' uniforms without paying attention to a very minor and niggly point of contention. Mind you, it would be nice if they could decide once and for all whether Scotty's rank is that of Commander or Captain!

To Steven Gibb - there are two possible explanations as to why cloaked Klingon vessels cannot fire in ST:TNG. 1) The prototype in ST VI:TUC had a design flaw that ultimately sidelined the project. 2) The new era of peace after the Khitomer Conference forced the Klingons to make concessions with regard to weapons development. However, the first explanation sounds more likely; can you imagine the Klingons giving up any military advantage without a very good reason indeed?

To Eddie Yau - I would agree that Sins of the Father is a very average episode, but I could hardly say the same about Yesterday's Enterprise. If I had to name a single episode from either series that combined action, romance, surprises galore and sheer enjoyability more effectively than did Yesterday's Enterprise, I'd be hard pressed to come up with one. Doubtless it would have been even better had the original ending (in which everyone, including Picard, is killed and then the Enterprise-D itself is destroyed before the time line is restored) been kept, but I think 'very average' is an opinion that few fans would share.

To Graeme Lowe - as I understand it, recent theories about time travel seem to state that it is possible in a roundabout way. However, instead of travelling back in our universe and altering a past event, thus creating a paradox, a time traveller would instead be regressing in an alternate universe where changes would make no difference to the present in ours. Thus from a time traveller's point of view, it would be possible to go back in time, kill one's parents before they met, and still be alive upon returning to the present. At least I think that's how the theory goes, but I'm certainly no quantum physicist.

To Janet Quarton - the destruction of Praxis was potentially fatal to the Klingon Empire for three reasons. 1) It was, as you state, their primary energy source. 2) The explosion caused massive damage to the Klingon homeworld's ozone layer. 3) Without the Klingon homeworld, the Klingon Empire (which is exactly that, held together during Kirk's time by oppression and warfare) would disintegrate. The Federation, being a democratic organisation, is quite different, but the loss of Earth - say if the Moon exploded - would still be a devastating blow indeed.

To Kathleen Glancy - don't you think that being 'faintly disgusted' by the inclusion of 'yet another single father' in ST:DS9 is perhaps going a little over the top? As far as Trek is concerned, the first such single-parent family comprised Beverly and Wesley Crusher, but if another single mother had been included in ST:DS9, anyone admitting

to being 'faintly disgusted' by the inclusion of 'yet another single mother' would have been fairly rounded upon. Not only does a widowed Starbase commander with a single son balance matters, but it also produces a number of interesting plot lines (eg his hatred of Picard/Locutus, and the difficulties of command when other responsibilities get in the way.)

Janet Quarton - Lochgilphead, Argyll

I don't agree with those fans who quote the events in the novelisation of ST VI as an excuse for Kirk's hatred of the Klingons. The only 'facts' I accept about either series or the movies are those portrayed on the screen. The movie novelisations are just fiction based on the films and the writers often expand on the films to put in their own interpretation of events. Even Gene Roddenberry, when asked what he considered was the 'real' Star Trek, said that he didn't include all the facts in his novelisation of ST-TMP because he had fleshed it out. As a matter of interest he also said that he didn't accept all the facts in the movies - and I fully agree with him.

If I was going to accept any extension to ST VI it would be the likes of the prequel which was written but not actually filmed.

To Kathleen Glancy: I know that you were teasing me about my addiction to 'Kirk bonkers' (hurt/comfort stories) but Waltraud Zucha-Glass's comment just shows that we Kirk and Shatner fans do get upset at the constant digs. I'm trying to develop a thick skin because when it comes down to it I love Kirk now as much as I have done. For me he is still the best fictional character ever created - no one else comes close - and his friendship with Spock and McCoy is unique. I do prefer the series Kirk to the movie one but then I'm not a fan of the movies.

I've never really been able to explain my love of hurt/comfort stories but as my friends often say, it is dangerous to be a character I like. All I will say is that when you identify with a character it is the comfort that is the important part; not the hurt.

I have been asked how I feel about Deep Space Nine: well I am quite willing to

remain open-minded about it as a science fiction series but I do have reservations about calling Star Trek. From what I have heard about it the series seems to be the complete opposite of Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek and I will never believe that he had any hand in it or that he approved of it. Rick Berman has said in the past that TNG was very much Gene's series and Rick seems to have developed DS9 because he didn't like the restrictions of TNG - those restrictions were Gene's format for the series. Gene stated that he didn't want any spin-offs from Star Trek and it was very noticeable that DS9 was announced very soon after his death.

James Mills - Stafford

Firstly I would like to thank Rick Prestien for his report on the ST:TNG fifth anniversary convention in N/L 22 - I really enjoyed reading it. Reading that made me wish I lived in America and had the opportunity to go to such conventions with so many stars.

As I am fairly new to this fan club I don't know if this has been brought up before, but there is something about Captain Picard's age that puzzles me. I would assume that Picard is approximately Patrick Stewart's age, which is 52. This means that he was 47 during the first series. In the episode The Battle it is said that Picard lost the Stargazer 9 years previously, ie when he was 38. I have seen in a number of publications that he commanded the Stargazer for 22 years (I don't know if this has been stated in an episode). This would mean that he was 16 when he became a Captain. That of course cannot be possible. Maybe I have my facts wrong, but can anyone shed some light onto the subject?

I have also recently read that Eric Stilwell the script co-ordinator for ST:TNG has said that he wants no more continuing storylines in TNG and so because of this he does not want Lore to return, although Brent Spiner would like to play him again. This to me seems very silly; just because an old character returns it doesn't mean that there has to be a continuing storyline. The general viewer would not need to see an old episode just to understand who Lore was. Saying this

is like saying Q, the Romulans or the Borg cannot return. I think it would be a great shame not to see Lore at least once more.

Finally, I am in the same position as Dave Styles, relying on CIC video releases. I too would love to know how people get to see those episodes not yet released (apart from at cons).

Philip Morley - Fleetwood, Lancashire

Re the letter from Dave Styles from Ashford, Kent. It said he thought he was the only person who is dependent on CIC video releases.

Well, I haven't seen many ST:TNG episodes after the last one aired on the BBC, so I was also wondering how everyone else seems to have seen future episodes. Could you pass on to me some of the replies to Dave's letter that you received? If you can't could you please print my plea for help? I also feel that I am the only person who has not seen future episodes!

[Ed - Sorry, Philip, these replies come in stamped, sealed envelopes which we address and post on. Would either of the two people who replied to Dave like to respond to these two pleas as well?]

There is no easy way for members to get copies of the latest episodes from the States. You either get to see them at conventions or local group meetings or you need to advertise for penfriends and make contact with other fans. The more fans you are in contact with the more chance you have of finding someone who can let you have copies. There are some video recorders on the market now which play US (NTSC) tapes so if you can afford one of these you could try and get a penfriend in the States who can send you copies.

The other thing you can try is advertising for them in the small ads. There is no law against asking for videos - only offering them for sale.]

Sharon Lamb - Washington, Tyne & Wear

To Kathleen Glancy - everyone is entitled to their opinions, but I think by now everyone knows you greatly dislike Kirk/Shatner, for what reason I have no idea. How

can you be a Trek fan and really dislike the main character? It must be very frustrating for you. Every time I received an IDIC newsletter I see your name and think, "Here we go again, Shatner this, Shatner that." You're becoming a right pain in the posterior! Haven't you anything else to write about? There. I've scratched the itch that's been driving me mad for months!

Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Preston

Re modes of address to female officers. It took me a while to get used to being called "Ma'am" by those under me and "Pilot Officer" by those above me when I was a drill/etiquette instructor for the local Air Training Corps... and no, RAF blue does *not* suit me! There were occasions when I got "Sir" as well; but my CO NEVER addressed me as "Mr. Quauhtezcatl" mainly because he couldn't get his tongue round my surname.

Kitchens on Starfleet vessels. Besides the obvious (ie inventing new meals for the replicator) cooking would undoubtedly be a pastime... I seem to recall that Riker enjoys it (ref. - Beverly to Picard in Remember Me; Time Squared).

To Elena Bond - are you SURE the Riker/Troi relationship is at an end? Who did she turn to for help in The Loss?

Re Starfleet's asking anyone else to construct androids for them. I seem to recall that a certain Commander Maddox at (originally) the Daystrom Institute was trying to construct an android. BUT he needed Data to solve a few problems - something about electron resistance across filament links. Even Data failed in his attempt, and if Data can't do it, who, I ask, can? Suggestions welcome.

More on mind-wipes. Mmm. What about Spock's saying 'Forget' at the end of Requiem for Methuselah, or Kate Pulaski's removal of Sarjenka's memory in Pen Pals or the failed mind-wipe which caused all the trouble in Who Watches the Watchers. Any more?

To Marysia Kolodziej re the FSNP. According to someone called Leonard Nimoy

the idea was that in addition to the grip on the nerves (and if done correctly the carotid artery) a bolt of psychic energy was sent through the fingers. However, this is *not* borne out by another appearance of the FSNP in The Questor Tapes, where it is stated that it works because of anatomical pressure points. (Incidentally, I have seen a man put down with one - he was unconscious for about a minute. Professional wrestling banned its use!) This can only be put down to restriction of blood flow through the carotid artery... which anyone with a reasonable knowledge of first aid is capable of. Or is it???

To anyone. Is this just me, or did Paramount make a mistake? In the episode Sarek, Perrin is stated to be his second wife. Please note: in TFF there is the comment that Sybok is Spock's ELDER half brother, his mother being "A Vulcan princess (Sarek) knew before meeting (Amanda)." Now if the Vulcan marriage bonding at age seven held for Sarek, this would make Amanda his second wife (as stated somewhere in TFF) and Perrin his THIRD.

To Martin Helsdon - sexism doesn't end with Classic Trek. Have you seen Angel One? Even the director thought it was sexist, and what Jonathan Frakes thought about that chiffon costume is probably unprintable!

I did however notice, unfortunately, that that was the final episode to feature William Ware Theiss's amazing capacity for creating unusual female costumes, the last traces now being the collar on Troi's dresses and Andra's costume (or one of them) in Devil's Due, which bears a resemblance to one worn by Diana Muldaur in Is There in Truth No Beauty? Why does an actress in a slightly revealing costume automatically lead to an uproar about sexist behaviour? For the record, I was wearing a replica of the top half of Irina Galiuin's two-piece (The Way to Eden) in Paris last week and caused quite a stir. But you need courage to get away with it!

To John Marshall - Kirk says 'Scotty, beam me up' in The Voyage Home, and 'Beam us up, Mr. Scott' in Bread and Circuses. He gets pretty close to THAT

phrase several times!

Anyone know why Data's cat is called Spot?

Kay Stagg - Guildford, Surrey

Well, after much indecision I have at last succumbed to writing in and voicing my opinions on ST VI. I agree totally with Sheila and everyone else who has mentioned that Kirk is far too racist in it. I won't go into detail as it has all been said, but I am a staunch Kirk fan and I do not like the Kirk who says, "They're animals!" "Let them die!" and I disagree with anyone suggesting I read the book. That is just a let-out. Since when have the novelisations of any of the films been anything else but half film and half author fiction? The only one ever reflecting the real film was ST:TMP and we all know who wrote that.

I vaguely remember hearing or reading somewhere that a scene had been included in ST VI where Kirk is with an injured Carol Marcus, hence his feelings at the beginning of the film, but it was decided to leave it out. Presumably the director/producer didn't feel it necessary to explain Kirk's apparent bigotry so the problem lies squarely with them. *[Janet: According to the unfilmed prequel which we printed in the last newsletter Kirk left Carol at his/her flat and she was perfectly fit, if frustrated, at the time.]*

I also found the coolness between Kirk and Spock completely out of character. If as Spock says in ST:TWOK "I always have been and always will be your friend", then why doesn't he treat Kirk as a friend in VI? If you have a close friend you usually know where they are and what they are doing: you know their views and opinions or, as it was stated in Turnabout Intruder, "... you know his thoughts..." Where was this so-called friendship at the beginning of VI? That close friendship was there in the series and is definitely there in the films, or has been - and I don't believe they might have had a major disagreement (Gloria Fry's suggestion in N/L 22) because Spock's attitude was that of someone who *thought* he knew his friend very well. There was no sign that they had fallen out over anything.

The only positive side to it for me was that all the way through Spock knew Kirk was not a racist and that was why he said and did the things he did, in the same way that Sulu gave Kirk the co-ordinates of the Camp Khitomer, showing the friendship and complete trust they all feel for one another. For me that was the charm of the film. When it came to the crunch, not one of them ever had any doubts about Kirk. Very satisfying.

And also I've become addicted to James T Kirk with stubble in uniform...

The following are just a couple of nitpicks. Why is Lt. Uhura not able to speak Klingon? She's a communications officer and after all these years is presumably an expert in her field. Why, oh *why* can she not speak Klingon? I cannot laugh at that scene; it is ludicrous. They could have made it just as amusing if she could speak Klingon and it would certainly have made it more believable. The other thing is that the Enterprise managed to enter Klingon space far too easily. If it is true that the writers based ST VI on Russia and the end of the cold war, then I would like to know how easy it would have been to enter Russia if their Ambassador had just supposedly been killed by a member of the West!

To Janet Quarton - I agree completely with your comments on Conventions. Some of the good old fashioned fun/happy times have gone. How I wish for a return to Conventions as they used to be!

Lesley Hatch - Warley, West Midlands

To Steven Gibb - regarding the different Klingon appearances, this was once explained by there being different tribes on the home planet.

To Lee Sansome - I too feel embarrassed at the idea of an ST Original/TNG crossover. The appearance of McCoy in Encounter at Farpoint and Spock in Unification is enough.

To Ann Peters - I have an arrangement with a friend in Canada in relation to Red Dwarf in that I record it for him and send it over there, and he then gets it converted. It's all illegal, of course, but the system works

well. I'm now waiting to hear from him what the American and Canadian fans think of the programme.

To Euan Lees - Regarding Kirk/Spock zines, a long time ago I read a series of zines set in the universe of Mirror, Mirror, which had K/S content, but which were in fact very tastefully done. I can't recall the titles of them now, but they were very well written and they impressed me - and I am not a great reader of such material.

Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford

It certainly does seem odd that the Enterprise was sailing off to be decommissioned at the end of The Undiscovered Country. It seems even stranger that no old Constitution Class Starships have been seen (so far as I'm aware) in TNG when Reliant types appear as cargo and science ships. The answer might simply be that the studio don't want to confuse the viewer or that some characteristic of the Constitution Class was at fault. I'm not familiar with any of the published 'Starfleet' material except the old and new Technical Manuals so this is pure speculation.

There seems to be a major design difference between the Constitution Class and all the other members of Starfleet that we've seen: those warp nacelles on those long booms. The old-style Enterprise looks good but there must be considerable torque on the supports when the ship manoeuvres under impulse or warp drive. If the ship made a rapid turn the forces on the joints are going to be very severe. No doubt this is why the movie upgrade featured those flaring booms, spreading the strain along the nacelle. However, the spaceframe of the engineering hull could probably only permit the existing hardpoints without major re-engineering. Even with the strong materials used in Starship construction, metal fatigue was going to be a continuing factor. In the worst case scenario the top of the engineering hull could be breached, even ripped away.

By the time of the films, warp drives seem to have improved and no longer have to be held so far away from the inhabited regions of the ship. The Constitution Class

had to retain the long booms to retain the stability of the ship under impulse drive. Perhaps the constant repairs and monitoring just weren't economic and the frame couldn't be adapted to carry the latest developments in drive technology.

As the Enterprise-A was originally the Yorktown (NCC-1704) it could have been as old as the original NCC-1701 and due for the respectable retirement.

On a less serious note, my cat's just had three kittens - at least before they find homes, their names are Tasha, Tam and Riker. Tasha is definitely living up to her name, being a real spitfire. Tam is quiet and shy. Riker seems a good name for a tom cat! (Apologies to Riker fans!)

Martin Stahl - Marktheidenfeld, Germany

Last week ZDF showed *Shades of Gray* and although they telecast the episode at 4 pm (when only children have time to watch TV) on Friday, they didn't cut the scene with Remmick's head exploding, although it was cut in *Conspiracy*. It was the same situation at BBC. Perhaps they really just overlooked it?

Several times, Richard Arnold has emphasised that neither the animated series nor any of the books are official Star Trek and part of the Trek universe, meaning that you can tell in any episode a fact opposite to one stated in a novel. So I was very surprised when I saw Sulu as Captain of the *Excelsior* in ST VI. Vonda McIntyre told us in her novelisation of ST II that Sulu would become Captain of that ship, and in the *Entropy Effect* she gave Sulu a first name - Hikaru. ST VI begins with the log of Captain Hikaru Sulu.

In *Ethics*, Dr. Crusher says that Klingons have two livers. This is from the Medical Reference Manual. Obviously sometimes they do use information from the books for official Star Trek. On the other hand, only parts of ST VI are official since, like - ST II - V - it was not produced by Gene. But *Ethics* is official. (Nevertheless I think this is one of the most stupid episodes - Worf's death and return to life were ridiculous.)

I've seen most of TNG's 5th season now, and *The Outcast* and 1. Borg are excellent. Incidentally, in one of the episodes we are told that the Federation was founded in 2161.

To T Q - nerve impulses don't travel at the speed of light. The nerve impulses of a mammal travel at about 25 metres per second. I found this in a book about animal physiology.

To Edward Woo - there was one episode where Kirk says "Scotty, beam me up". It was in ST IV after Gillian told him the frequencies of the transmitters of the whales.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth, Staffs.

I think I'm probably going to get a few backs up here, but, as they say, what the hell, might as well be hung for a sheep...!

A few words regarding Sol III... For the record, I enjoyed myself, even though the root vegetable element were sometimes on the vociferous side concerning videos.

As I was unable to stop for Monday (motherhood called), I read Helen White's transcript with interest. Highly informative, but...! What I heard via a friend is that Richard Arnold thinks it highly unlikely we'll ever have any TNG cast members here as guests because of the filthy lucre (as offered by Creation Con.) *If true*, then I admit to being fair gobsmacked. At the risk of sounding opinionated - what a highly cynical attitude! British cons., as far as I can make out, have *always* been the 'poor' relations, but the original cast came here *anyway* despite this. What makes him think the TNG crew would be any different?

To Rick Prestien: Oh, envy, envy, I'm so jealous I could spit! To see all the cast... Can't imagine 10,000 people though. Jeez, what a crush! Did you actually *see* them, or were binoculars provided at no extra expense?

'A' Levels...? I've got some, as I'm certain a good proportion of the membership has, too, but I'm no tramp (a serious flaw of character; I'd *like* to be one... but that's another story). Basically, they're the entry

requirement to get into University or Polytechnic, and mean you've studied to - no?! - 'advanced' level.

To Eddie Yau: Yar's build better suited to combat? Tosh! Anybody with the right techniques can fight or defend adequately, but I reckon what you're saying is that if you're tiny, with a *female* figure i.e. hips, bust, then you won't be any good at it. Oooh boy, are you going to get stiffed sometime.

A counsellor needs to have a counsellor simply because if you don't then *you* could end up being the one who's a couple of bob short of the pound. Stands to reason if you think about it.

To Graeme Lowe: Indeed, *why* would anyone *want* a body transplant?

To T. Q.: Somebody who articulates my concerns regarding the Gaile Wood, cont'd... above process rather better than myself. However, having seen the 5th Season episode Ethics (what a good 'un!), I'm probably going to have to revise my opinion on this subject.

To be honest, I'm still having difficulties with the method they used to repair Worf's spine. Sometimes I think the writers allow fantasy to get in the way of science. I'll illustrate this point with the inter-species breeding that goes on, and the *fertile* offspring that are the result. Impossible say I, unless the species is so closely related as to make no difference. I reckon Spock and K'Ehleyr should've been mules, and Troi should be as well.

To Ann Peters: The reasons the Americans are reshooting Red Dwarf is because it simply would not strike most of them as funny - we're talking about a nation that likes Benny Hill after all...! What I fail to understand is where they think they're going to get an audience for it? To digress slightly, perhaps some of our American members can really say whether it's true that they don't understand Roman Numerals (info. care of Richard Arnold).

Now I want to ask something. Please,

can someone tell me why I.C.U. patients in TNG are nursed fully clothed? And more frivolously, why don't we see more bare chests (male!; let's get that quite straight)? Do the cast have it written into their contracts that we don't see those manly pectorals? I seem to recall seeing Kirk's on a very regular basis in Classic Trek. Perhaps I should start up a pressure group - what d'you reckon? MORE NAKED CHESTS ON TNG!!!

Helen White - Bracknell, Herts

To Steven Gibb - According to Richard Arnold, the reason for the differences between various Klingons is that they come from different areas of their home planet, as with skin colour and so on here on Earth.

To Eddie Yau - You say that you think that the 'only' things Trek has done are "to have given us a few catch phrases, helped people make new friends, given a few people career goals and scientists/inventors a few ideas." That's not a bad list, though, surely? My own involvement in Star Trek and its ideals has done me an immeasurable amount of good; I would go so far as to say that it has changed my life, and I doubt very much that I'm the only one thus affected.

To Graeme G Lowe (and Gaile Wood) - The discussion re brain/body transplants actually started many n/ls ago, following discussion of whether Spock's Brain had a grain of truth to it! I don't know who'd actually want one; I certainly wouldn't. Mind you, if you didn't have to stick to your own species it could be interesting; how about an elephant? Or a cockroach? Maybe not, after all....

To Mark Illingworth - re the postbag: i) Editorial replies/comments, by their very nature, are bound to be 'opinionated on the committee behalf, surely?

Re the Gene tributes: I think that it was very important to print all those tributes. Some of the writers had never met Gene; but all of us felt that we had to express our feelings about his death.

To Janet Quarton - re the 'rift' at cons. I agree with you about Sol III; it was very

noticeable. I think that part of the solution would be to have two main halls in future at the major cons, instead of just one, and have one, as now, running the main programme, and the other running videos all day; the situation can only get 'worse' otherwise, with DS9 coming along soon. The only trouble with this solution, however, is that you'd need much larger venues at which to hold the cons. It will be interesting to see what the various con committees do about the problem. Mind you, an alternative solution could be for all the ST fans in the UK to hijack the BBC and get them to run original and fourth-and-fifth-season TNG side-by-side, although you wouldn't then get the usual con-type 'roomful of Trekkers' atmosphere, of course....

To Lee Sansome - re Picard's 'elastoplasts' in BOBW. Maybe the implants were so complicated that they had to be removed in pieces, rather than all at once. On the other hand, maybe Bev was off somewhere fantasising about the Borg, and therefore too busy to get on with repairing the Captain.

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - I loved your article on the notorious STVI kitchen: I want a peeling phaser!

James Brand - London

Hello to everyone at IDIC as this is my first letter. I've now had two newsletters (nos. 21&22) and have found both a great read.

Just a few comments on a couple of matters I would like to share.

Firstly re Janet's letter (n/l 22) and her thoughts on STVI. While I agree with her that the Federation would have survived without Earth (greatly lessened but surviving nonetheless) I disagree with her view on the implausibility of the loss of Praxis bringing down the Klingon Empire. On reflection I find this a perfectly plausible storyline and is explained by the very fact that - it is just that - an 'Empire'. A conglomeration brought about by the military subjugation of many planets by the Klingons with heavily centralised rule/control imposed from the hub of that empire - their home world. Take out that home world

and thus the source of the Klingons military dominance and an Empire which is only held together by force might immediately begin to crumble. This can be seen from contemporary history of the breakup of the Soviet 'Union'/Empire and all the other empires throughout history. Just as without Britain remaining a world power the British Empire could not continue nor could any other empire.

Secondly I was very interested in Stephen Shaw's letter (n/l 22) and his statement that a script which included a non explicit gay relationship had been rejected. I find this very sad and clearly shows where TNG still falls down in comparison with classic Trek in failing to take a lead. Classic Trek was not afraid to attack or provoke thought on the bigotries and intolerance of the 1960s and was prepared to clash head on with the more narrow minded TV sponsors and authorities if need be.

Intolerance and bigotry as regards racism were among the biggest issues in 1960's America (and sadly still are today in many quarters) and seen as Taboo for TV and yet Gene insisted that there be an inter-racially integrated crew and story-lines.

In this regard ST broke new ground and lead the way for all TV programmes. For example in Plato's Stepchildren the American TV viewing public witnessed the first ever TV inter-racial kiss (between Kirk and Uhura). At the time this brought widespread condemnation from TV bosses and led to the episode being banned in many states across America. Despite the threat of such bossing Gene had insisted that the Kiss be retained rather than cut (as it easily could have been without any loss to the plot) and preferred to see the episode entirely banned than give in to such narrow minded views. Even Martin Luther King spoke to Nichelle Nichols of the crucially important role her relatively small part as a black officer was playing in educating both black and white alike out of prejudices to the real possibilities and benefit of integration and tolerance of all differences.

In the 1990s I would have thought ST would still have been the ideal vessel to

continue to tackle contemporary prejudices, bigotry and intolerance in all its forms. It can't be ignored that a major one of these is the is the prejudice and daily discrimination faced by gay people. To reject a storyline if it attempted to tackle this in a thoughtful way merely through fear of pull-out by corporate sponsors (as is probably the case here) surely makes a mockery of all the ST ideals and definitely makes a mockery of the delight of Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations to which we all in our Club supposedly subscribe.

[Janet: I think I can partly answer this as I discussed the matter with Gene. Gene felt that homosexuality would be an accepted norm by Star Trek's time. The script that was rejected made an issue out of a 'relationship' where Gene didn't consider that such a relationship would have been an issue. The question becomes, how do you display a gay relationship? You could have two men/ women sharing a table in Ten Forward, walking down a corridor together, someone grieving over the death of a friend etc. but that wouldn't indicate their sexual preference. No doubt if someone had come up with a script which portrayed a gay relationship in a way which was acceptable to Gene he would have considered it. I suspect that in fact due to the variety of life in the galaxy no-one would bat an eye to anyone's sexual preference, although with regard to Humans, I suspect it would have to be between consenting adults.]

Gene Roddenberry would not let anyone dictate to him as to how he should produce Star Trek, especially latterly. TNG has gone a long way in helping us to accept disabled people (Geordi - who proves he isn't disabled) and people who look different to from (Worf).]

Colin Mackay - Edinburgh

First I'd like to say thanks for another great newsletter. I would also like to apologise for my errors in my letter in N/L 22 ("Reunion" was the book I was reading, and "Unification" was, of course, the fifth season episode I was referring too. I kind of mixed the two up). Also the Tobias Richter game I reviewed will have part of the control panel

lopped off on an NTSC TV (If you have a good monitor that does PAL or can extend the NTSC picture vertically you will be okay) so it is not fully NTSC compatible. Also there is a \$10 registration fee if you like the game.

To Steven Gibb - Here is my theory for the fast metamorphosis of the Klingon Race: January 2286 (according to Graeme G Lowe) Genesis exploded, forming a temporal rift in the space/time continuum. The most likely cause would be the formation of a cur-loop from super-string material, and for this to form, high energy interaction in the vicinity is required - a physical phenomenon that was in abundance at the time of the explosion. The net result being that parts of the planet were flung through time and space and some may have fallen to the Klingon home world, thus accelerating the physical evolution of the race.

To Claudia Wuttke - About xenophobia of the Enterprise crew to the Klingons in ST:TUC when they are supposed to "...Seek out new life, new civilisations...": Klingons were one of the first alien races Humans came in contact with, and their first enemy, (they are hardly new life forms). And for the "Civilisations" bit, I do not regard the Klingons as being civilised; they are however a very traditional race.

About the galaxy knowing Shakespeare and no alien authors being heard of: The language of the Federation is Standard (a sort of American-English really) and it is possibly difficult to translate the alien language into English (oh! sorry, "Standard"). Besides, how many people do you know that have bothered to learn a new European (or any, for that matter) language with 1992 here. The only person I know who can fluently speak 2 foreign languages is French, and (barring the Gaelic speakers I know), very few people I know can speak any more than their first language. That does not say a great deal for English speaking nations, does it?

To Graeme G Lowe - About Brain/ Body transplants, and why would anybody want one. Say a genius was involved in an accident and was paralysed from the neck down, and because of this lost the will to live.

However a compatible person who was physically healthy but had died of a brain tumour (or something) had either been cryogenically frozen or died recently was available, the Doctors could then switch the vital bits around and disregard the useless bits. Result being, the genius can carry on his/her work. Obviously if this were to become possible then people would have to carry Body Donor cards.

Karen MacGarvie - Worcester

I thought ST VI was great, one of the best! My own criticisms seem to be shared by most of the other IDIC members i.e. the "Klingon dictionary" - what happened to the universal translator - the fact that Captain Kirk has *real* books as an idiosyncrasy and everything else is on tape, Uhura's command of languages etc. I noticed the red-blooded Klingon at the end and was surprised that no-one seemed to pick up on it. The galley - could be explained by crew members wanting to cook/special functions etc. - but it looked too much like the room behind a TV studio to me. (I can't remember the proper name for the room or the tall metal boxes - but anyone who has ever walked through any BBC or ITV control room will know what I mean - the only thing missing was loads of jack plug connectors).

I thought Kirk's hatred of Klingons OTT as well (tho' Ms Dillard did make it more justifiable in her novelisation) - having just watched the badly cut ST III last Sunday - Kirk was trying to help Cmdr. Kruge right until the end of the fight, despite the fact that he had just ordered the murder of David. Incidentally, does anyone else agree with me how awfully wooden Robin Curtis was as Saavik? I really liked Kirstie Alley in ST II - would we have seen more of Saavik if Ms. Alley had continued in the role. I wonder? (I think even a full Vulcan would have managed a more poignant delivery of "David is dead." She might as well have been saying, "It's raining"!)

Incidentally, I do like the new Klingons and the way their culture has been built up in TNG. The original Klingons always reminded me of Mexican bandits - was it lack of time, money, expertise or imagination that

made them so un-alien? I've just re-read "Rules of Engagement" by Peter Morwood and he gives an interesting answer to the question raised by one member in the last n/l. He refers to the ordinary looking Human-fusions who had previously been encountered, then distinguishes between the "Imperial Race", who many of the younger crew of the Enterprise wouldn't have come across.

He is the only author thus far who has actually tried to tie in the variations: most, sensibly, ignore the original Klingons! We could surmise that the "knobliest" Klingons are the full blooded Imperial race - the Mexican bandits are the Human crosses with less genetically dominant Klingons and anything else is just racial variation. (I mean, look at Terran Humans - why shouldn't Klingons vary as much?)

A note on slim and attractive people in the 24th Century. I think it's because they're all U.S. actors and actresses actually! I think it's unreasonable to say that everyone in Starfleet will be fit, perfect height and weight and nice to look at - what about all those eccentric scientists and specialists who aren't bothered about their appearance?! Seriously, I think that there will always be plump/skinny/less attractive people in all walks of life and they will have many different talents which I'm sure will be utilised in the future as well as now - why should someone who is academically brilliant be penalised because they don't want to spend the rest of their life on a diet! (One of the things I always liked about Captain Kirk was his weight problem - it made him a human hero instead of a perfect image of someone who doesn't exist.

I look forward to reading Ann Peter's articles, she always brings a wry smile to my lips. I'd swap my 39 year old little boy for an android any day. (You're left out watching the football; expecting you to be there whatever time he decides to come home; popping out for a pint etc etc.)

Clair Roberts - Maidstone, Kent

To Ann T. Robertson - Can you tell be where you got your Konami Star Trek game, and have they got any more? I have hunted high and low, far and wide etc. across Kent,

and London believe it or not!, and no one has heard of it, even the famous Toys R Us don't acknowledge it even. After buying my other half a Thunderbirds game for his birthday - I want a ST game for myself and I'd love to know where you got yours. If you say "from the States" - I'm already booked on the next plane!

John W. Goss - Clacton on Sea, Essex

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - How wholeheartedly I agree with your opinion on Racism, not a virus which is caught, but a personality trait. I hope that as mankind progresses into the future, this trait will become obsolete.

A number of members of IDIC have expressed their disappointment at "Unification". I watched this story when first released and I can only state that a story with Spock in will have emphasis on logic and patience in settling a dispute, as opposed to confrontation in battle. A lot of people were victim to hype about this story which in my opinion was the reason for their lack of satisfaction. The same can be regarded to "Redemption" which is a cliffhanger, but no Best of Both Worlds. Personally, I enjoyed Redemption very much.

I think we can discount the idea of a Star Trek VII with Kirk & Co. subjected to a time warp and meeting with Picard & Co. The financial constraints would make a film of this nature impossible, if Leonard Nimoy's paycheck for Unification was anything to go by, \$3 million? I would also presume that the TNG cast would like to receive identical wages to the Classic Trek cast as well. What I would like to see as well as other people is an appearance by William Shatner in TNG. This would be much better than a cooperative film.

I hope this Wesley, son of Picard plot is assigned to the bin. I would have hoped that this unsavoury act of human behaviour, unfaithfulness, would be obsolete in the mid-24th century. So much for sacred wedding vows! *[Janet: I feel I should point out for new members that this plot came from fan fiction, not the studio.]*

While enjoying a day off work, my truth was confirmed regarding the release of the fifth season of TNG. Apparently, CIC have imposed a hiatus, therefore in the U.K. we will have to wait until mid-September before we can watch the conclusion to Redemption and the much praised Darmok episode. My day off consisted of purchasing both parts of Redemption unaware of this hiatus as it was only rumour at first. To say I was disappointed was to put it mildly.

A lot of people in the U.K. must have been surprised at the BBC for showing both parts of Best of Both Worlds, considering their treatment in general of TNG. Do not get carried away and praise them for this!

Paula Doyle - Portadown, County Armagh

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 1st year's membership. I think that you have balanced the information and comments on Classic Trek and TNG very effectively. I love the convention reports as I won't be able to attend one for quite some time. Living in Northern Ireland am pretty much cut off and as most of the conventions are in Scotland, England or America, I consider them a bit far, especially since I'm only 18 and none of my friends like Trek so I couldn't go on my own. Keep up the reports as they are very informative, even if they do make me envious.

The Postbag is excellent. I enjoy reading other fans views and no doubt shall be contributing sometime soon. I would love to write to some fans my age and I love all aspects of science fiction, mainly Trek however. May I also add that I think TNG's 4th season is brilliant because of the character development and stories. My favourite episode so far has to be The Best of Both Worlds, an absolutely amazing performance from Patrick Stewart - a truly great actor.

[Ed - We will forward letters to Paula.]

Janice Anjo - Walthamstow, London

I went to see ST VI and I enjoyed it immensely. I loved the music, it was so different and unusual - very Russian I thought.

All the main characters were excellent

and for the first time I really felt sympathy for the Klingons, especially Azetbur and her father. As for Valeris I couldn't make my mind up about her, so very haughty and superior and so very different to likeable Saavik. I'm glad her treachery was discovered but the enforced mind meld looked unpleasant for Valeris. This scene is described differently in the novel. In the novel the mind meld is gentle, non-violent and not enforced at all.

John Sherratt - Stoke on Trent

I see from several mentions in various sources that due to an agreement with BSkyB the BBC will not be showing any Next Generation until at least July 1994, which I suppose means that those of us with no dish will probably have to wait until the autumn schedules around September 1994 for the showing of the fourth season. Trust the good old BBC to goof again! I don't think on balance that this will quite prompt me to rush out and buy a satellite dish, although my expenditure on the CIC video releases may go up!

A few weeks ago, after many unsuccessful visits to our local video store, I eventually managed to hire Unification. It seems there were a lot of people around Stoke on Trent all after the single copy in the possession of the chain of shops. I think it was well worth the wait and the 'badgering' of the staff in the video shop. It gave me an idea perhaps of what a Next Generation film might be like as there seemed to be many more locations and characters than in a normal episode. I do not agree with some of the criticisms made, as I found it interesting enough to watch twice straight through in the one evening. From a personal point of view my only slight points of regret were that Spock did not make it on board the NCC-1701-D and that the ending was perhaps a little too 'neat' to be satisfactory. I wonder, will Picard and Co have to return to Romulus at some time to retrieve Spock? There's an idea.

On the subject of Spock and Leonard Nimoy, does anyone know how Leonard Nimoy came to appear in the video of 'Going Down to Liverpool' by the Bangles? I know

this song and video date from the time before 'Manic Monday' when the Bangles were, so far as I can recall, a comparatively obscure band.

I have read the thoughts of some people in the last newsletter about the racism (should this not be speciesism?) of Kirk's attitude to Klingons in STVI:TUC. His feelings do seem to have hardened since the events in ST V:TFF. I found that the 'extra' part in the book adaptation concerning the attacks in which Carol Marcus was injured make Kirk's attitude a lot more plausible. I wonder if this 'extra' bit in the book is just an invention of the author, or a thread taken from an earlier draft of the script which never made it into the finished film.

Is it not perhaps a fair comment to make that whatever the cause of Kirk's prejudice, he does seem to manage to put it on one side before the end of the film?

I have read the thoughts of people who have written in with different ships named Enterprise. However, do you know there was also a famous railway engine named Enterprise, of the same class as Flying Scotsman? The engine was built in 1923 and scrapped by BR in 1962 - official records seem to suggest that this particular Enterprise was named after a famous racehorse which, it is said, won the 2000 Guineas in 1887.

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Gaile Wood - Actually, the earlier laws on witchcraft were repealed in 1736. Unofficial persecution carried on for many years afterwards. The only law now on the statute book on the subject is the Fraudulent Mediums Act of 1951 which makes it an offence to act as a medium with intent to deceive and make money out of it (but explicitly excludes entertainers and makes it perfectly O.K. for people to practice Wicca in private as long as they don't try to make money out of it).

To Eddie Yau - I can't recall reading that a counselor must have a counselor him/herself but it would certainly be in the tradition of American psychoanalysis where an analyst in training is expected to go

through some years of analysis.

To Russell Witheyman - People got fed up early on with Wesley because, on the seemingly endless occasions on which he saved the ship, the rest of the (supposedly intelligent and experienced) crew stood wringing their hands. It could have been done in a much more convincing way - Wesley coming up with good ideas in a team context as he does in later stories. No-one objects to a young person having good ideas and initiative; it's the fact that everyone else was made to appear stupid and it therefore failed to convince. Wesley became more likeable when he was shown making human mistakes - like accidentally releasing the Nanites - rather than being a child prodigy and paragon of virtue rolled into one.

Re TQ and the frozen head debate. I believe another problem with cryogenic suspension is the freezing of water in cells and subsequent cell damage. I don't think those who are advocating head freezing actually believe the head itself would be grafted; the head is merely the most convenient means of storing the fragile brain and brain stem. It also enables the preservation of various nerve linkages to the eyes and other sensory organs. I'm not denying that the problems of a brain transplant would be horrendous if not insurmountable, but well-off people who want to live forever or die trying seem willing to make the gamble.

Finally, re the 5th Anniversary report. I really wish I could have been there; it sounds marvellous. I was surprised that Rick had not realised how witty and forthright Marina is because the few American N/Ls I've read have all carried on reports which emphasise this fact, so I thought it would be well known among US fans. A hint of this sometimes comes across in TNG and I wish the producers/directors would allow Marina to develop this.

I expect someone else will explain to Rick about A Levels. If not, they are qualifications which are achieved by doing a 2-year course in the relevant subject, while at high school (ages 16 - 18). The 'A' stands for

Advanced, as opposed to the former 'O' or Ordinary levels which were studied for between the ages of 14 - 16 but have now been replaced by different qualifications. The A Level system still persists, however, for those who stay on at school after age 16, in what was known in my day as 'sixth form' and is now generally called 'sixth form college'. Hope that clears up your confusion.

Barry O'Doherty - Maghera, Derry

To Bryan Tarry - In the second season TNG episode Where Silence Has Lease, Commander Riker clearly addresses O'Brien as 'Lieutenant'.

To Rick Prestien - Ro didn't assume command in Disaster; she questioned Troi's command abilities. Although if it had been a choice between Ro and O'Brien, surely it would have been more appropriate for O'Brien (a line Lieutenant) rather than Ro (a mere Ensign) to assume command? I think O'Brien was correct to advocate Troi for command as she was the most senior officer present. Or does rank mean nothing?

To Graeme G Lowe - If you accept, as you seem to, that time travel produces paradoxes in causality, I believe your initial supposition may be flawed. Time travel is clearly allowed by many modern theories in physics (including, for example, relativity theory) and it is a basic physical principle that anything which is not disallowed is compulsory. Therefore time travel is clearly possible.

If you accept causality as inviolable, then cause must precede effect. If I invent and build a time machine, and I travel back (say) ten years, kill my temporal counterpart and destroy my time machine and my previous work, do I still exist? Or am I wiped instantly from existence? (This depends on whether or not you accept the Many Worlds Theorem and how it is interpreted.)

Even if I cease to exist (as causality demands) the fact that time travel is possible has not been altered. If I still exist, my knowledge is intact and I can attempt to build a new time machine or I can live through the intervening time period.

To Russell Witheyman - In the ST:TNG Tech Manual, the Enterprise-D is described as being built to last 100 years. I don't think Wesley Crusher would wish to wait that long to become Captain of the Enterprise - I would assume he'd prefer to be Captain of 1701-D!

To Gloria Fry & Nina Lynch - There was no Klingon Death Howl because Gorkon was not a warrior and so the Dead did not need to be warned.

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - Clearly you have never seen an English-Irish or an Irish-English dictionary before

To Sara Jackson & Rick Prestien - I agree that Riker's promotion was only brevet (temporary) in nature. It had to be confirmed by a Board of Review. Because Picard had returned relatively unharmed and Riker did not want to leave Enterprise, he voluntarily relinquished the captaincy.

Re the great Crusher/Pulaski debate - I would prefer Crusher any time (even if Pulaski was not a McCoy duplicate).

Re ST VI - The destruction of Praxis could be likened to a Chernobyl (but far worse) ie not only would there be a destruction of the dilithium supply but an environmental catastrophe would ensue as well. Since the Klingon Empire is controlled from the centre (unlike the Federation, which would adhere to subsidiarity, like the emerging European Union) it would not be fully able to cope with the relief efforts as its industry is too geared towards the military.

Re DS9 - I'm not sure... To me, ST has always been "...the voyages of the Starship Enterprise..." but I'm willing to see what happens.

To Colin McKay - Some objects on the holodeck are real (eg the fire in The Defector); some elements are holography.

Thanks to all at Contagion (my first con), especially William McArthur and Gerry Tyrell. Seeing 40 new episodes in 3 days is a novel experience alone, never mind meeting

such people as Richard Arnold and Scott Evans.

Congratulations to all at IDIC on the continuing excellence of the newsletter; my life wouldn't be the same without it!

Ann Peters - Kidderminster, Worcester

To Euan Lees - I wasn't inviting dispute about men wanting women to be shallow, because I didn't really think anyone would disagree with me! I wasn't meaning *every* man, of course, just the vast majority. I don't have any figures to back up my statement, but it's certainly true that girls used to be encouraged to appear more stupid than they actually were, so they would be more attractive to boys. Men probably don't fear stupidity in women as much as women fear it in men, because of the differential in muscular strength; women are looking for a protector, not a toy.

To Matthew Conway - Those seven criteria that Crusher reeled off in Home Soil are really just a description of carbon-based life (respiration; assimilation; excretion; sensitivity; locomotion; growth; reproduction) so I'm not sure we should expect all of them to apply to Data. He doesn't need to grow, for example, because he was already fully 'grown' at his 'birth', but I don't think that should disqualify him from being considered as alive. In creating Lal, Data certainly didn't reproduce as Humans do, but was it so very different from the way viruses reproduce - ie by making use of a manufacturing process which already exists outside themselves? And continuing the comparison with viruses, does a virus grow? Or breathe? Or excrete? A virus is just a bit of nucleic acid wrapped up in a bit of protein, so I'm not sure it can do any of those things (correct me, someone, if I'm wrong on this) but it moves and reproduces, so it must be alive. If a virus - which IS carbon-based - doesn't satisfy all seven criteria, why should Data be expected to?

SPOILER ALERT - THIS PARAGRAPH GIVES A LITTLE INFO ON A SEASON 5 EPISODE Despite all the plot similarities, I never felt that The Naked Now was anything like The Naked Time, but now at last we have a TNG episode that really

does hark back to Original days. When Data walked up that street in Time's Arrow, it looked just as though he'd stumbled onto an original series set, and sitting in front of his 'knives and bearskins' contraption, he looked so like Spock in The City... that I half expected Joan Collins to burst in at any moment. Then to top it all, Worf actually comes out with "Beam me up!" Even though there's a distinct TNG flavour, particularly that wonderful glimpse of Macdonalds of the future, Time's Arrow gets my vote for 'episode most reminiscent of Original Trek' to date.

Paul Hulford - Camberley

To Jackie Marshall - I now realise the error I made in N/L22 re memory capacity. As Ray Dowsett correctly pointed out, familiarity would be the key to recognition. However, I still maintain that Picard could memorise his crew if he wanted to.

To Matthew Conway - Don't judge a book by its cover or its title. After all, every Trek film has started with "The Something".

Re the forced mind meld - Wasn't Spock simply obeying his Captain's order, and above all serving the Federation? I interpreted Kirk's "Spock" to mean "Spock, the future of the Federation is at stake, find out what you can".

Regarding Spock's wife in Unification - would anyone out there take their spouse to a place where she had a better than average chance of being killed? Besides, what's wrong with her having a job back home?

Christine Snow - Worthing, West Sussex

The IDIC N/L is so full of what makes a fan N/L good that it's now supernova size. It's like sitting at a minicon every two months. Thank you all for your well appreciated hard work.

I agree with Sue Embury that Spock's ears in ST VI were odd. They were closer to those of the series, but they still curled over just a wee bit too much. I don't like the novelisation of ST VI. All those 'extra' bits rarely worked for me, especially pertaining to

Carol Marcus and Chekov's long-ago ex-girl friend. Like Katrina Heintz, I've read Jean Lorrain's books and thought that the forced mind meld was acceptable. However, I also thought that because of Spock's emotional reaction in the Sickbay scene (it was controlled rage) and the urgency, he did the meld in public, not only to speed things up but to protect both himself and Valeris while he violated her. The witnesses were a form of control for him. In Jean's book it was done with more than one Vulcan present, albeit for different reasons. Unlike some, I didn't see any romance between them, but there was certainly a strong relationship of teacher/pupil or possibly foster father/daughter? No wonder Spock was so upset! This hurt him more than her. I hope he can get over it and still take vulcanoid waifs and strays under his logical but very caring wing.

To Steve Gibb - Since maintaining the cloaking device takes so much energy, it would seem likely that firing while cloaked could require even more. A 'hole' of some kind will need to be generated to allow torpedoes or phaser fire out, so it doesn't ricochet inside the shielding. Since the torpedo that Spock and McCoy operated on could detect the cloaked ship a la 'heat seeking missile' there is no advantage in remaining cloaked while in battle at such close quarters... Of course, the real reason is that ST VI was written after the particular Romulan TNG episodes you are thinking of, so an inconsistency has arisen, but don't let that spoil your enjoyment. Maybe there was a major design fault that wasn't realised until later, like the Excelsior's transwarp drive.

To Janet Quarton - USSR had Chernobyl, so why not the Klingons with Praxis? We haven't heard much about the general state of Klingon politics or their economy, so it is quite within the realms of possibility. I for one am glad it did, in a way, since it led to the Peace Treaty and eventually Worf being on the 1701-D, since without him who would have known how Q could prove he was Human that time - "Die!" Wonderful stuff.

The obvious way that Klingon could be spoken in ST VI is via Universal Translator!

Come on, it can manage 'unknown' languages with just a few words surely it can cope with colloquial Klingonese. Those dictionaries were light years beyond a joke. I for one was cringing.

Why all this debate about kitchens? There was a kitchen, referred to as a galley, with ovens, in the 8th episode. Charlie X, and although Christine *could* have made that soup for Spock in Amok Time in a glass beaker over a Bunsen, I for one assumed that she made it in a saucepan over a hob of some description. (I was surprised about the phasers in a drawer, though - for Klingon toast?)

To Kathleen Glancy - I absolutely and very strongly disagree that Gillian Taylor had her mind interfered with in any way and they returned her to 1987. In my view of the ST universe, she's doing Cetacean research on board a floating laboratory in the Pacific Ocean. Jim had a letter only last week!

To Ann Peters - Those turbolift doors are indeed double, ie there is a set in the corridors and a set in the turbolift itself. Unlike 20th century lift doors they close simultaneously so you don't see there are in fact two sets.

Having just seen Yesterday's Enterprise again, it's still the best TNG episode yet. And I followed its viewing with City and saw something new, after all these times. *It* is still the best ever episode.

Stephen Shaw - Stockport

ST:II was shown on commercial TV over Easter. A few seconds were cut as the eel entered and left Chekov's ear. An earlier showing on commercial TV was not so censored. When ST:II was shown in the States in February 1985 the same few seconds were cut - but they had some extra pieces inserted to make up for it. WE did not get the extra bits!

Bjo Trimble, well-known ST fan, worked in Hollywood. She created the make-up for the surprise hit Flesh Gordon (Flesh Gordon 2 now in your video shop...)

Will the BBC ever buy the 4th and 5th season episodes? I wouldn't like to bet on that - their corporate hatred of SF is too deep, and some of those episodes really could not be shown at 6pm!

Will the BBC ever show the cartoons or the Classic series they have paid for?

Have you seen the latest Star Trek ties? Colourful! US \$20 each.

ST VI - the first ST picture I have seen in a cinema since the disappointment of ST:TMP. In wonderful bone-shaking surround sound, with maybe 20 people in the cinema. I hated the animated blood, which looked very cartoonish and false - yuck! Apart from that, it is one of very few films I would see again. Very enjoyable.

1993 was the year when Khan took over the world... Are we going to celebrate?

IDIC 22-Star Trek II

If anyone is interested, Star Tech have the scripts for some of the episodes listed on PP73 -75 of N/L22. KITUMBA -US \$15 + postage (super story) THE SAVAGE SYNDROME US \$10 + postage TOMORROW AND THE STARS \$10 + postage DEADLOCK \$10 + postage. They also have THE STARS OF SARGASSO, an unused ST script by D C Fontana for \$12 + postage.

Mini synopsis - Enterprise enters a cloud and loses power (again!); cloud is full of weeds!; weeds are full of trapped spacecraft; there are two lifeforms alive on one of the other ships - Joanna McCoy and something else; our heroes beam aboard and are attacked by androids in black leather; Argos is a space pirate, luring ships into the trap; he is producing androids to crew the captured ships and intends to conquer the Galaxy; captured crew from the ships are made to fight the androids to entertain Argos; McCoy is changed into a small lizard; Spock stabs Joanna in the heart, fatally... stay tuned! A jolly good story!

Re Gates McFadden - Sally Jerome, whose mother's maiden name is Gates, asked

Cheryl this question and received the answer that Cheryl McFadden's maiden name was Gates, and Cheryl wanted to use this as a stage name - the launch of a new series presented the opportunity.

Re early TNG - re-viewing these after a gap of a couple of years, I realised Wesley is NOT such a bore as on first viewing. I suspect the programmers did the character no good at all by an early over-emphasis, creating the suspicion of yet another Will Robinson character.

Re Where No One Has Gone Before - please would other readers check my eyesight on this one. It shows NUMEROUS crew members, many of them coloured; perhaps more than in all the other episodes together! Where did they go to? Pertinent question - towards the end of the episode there is a very carefully set up shot which focuses on a new crew member who is wearing a standard issue short dress. This crew member looks unusually masculine in all respects. Do I have a dud video or is my eyesight going? Who is it? *[Ed - Richard Arnold commented on this several years ago. The 'dress' (as worn in Classic Trek) is actually culottes, which originally was a masculine garment, and it was decided in the early days of TNG that some men should be shown wearing these. However, as background detail, it doesn't seem to have lasted long.]*

Kirstie Jordan - Pilsley, nr Chesterfield

First of all I'd like to thank all of my pen friends for their patience and understanding while I have been struck down with what my doctor insists on calling Glandular Fever. Personally, I think that some dastardly Romulan crept up behind me when I wasn't looking and whacked me over the head with a Ferengi!!!! Anyway, I think I'm back on the road to recovery, but you never can tell with these things.

Although this may seem to be covering old ground, I have a grievance to air about Yesterday's Enterprise. Surely if the only way to return our timeline to its previous state was to send the Enterprise C back to her own time with all her own crew, why then was Tasha allowed to go also? Surely if she went

back with a ship that was destroyed 22 years before the Enterprise D was commissioned she could never have served with Picard and his crew?

If one more person mentions ST VI I'll S C R E A M!!!!!! Some of us were too ill to go and see it - sob, wail (get the violins out, quick!). So stop gloating!!!

To Helen White - I thought that your jokes about PMT were funny, but I don't recall mentioning that particular subject in one of my previous letters!

Re ST:DS9. I think (on the odd occasion, anyway) that a lot of people will treat it in the same way as TNG was treated at first; by accusing DS9 of 'copying' Classic Trek and TNG and by making comparisons between all three. As TNG proved, this should not be done as all three are different programmes spawned from one idea. I myself shall reserve judgement until having actually SEEN DS9, which, knowing the BBC, won't be for another three years after it's shown in the States!

Going back to a comment I made in N/L 21 about all the people on the Enterprise being attractive, why, in The Dauphin, did Salia choose the form of an attractive young girl rather than any other? Surely her guardian must have realised that she was asking for trouble letting Salia take that form? After all if she had taken the form of someone less attractive, Wes would not have shown any interest, would he?

Well, I'm off now before that Romulan catches up with me again! Keep up the good work - I can't wait for the next newsletter!

Eddie Yau - Hove, East Sussex

Steve Gibb: I think that Deep Space 9 will work. Granted, it may not be Star Trek as such, but as a SF series it looks promising, and will stand on its own merits. As long as the scripts and characters are good, DS9 will do well.

A few of you think DS9 will not work, being stuck on a space station most of the time. Well, if normal fictional dramas and

soaps which centre around a small town can work. I don't see why DS9 can't, especially as DS9 has a planet to explore, as well as a worm hole leading to god knows where.

Lesley Arrowsmith: While Kryn timer may not be superior to Data in mental tasks, one thing he is superior in is a good sense of humour, something Data will never truly get the hang of! Kryn timer also has a much better grasp of human emotions.

Re my "Kirk Or Picard" article to everyone with questions. Ann Peters: it seems to me that quite a few "yellow-shirts" died or were injured in TNG (i.e. "Encounter At Farpoint", "Q Who", "Heart Of Glory", "The Hunted" and "The High Ground" to name but a few). Maybe not as many as the "red-shirts" in Original Trek, but still a fair amount. And, at least no major characters died in Original Trek (i.e. "Skin Of Evil")!

Sara Jackson & Kathleen Glancy: I admit I was a shade anti-Picard, but I tried to be as objective as possible. (My 2 heroes are Kirk & Sulu.) Picard did get the thumbs-up over Kirk for diplomacy though! As to Kirk not telling Starfleet about Khan & Co. left on Ceti Alpha 5 - writer's oversight, I imagine!

As a side note to Khan and Star Trek II, just one thing puzzles me about the crew of the Reliant. How come no-one knew Ceti Alpha 6 had exploded??? You'd think that they'd realise that a planet wasn't there from star system charts and so on - another writer oversight I guess!

Jackie Marshall: I didn't write off Picard's military ability - all I'm saying is that Kirk would have the edge in military action over Picard.

Having finally seen the last few episodes of TNG season 5, I thought I'd better say something about the season in general. Basically the episodes have ranged from the worst episodes ever to some of the finest of the series. "Imaginary Friend" and "Unification" were the turkeys of the season - what were the writers thinking!?! Having said that, "Disaster" and "Power Play" were excellent episodes.

Your Questions

Philip Morley: I am a member of several other fan clubs and in all their newsletters they mention 'IDIC'. So, IDIC (the word) must have something to do with Star Trek, which is what you named this club after. What does 'IDIC' mean?

IDIC should be familiar to most Classic Trek fans. It stands for Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations (the Vulcan philosophy from Is There In Truth No Beauty - "The glory of creation is in its infinite Diversity and the way our differences combine to create meaning and Beauty." In the episode Spock wears a medallion which is the symbol of the philosophy.

Kari M John: In answer to Mairi Alexander who enquired regarding where to obtain Trek writing paper. Paul and Judy Van der Fecht of "Ferengi Bazaar", 24 Holly Court, Chester Road, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0PH do very nice Trek paper of different colours and designs at a good price. Paul and Judy will send samples on request. The designs are the Enterprise (original and TNG) with various logos (some humorous, Worf, Tribbles, Uhura, Spock, McCoy and Kirk.

☆☆☆☆☆

STOP PRESS

According to the TV Times, the entire 79 episodes of the original series, starting with The Cage and including the banned episodes, will be shown at 6pm on BBC 2 on Wednesdays. In the Dundee Courier dated 13.8.92, a BBC spokeswoman is quoted as saying, "We can't say definitely how many episodes we will be showing, but we do intend it to have a considerable run." What does ITV know that BBC doesn't?

CONTAGION

The Scottish Star Trek Convention 18-20 July 1992

GUEST TALKS

Reported by Helen White

GEORGE TAKEI

(Saturday)

George began by telling us that he'd arrived prepared for the Scottish weather - ie wrapped up warmly - and when he got to Glasgow airport he was "turned back by dazzling, blinding sunshine: the convention hospitality is incredible." He was also impressed by the palm trees at the airport!

He said that he was still suffering from jetlag: on the Friday, they'd all been for a tour around Clydeside, and as they passed the scenery all the Americans were nodding off.

He loves Scotland - he was in Edinburgh in 1988 performing in the play *Undertow*, and last in Glasgow in 1987 when he was chieftain of a nearby highland games - and "to top the whole thing off, this is a Star Trek convention." He said that they've now had 26 glorious years in Trek, and last year was the most memorable of all the years; it was absolutely glorious and some wonderful memories stand out. They released the best film of all STVI: George said that he made the comment as a totally unbiased observer - "they had a brave, bold new captain!"

The week before STVI opened in the US the whole cast went to the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood and put their handprints in cement. The original idea was that they'd all just sign their names; no one was to write larger than anyone else and there were to be no handprints. George, as the only native of Los Angeles among the cast, felt that this was wrong, so having signed his name he 'overbalanced', after which the rest of them all rushed forwards to add their prints.

Two months later they were together

again for the opening of the Star Trek exhibit at the Smithsonian: George said that the party there was like a convention as all the people there - senators, congressmen etc - were huge fans. At the press conference a reporter got up and asked why a 'piece of entertainment' should have a spot in a museum of human achievement in air and space; Mary (or possibly Mari) Henderson, the exhibit's curator, said that the Smithsonian is there to remind people of what man has accomplished, but that it is also there to inspire a new generation, and that's what Star Trek does. The exhibit is very appropriate because ST has made a real contribution to space and air flight. It was scheduled to finish in September '92 but has been so immensely popular that they've extended it to run until January '93.

George said that he was sure part of the reason for Trek's popularity is that it doesn't show the future as failure and devastation, as so much science fiction does. It says that we should build on what we've achieved so far and use it as a foundation stone; we should recognise that we have great strengths, including diversity - there's really no such thing as 'handicapped'; it's all a matter of perspective.

He said that although the silver anniversary year was marvellous, we also suffered a great loss, when Gene died. He left a wonderful legacy in Trek and fostered a large extended family, connected across borders, countries and cultures. George has a particular memory of Gene: last year the biggest ever con was held in Los Angeles, in the hall where the Grammys are presented. There were over six thousand fans there, and the whole thing was dedicated to Gene. Over

the year Gene had suffered several strokes and by the time of the con was in a wheelchair; his son Rod pushed him out onto the stage, to a huge roar of applause, and Gene pushed himself to his feet to acknowledge it, even though his legs were all but useless. George says that that's just the kind of man Gene was; even when 'downed' by all that, he'd still fight.

George thinks that STVII should be called 'The Voyages of Captain Sulu'. He says that he's "absolutely enjoying being Captain of the Enterprise" - everyone roared with laughter at this, and when it was pointed out to George he said that it was a Freudian slip. It's not the same being the Captain of the Excelsior; now that Captain Kirk is retiring, he wants Sulu to be Captain of the Enterprise for the next ten films, after which he can be made an admiral!

After all that, George said that he'd answer questions. The first person asked him about his trip to Alton Towers in 1987; he actually spent over half an hour telling the story, so I've condensed it down a bit.... He was due to come over to Alton Towers to meet up with Bill and open the monorail there; he was booked on a direct flight from Los Angeles to Heathrow and from there on the shuttle to Manchester, with an overnight stay "to shake off jetlag." He arrived at LA airport for his 5.30 pm flight and showed up at the British Airways desk, where they asked to see his passport; he'd forgotten it! He asked whether he could get a temporary one at the airport and was told no, so he rang Richard Arnold - who'd help organise the trip - in a panic. Richard told him not to worry; just go home and fetch the passport, and he'd book a flight for the following morning. George went home and started searching - Richard rang to say that he'd booked George on Concorde, which made him even more determined to find said passport - "turning the house upside-down". He eventually thought back as to where he'd had it last and came to the horrible conclusion that he'd thrown it out with the ticket stubs after his last trip. (Moral: don't keep your passport in your ticket envelope.) He rang Richard. Richard told him not to worry, he'd arrange another flight and George could go and get a

temporary passport tomorrow. "I still haven't flown Concorde yet!"

The following morning he went straight to the passport office; luckily he was recognised, and in return for his autograph the official sorted him out a new full passport! He rang Richard, who explained the new situation: flight to Cincinnati, then to Gatwick, then on a helicopter to arrive at Alton Towers with twenty minutes to spare before the ceremony. George went back to the airport and the international departure terminal before being told by the information desk that Cincinnati wasn't an international destination.... He ran to the correct terminal and joined the vast queue: when he got to the front he found that the ticket was booked but not prepaid. He said that that was no problem, just transfer the ticket from BA from the earlier aborted flight. They were unable to do that from there; he'd have to go over to the BA desk, yes, in the international terminal. He tried to leave his luggage with them; the lady at the desk said they couldn't be held responsible for it. George said that he'd just leave it there anyway. He ended up having a row with the supervisor, leaving his luggage next to the desk and running off to the BA desk with the lady in hot pursuit. At the BA desk he discovered that they won't transfer tickets under any circumstances.... he ran back to the other desk, found his luggage safely there, and told the lady that he'd pay with his own American Express card. You might be able to guess what comes next.... he'd left it at home. Greatly embarrassed, he went and called Richard, who told him to put it on his, Richard's, American Express card.

The flight was at 12.30pm; the ticket authorisation came through at 12.25pm and he got the ticket at 12.29pm. He RAN to the gate shouting "12.30 flight, 12.30 flight!" and, he said, "Now I know how Moses felt" - everyone fled to get out of his way! He arrived at the gate to find the doors shut but the plane still there, so he frantically banged on the door. A flight attendant appeared and inquired as to whether he could help; he explained.

"Sir, it's just been delayed an hour."

He turned round and all the people waiting for the flight applauded him! He said that he was totally mortified.

Once he was on the plane the journey went smoothly until he got to Gatwick and arrived at the helicopter station. It was foggy; helicopters can't fly in fog. George's escort rang Alton Towers; they said that they'd hold the ceremony back by half an hour. Fortunately, the fog cleared and the helicopter took off, although "it was transporting a carcass! I was a mess!"

When he arrived at Alton Towers he was steered into the press conference, where Bill greeted him with "Where the HELL have you been?" "Bill," he said, "you don't want to know!"

After telling the story, with accompanying actions and gestures, the audience was worn out with laughing so much, and the next question didn't really help; what's George's most unusual autograph request? He said that it concerned an X-rated part of the human anatomy and he wouldn't tell us which bit!

The next person said that having heard Brent and Nichelle sing and knowing that George has such a lovely voice, does he sing too? "Only in the shower," he said, whereupon most of the audience made 'shower' noises. Having told us we were all heartless, he proceeded to sing Waltzing Matilda, which he learnt while filming Blood Oath in Australia. He missed a few words as he hadn't expected the request, but he sang beautifully. We all applauded and he said that we were all very kind and had absolutely no taste!

The next person wondered what was his most embarrassing moment; he said that the Alton Towers trip was the most humiliating. He remembers lots of funny moments from making the films; while filming STIV he was required to look in the window of a bar, and he saw a drunk female inside who waved at him. On the next take, he looked in the window again and she flashed her bosom at him: she then disappeared and Leonard refused to believe him when he explained

why he'd messed up the shot!

In STIII they were shooting the bit where Kirk, Scotty, McCoy, Sulu and Chekov are all on Genesis watching the Enterprise burn up in the atmosphere - "I'm going to ruin it for you" - and Leonard decided that in order to get them all looking the same way at the same time he'd have one of the crew run along in front of them with a red bandana on a pole. Take one: the actors were all getting into the feel of the scene - "that red thing is where we spent our careers" - and Max, who was the chap carrying the pole, zoomed across at ninety miles an hour. Leonard told him that he was very good, but that he needed to feel that he was the Enterprise and slow down.

Take two: Max 'felt' very well - he ran like the six million dollar man and the bandana followed a non-straight line like a bouncing rabbit. Leonard told him that that was very good too, but he needed to do it smoothly. By this time of course the actors were having trouble containing their hysteria.

Take three: Max got half way across the set and tripped over. By now the poor man was "a basket case".

Take four: the shot went perfectly. However, it was difficult by this time to think of the bandana as the ship, and the tortured expressions that appear on the actors' faces in the finished shot are actually due to suppressed hysteria, as they were expecting Max to trip again.

Next question: Sulu has weird hobbies, does George? He told the questioner off for describing them as 'weird'; it's all subjective. He said that he's very interested in architecture and he collects African tribal and Japanese Noh masks; they're an expression of the culture of those peoples. He's also interested in public transport.

The next question required translation: a chap with a very Scottish accent inquired whether the cast ever had a bevvvy session? George looked terribly bewildered; it transpired that 'bevvy' in America refers not to alcoholic drinks but to a bosomy female....

Having had the question explained he said that his best drinking buddy is Jimmy Doohan, although it's very difficult to keep up with him! Jimmy drinks Scotch, George likes Cabernet wine, Walter goes for Bailey's Irish Cream and Nichelle and De Forest enjoy vodka. What he actually said here was "Nichelle is a vodka lady, as is De Forest." Oops.

The final questioner asked whether he'd enjoyed playing Sulu as a different character in *Mirror, Mirror*: he said that he had.

"That dumb twit Uhura rejected me! She missed out on something really wonderful!"

He added that he thought Sulu should have a new helmsman on the *Excelsior*: the current incumbent wasn't good enough. He said that Sulu has his eye on a new graduate with a shock of thick hair, whom he thinks will make a very good helm: his name is Jean-Luc Picard! There is one thing though: he'll have to get a haircut....

(Sunday)

George arrived on stage to the usual loud applause and cheers. He said that he loved Glasgow, but that he was still slightly jet-lagged and kept saying that he was in England (lots of people booed at this!) He'd been roaming round the city and discovered Princes Square - it's a small shopping centre with speciality shops - which he thought fantastic; he said that he'd enjoyed studying Glasgow's Victorian architecture.

He got back home three weeks prior to the con, having been filming in the Philippines: he said that there was a marked contrast in the weather - it's very very hot there while Scotland is invigorating and bracing, which he much prefers.

The film he's been making is a nice change of pace for him: he usually seems to play the 'heavy' but this time he's playing a good guy. The film is about a schoolteacher - played by George - who gets framed and sent to prison: whence he escapes with his cellmate who is played by a kick-boxing

champion. "He's the young brawny one and I'm the sage wise brains!" The film is currently titled *The Wrath of Justice* - although that may change - and has a US release date of October/November 1992 with a UK release three or four months later.

In November George will be back in the UK to rehearse for the pantomime that he'll be in - "that'll be a real stretch!" He very much enjoyed doing *Aladdin* in Reading in 1987: this time he's doing *Snow White* - "not doing *Snow White*, being in it: that would be a stretch!". He said that any fans that go to see him are to go backstage afterwards for a chat.

Before he left he was talking with Jimmy Doohan: he's shooting his TNG episode in August.

At this point John Bathgate appeared on stage with a mould and a man carrying a bucket of cement: George's signature and handprint were going to be 'collected' for 'Baggy's Chinese Theatre'. While Mick - the chap doing the technical stuff with the cement - was filling the mould, George interviewed him!

Once the cement was all cleared out of the way George answered questions:

Q - If there was a remake of *Tora, Tora, Tora*, would George like to play Admiral Yamamoto?

A - Yes, he would; Yamamoto was a very thoughtful man who opposed the war, and who performed brilliantly under trying circumstances.

Q - Would George like to be on TNG?

A - Indeed he would! He says that he's already suggested it to Rick Berman: he thinks that they should do a time travel story so that Sulu isn't aged like McCoy and Spock....

Q - How is it that the *Enterprise* had 78 decks in STV?

A - George said that he wished Richard

were there so he could answer; someone in the audience said that 'deck' actually stood for 'Designed Exclusively to Confuse Klingons'!

Q - Does George take part in any sports besides running?

A - Yes: rock-climbing, cycling and 'casual' swimming. He takes part in 10km runs and full marathons; his last was the London Marathon in 1989 although his time for that was 'terrible'.

Q - Have the rest of the cast seen the Powergen advertisement that Bill and Jimmy did?

A - They didn't even know that they'd done it! George said that he'd love to see it and that he'd certainly tease them about it when he got back to the States.

Q - Would George like to be in LA Law?

A - Yes; he tries never to miss the programme. He thinks that it's really bold and adventurous; "a sort of legal Star Trek."

Q - What was it like working with John Wayne on the film Green Berets?

A - He enjoyed it; John was a man who held strong beliefs and acted on them - Hollywood wouldn't touch Vietnam stories in the 1960s but he went ahead with Green Berets, financing it himself. George said that he respects someone who puts their money where their mouth is.

Q - In STIII we saw Sulu 'throw' a guard; does George do any martial arts?

A - Not really, although he does know the basics of karate and shotoka; basically he's an actor, so for that scene he had the help of the stuntman and he was really the one who made the shot look so good.

Q - (A repeat of one of Saturday's questions!) Does George remember any embarrassing moments from the time he's spent filming Trek?

A - "You're cruel!" said George.

Q - Has he seen Space: 1999 or Blake's Seven?

A - He's seen Space: 1999; some good friends of his were in it - Barbara Bain and Martin Landau - but he felt that the characters on that show were a little dehumanised whereas on Trek the characters were recognisable as people.

Q - Does he feel that he's been type-cast following Trek?

A - No; he said that he's been very fortunate. Jimmy's been complaining about it and so has Walter, but George said that working on Trek opened many doors for him - eg the opportunity to act in pantomimes!

Q - If he could play anyone else in Trek who would he choose?

A - He loves Sulu so much and he's been making all the progress - "Kirk even got demoted!" - and he loves the direction that Sulu's going in. Having said that, there are aspects of each character that appeal to him; Kirk's dash and energy, Spock's wisdom and thoughtfulness, Uhura's style, Scotty's expertise with the engines. "All my colleagues have qualities I'd like; is that diplomatic?"

Q - He appeared on Mission: Impossible in the 1960s; was that during Leonard's time on the show?

A - No, it was during the time that Trek was being filmed; the MI set was next door so the actors used to visit each other constantly. George played an American-Asian scientist.

Q - Are any conventions held in Japan?

A - No. George speaks Japanese and Spanish so he's looking forward to cons in both countries!

Q - Would George like to direct STVII?

A - He's directed in the theatre but not films; he'd like to direct a film but not Trek as

it's extremely demanding acting and directing on the same film. When Leonard was directing he used to go to bed at 10pm, get up at 3am, go over his directing plans until 4am when he went to work, then get made up as Spock while going over his acting work for the day.

Q - How did Kirk Thatcher get the part as the punk on the bus in STIV?

A - He was Leonard's assistant - "we used to say Kirk works for Spock!" - and the role was his idea so Leonard gave him the part.

Q - Now that Sulu's Captain of the Excelsior, does George fancy a spin-off series?

A - He'd like to see a few films centred around the Excelsior and is campaigning for 'ST VII: The Voyages of Captain Sulu'!

Q - What are George's favourite science fiction films?

A - Destination Moon and 2001: A

Space Odyssey, both of which he felt were breakthrough films. His favourite non sci-fi films are those made by Merchant Ivory (eg Howard's End, Maurice) and he recently saw Lawrence of Arabia which he felt was very moving and pertinent to our times. He also saw Grand Canyon - I don't think it's been released in the UK: I've never heard of it - which "kind of foreshadowed the eruption" in San Francisco. At the time of the riots George had been due to attend the grand opening of the Japanese American Museum; that had to be cancelled. George said that he'd been chilled by the reports of the lawlessness that was going on; it gave him a sense of how fragile civilisation is.

Q - In STVI Sulu showed that he was willing to bend the rules; is he going to be a gung-ho Captain Kirk type?

A - Sulu will be his own man, but Captain Kirk has been his hero for twenty-five years so has had a big influence on him. Sulu has his own idiosyncrasies and is a little impetuous; he has negative aspects to his character too, and that's why "we need ten more movies before we see all of Sulu!"

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RICHARD ARNOLD

(Saturday)

Richard started by apologising that the projector hadn't been set up yet "so I'll describe the slides to you.".... Fortunately it then appeared, and while it was being set up Richard told us about a friend of his, whose husband Daffyd is in the US Navy and stationed in Greenland; one of Daffyd's friends is an avid model collector and has copies of the Enterprise blueprints. While he was on leave, some 'stuffed shirt' happened to hear that he had plans of the USS Enterprise and got in touch with Washington, who immediately sent an agent to investigate! He arrived at the ship and demanded to see the plans.

"Do you want them for Enterprise A, C or D?" inquired the chap....

Luckily, the agent was a fan and saw

the funny side.

The slideshow and talk were basically the same as at Sol III, so I shan't repeat them!

What follows are some bits of information that Richard didn't mention then or that have come into being since, so to speak.

Part two of Time's Arrow wrapped in mid-July; he wouldn't tell us anything more about it.

He doesn't think that Sela is in any of the sixth season episodes.

In The Child and Disaster the babies were each played by twins, effectively doubling the filming time, as a baby is only allowed under the lights for a few seconds.

Each had an 'umbilical cord' made of rolled-up newspaper, and were coated in a mixture of gelatine and fake blood. Ugh!

Alexander has now been played by two actors, and as he is about three years old by the time of fifth season but actually looks ten, it has been necessary to invent what Richard refers to as a 'BS' answer for this anomaly: Klingons being a more primitive race grow more rapidly, and therefore look older than a Human of the same age.

The crew have finally stopped using smoke on Stage Sixteen ('Planet Hell') as the actors complained so much about the possible health risk; however, as they now use dry ice the temperature is prone to sudden extreme drops.

For Cause and Effect, in which the Enterprise is blown up four times (!), four separate models were made and exploded rather than just show the same shot four times.

In Cost of Living the actors had trouble with the mud bath. Although it had a heater in it, the mud kept settling and getting very cold, so it had to be stirred between each take; also, Majel was wearing a very low-cut outfit, and as she kept bobbing to the surface, the outfit showed. Eventually she got fed up and took it off, hoping that she could keep herself low enough in the mud that she wouldn't show more than she intended; she couldn't, as they all found out watching the dailies the following day.

Whoopi Goldberg wasn't in many fifth season episodes because she's been so busy this year; she's made three feature films and now has her own talk show.

Time's Arrow is set in San Francisco but was shot in Los Angeles. It's set in the 1890s, so there are some fabulous costumes. As well as Data and Guinan several other crew members go back in time; anyone that's seen part one can guess who!

For season six there are two Q scripts in preparation. Scotty will be appearing in the fourth (?) episode of the season; the story will

not involve time-travel, the holodeck or advanced age, and was written by Ron Moore.

Having finished the slides, Richard went into a question and answer session:

Q - Will there be any more seasons of TNG?

A - The studio are acting as if it's a foregone conclusion, but in fact nothing has been put in writing yet. Patrick possibly isn't too keen to be 'tied up' with the series for more years. Marina is considering the idea and Brent is saying nothing.

Q - Will the Borg be back?

A - There are no Borg scripts yet for sixth season; besides which, they are supposed to be the other side of the galaxy and can't keep 'popping up'.

Q - If the TNG crew do go on to further seasons or to make films, how will Data's ageing be handled?

A - Brent said at a con in Houston that Data would choose to alter his appearance so that he didn't feel out of place amongst his friends.

Q - When TNG films start being made, why not use the novel Vendetta as a basis for a script?

A - No novel has ever been seriously considered in that way; also, Vendetta does not conform to Gene's ST universe. It's highly unlikely that any novel ever will be used thus.

Q - When will we see the 'Nova' class starship? (It appears in the TNG Technical Manual)

A - It's not an 'official' ship, just extrapolation on the part of Messrs Okuda and Sternbach, and it's unlikely that such a ship will appear on the show. Richard here quoted Mike Okuda as saying "look, it's just a lump of plastic on a stick!"

Q - Will we see more of Barclay?

A - Yes, if somebody writes it! It's the same with all the semi-regular characters: they'll be brought back if a good script appears for them. The studio are trying to

avoid Klingons for a while; they feel that we've seen enough of them for the moment.

That was the end of Richard's talk.

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GEORGE TAKEI & RICHARD ARNOLD

(Monday)

George said that the convention had been a great fun, despite the difficulties with accents, and thanks very much for the hospitality; Richard said that the same went for him and that Contagion was his 207th con! George then said that he had a bone to pick with Richard and had saved it "for a public occasion." He said that he'd discovered a discrepancy between his story of the Chinese Theatre and Richard's (Richard had said that George fell onto the cement: George actually 'overbalanced' on purpose) and he got Richard to repeat aloud that George did not fall, then said that the audience were witnesses! "You saw what happened: Richard got it straight!"

Richard then said that he had something to say to George: "Ensign Picard!" "Ah," said George. Richard said that Picard wouldn't graduate until Sulu was about ninety years old....

"Let me quote from STII," said George. "There are always possibilities." He said that last century somebody his age would have looked old and wizened whereas nowadays that didn't happen until you were seventy or more, so in the twenty-third century Sulu might still look young at ninety!

The two of them then answered questions:

Q - How are the TNG communicators turned off?

A - There isn't a legitimate answer to that; in the first season, everyone used religiously to tap their badge when they'd finished speaking, but they rarely do that now. They've decided that the computer is clever

enough to decide when the person has finished speaking!

Q - How did George get into acting and what else would he have done if not act?

A - George says that his mother reckons that he made his acting debut in the maternity ward; "we(actors)'re made this way, we can't help it and we apologise!" His father wanted him to be an architect so he started to train, but then decided that he absolutely had to act. To be an actor you need drive and ambition but also "you have to be out of your mind!"

Q - Was the focus on the 'Big Three' the reason for STV's failure?

A - No, because Big Three stories can work very well. George said that he felt that STV had too many ideas in it; it would have been better to focus on just one and develop that. Richard said that as a fan he saw another reason; in previous films we were laughing with the regulars and in STV we were more laughing at them. Having said that, he said that Bill did have problems with the studio; he couldn't have the ending he wanted and wasn't happy with the way the FX turned out.

Q - Who in Trek would Richard most like to be?

A - His favourite character has always been McCoy, and anyway he gets to live the longest ("that we know of!" said George.) He likes the idea of David Marcus being on the edge of exploration but would only be him in STII as he dies in STIII!

Richard then asked George who he'd be if he wasn't Sulu; George said that he couldn't imagine as Sulu is SO wonderful!

Q - How did the cast respond to the character Sybok in STV?

A - It seemed a little odd, but he was played by a very charming actor: George said that Larry Luckinbill is a very funny man. Richard said that Sybok was originally meant to be Spock's brother but Gene objected to that so he was made a half-brother.

Q - In Sarek Picard mentions being at the wedding of Sarek's son: is that Spock?

A - That was really put in just to tease the audience. Richard said that as it's a long time between original Trek and TNG Sarek could've had another wife/wives between Amanda and Perrin and therefore could also have had more sons!

Q - What happened to the supposed love scene between Spock and Valeris in STVI?

A - That started as a Nick Meyer

rumour, but Kim Cattrall seemed to think that it really happened and has said so at cons and in interviews. Their relationship was meant to be teacher-pupil as with Spock and Saavik.

Q - What's happened to Saavik?

A - The original script for STIV had Saavik pregnant and Leonard directed the film as if she was but that all got cut! Richard said that she must be on Vulcan with Sarek and Amanda raising 'Spock junior' and changing nappies!

Q - If Saavik's changing nappies in STIV is there any chance of her and Spock's 'offspring' appearing in TNG or DS9?!

A - Richard said that Ensign Spockette would be ninety years old, but that she could be crew for Captain Sulu.... He said that Gene always felt that it was 'cheating' to have children of original characters appearing, but anything is possible now.

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SUSAN SACKETT

Susan started off with a slide show: a number of slides set to music, many of which were from her private collection. She then showed the slides without the music so that she could tell us about them.

There were shots of cast and crew of various Trek films, a shot of Susan with Richard Arnold taken in 1979 (tee hee), shots of Gene's star ceremony - the day he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and some of Susan as an extra in TNG. There was one of her standing between Jonathan and Brent, who both had their tongues out! Other slides were of Susan with Gene on the set of ST-TMP, TNG, at a wedding, at Gene's star ceremony and at the opening of Paramount's Gene Roddenberry building - which is where the executives' offices are. The final picture was of Gene doing the Vulcan salute.

After the slides Susan held a question

and answer session.

Q - Was Gene ever moody?

A - Sometimes. Writers tend to be that way: they take all their experience and feelings and work them into their characters. Gene tended to focus on his writing and forget about things like eating; Susan said that she just drinks lots of Diet Coke and that she wrote one book on M & Ms!

Q - How did Susan get involved with Gene and Star Trek?

A - She was a fan from the second show: she turned on the television and there was a man with pointed ears, whom no one was pointing out as different. She kept watching to find out about him and got hooked. When Bjo Trimble organised a convention, Fred Bronson asked her whether she'd like to be guest co-ordinator: she said

that she would ("who do I have to kill to do this?")

She was in a car accident and suffered whiplash, at which point she decided that she wanted to write, so she got a resume together. Fred rang her to say that Lincoln Enterprises were looking for a typist; she rang Majel, who told her that she should speak to her husband. At this stage she didn't realise that the husband in question was Gene. She had an interview with him and got the job as his personal assistant; he never read the resume!

Q - Was Gene influenced by Forbidden Planet when he created Trek?

A - No, although there may have been a subliminal influence. Apparently the series

started as stories that Gene used to tell his daughters.

Q - Will Susan be writing more books?

A - "Yes! Is there an editor in the house?" She's currently writing 'Primetime Hits' which is a book about the top TV series from the past forty years. She won't do any more Trek books but may write her memoirs; she's hoping to write a novel or novels and more TNG scripts/stories with Fred Bronson.

Star Trek: The First 25 Years may still be published but don't hold your breath! There are problems with the releases for some of the photographs in the book: "Write to Pocket Books!"

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WRITERS' PANEL (JEAN LORRAH & SUSAN SACKETT)

The panel started with Jean and Susan introducing themselves: Susan had brought some information handouts with her but Jean said that she was in the UK to teach a five-week course and only had room for books and clothes in her luggage!

Jean said that anyone who wants to write to her about any of her books is welcome, but please enclose an SAE with the appropriate stamps or airmail IRCs if you would like a reply. Her address is: PO Box 625, Murray, Kentucky, KY 42071, USA

Susan said that when she worked in the Trek office she didn't know what an IRC was so she kept throwing them out! She said that Trek fans are very SAE aware. She also has an address that you can write to: PO Box 1481, Studio City, California, CA 91614 - 0481, USA

Susan pointed out that she now has no direct connection with Star Trek so it's no good writing and asking her to tell Paramount how to run the show! Even with their own episode(s) writers have no real control over the script unless they're Trek staff writers.

Jean and Susan then offered to answer

questions:

Q - How did the aired version of The Game differ from the scripted version?

A - The story was basically the same but in the original story it was Wes who discovered the game and brought it on board; it was going to be an addiction story and show the struggle of recovery, rather than "oh boy, here comes Data; shine a light and they're okay." They had fun deciding what the game would look like - for those that haven't seen the episode, it's a kind of computer game that plugs into your head and makes you 'see' the game board etc - and originally started off with a thing shaped like a sea urchin that you had to press in a certain way; however, that wasn't suitable because it would have been hard for the audience to relate to that.

If you want to submit a script to Paramount for TNG you need to get an agent, preferably a Hollywood one such as Sherry Robin Associates - Susan said that the latter has an 'in' in the Trek office - and even then you will probably get rejected.

Q - Which bits of writing are the most

difficult?

A - Jean said that ideas are "a dime a dozen": from that point on it gets hard. Ideas have to be turned into a workable plot: one of the things that makes a professional writer is the ability to tell which ideas will work and which won't. The story needs to have people in it - not necessarily Human - for the reader(s) to relate to.

She thinks that the first draft is the hardest part: it's like a race where you get more tired towards the end. Susan agreed with her: she said that even if it's something that you really enjoy you still end up clock-watching. Jean said that one of the problems is that the main conflict must be resolved at the end of the story, not eighty pages ahead of it.

Once the first draft is finished the task gets easier again: even if it needs horrendous revisions it's all basically there and just needs 'editing'. Susan told us that Gene said that you can't be a good writer without rewrites: he used to write twenty pages, then rewrite them until he was happy and only then would he go on to the rest of the script/story/whatever. Both Jean and Susan thought that it was better to get the outline done first and then rewrite; sometimes the ending may require that the beginning be changed.

Susan said that in Menage a Troi they had problem trying to think of a way that Riker could get a message to the Enterprise;

when they came up with the music they had to go back and insert it in the opening scene.

Q - Is it hard to restrict yourself to a page- or word-count?

A - Editors generally go by page-count: there are approximately 200 to 250 words on a double-spaced A4 page with 'normal' margins. Jean said that it's much better to keep to the required page-count: editors don't cut lines, they cut whole scenes....

Q - UK spellings sometimes differ from US ones: will this cause problems when UK writers submit work to US editors?

A - Both said that it won't; don't worry about it. They also said that it's vital to have a good dictionary and thesaurus to hand when you're writing.

They mentioned writing dialogue: Jean said that she tries to write Picard as 'British' and Susan said that script-writers used to try to write 'Scotty dialogue' and fail miserably. Gene used to write it in English and Jimmy Doohan would make it sound right.

Before the end of the session Jean and Susan both offered a last bit of advice: Susan said that Gene advised writing original science fiction if you couldn't get your ideas to work as Trek, and Jean said that some things are now impossible to write - eg a 'human' android - as editors would be afraid of Paramount lawsuits!

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CHAS EVANS

Chas came along to show us the marketing figures for the various ST films and to explain how Paramount made the decision on whether or not to make a seventh.

STVI has been released in eighteen countries so far, including Japan and Thailand; it won't be released theatrically in Scandinavia because "they don't like Star Trek"! It was marketed on word-of-mouth, as Paramount wouldn't get involved: the total box-office for STVI in the USA is \$90.5M.

By STIV, video sales (rental, not sell-through) were grossing more than box-office figures, and STVI - released on July 1st in the States - has raised \$30M in just two weeks. Combined revenue for STVI is \$127 864 000 in the US alone; STVII is therefore a certainty.

In the UK ST videos have so far raised £20M; total cinema revenue including STVI is £16 317 000.

The premiere for STVI was "a nightmare" to arrange: Paramount wouldn't help at all, and UIP tried to back out. Carl Oliver forced it to go ahead; Richard (Arnold) helped too, as did Kim Farey and Juliet Calgill. Apparently UIP were 'thrilled' with the premiere, after all that!

TNG videos have made over £10M so far: that's over 909 000 cassettes.

Trek is 20% of CIC's UK business: they

are therefore very keen to keep the franchise. DS9 will help this: the video release in the UK will be June 1993. CIC will actually get the pilot episode in January but WHSmith and Woolworth's won't sell anything that they haven't seen, hence the delay in DS9 reaching the shops.

STVI on video will be the director's cut and will be out on rental in December 1992.

☆☆☆☆

The Life-cycle of the Denebian Gnat: A Brief Essay

Yes, yet another con report from the mad brain of Helen White

Friday 17th July: I caught the shuttle to Glasgow (aeroplane, not shuttlecraft) having first done my best to lose my tickets by dropping them in the baggage check area. This may be partly due to the fact that the bag lady (ha ha) insisted on searching me: no, she didn't suspect me of being a hijacker, it was just routine - well, that's what she told me! After a highly pleasant flight, I collected my luggage, found the bus and managed to leave it one stop too late. Oops. The driver kindly issued directions to myself and a fellow idiot, I mean person, who got off too late, and the two of us traipsed a mile or so back to Central station and, in my case, the hotel. I bid Bill from Canada (no, not that Bill, unfortunately) a fond farewell and staggered into the hotel to find that their computer was down. Luckily it recovered itself fairly quickly and I booked in and went to my room.

After a shower I felt much better so I went out to explore and did a bit of shopping. On my way back in I met a friend - Marguerite Morris, hello, whom I'd first met at Sol III - and we had a chat. I left her unpacking and went down to the hotel's free leisure centre for a swim: I also tried the spa bath and the Turkish steam room, both of which were great fun. After the swim/boil Marguerite and I went out for a meal, then I went up to my room to write postcards and

watch the end of the first night of the Proms on the TV in my room.

Saturday 18th: after brekker I went to the stewards' briefing, then to the dealers room, ho hum. Mind you, I spent less than I usually do.... Having dumped my purchases in my room I went down to the main hall, then found a seat and settled in for the day. The opening ceremony began: all the committee were introduced, then the guests.... but where was George? Suddenly, a horde of Klingons rushed into the room and held everyone at disruptor-point. They said that they had something to show us: it turned out to be a video of George surrounded by the Klingons. He said that they thought that he was Sulu and had kidnapped him: he wouldn't be released until the ransom was paid! Buckets were passed round, into which money was heaped; eventually £300 or so was collected and the Klingons agreed that George could go free. He appeared on the stage to great cheers and applause.

After the opening ceremony was Richard's talk, followed by Chas Evans, then Time's Arrow was shown. It's a cliff-hanger, and a very good one: I want to see part two NOW! Next on was George, the non-charity auction and Susan. I was stewarding for the

auction, so after George's talk I ran from the main hall to the auction site (next door, fortunately for my legs) and then after the auction I ran back to the main hall and collapsed back into my chair. Urgh!

After Susan's talk I went in search of Janet to tell her I couldn't report on Richard's Sunday talk as I would be in Susan's workshop (I'll get to that on Sunday, as it were), and ending up having tea in the IDIC committee's hotel room, along with Susan, Jean Lorrach, Jacqui Comben, Pam Crabtree and four dogs: very good it was too.

By the time we'd finished eating it was time for the ceilidh to start, so I went off to get changed and then back down to the main hall. I've never been to a ceilidh before; it's great fun. Basically it's country dancing: Strip the Willow, The Dashing White Sergeant, and all that kind of thing. There were plenty of people there who didn't have the first idea of the dance steps; luckily there were enough people who did to help the rest of us! What we lacked in skill we definitely made up for in enthusiasm.... By the end of the evening I'd managed to split one of my sandals and I was exhausted, but what an excellent time I'd had. Brilliant!

Sunday 19th: For some reason there were a lot of very stiff people at breakfast.

I spent the morning in Susan Sackett's writers' workshop. Jean had one running concurrently, which was a bit of a shame; I'd have been interested to attend both. Susan gave us lots of advice about writing non-fiction, all of which was very useful.

After the workshop I zoomed back down to the main hall for George's second talk of the weekend; I don't know why I rushed, as the programme was running late - typical of a con.

Following a thoroughly delicious lunch (at Dunkin' Donuts - I can recommend their food if not their spelling) I attended the writers' panel, then stewarded for the charity auction. This lasted for approximately two and a half hours; by the time it finished we

were all extremely hot and sticky, to say nothing of short-tempered!

I managed to grab a quick swim before the pool closed, then retired to my room until the stewards' party. This was as much fun as it usually is, even though we spent much of our time queueing for autographs. I managed - at last - to speak Japanese to George without my brain seizing up and refusing to function. Hooray!

However.... regular readers may recall that I have a collection of not-very-good-at-all photos of me with various members of the cast - eg me and half of John de Lancie (the camera's motor broke) - and this convention added to my collection: I now have two blurred photos of me with George, one taken in 1989 and one in 1992. I give up!

After returning to the party until 12.15am, I went down to the main hall again to watch a tape of Bill and Leonard at a Creation Con in the USA. After some shuffling between rooms - things were still running late - we all squashed into one of the video rooms and watched the tape; it was hilarious.

I got to bed at 1.45am.

Monday 20th: zzzzzzzzz. After breakfast, which I shared with Janet, Sheila and Valerie, I returned to my room for my luggage, via a chat with Katrina Heintz (hello) and checked out. Following George and Richard's panel and the bloopers was the closing ceremony; the guests were led in by a chap playing the bagpipes, one Bob McFie. It transpired that he'd written a special piece of music; he invited George to dedicate it to a person of his choosing, then played us the newly-named Gene Roddenberry March.

Following the closing ceremony, I went out to buy presents for family and friends - this was my holiday, not just a con - and then returned to the hotel. After an afternoon spent chatting to friends, I left in the company of Janet, Sheila, Shona (Janet's dog) and Cindy (Sheila's dog), bound for Cairnbaan and a few days' stay with Janet. I had a marvellous

time, fell in love with the West coast of Scotland - the scenery is absolutely gorgeous - and returned home thoroughly exhausted. I then went to Ne'a'driar (another convention - report in next n/l) the following Saturday - evening and again on the Sunday: I've spent every evening of the next week typing, it's

now Friday and I'm dead, but I don't care! Contagion was excellent: the best con that I've been to in ages - I'll be back next year - and the rest of the holiday was wonderful.

PS Hello to everybody I met at Contagion, especially Masako-san and Sonja.

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CONTAGION

reported by Edward Woo

Taking half a day off work on Friday allowed me to drive up to Motherwell where I left my car at Heather's. Glasgow being a stone's throw away made travelling on to there easy. It only took five minutes to find my overspill accommodation and paid my bill before I could spend the money! I unpacked before doing some late night shopping for odds and ends, including The Cage video; ate and finished off the evening with the movie Batman Returns before retiring to bed. Clyde Hall seemed very quiet and I thought I was the only resident till breakfast when I encountered a con attendee from London.

Heading back to the hotel I registered and received my con package and dropped off a few items for the white horta stall and the IDiC table. The dealers were already open and it didn't take me long to do serious damage to my bank account on some A4 size books and a sweatshirt. Then I descended to the main hall. Although there were Tasha Yar and Counselor Troi uniforms, I noticed more Original Trek uniforms here than at SOL III.

Having a front row seat, I met my first Scottish fan, Ian from Kilbride. The opening ceremony began with the committee introducing themselves, followed by each guest - Chas from CIC, Richard, Susan and Jean. George, however, didn't appear: instead a bunch of Klingons invaded the stage brandishing a video tape. It showed our guest of honour being held to ransom: a bucket was passed round for a collection for the Telethon. We dug into our pockets for enough loose change to free him. Finally he appeared to great applause, giving the Vulcan salute. The

con was now officially open. (The in-flight safety video that followed was extremely funny.)

Richard's talk, with a slide show, began soon after. He mentioned that there was nothing new since Birmingham, nor was there anything concrete about negotiations for a possible 8th season of TNG. He indicated that Patrick might want to move on to other projects after the sixth season and not want to be tied down for a further two years. Two Q stories are in the pipeline and James Doohan will appear as Scotty in episode 5 of season 6. Part 2 of Time's Arrow is in the can. I then had to leave for my security duties and missed Chas's slide show on DS9. CIC hopes to begin releasing season 5 and ST VI in September.

Signing in for security and steward duty is a novel idea, but it shows who actually turns up! Fortunately the dealers' room was winding down as George's talk was about to begin. I made it in time, though I had to settle for being half way up the hall. Guess what, George was able to describe his famous Alton Towers trip. If you have never heard it, you're missing a great story that includes humour, excitement and endeavour. That story alone - taking a good half hour to tell - was well worth the registration fee. He reminded us to promote the adventures of Captain Sulu to Paramount, giving us the address of the Paramount president!

The auction followed in an adjacent room, but I stayed only a short time as I wanted to get a good seat for Susan Sackett's

talk. I got some nice close-up photos of Susan. It was pity more people didn't attend her slide show and her memories of Gene, accompanied by her choice of music; it was very moving. It was also interesting to see a very young Richard Arnold in a bow tie... She described how she met Majel first, then Gene and ended up working for him. Her talk was very informative, and I hope the 25th Anniversary book does get published.

It was about 6.30 when I returned to my room and bumped into Simon and Baggy, who had only registered on Wednesday and arrived on Saturday. Returning to the Central, I found a long autograph queue so, with Ian, went for dinner at Macdonalds.

Then we went to the ceilidh. Before I could sit down I was doing some Scottish dancing. I have to say it was fun - and energy sapping! Every time I thought I got it right I'd completely lose co-ordination, but I enjoyed it. It's far better than a disco! The evening finished off with the Scottish New Year song - I think.

We went to see the Director's Cut of ST VI and it was 2.30 am before we left. Hey - where was ST V at this con? It wasn't on at Birmingham either. And what happened to the fancy dress?

Sunday morning arrived to the sound of my alarm and I got down to breakfast so promptly I was first in and out. Found Baggy had spent £10 on a taxi to find cement - we'd got an idea at George's talk to get his hand print and signature. It was all set up - George and the committee approved the idea. I missed part of Richard's second talk through my security duties and helping prepare the cement. Thanks to a Scottish lass and Mick the cement man the idea was ready to go.

George arrived for his guest spot; the cement was nearly ready. Baggy and Mick arrived on stage, Mick shaking like a leaf in front of 500+ people and cameras popping. George duly placed his hand in the wet cement to thunderous applause and flash lights. (Baggy would have liked cement signatures of the other guests, but there was not enough cement available.)

George's talk was very illuminating. Filming the flaming Enterprise needed many takes. He hoped Sulu would be an Admiral after 10 more movies. A certain young Academy graduate who showed great ability and leadership qualities could be his helmsman - namely Jean-Luc Picard.

The artwork included some excellent portraits though the entries were few in number. There was a pencil/ink drawing of Sulu which the artist gave to George.

The charity auction is always popular, with Richard's bag of goodies. US cons don't have autograph sessions, so signed photos are rare and priceless. A Klingon doll went for £35; a piece of Enterprise from Cause and Effect went for over £100. (Richard said they had blown up four Enterprises for that episode and each shot was different.) There was a lovely Spock teddy bear. Some edible tribbles were sold to a Klingon - "Is that right?" Richard asked. Initially I had decided to offer up to £20 for Susan's book. Let's just say it went higher... and I got it in the end. A copy of the Radio Times introducing TNG sold for at least £8 (I've still got mine). Then we went for dinner before joining the autograph queue. Luckily I was able to get everyone's signature, including one on my book - it's worth a fortune now. The autograph session went on till well past midnight. George is great - not only does he chat, he sings and has his photo taken with all attendees... and he was still intending to jog in the morning.

I hear the Creation Con video of Bill and Leonard was excellent viewing; they did it like a double act. I'll have to try to catch it some other time. Sunday night/Monday morning is a bit of a blur, but we watched Imaginary Friend and I Borg while partly nodding off.

The dealer's room was still open on Monday, but I didn't delve any more as I wanted a good spot for the guest panel. Richard and George arrived with Richard commenting, "They even photograph us pouring water into a glass!" George officially corrected Richard on the wet cement incident at Mann's Chinese Theatre - it was no

accident but a cunning move on his part. More questions and answers followed. Next came the bloopers - well worth watching. I hoped there would be some for TNG but it seems Majel has the only copy. Let's get Majel as a guest!

The closing ceremony arrived, and if we'd had our way we'd have slungshot around the sun to Friday again to do it all over. The committee announced over £300 was raised for Telethon and £1900 for the convention charities. Thanks were given to the guests - George arrived in a kilt with a piper. The music had been specially written and George dedicated it to the memory of Gene Roddenberry.

I applaud the committee for having the foresight in giving chocolates to the hotel staff - I bet business conferences don't do that. Are you listening, other hotels? We are

normal people who raise money for charity. The winners of the various competitions were awarded their certificates and finally the guests received their gifts. The con was officially closed, but the videos ran on. It was 9 pm before I finally made my way to Heather's, staying overnight before driving home on Tuesday.

Contagion is the friendliest con I have been to, and I intend to return next year when it will be at the larger Hospitality Inn. Its success was demonstrated by its complete sell-out by Saturday 10 am despite many phone calls.

Any chance, though, of a Friday evening programme next time?

Greetings to my fellow earthlings who I met at the con; and hi, Helen - hope your sprained wrist gets better soon.

☆☆☆☆

FEDERATION CON

reported by Maria Nausch

May 1 - 3 in Augsburg, Germany: Guest, Walter Koenig

First of all, it was a great convention and we had a lot of fun. Walter Koenig is a very talented entertainer and his question and answer panels were doubtlessly the highlights of this con! (I could listen to him for hours and hours telling all the nice little anecdotes which occurred on the sets of the ST movies!) Although I had already heard some of them on other occasions, I still find them funny, as Mr. Koenig's presentation is very subtle and impressive and when he starts talking in his Chekov accent or imitating Bill Shatner he is just marvellous!

He is a bit cautious when it comes to the question of yet another ST movie; so far there are no projects. ST VI has not yet reached the expected box office success... but on the other hand he sees a chance for our beloved Classic crew to go once more where no one has gone before. First of all, ST:TNG has been renewed for two more seasons (and

will be aired back to back with ST:Deep Space 9) This means the cast of TNG will not be available for a movie in the near future, so if Paramount wants to milk its golden cow Star Trek, they will most probably have to return to the Classic cast. Another point is that ST VI is still running overseas and there it is reaching box office figures which no previous ST movie has even come close to. So there is a good chance that this movie might still cross the \$100 000 000 line which would be necessary in order to get a seventh movie under way. Besides the question and answer panels (one on Saturday, a second one on Sunday) Mr. Koenig endured a photo session of about two hours (every con-member could have his picture taken with him) and he signed autographs on both days as well. (I confess I lined up twice at the photo session, once wearing my movie uniform, the second time wearing my brand new, self-made light blue TV miniskirt. I

don't know if the con committee realised that I had two pictures taken - Walter Koenig certainly recognised me when I came back a second time!) The autographs were limited to a total of three per person. This might not seem much to some of us, but it still took him several hours to sign all our photos, con programs, etc.

Other attractions of this con were a fancy dress competition with Walter Koenig and his wife Judy Levitt in the jury (my friend Kerstin won second prize in her Klingon outfit - it is said that Walter was instrumental in this, as he had complained about not seeing any Klingons at this convention!), a video quiz (guess the correct titles of the episodes, both Classic and TNG, of which you were shown short excerpts of 2 - 4 minutes length), a small dealers' room, a disco on Saturday night (where we danced to the music of ST soundtracks) and an auction where over 200,- DM were paid for an autographed picture of William Shatner. The Art Show was on display for the whole convention and there were a few really good paintings and sketches to be seen. Between the main attractions (like Mr. Koenig's personal appearances, the auction, the fancy dress competition, etc) ST episodes (including TNG's Spock episode Unification) and other goodies were shown in the main con room, like the ST bloopers, Moontrap, the 25th Anniversary Special and a fan production which is called ST Commercials. This is a very funny tape, scenes from various episodes are cut together and the added text is in the style of TV commercials; eg you see the scene from The Tholian Web where McCoy presents the theragene derivative to Spock and Scotty and then you hear dubbed in comments like "The best orange juice..." "Excellent indeed" or "The best taste I can imagine". Reading it may not seem too funny, but when you actually see it, you break up laughing!

The opening ceremony was brief and a bit too much Star Wars-style for my taste (Dirk Bartholoma, the chairman of Star Trek Central Europe, the club which organised the con, is running a Star Wars club as well - he's

a very active guy!) and I missed the closing ceremony as I had to leave a bit early to catch my train.

I think it is really a shame that they did not use Judy Levitt better. After all, she was in ST IV and VI and might have had something to say about the situation on the sets, the other actors... I really do not understand why she was not asked to join one of the panels, at least, if not having one of her own!

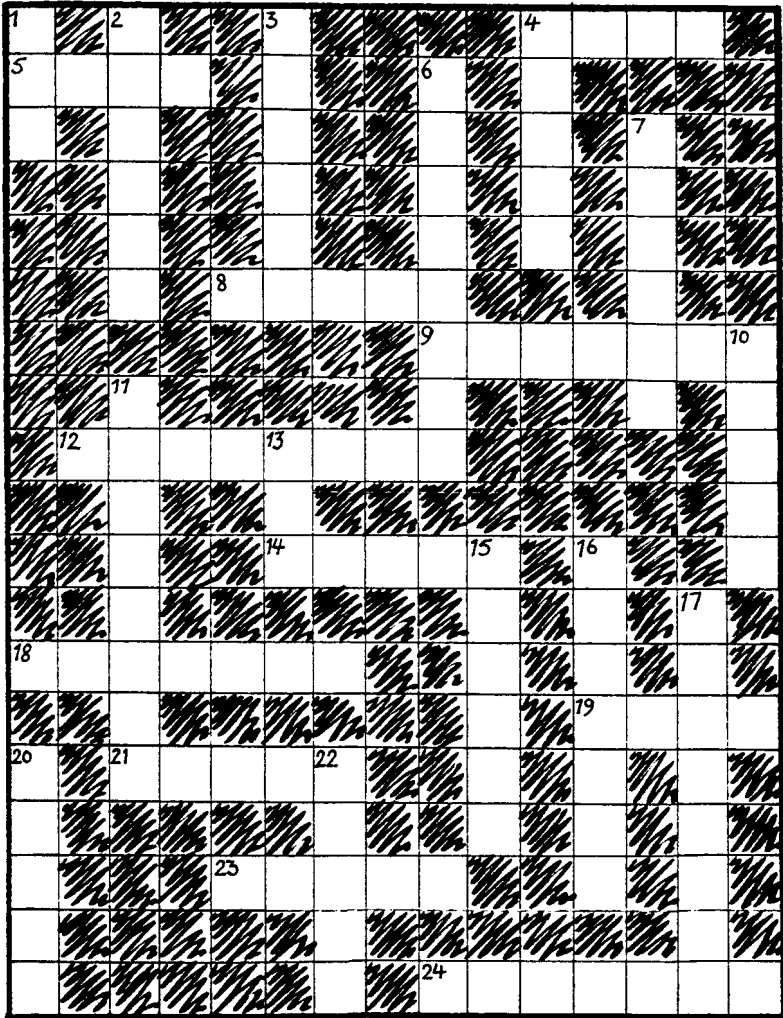
Unfortunately the con was not too well organised. There was only one con room (no alternative program), the dining room was too small to accommodate all attendees at the same time, which meant there had to be two sittings for lunch and dinner and no program for two hours, as those who were in the dining room would have missed it. The main con room was on the ground floor, the dealers' room and dining room on the 35th floor, our rooms in between scattered on at least eight or ten floors. Only two 'turbolifts' were available, with a capacity of about 30 persons each. You get the picture? Video is over, everybody wants to go to the dining room for the first sitting, but maybe they want to drop something off in their room first... The elevator has to stop at almost every floor; it takes 10 - 15 minutes till it finally reaches the top. On the way back down to pick up the next group it is stopped once more at almost every floor by those who have finished in their rooms and want to go to the dining room...

Another problem - I had the impression that the con committee was over-protective when it came to Walter Koenig. I never saw him anywhere alone. Security is fine by me, but as far as I know he did not get trampled down by eager fans at either Dixietrek or Seatrek last year, so I think they could have risked letting him pass through the hotel on his own at least occasionally!

Despite these critical remarks we all had a good time at Augsburg and I hope that there will be more conventions with guests in Germany in the near future!

ORIGINAL TREK CROSSWORD

by K Heintz



ACROSS

4. Attacker of Cestus III (4)
 5. Librarian on Sarpeidon (4)
 8. Spock's secret love? (5)
 9. He has a positive and a negative side (7)
 12. Balok's ship (8)
 14. Governor of Tarsus IV (5)
 18. The Horta will help mine for this (7)

19. The Captain's yeoman (4)
 21. She named her son Leonard James
 Akaar (5)
 22. The Romulan home-worlds Romulus
 and ----- (5)
 24. Squire of Gothos (7)

CLUES

DOWN

1. Romulan Subcommander (3)
2. Kirk's defender (6)
3. Only Kirk calls him Sam (6)
4. Grown-ups - according to Miri (5)
6. Dr Adams used his Neural Neutraliser here (8)
7. Ruler of Beta III (6)
10. T'Pol preferred him over Spock (5)
11. She should have been a computer casualty (3,5)
13. Servant to the 'Old Ones' (3)
15. Her human form didn't trick or treat the Enterprise crew (6)
16. Uhura's Darling (7)
17. This upperclassman was Kirk's own personal devil (8)
20. McCoy's old flame (5)
22. It thought Kirk was its 'father' (5)

Solution on page 74.



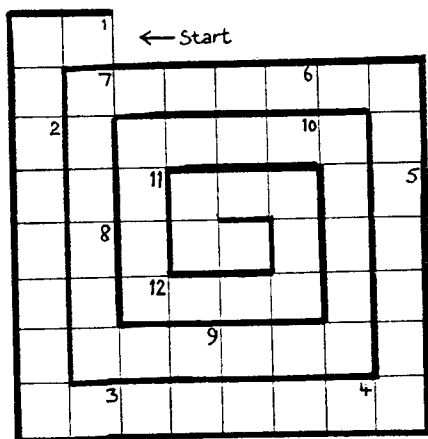
TREK-LINK

by Sara 'Jazz' Jackson

Enter answers to the clues in an anti-clockwise direction on the grid, starting at the appropriately numbered square. The end of one answer may overlap the beginning of the next.

1. Captain of NCC 1701-D
2. ----- McKenzie - Data's colonist ally in Ensigns of Command
3. Doctor Soong
4. Dr Roger Korby's female android assistant
5. Murderous entity of Vagra II
6. Vulcan ambassador
7. Kirk's Klingon counterpart in Day of the Dove
8. Chief Engineer La Forge
9. Crystals used to regulate/control the matter-antimatter reaction
10. Spock's verbal sparring partner
11. Worf's security predecessor
12. TNG two-parter

Solution on Page 74.



STOP PRESS

We have just heard that the original series will be screened on BBC2 starting sometime during the 'TV' week beginning August 15th. There is still no word on when Sky One will start showing TNG.

AT LAST, THE RESULTS OF THAT 25TH ANNIVERSARY IDIC OPINION POLL THINGY! HOORAH!

Results sorted, collated, shuffled and re-sorted by Helen White
Forms walked on and generally crumpled by Dudley the cat (sigh....)

Yes indeedy! (And other similar phrases.) You've been waiting absolutely AGES for the poll results, and heeccc they are!

Right, that's enough of that; now let's get serious. (Me, serious? Not a chance!) I've cogitated, deliberated and digested, (um) and here are all the facts and figures:

First, a few points to mention. I had 272 replies altogether; thanks ever so to everyone who took the trouble to 'fill in and return'. All the figures given are percentages; I listed all the relevant scores - and that took me, erm, rather longer than I'd anticipated, ie HOURS! - and then worked out said percentages, gosh, rounding them off to one decimal place (and yes, I do know that you don't need to put in the 0 if it comes after the point, but it looks neater, so there.)

Logically enough (ahem), we'll start with Section A: that's good old original Trek.

1. Do you like the original series?

Yes	92.0
No	0
Some	6.3
Don't know/no answer	1.8

Gosh, what a surprise. The 0% figure for 'no' does actually mean no votes at all, in this case; it's not a rounded-down figure.

2. Favourite regular character(s)

1. Spock	27.0		
2. McCoy	21.3		
3. Kirk	18.3		
4. Scotty	8.9	9. Chapel	10.7
5. Sulu	7.2	10. Kyle	0.3
6. Chekov	6.4	Rand	0.3
7. Uhura	6.2	11. Riley	0.1
8. All of them	3.4		

No surprises here, either. Quite a few people voted for all the 'Big Three', and plenty for either Kirk and Spock or Spock and McCoy. One somewhat enthusiastic person voted for, "Spock, Spock and Spock"!

3. Favourite regular actor(s)

1. Nimoy	32.8		
2. Shatner	23.1		
3. Kelley	18.7		
4. Takei	7.4	9. Majel Barrett	0.6
5. Doohan	5.9	10. Mark Lenard	0.2
6. Nichols	5.5	Eddie Paskey	0.2
7. Koenig	3.6	None of them	0.2
8. All of them	2.1		

It was obvious from the start that Mr Nimoy would win this. Lots of people voted for 'Nimoy and...' (fill in the gap). It was interesting to find how many people voted for a different actor than that playing their favourite character. I suspect that some of the voting in this section was heavily influenced by convention appearances of actors: George Takei, for example, has been here many times and is a very popular guest.

4. Favourite guest character

1. Sarek	44.0		
2. Harry Mudd	11.3		
3. Khan	9.7		
4. Edith Keeler	3.28.	Gary Seven	2.4
Kor	3.2	Cyrano Jones	2.4
Trelane	3.2	Kevin Riley	2.4
7. Amanda	2.8		

Again, it was obvious here who was going to win. I suspect the fact that Sarek has been in most of the films and in a couple of TNG episodes had more than a little influence on the voting.

5. Favourite guest actor

1. Mark Lenard	51.2		
2. Ricardo Montalban	11.5		
3. Roger C Carmel	5.7		
4. William Campbell	3.88.	Jill Ireland	2.4
5. John Collicios	3.39.	Michael Ansara	1.4
Joan Collins	3.3	Robert Lansing	1.4
Diana Muldaur	3.3		

Apart from the first place, the voting here was very much closer than in the previous category. But for the fact that he belongs to the films and not original Trek, Christopher Lloyd would have been in ninth place! As it is, I disqualified him: sorry. Well, I'm not really, but it sounds more polite, doesn't it?

6. Favourite episode

1. The City on the Edge of Forever	21.2
2. The Trouble with Tribbles	9.5
3. Journey to Babel	9.2
Amok Time	9.2
5. Mirror, Mirror	4.3
6. The Empath	3.4
7. A Piece of the Action	2.8
8. The Devil in the Dark	2.5
This Side of Paradise	2.5
10. Balance of Terror	1.8
The Doomsday Machine	1.8

Well, yet another non-surprise.... I find it interesting that so many 'favourites' are Vulcan orientated; perhaps Vulcanophiles (um) like filling in forms!?

7. Least favourite episode

1. Spock's Brain	18.0
2. The Way to Eden	9.8
3. And The Children Shall Lead	6.1
Plato's Stepchildren	6.1
5. The Alternative Factor	5.1
6. Let That Be Your Last Battlefield	4.1
7. The Omega Glory	3.1
8. The Apple	1.7
Charlie X	1.7

Coming soon!... the film results!... well, it's getting really boring trying to find different ways to say, "How totally unsurprising this result is."

A lot of people responded to my suggestion that those unable to remember an episode title should describe it; there were also a few comments on episode content from people who did know the title.

In no particular order, then:

(Return of the Archons) "The one where the cast are walking around like zombies, carrying long sticks."

(The Way to Eden) "....with the hippies in it ("Hey man, this is really now...." etc)"

(LTBYLB) "Black and White Minstrel Show...."

(The Alternative Factor) "Two chaps with stringy beards ended up fighting forever in a corridor between two universes."

(By Any Other Name) "When (the) crew was turned into cubes and one was crushed, then suddenly the story from there on turned into a comedy!"

Well, here we are at section B, the films.

1. Do you like the films?

Yes	84.6
No	1.1
Some	14.0
Don't know/no answer	0.4

2. Please list the films in order of preference, favourite first.

1. ST4:TVH	27.2
2. ST2:TWOK	25.7
3. ST3:TSFS	21.0
4. ST:TMP	13.4
5. ST5:TFF	12.7

When I designed the form, ST6:TUC wasn't out, but by the time the forms were being returned, some people had seen it, and voted for it amongst the others. To get the figures above, I just ignored all mentions of ST6 and treated it separately. Out of 37 votes, 20 people would put ST6 in first place, 8 in second, 4 in third, 3 in fourth, and one each in fifth and sixth places.

Comments:

(ST5:TFF) "I hate them" (the films in general) and "I reserve special hate for STV."

(Re putting them in order of preference) "I hate doing this!"

(ST6:TUC) "Hated it."

(ST6:TUC) "The latest is so good I hope they end with it."

End of part one.

Yes, it's in two parts, so you'll have to wait until the next n/l appears before you find out the rest of the results. Gosh.

☆☆☆☆

GOOD CONVENTIONEERING

by Lee Sansome

I'd like to make a few observations about the recent SOL III and conventions in general. Although I've kept up with the films and TNG, SOL III was my first convention for 8 years, as I've been out of Fandom, producing my own 'next generation'. I was quite worried that going back might be a disappointing experience but I'm glad to say that I had a wonderful weekend. This was entirely due to meeting up with so many old friends and being made to feel very welcome, despite my long absence. So, to all of you who came up and said hello and welcome back, a heartfelt thank you!

I mention this because, like Janet (Postbag, N/L 22), I was very sad to see a rift developing at the con between those fans who attended primarily to watch the latest episodes and those who went along mainly for social reasons. I understand that not everyone has access to new episodes at home and there is undoubtedly a place for episodes at conventions (after all, there is nothing like watching Trek within a large audience of Trekkers - the atmosphere is unbeatable!) but I would like to point out to the 'videophiles' that the best place to meet people who do have access to the latest episodes - and are prepared to let you join their circuit - is at a convention!

If you emerge from the video rooms for long enough, you discover the best thing about Star Trek conventions: animated discussions at the bar (or on the stairs and just about everywhere else!), room parties, good company and good friends, who are all as keen as you are to 'talk Trek'. In my humble opinion, it's a sad day indeed when a party is cancelled in favour of an episode.

That said, I realise that, in my absence, the Trek scene has changed a great deal. Back in the early 1980s when, as Lee Owers, I was involved in running conventions, we had a new film every so often (which most people had seen before coming to the con but were happy to see again at some point over the weekend) but there were no new episodes. A couple of smallish video rooms constantly running all the Classic Trek episodes were enough to satisfy the needs of those of us who didn't have a video recorder at home (yes, there really were - and are - people without videos!) or those who enjoyed watching the odd episode in the company of fellow fans. Nowadays, with TNG, we have many more episodes to choose from and new ones coming out all the time, many of which have not yet aired in this country. This obviously calls for different tactics when screening episodes at conventions, as they need to be given a much higher profile.

I personally don't think that too much of the main hall programme should be taken up with new episodes. What we need, instead, are venues which, in addition to the main hall, have another large function room with a capacity of, say, 200 - 300, which can be used as a cinema, constantly running TNG and repeating the very latest episodes several times over the course of the weekend. In addition a smaller video room could run the usual programme of Classic Trek - not just for us 'oldies' but to allow new fans to discover the series which began the legend! Also the showing of newish, non-ST, science fiction films which always used to be quite popular but this didn't appear to be the case at SOL III. Perhaps these items should be dropped in future, or shown in a small video room, not on a large screen.

These arrangements would leave the

main hall programme free to concentrate on 'live' items, such as guest talks, discussion panels, auctions etc. Opening up this programme would force committees to be more creative in thinking up new items, and hopefully would prevent the kind of boredom experienced by Helen White (see her report on SOL III in N/L 22 - which in point of fact neatly illustrates the fact that not everyone wants to watch episodes! You truly can't please all the people all of the time!) Since the 'cinema' would operate into the evenings, there would be no conflict with parties, fancy dress etc and it would also do away with the need for frequent changing of the main hall set-up from live-item to cinema mode.

These are not radical ideas and I am well aware that all the present Con committees have probably already thought along similar (or better!) lines. Also it is very easy to criticise or make smart suggestions when you're not in the hot seat. So, to all of you who have never been on a con committee, spare a thought for those who have/are: they are only Human, they make mistakes and, hopefully, put them right next time if given the chance.

If you have a grievance at a convention, by all means voice it (far better than griping about it afterwards) but do it in a civilised way. I know people who couldn't get into the TNG rooms at SOL III were angry, but there was no excuse for the 'rule of the mob' attitude which developed one evening. Nor was there any call for publicly bawling out a committee member or verbally abusing stewards who were only trying to do their (unpaid) jobs. Courtesy costs nothing. Take your grievance and your umbrage off to the committee room and state your case there. Hopefully something can be done about your problem then and there and, if not, the reasons why can be explained to you and perhaps your suggestion can be put to use next time. But for heaven's sake let's be civil to one another! Whether a committee member, a steward or an attendee, we're all there for the same reason: we love Star Trek and we want to share that love with other people who feel the same. Nobody in this country is being paid to run conventions. Doing so involves a lot of hard work and responsibility and their

only reward is the enjoyment of others and the feeling that they are putting something back into the fandom that has given them so much pleasure. For your £25 (or whatever the registration fee happens to be) you should expect to be entertained for most of the weekend, or be given the opportunity to find ways of entertaining yourself; paying that fee does not give you the right to make demands or be obnoxious!

One last point before I get off my

soapbox; if you have a good idea for a convention item or a point to make about programming, why not pass it on to a committee? The addresses are always listed in the convention ads in the N/L. Good ideas are always welcome. Or, if your head is simply full of them, why not consider forming a committee and putting in a bid to run your own convention? But beware; however well you think you're doing, someone, sometime, will knock on your committee room door and disabuse you of the notion!

☆☆☆☆

WHY ARE WE WRITING?

by Chris Blenkarn

I was rather mystified to find myself being accused in the last newsletter (22) of ageism following a totally non-serious piece I wrote about Janice Rand. I presume that the reader in question took offence at my poking fun exclusively at the sixties aspect of the original series and thought this was done on purpose to exclude fans who were not around then. No; seriously, it was just a joke. You may recall Leonard Nimoy doing the same in STIV - rather better than I ever could - in the scene in which Kirk explains away his and Spock's disconnected conversation with Gillian by telling her that Spock was at Berkeley. Now I do not know if all younger people picked up the inference but it's a funny line, well delivered, and I would've been sorry if Nimoy had left it out because he thought not everyone would necessarily get the joke. If you left out every allusion that would not be universally understood, there wouldn't be much to read or watch. I cannot believe it took away younger people's enjoyment of a delightful film.

No writer can reach everyone all of the time. You can only put down what you want to share and hope that somebody out there will be on the same wave-length. Language is a very imprecise medium, and the listener/reader has to take into account the tone and context in which it is being used. That the intention to give people a laugh can be so perplexedly misread shows how difficult it

can be to do this, especially when readers are unknown and diverse.

There must be many of us who know very few other fans personally but who enjoy writing and want to share our enjoyment of ST by doing what comes naturally, and it's always difficult to know where to pitch your gilded prose. Just think for a moment about the oft-repeated 'going baldly' joke: from Patrick Stewart it is self-deprecating humour and therefore funny (well, it was the first time) but the same joke from the Sun is snide and banal, because they have no idea what ST is all about. When reading something produced by fellow fans, whether fiction or non-fiction, we should all be wary of jumping to conclusions about the author. We are not all going to share the same perceptions, neither are we particularly likely to be skilled professional writers and a degree of misinterpretation is always possible. However, we should bear in mind that fan writers write from affection, not for gain, and whatever the quality of the end result it takes a lot of effort. So let us take what is offered in the spirit in which was demonstrably intended, even if the author's viewpoint is something we do not share.

The same principle holds true for fiction and non-fiction. Any story will be driven by its author's view of the spirit of ST as embodied by the characters and their

relationships. So next time you see a story featuring a chess game, Hornblower, a collapsed cave, McCoy's dress collar or that bloody Masfield poem, remember they may be fresh to another reader. If like me you have the talent of a below-average gerbil for thinking of ANY original plot, let us stay aware of our own limitations. If someone has a favourite character and you think he's a pain in the bum, remember that we all minimise our favourite's faults (not that MY favourite has any, naturally) and maximise his/her virtues. Just like real life. Don't we all sometimes wonder what our friends and family see in their latest beloved? Hopefully we don't therefore automatically assume they are misguided and we have seen the light. Equally, if someone writes an article on a subject that leaves you cold, then read on: there will always be some writer who will strike a chord.

Different writers means different personalities, which arise in part from different experiences and different ages. This is nothing to do with exclusions or any 'ism'. It is everything to do with making use of what you've got. Respond positively, debate rather than dispute. Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combination implies an agreement to differ. There should not be any place in ST for truculent, doctrinaire opinions and acrimonious exchanges, for to put forward one view is not to exclude others. To paraphrase Snow, "Only connect, not only correct." You cannot hope to please everybody all of the time, nor should you try, otherwise we end up with a ST which is bland, turgid and monotonous. Spock and McCoy would turn in their respective graves had they already lived.

Is ST stuck in the sixties? Obviously not. The original series has been immeasurably enhanced and transmuted by fan involvement. What makes us want to write in the context of ST? I personally feel uneasy with the view that it is a quasi-religion. Rather, I go along with the people who see it as a modern manifestation of the Robin Hood folk tradition in which ordinary common goodness and care for your neighbour are ultimately more powerful than evil. (Though as McCoy said, "If good is to

overcome evil, it had better be very, very careful.") The Robin Hood saga endured because the basic theme inspired different people to produce an enormous number of variants. And so has ST, which at its best emanates warmth and care for others. It encourages the thought that conflicts can be overcome, and because it has lasted so long we have been able to see this demonstrated in the characters' development.

Fan writers have been instrumental in creating the larger ST universe, which is much more than a sixties icon. They naturally enjoy singular advantages over the original series in how they can use the material. A TV series is constrained by practicalities. The leading protagonists will be male because studio bosses think the De Niro's of this world are bigger box office than the Streeps. The aliens employed on or encountered by the Enterprise will in general be vaguely humanoid because it's easier that way. Characters may disappear because their contracts are not renewed. Fan writers and some professionals - Diane Duane's Lt. Haraht is an example - can modify and build onto the original, going where none has gone before and often coming back by another route.

All this sounds terribly worthy. Don't let's forget that some of the most memorable ST episodes are those in which the writers have not taken things too seriously. For example, the glorious Deja Q, or Kirk & Co. in A Piece of the Action with their threat of cement overshoes/concrete galoshes. ST may be bigger than its original, but there is a lot of scope for laughter in recognising the unconscious assumptions and incongruities of the original series and its resemblance to contemporary sixties conventions. (Other TV series have mixed space saga conventions and present life to make us laugh. The Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy with its unannounced hyper-space bypass, Red Dwarf and its jokes about Lister's vindaloos and edible pot noodle). First of all is the basic series construction. All-action leading man who usually gets the girl but never quite manages to keep her; all-wise laconic side-kick who occasionally gets the girl; grumpy eccentric side-kick who gets the girl in a leap

year when the others are away filming: earnest young man who wants to be like the leading man but does not get enough practise. Hi-ho, Silver! Then add the silly costumes, psychedelic curtains, weird headdresses, I-have-a-plan-and-it-just-might-work plots, the enormous pre-microchip computers, the plastic pink rocks and the characters' stock responses.

Of course ST transcends these absurdities, but that doesn't mean we can't acknowledge them. Do we want to be seen as a bunch of pop-eyed zealots, too pompous to

see the funny side? When we laugh at them we are laughing at ourselves, and if we don't, you can bet others will. We do the spirit of ST a great disservice by being relentlessly solemn.

So if you read something and don't like it, read on. And never forget, you can be serious and still have fun.

P.S. On second thoughts, I must confess I really cannot stand to read about that damn dress collar ever again.

☆☆☆☆

WHY HURT/COMFORT

by Kay Stagg

Why indeed? A lot of people, friends and fans alike, have asked why I love Kirk to suffer. I admit freely I love reading it and I enjoy writing it and the response to the latter proves I am not the only one.

Kirk is my hero and has everything I need in a hero - looks, body, charisma in abundance, sex appeal, a delicious smile, arrogance, pride... in fact, probably every male chauvinistic trait going. This, after all, is fantasy and anything goes. It bears no resemblance to real life and so I can love the pride, the arrogance, the commanding walk, the domination of women (and yes, I love every episode where Kirk gets the woman) and I can also enjoy the element of hurt/comfort, because none of this is real... it is all fantasy.

For me the attraction of the original series, apart from the obvious attraction of one James T Kirk, was the caring and love between the main characters and it was particularly noticeable whenever either one of them was hurt. For example, the look on Spock's face when Kirk is unconscious in Empath; likewise Kirk's face when Spock is injured in Private Little War; Kirk's reaction when Spock is injured protecting his Captain; Spock's concern for Kirk (admittedly unjustified) in Bread and Circuses; Spock's

reaction when he believes he has killed Kirk in Amok Time - and who does Kirk ask for after being stabbed in Journey to Babel? Certainly not Sickbay. This is all what I call good hurt/comfort.

That element in the series made it extra special. Now I could say it is the maternal instinct, a sadistic instinct, the wish to help with the nursing and many other valid suggestions, but it comes back to the basics. I agree totally with Ginna La Croix (my most favourite writer of fan fiction) that Kirk is beautiful when he is dirty, bloody and exhausted.

Of course, I don't expect everyone and in particular any male reader to agree or understand, but then I believe hurt/comfort is a form of fiction which appeals uniquely to certain women. So perhaps it is the maternal instinct after all. On the other hand, I believe with fantasy that anything goes... there is after all no real pain, no real suffering - it is 'safe'.

So all right, this is a personal opinion, one I suspect Janet Quarton and other H/C fans agree with, but what I would like to know is, why *shouldn't* we like it? Is there a ruling somewhere that says what kind of fiction we should like? And after all is said and done, one of the greatest films ever, Gone

With the Wind, is loaded with sadness and suffering and no one can deny its success. So if anyone still doesn't understand why I love

H/C, I'd just say, "Quite frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn!"



A VERY PRECIOUS PASS

by Jane Fenn

On my recent coach tour of the US, I'd carefully planned to go and see the Star Trek exhibition at the Air & Space Museum on my free afternoon in Washington DC. I'd even phoned the US Tourist Board to check its opening hours and days, and was thrilled my visit coincided with the exhibition. I was absolutely delighted when our tour director announced that as we had arrived in Washington early we could have 3 hours at the various museums - saving my having to take a taxi there later.

On entering the museum I was appalled to discover you need a pass to get into the exhibition and they were all gone for that day (12 noon on a Saturday). I can't describe how disappointed I was. I sat down and as usual in times of stress ate the bar of chocolate I had on me - very quickly! I couldn't believe I'd come all this way and failed to see the exhibition.

After a lot of thought I decided I would try to queue next morning to get a pass. This would result in my missing visiting the Jefferson, Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials, the White House, the Capitol Building, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon. My friends had no hesitation in letting me know what they thought of this silly idea and were amazed when I said that the exhibition was only on for a limited time and all the other things would be there any time. They then, sensible souls, left for the Art Museum, while I decided to look in the door of the exhibition, at least.

I got upstairs to find quite a crowd of people complaining about the lack of passes to the two staff at the entrance; one very persistent person was told to try to come at 5

pm when they might have a chance to get in. When the crowd thinned a bit I asked if there really was a chance of getting in at 5 pm. She said, "Maybe. People drive 2 hours to get here and they find they can't get in and take it out on us." I explained that I'd come a long way and that this was my only free afternoon in Washington. The other official, who I'll always be grateful to, asked how many were in my party, and when I said one gave me a pass for 4.30 pm. I was so pleased I was in tears and couldn't even thank her properly! (I did later.)

While I waited for 4.30, I had a lovely afternoon around the museum, especially the section devoted to the Apollo missions - every now and then feeling in my pocket for my pass!

The exhibition is small, but very good. It concentrates on the original series and the motion pictures. It starts with photographs of the history and background of the series, continuing with a large lighted model of the Enterprise used in filming the series; also the Galileo, a Klingon ship, and Khan's ship from Space Seed. There are photographs and background stories on many episodes, including some censors' remarks and inter-studio memos - very amusing! Many props were on show: various types of phaser, Klingon disruptors, alien weapons, a communicator, the agoniser from Mirror Mirror, a tricorder, medical equipment, models of alien ships, tribbles, one of the tetrahedral blocks the crew were turned into in *By Any Other Name* and one of the amoeba creatures from *Operation Annihilate*. Uniforms in the exhibition were numerous - Federation and Klingon uniforms, many costumes used by women on the show and the

spacesuit from Tholian Web. You could stand and have your picture taken in a mock-up of a transporter, complete with sound effects - alas, it didn't actually work! You could also sit in a mock-up of the Captain's chair and there was a mock-up of Sulu's and Chekov's console.

Also on show were posters of the films and many items produced in the 60s and 70s with a Star Trek theme, such as children's toys, models, napkins, lunch boxes etc. At the end of the exhibition, a film ran continuously with interviews with the actors and Gene Roddenberry. Some of William Shatner's interview I found very moving - he describes a conversation he had on a plane with a man who'd been held in appalling conditions as a POW in Vietnam. The veteran felt he had kept his sanity by acting out Star Trek episodes with his comrades. William Shatner said by the end of the conversation both of them were in tears.

And that was it!

The gift shop sold the usual Star Trek items including uniforms, posters, stamps, models, toys, videos, etc. etc. etc.

The Exhibition is open in Washington until September 7th from 9.30 am till 7.30 pm. Passes are required. A limited number of free, same day passes can be obtained at the Pass Desk on a first come, first served basis beginning 15 minutes before the museum opens; each person may request up to 4 same-day passes. Advance passes are available through a company called TicketMaster; there is a 'convenience charge' of \$2.50 per pass. Passes may also be obtained at least 10 days in advance through the company's PhoneCharge service for \$3.50 per pass, plus a \$1 handling fee per order. Each order is limited to 4 passes. These advance passes are available only through TicketMaster.

☆☆☆☆

STAR TREK VI, KIRK'S REACTION

by Edwin Yau

Star Trek VI (ST6) saw a slightly different side of Captain James Tiberius Kirk. Many IDIC members, as well Star Trek fans across the world, thought that Kirk's reaction to Klingons in ST6 was not how Kirk should have reacted, especially in light of what happened in ST5.

I feel that I should put across to you a different perspective on ST6. Basically, I believe that you're all missing a few vitally important points:-

1) Most people change. Over 25 years, peoples' perspective of life and society changes. Issues which weren't important to you, say, 10 years ago, could be important to you now, and 10 years from now, those very same issues may not be important to you at all. Imagine what sort of world we would be living in if even now most of the world had not forgiven and learnt to trust the Germans

or Japanese because of World War II. A few can never do, which is understandable - thankfully most people can.

The other extreme would be developing a "hate", or even a fear of something - a phobia. The definition of a phobia is "an abnormal, persistent and morbid fear of some object or situation". ST6 was a perfect example of both these - some people on the Klingon, Romulan and Federation sides hated what peace could mean, and were afraid of the future. One of the reasons for the title "The Undiscovered Country".

As to Kirk's reaction because of his son's death, Kirk only had a month or so to get to know David - some people can "latch on" to a relative they have only known for a while really quickly, and a strong bond can form between them. If a Klingon killed your son, you'd hardly implicitly trust the next one

who comes along, would you? Once you really got to know him/her, of course, but it would take time.

2) The ST6 novel states that Carol Marcus was badly injured in Klingon attacks on the planet she was stationed, and that the Klingons had been attacking at least one other planet. This would fuel Kirk's anger.

3) What was the basic theme to ST6 and where did it come from? Well, ST6 was about the start of peace between two great empires, and the basis of this was taken from the two great empires here on Earth, the then Soviet Union and the United States Of America.

In other words, the main basis of ST6, indeed of the whole of the Classic/ Movie Trek era in general, was really reflecting on

20th century man and life as it is now. It was putting 20th century man into the 23rd century and letting them deal with 20th century problems.

Kirk & Co. dealt with their problems in an almost human 20th century way and so gave us "true-to-life" situations - they would help people as best they could and do what they thought was best, even to the point of violating the Prime Directive if absolutely necessary. Kirk himself reacted to the Federation/Klingon peace talks like an everyday 20th century man might react to the same situation. Like us, he is not a man without his flaws. In the 20th century, people are afraid of change in general, for better or for worse. In the 23rd century this is still apparent, unlike the near-perfect 24th century. As Saavik once said to Spock about Kirk, "He is so... human.", which is certainly true.



PICARD AND CRUSHER

by Jackie Marshall

I think I'm coming round to Sheila Clark's point of view, namely that there is no potential for romance between Beverly Crusher and Picard. My volte-face has come about because of an 'epic' TNG story I'm currently attempting to write with a friend. I had thought that it would be fun (and add warmth to an otherwise rather grim tale) if the two of them could finally get it together on a permanent basis. This proved a good deal easier said than done! Following my usual method of letting the characters 'take over', my first attempt at writing a romantic scene ended up with Picard having a nervous breakdown instead! This could, of course, be put down to lack of skill on my part, but experience has taught me that when characters refuse to behave as I think they should, it usually means that I've lost my grip on where they're at and am trying to force inappropriate behaviour onto them. With that in mind, I looked a little closer.

One problem is that the relationship

Beverly and Picard have right now has gone on far too long. Beverly said she was comfortable with it as it was, in season 3, and another couple of years have passed since then. For their relationship suddenly to take a more romantic turn, something needs to happen to shake them out of the cosy rut they're in. Allegiance does at least indicate that Beverly might be persuaded to rekindle the kind of interest she showed in season 1: so 'Picard' is acting pretty oddly, but she doesn't look totally averse to dining/dancing/kissing with him. But given the length of time that's elapsed, it would have to be something pretty traumatic now to bring the two of them together. Some stories might have led to a closer relationship - Sarek or Best of Both Worlds, for example - but the opportunity wasn't taken; and each time it isn't taken, the possibility that it could ever successfully be taken becomes more remote.

Picard is the main problem! He seems to believe, rightly or wrongly, that a

permanent relationship will compromise his dedication to Starfleet. This amounted, in his view, to an 'either or' situation in the case of Jenice. Judging by the circumspection with which he's conducted his private life since - ie, so that it doesn't impinge on his professional life - there's little indication that his views have changed over the years. This lends strength to the argument that a traumatic event is needed to bring him to a state where he'll accept that these two permanent relationships (with a ship and with a woman) are not mutually exclusive.

It's undeniable that Picard does feel an affection for Beverly which goes beyond that for a friend and fellow crewmember. But it just isn't enough (or he won't let it be enough) to alter what seems to be a basic tenet of his philosophy. After Jenice, I would suggest that he's avoided 'falling in love' - he's

undoubtedly very fond of Vash but that's as far as it goes. Beverly is special to him, not the least because she's his friend's widow, and therefore is deserving of more than he can give. Half a Life appears to acknowledge this when he says that whatever else he may be to her, he has been, and always will be, her friend - implying, I think, that he can't be anything more to her. A permanent relationship with her is a no-no, and it isn't in his nature to compromise their friendship and his principles for the sake of a brief fling.

He could, of course, suddenly fall madly in love and then be prepared to ditch many previous-held beliefs - but it's stretching credibility a long way to think that after five years he could suddenly fall madly in love with Beverly. Not, as I've said, without some very good reason for such a change of heart.



THE CHANGE

by Kolorth vestai Karasta (Robert Kirkwood)

Questions were asked in the last newsletter about the Klingons. I have decided to write this in answer to them.

Re the Klingon metamorphosis: according to the High Council, Klingons have only ever had one appearance. I would not dare cross the word of the Council, but I will however tell you of three unconfirmed rumours heard in the course of my travels.

The first of these is the common theory that the first Klingons to engage Federation troops were selected as to their parentage. If one parent was humanoid it was found that sometimes the Klingon DNA was suppressed and a humanoid-looking Klingon was created - such as Koloth, Kor and Kang. These Human-fusion Klingons were to be used in the Empire's invasion of Federation space to make infiltration easier. Unfortunately due to the Organian scum this invasion never took place. Obviously Klingons with a humanoid parent do not always look humanoid - such as

the emissary K'Ehleyr.

The second rumour talks of secret, genetically created Klingons for special missions into Federation space, eg Arne Darwin, who would have succeeded were it not for those horrible tribbles. It was not until interception of the Amar transmission during the V'ger incident that the true appearance of Klingons was revealed to Federation troops, causing the Federation to have a major re-think over Klingon technology and genetic engineering.

Genetics has a lot to do with the third rumour, but instead of 'making' humanoid Klingons it is said that all Klingons once looked humanoid and our current appearance is due to a genetic accident.

I've heard a few versions of how the accident happened, all of which are said to have taken place when all Klingons lived on Kling. Kling's surface is almost entirely land

mass, with very little vegetation. As a result, nearly every native animal species is carnivorous and hostile in nature. To increase this Klingon hostility before battle it is said that some scientists (who I must state were working alone without permission from the High Council) introduced a drug or virus into water and food supplies of warriors expected to go into combat. This substance irritated the scalp and forehead constantly as soon as the temperature rose above a certain point; but instead of helping combat (due to the anger this irritation caused) it actually caused the warrior so much distraction that they could not fight. The substance was banned and all materials, samples, containers etc were burned (along with the scientists). No-one realised the substance would survive the fire and grow in Kling's atmosphere until all citizens were affected. During this time the first metamorphosis took place on a warrior who survived the first experiment. The substance's side effect soon took hold of all members of the Klingon race. Kling was evacuated by many in favour of the new worlds making up the Empire, but no-one escaped the effect and in time all Klingons went through the 'change'.

Another theory about this accident deals with the release of the substance through an explosion on the Klingon moon where the genetic lab was situated. Whatever happened (if anything) turned out to be for the

best. I like my appearance as it is and would never want to look like a measly humanoid. I will, however, state once again that, according to the High Council, *nothing ever happened*, and all the information in this report is rumour and hearsay; none of it should be taken as fact.

Re Praxis - all Klingon resources at the time of the Praxis explosion were geared into the Klingon armed forces, such as the Klingon Assault Group and the Klingon Defence Force. When Praxis exploded, we simply did not have the resources to deal with the many effects this had, such as environmental collapse of the home world - the shock wave knocked the home world slightly out of orbit - and the loss of our major power supply. Our choice was clearly between continuation of our current policy of hostile 'relations' with the Federation or forced peace and the dismantling of all unnecessary weapons and ships. The latter of these two choices made it possible for us to save our world and our people, in order to fight another day.

If anyone has any other questions or even a burning desire to show your true Klingon self do not hesitate to call me at 2 Isles Terrace, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland, KA16 9JZ - Klingon Assault Group, Scotland HQ.

☆☆☆☆

CHILDREN ON STARSHIPS

by Gloria Fry

Even today in the uncivilised 20th century, children have rights. In the oh-so-civilised Federation of the 24th century, it appears that those rights have been lost.

The crew of the USS Enterprise-D (one would assume) have taken the Starfleet oath and are prepared to give their lives - if necessary - in the performance of their duty. But what of the children they are allowed to have aboard with them? The youngsters

under the age of consent are being put at risk if their parents' ship is under threat.

- Question 1 Have parents the right to put young children in such a precarious position?
- Question 2 Would any normal loving parent wish to live with the constant fear that their offspring could die at any time?
- Question 3 Could any parent live with the

- guilt of knowing that they have deliberately placed their child under threat?
- Question 4 Could a Starship commander realistically deal with an alien menace when his ship has non-essential personnel aboard?
- Question 5 Could he rely on his crew in a difficult situation to obey orders they knew could cause the death of their children?
- Question 6 Would a Federation which respects the rights and customs of all allow their own future members to live with such a risk?
- Question 7 Would Captain Picard put a young boy who had not attended the Academy on one of the most important bridge consoles?
- Question 8 Would the highly trained Starship crew not resent such a boy genius who solves problems they cannot?
- Question 9 Would Wesley's peers not detest him for hob-nobbing with the senior officers?
- Question 10 Would he be made welcome at the Academy when he finally gets there, already an ensign when the others would only be cadets?

These questions lead to the main area in TNG which lacks credibility. I cannot see how Starships could possibly function efficiently with children aboard, and I doubt if the enlightened United Federation of Planets would permit it.

"Risk is our business," said Kirk, in the 23rd century, and I think it unlikely that observation would be any less true in the 24th. Space will always be full of dangers. To take a shipload of children is the height of irresponsibility.



YESTERDAY'S ENTERPRISE

reviewed by Martin Stahl

The Enterprise approaches some kind of time distortion in space when suddenly another spaceship comes out of the distortion. At the same moment history is changed: Captain Picard is still standing on the bridge of the Enterprise. It appears to be the battle bridge - but this is the normal bridge of the Enterprise. The Enterprise is a battleship - there are no families on board. Deanna Troi and Worf are not on board either. Perhaps they don't even exist in this history. *But* - a familiar face is seen on the bridge - Tasha Yar. In this time line she wasn't killed by Armus.

The ship that has come from the distortion is the Enterprise 1701-C from 22 years in the past. Boarding parties beam over and find it damaged and many of the crew dead. Dr. Crusher returns with the female Captain Garrett: they discover that the Enterprise C was on her way to help a

Klingon outpost which had sent an emergency call when she was attacked by a Romulan vessel and only escaped through entering the time distortion.

The failure of the Federation to respond to this emergency call is what caused the war between the Federation and the Klingons.

Only Guinan, whose race has a special relationship to time, has a feeling that everything is wrong. The Enterprise should be a ship of peace with children on board. The uniforms are wrong. The Enterprise - C has to be sent back to its own time to correct the flow of time.

Picard doesn't know if he should base his decision on Guinan's feelings as he knows that he would send the Enterprise - C back to certain death. This ship is repaired as well as possible, but it couldn't resist the Romulan

attacks with less than half its crew. However, Captain Garrett and her crew choose to return to the past. Tasha says farewell to the First Officer, with whom she has fallen in love. Suddenly a Klingon warbird attacks the Enterprise - C and Garrett is killed. The First Officer takes command.

Tasha feels that something is wrong with her; in one of the most dramatic moments of the episode, Guinan tells her that she is supposed to be dead - a senseless death. Tasha feels that if she must die her death should make sense; she asks Picard's permission to transfer to Enterprise - C, where she can help and perhaps give them the seconds they need to survive. He agrees, and she joins the C.

Three Klingon warships appear and attack. Enterprise - D resists to give C the chance to enter the distortion. Riker is killed and it is only a matter of minutes before the ship is destroyed - but the Enterprise - C has reached the distortion.

Picard is standing on the bridge observing the time distortion; and Guinan asks Geordi to tell her about Tasha Yar.

Yesterday's Enterprise is one of TNG's best episodes. Although the problems of altered history are often mentioned in Star Trek (especially in *The City on the Edge of Forever*) the results are never shown as detailed as in this episode. In the 'real' history the Enterprise - C was just missing and it was never explained what happened to the ship, but peace between the Federation and the Klingons was established.

The fact that the Enterprise - C is now

just missing gives a lot of story possibilities. It could be possible that the C returns from somewhere and Tasha with it but now 22 years older. Or did she disappear at the moment the C reached the past, as history is set right now and she is dead again. There is a lot of potential for fanzine stories.

This is the first time Guinan enters the Bridge and we learn more about the special relationship her people have with time. She is not totally altered and feels that there is another history.

For the first time we see a real battle in TNG, and it is very well done. We see three bird of prey warships, although I would prefer to see the Klingon ships from ST:TMP again. I like them better than the 'green ones'.

Enterprise - C looks very similar to Enterprise - A. The greatest difference is in the warp nacelles, but the other sections show very little difference.

The uniforms from the past are the same as in ST:II and the following movies, though the pullovers are missing. Because of this lack, the people look somehow a little naked in their uniforms.

I have seen several episodes of TNG's third season now, and the season promises to be a good one with a lot of potential in the characters and stories. Yesterday's Enterprise is one of the highlights.

At the end of the episode everything is as it should be. Deanna Troi and Worf are on the Bridge again, but something is missing. Farewell, Tasha! I will miss you.



Crossword Answers

Across - 4.Gorn, 5.Atoz, 8.Leila, 9.Lazarus, 12.Fesarius, 14.Kodos, 18.Pergium, 19.Rand, 21.Eleen, 22.Remus, 24.Trelane

Down - 1.Tal, 2.Cogley, 3.George, 4.Grups, 6.Tantalus, 7.Landru, 10.Stonn, 11.Mea Three, 13.Ruk, 15.Sylvia, 16.Charlie,

17.Finnegan, 20.Nancy, 22.Nomad

Trek-Link Answers

1.Picard, 2.Ardrian, 3.Noonian, 4.Andrea, 5.Armus, 6.Sarek, 7.Kang, 8.Geordi, 9.Dilithium, 10.McCoy, 11.Yar, 12.Redemption

BOOK/VIDEO/AUDIO/GAME REVIEWS

IMBALANCE by V.E. Mitchell Pocket
TNG22 \$4.99

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This TNG novel reintroduces us to the Jarada, an insectoid race with an almost paranoid devotion to protocol, who 'appeared' in *The Big Goodbye*. However, in the book they are surprisingly friendly and willing to dispense with much of their ceremony while talking to the Enterprise crew. Then a landing party consisting of Riker, Worf, Crusher, Keiko O'Brien and biologist Tanaka disappears: they cannot contact the ship or be contacted, and their hosts separate them, ostensibly to let them see different parts of the Jaradan culture. It then transpires that the Jaradans have a major problem: they have a hive culture and a hive mentality, but many of them are going insane and this is affecting hive stability. They want Crusher to solve the problem for them - without access to the Enterprise's resources.

From the slimmest of background information presented in an episode, the author has developed a complex and believable alien race, but - although the situation was well enough advanced for the insectoids themselves to be aware that they had a serious problem - I did feel that the insanity was striking too many of the Jaradans too quickly. Having said that, I think that Mr. (Ms.?) Mitchell was also aware of that, because an attempt has been made to explain it. It probably comes down to a need for drama throughout the story.

I feel this book is better than many of the TNG novels. The author has got the characters 'right' (as I see them), it moves well, and while it might be more emotionally satisfying to end it in a different way, it is quite easy to understand why it ends the way it does.

ICE TRAP by L A Graf Titan 55 £3.99

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Nordstral: a planet caught in a world-wide ice age. There is a small indigenous

population, the Kitka, and a research station, Nordstral Pharmaceuticals, which harvests a native 'plankton' for pharmaceutical use.

The Enterprise answers a distress call, to find that a shuttle carrying station personnel has crashed and there is insanity affecting some of the researchers. Communications, the transporter and shuttles are all affected by the planet's very high magnetism.

While Uhura and Chekov head off in search of the missing shuttle, Kirk and McCoy join one of the harvesting ships - McCoy having established that all those affected by insanity have been involved with the harvesters.

While I quite enjoyed this book, I found I didn't care much how - or even if - matters were resolved. Part of the cause of the whole situation was fairly obvious as early as page 10, and while the entire cause isn't made clear until much later, it seemed to me that here we have another of the 'environmental problem of the month' situations that were prevalent in the novels of a year or two back. It also didn't help that I'd just finished reading *Imbalance*, which also had a theme of insanity running through it - a different kind of insanity but which could almost be said to have the same basic cause. Granted, the two books probably had different editors and Pocket probably considers them as being in two separate series, but... I had a few problems with credibility in other areas too; I felt that some motivations were not explained adequately.

It might be a little harsh to call it a pot-boiler. The writing is competent, but I can't help feeling that a better writer could have taken the same plot, even developed it the same way, and given it more urgency.

PROBE by Margaret Wander Bonanno
Pocket Books \$18.95

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This hard-backed sequel to *STIV:TVH* has had an on-again-off-again history. Gene

Roddenberry refused to allow it to be printed as it originally stood, and I understand this version has been extensively rewritten.

The Probe which so nearly destroyed Earth in TVH has moved away in the direction of Romulan space. Around the same time, the Romulan Praetor has died; a more moderate group is currently in (shaky) power and suggests talks with the Federation, the meeting place to be a planet inside the Neutral Zone where there are archaeological remains of interest to both sides. It is suggested that teams of archaeologists from both sides, and musicians to take part in a cultural exchange, should be included to let both sides get to know each other better. A minority group of Romulans, however, is determined that these talks should fail.

During the talks, the Probe reaches and attacks a Romulan world where intelligent marine life has been used for experimentation (and food), wiping out the 'mites' living on dry land. The Romulans immediately accuse the Federation of controlling the Probe.

The Probe meanwhile has its own problems. The mites in nearby space bubbles are trying to contact it by playing back its own messages, but it is unable to make contact with its 'creators' in order to report back and/or ask for further instructions.

I enjoyed this more than I expected to, especially the first half. The second half I thought got a bit bogged down as it tried to reach its denouement and I felt it dragging a bit. I've always said that some of the best stories are those where the plot can be described in a couple of sentences, and that is certainly not the case here. My biggest complaint with it is that although the Enterprise crew (especially Kirk) are there or thereabouts throughout a lot of it, it seems to be more about the Romulans and their internal powerplay and the Probe and its problems than the Federation.

I had some problems with the Probe's speed once it decided to head for home. I found it hard to believe that a machine capable of getting halfway across the Galaxy in a couple of days could have been

completely out of touch with its home planet for hundreds of millennia or that it revisited the worlds it found had marine intelligence so seldom. At those speeds (warp 30 is mentioned) it could have visited them at the very least once or twice a century while still leaving itself plenty of time to explore other worlds for what it considered intelligent life. Now maybe that's a quibble, but 'shrinking the Galaxy' like that does rather seem to be denigrating the vastness of space. Considering the distances it must have covered in those millennia, the Probe should also have found some refugees from its planet of origin...

One interesting point is the mention of what can only be intended to be the Borg. However, I found the inclusion of these hostile 'cubical ships' unconvincing, partly, I suspect, because of the time scale involved.

All in all, a good enough read, especially if you like the Romulans. However, I would suggest waiting until it comes out in paperback before buying it.

IMZADI by Peter David Pocket TNG hardback \$20 (UK price probably £14.99)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark.

This book starts 40 years after TNG's time. Deanna Troi is dead; Riker has never stopped blaming himself for her death and although he has been promoted to Admiral, has become the couldn't-really-care commander of a backwater Starbase.

The story then shifts backwards to cover Deanna's death on the eve of a diplomatic mission. It then shifts backwards again to Riker's days on Betazed when he first met Deanna, jumps to their joining the 1701-D, then jumps again to the diplomatic mission where she died.

At this point, Admiral Riker takes a hand. He goes back through the Guardian of Forever intending to save Deanna, who he believes should not have died - followed by Data, now Captain of the Enterprise 1701-F, who is determined that much though he regrets it, he must ensure that Deanna dies so

that history will remain unchanged.

Don't try scanning this book. With all the flashbacks it won't make sense... yet it's difficult to see how else Mr. David could have handled it. He had to establish the motivations of the 70-odd-year-old Admiral Riker so that his appearance on 1701-D made sense to the reader. The one thing I fault is that the Admiral didn't try to explain to Data just why he felt justified in trying to save Deanna's life when there was in fact a perfectly logical reason for him to assume history had already been altered. He was certainly scrupulous about not mentioning anything that would give Picard and the others any clue about their futures. (Indeed, the only ones the *readers* are told anything about are Riker himself, Data and Wesley.)

I rather liked the way Mr. David brought in Barclay (Hollow Pursuits) as a little bit of comedy relief in a segment that might otherwise have been too heavy.

Although I quite enjoyed it, I hesitate to say the book is worth hardback prices (though it's better than some of the other hardbacks). Wait for the paperback. Perhaps if we all did that every time, Pocket would stop issuing hardbacks and put all the books out in the more affordable paperback right from the start.

TRIANGLE by Sondra Marshak/Myrna Culbreath Titan 49 £3.50
Reviewed by Marysia Kolodziej

As usual in books by these authors the story is somewhat complex. The Enterprise is transporting the Oneness to Zaran through the Marie Celeste Sector where ships are constantly disappearing. During their voyage they bring on board Federation Free Agent Sola Thane, an old love of Kirk's who then proceeds to fall for Spock as well as Kirk.

The Oneness is a group mind composed of many species who believe their rapport is the future of the Universe. Another group mind, called the Totality, believes the same - however they are happy to use force to make themselves the future. They set Kirk up with Sola Thane to force her to bond with him to

open out her mental powers for their use.

The complexity and the triangular relationship is similar to Fate of the Phoenix and Price of the Phoenix by the same authors. It is a book that needs all your concentration, but is well worth the effort. It gives some interesting insight into Kirk and Spock and their friendship; however there is very little on any other characters. There is some interesting reference to the Biblical story of Job. Worth buying. 8/10

THE BEST OF TREK AND THE BEST OF THE BEST OF TREK. Publisher ROC - an imprint of Penguin Books.

Reviewed by Stephen Shaw

Trek appears to be a magazine starting round 1975 and edited by Walter Irwin and G B Love. I have not seen it advertised and the book anthologies give no addresses! The books are available from Star Tech.

THE BEST OF TREK is standard paperback size, of about 200 pages each. No. 16 was published in March 1991 and contains 15 articles, including an initial review of TNG pilot and articles on children, humanism, uniforms and a special article on The Empath. This book (as also No. 12 onwards) is just US \$3.95 + postage and is in the usual paperback binding. The contents are likely to be of interest to most Classic fans and make interesting reading.

Star Tech has issues 12 - 16 at \$3.95 and issues 1,2,4,6-8, 10 & 11 at \$3.50

As several of the earlier issues are out of print there is also an anthology of the first ten anthologies, THE BEST OF THE BEST OF TREK, with larger pages and 370 of them! It has 31 articles dated from 1978 to 1986. There are articles on Spock, women, Kirk, McCoy, immortality, music, love, a fan poll (1985) surrealism, Vulcan as a meritocracy, ST in the classroom and fan fiction, including K/S, all for US \$9.95 + postage. These books have a great deal in them at a much lower price than is normal for 'fan' works and have to be recommended.

Star Tech. PO Box 456, Dunlap, TN 37327, USA. Catalogue USS3 - it is easiest to send cash for such a small amount.

[Ed - Trek was a professional-looking magazine that ran for some 12 - 14 issues in the 70s. The editors then started putting out 'The Best of Trek' which eventually used all the material they had ever printed in the magazines. They continued with the series, using material which had never seen the pages of Trek, long after the magazine was - as far as we know - discontinued. The specialist SF bookshops in Britain also carry the books.]

VIDEO REVIEWS Nos 77/78/79 reviewed by Gloria Fry

THE SAVAGE CURTAIN by Gene Roddenberry, Arthur Heinenann

A survey of the planet Excalbia reveals only a totally molten surface, but after a scan from this seemingly inhospitable world, a presence in the form of historical US President Abraham Lincoln appears on the viewscreen. Despite misgivings, Kirk beams him aboard with full presidential honours. 'Lincoln' is charming to all and Kirk and Spock accept his offer to visit the planet - despite McCoy and Scotty's objections - where a liveable environment has been prepared for them.

The Captain and First Officer discover that they have been lured to Excalbia by the strange rocklike beings there to take part in a battle against the forces of evil as represented by four tyrants from history. On their own side is 'Lincoln' plus the legendary 'Surak' from Vulcan's past. Forced into the confrontation, Kirk prepares for the battle, but 'Surak' first tries to reason with the villains using his unique philosophy of peace, which had changed his planet's warlike people into the pacifist Vulcans of the Federation. He fails. 'Lincoln' tries to rescue him, but is caught. Kirk and Spock are faced with the deaths of their personal heroes.

After defeating the opposing forces, Kirk and Spock are allowed to leave after

demonstrating that they had only fought for the lives of their crew and not for personal gain.

This episode - despite being one of the poorer ones - introduces a tantalising glimpse into Vulcan history with the character of Surak, excellently played with quiet dignity by Barry Atwater. Lee Bergere portrayed Lincoln as a man still haunted by memories of his country's bloody civil war and there is an interesting discussion with Uhura over the word he uses to describe her; he - bothered by the term, thinking he has caused offence, but she - secure in her world with its lack of racial prejudice is not concerned. Amazing that they openly discussed the subject during the strife-ridden 60s of race riots.

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS by Jean Lisette Aroeste

Kirk, Spock and McCoy beam down to the doomed world of Sarpeidon. They find a library and its librarian, Mr. Atoz, whose function is to relocate his people into the past using his time machine, the Atavachron. As they examine different history tapes Kirk, hearing a scream, rushes through the time portal only to land in Sarpeidon's recent past. He is imprisoned, denounced for witchcraft and only escapes with the help of the prosecutor - a man from the future.

Spock and McCoy follow Kirk but arrive in the time they have been studying - Sarpeidon's ice age. They are helped by the beautiful Zarabeth, exiled from her time by a vicious tyrant. The Vulcan, affected by the time displacement, begins to revert to the emotional behaviour of his ancestors and is very attracted to Zarabeth, who in her turn falls for Spock. McCoy, understanding what is happening to Spock, goads him into anger until Spock makes the attempt to find the time portal.

They hear Kirk's voice and are guided back to the present. Spock reluctantly leaving behind the broken-hearted Zarabeth.

All Our Yesterdays is actually three different tales. 1) The destruction of Sarpeidon and its people's way of escaping.

(The use of the viewing discs which resemble today's CDs is interesting, especially as I read somewhere that the inventors of the CD got the idea from this very episode) 2) Kirk's adventure in 'Ye Olde England' phase of the past. 3) Spock and McCoy's battle with the ice age and the powerful attraction between Spock and Zarabeth.

The BBC cut several vital scenes from this, most notably Spock's confusion about trying to rescue Kirk. Without that scene it appears as if he was totally uninterested in returning to his Captain and that is highly unlikely for Spock. Mariette Hartley portrayed Zarabeth as a desperate, lonely woman who found in Spock not only a companion, but someone straight out of her favourite stories. Obviously a Sarpeidon SF fan!

Very few women ever got the opportunity to be swept up in those powerful arms, but one wonders if Zarabeth wore such a revealing outfit under her furs in the hope that someone tall, dark and handsome might arrive in her cave. If so, she certainly got her wish - lucky girl!

Definitely one of the better third season episodes, very enjoyable, especially for Spock fans.

TURNABOUT INTRUDER by Arthur Singer, Gene Roddenberry

Dr. Janice Lester, an old flame of Kirk's, lures him to Camus 2, where she exchanges bodies with him using ancient alien technology. She blames Kirk for Starfleet's rule of not allowing women command of Starships and keeps him under sedation in her body with the help of her lover, Dr. Coleman. She, in Kirk's body, relishes her power but begins to behave in an erratic manner. Kirk proves his identity to Spock during a Vulcan mind meld, and Spock, convinced that the mind swap has taken place, tries to assist his Captain. Lester/Kirk initiates court martial proceedings against Spock, but only convinces the others that Spock is correct, no matter how far-fetched the idea is. Lester/Kirk decrees the death penalty, but the mind transfer weakens

and Kirk is able to return to his own body.

Turnabout Intruder is a most entertaining episode, despite the sexist theme. Strange that in this, the last episode in a series which promoted strong female characters in positions of power and responsibility (TPau, Romulan Commander, Dr. Anne Mulhall, Areel Shaw) that the idea of a women being unable to be a Starship commander should be so blatantly presented. Granted, no-one like Lester, be they male, female, Human, Alien or whatever, has the temperament to be a Captain of a Starship, but it was unfortunate they chose to make her the old-fashioned idea of a female who was too hysterical to be able to command.

That apart, it is well done and William Shatner's portrayal of Janice/Kirk is truly delightful. He had a lot of courage to take on that part. Sandra Smith was equally excellent as Kirk/Janice, totally changing her character when in the Kirk persona. Boy - this is confusing! This trial scene is excellent, where Spock disdainfully goads Janice/Kirk.

With a little less male prejudice, this could have been a truly exceptional episode, but if we ignore that, it is still enjoyable to watch.

Certainly the female Starship Captain situation was changed in the movie ST IV, The Voyage Home, where we see a perfectly competent woman in command. Leonard Nimoy has said that he was very uncomfortable with Turnabout Intruder; I wonder if that is why he made the Captain of the USS Saratoga a woman?

VIDEOTAPE: STAR TREK BLOOPERS AND PILOT TAPE US \$24.95 + postage from Star Tech, PO Box 456, Dunlap, TN 37327, USA. Reviewed by Stephen Shaw

This is a compilation video with many small items of interest to fans of Star Trek, with an emphasis on the Classic series.

The tape starts with what appear to be three blooper films. The first is just under 6 minutes while the second is almost the same

footage but with different commentary and some new material, running for almost 7 minutes. The third is quite different and runs for over 9 minutes.

Star Tech say "the best quality we have ever seen" - I'd rather not see the worst quality! The worst fault is bad lighting, but there are also some faded colours and some film that *looks* as though it has been crumpled and thrown in the bin! It is watchable and contains plenty to watch. Well-known scenes include Spock and his lollipop, Spock and his pointy-eared son, Kirk grappling with young women, a Theiss costume which actually failed to keep everything covered in an energetic scene, and much more. My favourite was stoking the Enterprise's boilers...

After some very old program announcements and ads for the Classic series (about 1.5 minutes) we have the second pilot episode, *Where No Man Has Gone Before*. This suffers badly from wow on the opening screen, and very badly on the closing credits, but quality is otherwise good. This is the expanded version as described in the *Star Trek Compendium*, with some unusual and very effective corridor shots. Mitchell makes his gesture, reacting to a passing yeoman, in the opening titles, and it is easily missed, but the gesture is then reprised as he welcomes Dr. Dehner through the de-energised barrier into his cell on Delta Vega.

The early nature of the episode can be caught in the Spock character, who smiles and shouts with what looks like excitement - and in the wonderful phrasing "Materialiser ready!"; "Condition alert!"; "Neutralise warp!"; "Sensor beam on!" and so on. This runs for 50 minutes.

Next on the video are pieces from US TV, mainly CNN/Entertainment Tonight, a 6 minute preview of ST VI and coverage of the 25th Anniversary; ads for ST VI, three shows (total 11 minutes) covering Gene's death, with on location interviews with the cast of both series.

Followed by a TV advert by Scotty for Star Trek plates, an interview with Shatner on

the Tonight show (November 1991 - recorded from WRCB Chattanooga) in which he claims his "let them die" comment in ST VI had been edited to be harsher - you need to see the context of his claim and the way he made it before accepting that at face value, by the way!

Now a piece of British TV history, with the Powergen privatisation TV ad! and more ST VI ads and brief TV pieces on ST VI.

Coming to the close of the tape, a fairly poor recording which every fan should see as Shatner addresses a fan convention, his speech is entitled "Get a Life" and the TV show which showed it was Saturday Night Live - this only runs for 6 minutes and your editor could convince me to provide the speech in written format for this magazine.

The tape ends with a final ST VI TV ad, for a total running time just under two hours.

NOTE - This videotape is supplied in American NTSC format. There are several small ads to be found offering conversion facilities for under £13, or you could pay more than twice that with a professional facility. It is NOT difficult to have a US tape transferred. However, NTSC has a lower colour resolution than PAL, so expect to see some colour run. A few modern PAL recorders are capable of delivering a black and white picture into some PAL TVs from a NTSC tape.

I enjoyed it!

STAR TECH AUDIO TAPE ST-45, STAR TREK SPECIAL 90 minutes, USS\$8 + postage.
reviewed by Stephen Shaw

This compilation tape is composed of three items - The Voyage of Star Trek, host John Leader, a one-hour radio special from 'The Source' (I thought that was a US computer bulletin board!) Produced in 1982 for Star Trek II, this show contains many interviews with the Classic cast and with Roddenberry, Meyer, Montalban, Bjo Trimble, D C Fontana, Bobby Walker

(Charlie X). The Story of Star Trek is told, moving very rapidly from 1952 to 1963! and there is a spoof radio ad based on ST for Hermes of Seattle (a haberdasher's?). The radio show was taped from NEW-FM on 102.7!

Second entry is from NBC 'Today'. ST II items broadcast on June 2nd, 3rd and 4th, with interviews with Meyer, Montalban, Sallin (producer) and Ken Ralston (ILM). Third is an extended interview with Shatner, not all Trek, but he is quite a character!

This tape will be of interest to many ST Classic fans and is very inexpensive apart from the postage!

Star Tech, PO Box 456, Dunlap, TN 37327, USA. Catalogue US\$3 - it is easiest to send cash for such a small amount.

RECORD - STAR TREK STORIES - Peter Pan Industries 8168 (c)1979
Reviewed by Stephen Shaw

"Original stories for children inspired by Star Trek".

Note the number and the story titles - there were several records issued and no identifying title for each record apart from the contents!

The record reviewed contains four stories. The actors, musicians and music composers are all anonymous. The only credits are to Paramount and to the story authors.

A MIRROR FOR FUTILITY by Alan Dean Foster relates the story of two robot ships, battling each other for all eternity. The actor playing Kirk makes a slip on this track - referring once to the United Federation of Peoples. The story line is a little anti-war.

THE TIME STEALER by Cary Bates & Neal Adams tells of an organism which slows down time in its vicinity. The Enterprise after escaping the affected area, meets a battleship with two living organisms on board, who are beamed aboard. They are an axe-wielding barbarian and a sorcerer.

Well, one thing leads to another and the sorcerer obtains the assistance of the computer and the entire Vulcan heritage to deflect the time stealer from the planet it has been affecting for some little while. Enterprise then learns that the entity is a baby searching for its mother, who is found and reunited with her baby. One thing concerns me - if a planet or a space ship is subjected to a slowing of time, how do the inhabitants learn of this? Some deep physics here...

THE LOGISTICS OF STAMPEDE by Alan Dean Foster is set on a newish agricultural colony, subject to six yearly plagues of an important predator (good ecology in this one) and the elegant way our heroes solve the problem without seriously upsetting the ecological balance.

TO STARVE A FLEAVER by Alan Dean Foster brings us to a world applying to join the Federation. The story implies this is also a first contact (?) as the inhabitants carry a parasite, and when they beam up to the Enterprise for talks, all the crew are affected. Pretty standard first contact rules on non-contamination are clearly disregarded here! The little parasites live on good healthy positive emotions, and if you don't feel too good, they make you laugh by tickling you! Ridding the Enterprise of the infestation is easy - the crew just have to think sad thoughts for a little and the tiny creatures quickly starve to death. There is a pun here about laughter being infectious.

"Four all new stories - each action adventure written and recorded exclusively for this album." The only copyright ascribed is to Paramount, so possibly these are "official"? They form an interesting new series of stories, after the TV series, films, books, fan stories and comics. Perfectly suitable for radio transmission - anyone from the BBC out there?

The best source for ancient material like this would be Tom's Sci Fi Shop, PO Box 56116, H Hts, IL 60656-0116, USA. Catalogue (to the UK) US \$6 - cash in dollar bills is suitable for a small amount like this. Tom specialises in the old and rare, the material no longer manufactured.

COMPUTER GAME REVIEW

STAR TREK: 25th ANNIVERSARY Pub. by Ultra Games, price £29.95ish. For Nintendo Game Boy. Reviewed by Helen White

The idea behind this game is a simple one: the Doomsday Machine is approaching Earth, bent on consuming it as a mid-morning snack. However, the Federation have invented a huge disruptor, and have sent the USS Excelsior to go and 'reason' with the planet-killer. But.... the Klingons thought that the disruptor was for use against them, have pinched it, broken it up and scattered the resultant twelve pieces on three planets. Deary me! Unless Captain Kirk can find the pieces of disruptor and get rid of the Doomsday Machine pretty sharpish, Earth could end up as large-planet-shredder-type-fodder....

As Captain Kirk, you set off - aboard the Enterprise, of course - through a very crowded area of space: through asteroid belts, space amoebae, web-spinning Tholians, beach-ball-launching Klingons (I swear that's what they are!) and cloaking Romulans, and eventually make planetfall on Neural. You then face further perils in your efforts to find the disruptor pieces and get back to your ship: the place is infested with radioactive moss, spiky plants, and large tribes of mugatu, and the disruptor pieces are disguised as rocks. Luckily, you have your trusty tricorder, with which you identify objects and locate the 'rocks'. Your phaser has two settings: 'stun', which is unutterably pathetic and useless, and 'kill', which does. It also destroys spiky plants, small piles of rocks, and mugatus, although it unfortunately doesn't affect the moss. Darn it! If you are damaged in any way, your life force indicator drops accordingly, until you eventually fall down in a heap. You do have three lives, however, so after a 'rest' you spring back to your feet, thoroughly rejuvenated. Throughout the game, you receive helpful tips from Spock and Bones, who have gone elsewhere and seem to be avoiding your company. Could it

be the garlic bread that you ate last night?... They both spend a lot of time telling you about hazards that you encountered half an hour ago: one of Spock's favourites is to warn you about the approach of 'a tribe of mugatus' as you are being attacked by them.... However, you eventually locate all four pieces of the disruptor and leave Neural, aiming at Kalanda and the next four.

What a brilliant game! It was obviously written by someone who knows Star Trek: the names are right, the graphics are excellent, and the sound effects and music are superb. The game opens with the title music from original Trek, which sounds hilarious, and as you progress through the game you get different background music depending on what you're up to. The three planets are all different, with different hazards to negotiate and different landscapes. On the last planet, Triskelion, you even get to use a transporter system - great fun! The game only has one fault, which is that it's very, very difficult until you get used to it: I condemned the Earth to snack-dom about fifty times before I got the hang of it.... However, if you've got a Game Boy and you like Star Trek, get this game!

STAR TREK THE FINAL FRONTIER Board Game, BM! Toys and Games Ltd, £11.99 from Empire Stores Catalogue. Reviewed by Michael Sadler.

The box is large but on opening it you find it is padded out, you only get a few pieces of card. You have to pull out the two sets of playing cards yourself. The game mainly consists of moving around a path and if you land on the wrong square you move back or forward two spaces.

I don't think the game is value for money and I'm not sure if it is officially licensed. It calls Uhura - Ohura, Romulan - Romulon, Star Trek - Startrek, USS Enterprise - SS Enterprise and says copyright Paramount Pictures - instead of "Paramount". Rating 0.

NEW ZINES

Where necessary, check Zine Ads for ordering details.

ScoTpress/IDIC

IDIC LOG 10 - ENCOUNTERS AND COUNTERMOVES A novel by Nicole Comtet. This is set some time before ST II:TWOK. Kirk is an Admiral, and Captain Spock is an instructor at the Academy. He takes a group of cadets on a training cruise, using the Enterprise. Unfortunately things do not go as smoothly as he might hope for; there are two stowaways on board, both of whom manage to provide Spock with problems. Although Kirk is not on board, others of the original crew are present as experienced personnel. £4.00

IDIC LOG 11 - Kirk & Spock go in search of a missing survey team - but things go badly wrong; Spock joins the Enterprise; the ruler of a planet sends to the Federation to ask for help against the Klingons; when Peter Kirk goes missing, Spock goes in search of him; and others. 98 pages, £4.00

MAKE IT SO 10 - An Away Team beams down to rescue a group of diplomats who are being held hostage; something unseen is attacking Riker; Yar appears on board the Enterprise... some time after her death; a newly terraformed planet suffers a severe earthquake; Riker, Worf, Data & La Forge find themselves in a world populated by 'fairies'; a primitive tribe captures Riker... for a specific reason; and others. 100 pages, £4.00.

Pat Mitchell

MOMENTS IN TIME - an adult ST:TNG zine featuring short stories which look beyond aired episodes, by Pat Mitchell. When she said, "It never happened", did Tasha erase Data's memory?; Picard, Crusher and Keel pledge friendship; something "unusual" happens between Dr. Crusher and Picard's "doppelganger"; and others. The zine contains adult material and will not knowingly be sold to anyone under 18. £5.50.

☆☆☆☆

ZINE REVIEWS

RETURN TO THE SOURCE by Nicole Comtet Reviewed by Katrina Heintz

Spock has returned to Vulcan on shore leave as a guest lecturer at the Vulcan Academy; but there is a second, more important, reason for the visit, and only a few selected persons know of it, including Kirk and Sarek.

Due to leaks in Starfleet communications, Spock is being used as a courier. Before he can complete his mission he is kidnapped. Only by a collaboration by the Vulcan Academy and Kirk is Spock finally rescued.

A thoroughly enjoyable story, especially to Spock fans.

Return to the Source, ScoTpress, £3.25

THE GAMES OF MAGELLAN by Rod Summers Reviewed by Katrina Heintz

The Enterprise is sent to investigate a 200-year-old distress signal from a lost sleeper ship. On arrival, they find that survivors had colonised a nearby planet. The group first to be contacted, led by Adam Ransom, heads a quasi-religious society based on what was called 'The Life Games'. Two members of the away team vanish, the

remainder are rescued just before they are to be executed.

Picard decides to beam down himself, taking with him Guinan; they are also kidnapped. Picard, Guinan and the two missing security personnel find themselves with the 'Dissidents' who are led by David Henrik.

A war between the two factions has been going on for over 80 years. Ferengi interest accelerates the problem and the war is reaching a climax. Genocide seems to be inevitable for one or both sides. An answer is found with a borderline violation of the Prime Directive: no other solution would work in time.

A good story but the ending was slightly abrupt.

MAKE IT SO 8 published by ScoTpress, £4 reviewed by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

Ruth Mellor's cover sets up the whole thing. A well-drawn, not too overstated drawing of Guinan which has managed to show the character as well as features. Her other two drawings are equally low-key and effective, though I noticed one of my own artistic escapes in one of them (no offence, Ruth, I have a similar problem!)

The contents were varied and unusual. Helen Connor's poems were short, to the point, and references not overt but easy to place. Well done.

I suffer from the problem of accurately placing a story within the TNG continuity - my list of stardates is rather heavily annotated by now, so trying to place some of the stories accurately was understandably difficult. Perhaps I'm too much of a perfectionist but a stardate would make things much easier.

Coming Home by Morag Phillips suffers no such problem. The account of Beverly's return to the Enterprise is well done, balanced by the use of the minor characters as well as the main one.

Prize for the funniest goes to Watch

Out For The... by Lorraine Goodison. Excellently written, it doesn't try to be overtly funny, it just is. The last line is an absolute gem.

Genesis by Gaile Wood is well thought out, if a little slow going at first. The characterisations are clear and accurate: I could hear the voices of Jonathan Frakes and Michael Dorn speaking some of the lines. However, I would make one tiny point. Despite its use in The Host, there is no such word (in English or American) as 'symbiont'. The word is 'sympiot'.

Double Trouble by Lisa Dearnley Davison will either be plainly evident or - as I found it on first reading - highly confusing. It did become clearer later, fortunately, as it is a good story. Officers working under sealed or secret orders rarely make coherent stories; this is a very good attempt at one.

To Elena Bond's C'Est La Q. The female of the species does indeed appear to be deadlier than the male. As if giving Picard a multicoloured Mohican haircut and inflicting something unmentionable on Data were not enough - which though funny was injurious to the character, besides being impossible for an android - she then proceeds to lavish her attention on Riker... What a choice! Riker fans will love it. But please, come back John de Lancie, all is forgiven!

If you're a Riker fan you'll love it. All the stories are well-written and of good length, no wasted pages - something I find in the professionally-written novels time and again. If this is the standard of all IDIC's writers then I can recommend it... especially for someone like me who, after reading a professional novel, says, "I can do better than that!" These writers have proved it.

NAKED NOW ONE reviewed by Sheila Clark

This zine of Picard/Crusher stories is a 48-page A5 publication containing nine stories varying in length from short to very short. The writing is very good throughout and although one or two of the plots seem a trifle contrived, once you suspend disbelief they are well developed.

Possibly the best story in the zine is Love's Edge. Picard has to undergo a routine test to prove that his loyalty to Starfleet still takes precedence over other loyalties.

Hypnotised into believing it is happening, he is subjected to an incident in the holodeck, with Troi, Crusher and a visiting doctor (Pulaski) supervising. However, something goes slightly wrong with the test, and the result is something of a rewrite of City on the Edge of Forever (since the test involves going through the Guardian of Forever). It's very well handled, and I'd say the zine is worth getting for this story alone.

Look to Your Dreams is another nicely handled story - Picard and Riker are invited to dinner by way of Valentine cards, their hostesses - of course - being Crusher and Troi

(though it follows Picard and Crusher). As a story, it's a little bit of fluff, but it's entertaining fluff.

Picard/Crusher love stories aren't my usual choice of reading, but if you are a Crusher fan, and think the idea of a romance between Captain and Doctor is - well - romantic, this is a zine you'll thoroughly enjoy.

Available from Hummers Ink (see zine ads) this zine costs R3.50 inside South Africa. The inside cover blurb says 'Foreign - make me an offer'. Since the zine reached me in a packet with one or two other things (and I had to sign for it, which means extra postage), I can only make a guess at what the postage for the zine alone would be, but I'd guess that R7 or 8 would be a reasonable offer.



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 10 - ENCOUNTERS AND COUNTERMOVES by Nicole Comtet. The Enterprise under Captain Spock is on a training cruise. U.K.£4.00

IDIC LOG 7, 8, 9, 11 - 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 87 - after Amok Time: McCoy and Spock go to survey

a planet: Spock contracts a fatal disease; and others U.K. £4.00

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 U.K. £3.90; **84** U.K. £3.80; **83** U.K. £3.70. - short stories by various writers.

MAKE IT SO 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 - 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 11 on.

CHOSEN BROTHER by Gloria Fry. Sequel to Gift Beyond Price and Kindred Spirit.. set after Where No Man Has Gone Before. U.K. £3.15

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.

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. Kirk as a naval Captain, circa 1939, investigates the sinking of the Royal Oak at Scapa Flow. 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, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; 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.

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For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage table.

Weight	Air	Surface
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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.

CANDLES OF THE NIGHT - mostly TNG, some Classic Trek & a Trek/Quantum Leap crossover. U.S. \$11; Outside US/Canada, addressed envelope and 2 IRCs for price.

We are authorised to reprint the following fanzines - Stardate Unknown 1 - 5, R & R, Archives, Showcase, Masiform D. Grup, Quartet + 2, all T'Kuhlian 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 - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. **Please note change of address. The Trowbridge Road address was a box number which is no longer operating.** Authorised US agent for ScoTpress, IDIC, BSFR, Pat Mitchell & Kay Stagg. Janet Ellicott (see below) is acting as Bill's agent in Britain - SAE her for British prices.

Greycloud Services

Large number of zines available in several fandoms. US Star Trek zines include **DEFORREST KELLY COMPENDIUM (£14); ENCOUNTERS (£10.50); HELL-GUARD 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 stories, 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. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

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 - 32** available.

New - **HEARTS OF FIRE** a K/S novel by Elizabeth Scott - an intriguing mystery, and lots and lots of love. **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 - VI 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 & 4** - 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 Jones. Order from Jacqueline Comben, Post Cottage, Rhossili, Gower, Swansea, SA3 1PL, South Wales. Price: £1.25 for EO members, £1.75 for

others. Add 35p for Postage and packing. Cheques in sterling only to Enterprise Originals.

BSFR

IN NEED OF REPAIR Wesley is kidnapped and in mortal danger; can the crew rescue him in time? Price £3.00 for BSFR members, £3.50 for non members.

I.Q. Gary Mitchell is back; so is Q. Picard has one of those days. Price £3.50 for BSFR members, £4.00 for non members.

BEST OF VOYAGER 2 Some of the very best articles and features from early Voyagers.

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We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell BSFR zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

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.

FOREVER PRODUCTIONS

EDGE OF FOREVER III - includes a 60,000 word novel, **THE GUMSHOE INCIDENT** by S Bookman. Kirk and Spock return to Iotia a year after negotiating 'a piece of the action'. What's going on is murder! **ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE** by J Miller - Janice Rand is missing. **DISCOVERIES** by M Pecor - Kirk, Spock & McCoy anticipate their new working relationship at the

beginning of the 5-year mission; and others. Europe air. \$25.00. Also available, **EDGE OF FOREVER II**, Europe air. \$20.00 and **EDGE OF FOREVER I**, Europe air, \$15.00; **THE TREKZINE TIMES**, a letterzine about fanzines, featuring articles about publishing, editing, writing, etc; as well as featuring readers' letters. Published quarterly, Europe air \$16.00. For detailed info send 2 IRCs to Forever Publications, Dept 1D, PO Box 75, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276, 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** in the pipeline. **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. U.K. £7.00, Europe £8.50, USA \$23, Australia £9.50, Canada £9.00; 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 Croesor', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 2HG. 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. SAE for price to 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 Preservers' 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.

Spotlight - Leonard Nimoy International Fan Club

Zines available. For details send SAE to Carol Davies, 77 The Ridings, Ealing, London W5 3DP.

MOMENTS IN TIME, an adult TNG zine of short stories by Pat Mitchell. 100+ pages, spiral-bound. Send SAE for flyer. Will not knowingly be sold to anyone under 18. Prices include p&p: UK £5.50, Europe £6.50, USA \$15 (air), \$12 (surface). Other countries send IRC for price. Sterling and dollar cheques accepted payable to Pat Mitchell. Order from: 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England. Note: Should be available in US from Bill Hupe, send him SASE for price.

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.

Hummers Ink

NAKED NOW ONE - a zine of Picard/Crusher stories. R3.50 within South Africa; foreign, "make me an offer". Available from Marina Bailey, P.O. Box 74151, Turffontein, Johannesburg 2140, Rep. of South Africa.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM, an occasional not-quite monthly newsletter of media & SFAN news from Bjo Trimble. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$5 Bulk mail, \$8 First Class, Canada \$9 Air Printed Matter, Overseas \$12 Air Printed Matter. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, 2059 Fir Springs Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339-1701, USA.

HiFi Media

M3 - an A5, laser printed, 32 page, multi media zine. Facts, fiction and fun!

M3 : ISSUE ONE - We look at the various remakes of STAR TREK, gauging the fan reactions to them and offer **OPINIONS** on whether the original series is worthy of the title "Classic". We take an indepth look at **SAPPHIRE AND STEEL**, reminisce about **THE CLANGERS**, detail the video anti copying system **MACROVISION** and present photos and comments on rarer items of telefantasy **MERCHANDISE**. Also the first part of the hilarious **DOCTOR WHO AND THE ATTACK OF THE TARGET WRITERS**. Who exhibitions in Paisley, and **WAFFLE!**

M3 :ISSUE TWO - Available 1st October. We consider Honor Blackman and Diana Rigg **AVENGERS** episodes, take an indepth look at **MAX HEADROOM**, compare **STINGRAY** with **VOYAGE TO THE**

BOTTOM OF THE SEA and **NEXT GENERATION** novels with **DOCTOR WHO** New Adventures novels. **OPINION** considers possible formats for a new series of **DOCTOR WHO** whilst the Doctor concludes his adventure with **THE TARGET WRITERS**. Also **TECH** on Widescreen TV, **MERCHANDISE** and the inevitable **WAFFLE!** Each issue costs £1.50 including postage; cheques/POs payable to Stuart Halliday, M3. 35 Pinewood Park, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8NN.

INFINITE FRONTIERS

Infinite Frontiers is a relatively new fan publishing team, devoted to releasing the best possible zines we can. We pride ourselves in specialising in article-based zines, not unlike club newsletters. Our first release is the unique title, **THE FINAL FRONTIER**, a magazine on **DISK** for owners of the Commodore Amiga computer!! To our knowledge, this is the world's first disk based magazine to feature Trek. Our first three issues are available and feature work from top artists and musicians on the Amiga including Tobias Richter and Bjorn Lynn along with a selection of art and photos. Each issue also contains **AT LEAST 200 A4** pages of text! Prices for the first three issues are: Issue 1 (2 disks) - £3, Issue 2 (3 disks) - £4 and Issue 3 (4 disks!) - £5. All prices include P&P. Overseas orders are welcome but please add £0.50 per issue towards postage. As a special offer to **IDIC** members, order all 3 issues for only £10 (£11 overseas inc P&P) saving at least £2. All orders must be in sterling and made payable to: Simon Plumbe, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN, England. Please mention **IDIC** when replying.

WANTED Trek writers to submit storylines, synopses, ideas for a totally 100% graphic fiction zine with a view to adapting into comic-strip form. Any eras, any type of story (though I'm not keen on K/S). Full writers' credit given and approval sought on script development. Dr Who stories also wanted for established zine of similar nature. Curious?... For more information write to: Martin Street/Regenerate Productions, 52 Cobden Street, Palfrey, Walsall, West Midlands.

ORION PRESS

ERIDANI 18 and many other titles available: U.K. contact Deanna Susans, 42 Staff House Rd, Runwell Hospital, Wickford, Essex SS11 7PZ for titles, prices and availability. Deanna is acting as contact address for this American editor, accepting and distributing orders.

HORIZON, the Blake's Seven Appreciation Society produces a range of more than 20 fanzines, including **HORIZON issues 1 through 16** (club zine - general B7 fiction/art), Interviews, the **Horizon Technical Manual**, single story zines, and more. Our zines are all professionally printed. New: **HORIZON 15, HORIZON 16, BEST OF SPACEFALL 2, TECHNICAL MANUAL III**, car stickers. For our zine list, please send an SAE (or US\$1 bill or 2 IRCS for overseas) to: Miss Ann Steele, Horizon Zine Sales, 66 Sherwood Park, Sutton, Surrey SM1 2SG, UK.

Beauty & the Beast zines; **CRYSTAL CAVERN 3** £7.50, **BEGINNINGS** £3.50, **ASHES UNDER URICON** £3.50, **AND ALL THAT HE IS** £3.350, **ONLY WITH LOVE** £7.50, **BELOW THE BELT** (age statement required) £6.00, **CAPTURED IN TUNNELS** (age statement required) £3.50, **DEEPER THAN ALL ROSES** (winner of the Masquerades '91 fiction competition) £2.00. All prices include P&P. Cheques, POs should be made payable to **HELPERS' NETWORK UK** and zines ordered from Gwen Lord, 6 Meadow Lane, Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8LL

ROBIN HOOD; ROBIN OF SHERWOOD

- Tree of Life 4 accepts anything based on Robin Hood. Currently looking for Robin of Sherwood, Prince of Thieves (Kevin Costner), Robin Hood with Patrick Bergen & Uma Thurman; crossovers, apocryphal... in other words, anything based on Robin Hood. The zine accepts mild adult themes (no slash). Three pieces of art (ink or photocopied material only) or poetry will earn a contributor's copy. Stories should be at least 5 pages in length. Deadline for contributions, January 1st 1993. Todd Parrish, 269 West 400 North No. A, Provo, Utah 84601, USA. Tree of Life 1, 2 & 3 are strictly Robin of Sherwood issues. Available from Bill Hupe

(see above for address).



CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

REC-CON: The 34th British Star Trek Convention. 28th - 31st August, 1992 at the Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester. Pre-Con Registration £25.00. Guests (subject to work commitments): Nicolas Meyer, Jean Lorrain and Sylvia Anderson. For further details send an SAE to: 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.

STARBASE 93 Star Trek Convention. January 29th-31st 1993. Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Guest of Honour: James Doohan, other guests to be confirmed. Video rooms showing Original Trek, Latest TNG and hopefully Deep Space 9!!! An alternative non-Trek programme will also be screened. Other activities will include: Fancy Dress, Discos, Dealers tables, Auctions, Art/Model & Fiction competitions and more. Registration: £30 Adult, £15 child under 14. Under 5's go free. Discounts on these prices available now, for a limited time. Hotel room rates pppn, incl. full English Breakfast & VAT: £30 single, £22.50 twin/double and £20 triple. Send SAE for further details and registration form to: Carol Looby, 152 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX.

TREK/DWARF The First Star Trek/Red Dwarf Convention. 5th - 7th March, 1993. The Swallow Hotel, Peterborough. £25.00 before July - £35.00 after July.

Events include: All available episodes of both shows (inc. American Red Dwarf and ST:DS9 - if available.), Sales Tables, Fancy Dress, Disco, Laser Battles, Quizzes and much more. **GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED.** For further information write enclosing 2 SASEs to: TREK DWARF, 47 Marsham, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5RN.

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. Confirmed Guests: Geoff Ryman (author of "Spock In Manacles"), Freda Warrington (fantasy author of the "Blackbird" series), Dr Julian Headlong (scientist extraordinaire and a wonderful speaker on topics such as alcohol and Vulcan biochemistry and Janet Quarton. Registration: Full £25, Fri/Sat or Sun/Mon £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.

LIGHTSPEED '93 Star Trek: The Next Generation Convention. 17th-19th Sept. 1993
The Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Registration: £20 full, £12.50 one day, £10 supporting, £10 child 5-14 years, FREE under 5. Room Rates: £25 pppn (£40 Single occ/ in Double room). Charities RSPCA, Save the Children, Trees for Survival and The Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Aim: To raise £2,000 for the above charities. Guests TBA (Please note there will be NO American Guests). Events: Videos, talks, competitions, bars, food, displays, dealers and lots more. Send SAE to Lightspeed '93, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

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.

The 37th: UFP CON '94 29th April to 2nd May 1994, Britannia International Hotel, London. Registration: £25 until 31/12/92, £30 thereafter. Under 16's half price, under 10's free. Accommodation: £27.50 per person in a twin, double or triple, £31.00 in a single. For a registration form and further details please send an SAE to Ros Liddle, 61 The Scotchhill, Coventry CV6 2EW.

MISC

AWAY TEAM '93 10th - 25th March 1993. Join the Away Team for an action-packed 15 day holiday to San Francisco, Las Vegas and Los Angeles - taking in El Capitan and Yosemite National Park, an old fashioned Western Township, the Grand Canyon, Disneyland, Unuversal Studios, Vasques rocks and other places familiar to Trekkers. Inclusive price £825. For more details and a booking form, please contact Mrs Sadie Mason, 20 Shepley Road, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8SP

NON STAR TREK EVENTS

CONCERT 3 Kings Manor Hotel, Edinburgh Oct 30th - 1st Nov '92. GOH: Peter Morwood & Diane Duane. Media/SF con with big masquerade party, Japanese and video programmes, quizzes, movie review panel, charity slave auction. Attending £20 (£17 stewards) £10 supporting. Info: Jette Goldie, 97 Harrison Road, Edinburgh EH11.

TRANSYLVANIA '92 at the Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London on 31 October 1992. Costs £25.00 including Midnight film showing, £20.00 day only plus 3 SAEs for progress reports. Meet the guests, a chance to dress, and your chance to eat at the real Frankenstein Place - win a meal on US! For registration forms send an SAE to

TRANSYLVANIA '92. 1 Elm Grove, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HE, England.

Overseas please enclose I.R.C.'s.

WHO'S SEVEN: Blake's 7/Dr Who Convention to be held on 30 Oct - 1 Nov 1992 at the Telford Moat House Hotel, Shropshire, England. Guests include Gareth Thomas, Jacqueline Pearce, Colin Baker, Peter Tuddenham and Sheila Wells. Events include panels, Gambit Banquet, work-shops, art show, fancy dress, competitions, dealers room, filk etc. Registration £25 weekend, £20 2-day, £15 1-day, 4-16 half price, under 4's free. 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.

ACTION 93 A Weekend of ITC Entertainment eg. The Saint, Randall & Hopkirk (Deceased), Thunderbirds, The Prisoner and Persuaders. March 26-28th 1993, Shepperton Moat House, Shepperton Middx. Registration £30 - £40 for the weekend depending on associated club membership.

For details and registration form send SAE to Clair Saunders, 12 Saville Crescent, Ashford, Middx TW15 1SX.

UNIFICATION: 9th-12th April 1993, Britannia International Hotel, London. A multi-media SF and fantasy convention. Registration: £25. Accommodation: £27.50 per person per night in a twin, double or triple, £31.00 in a single. For registration form and further details please write to Ros Liddle, 61 The Scotchhill, Coventry CV6 2EW.

MASQUERADES '93 2nd Major Beauty & the Beast convention, 28-31 May 1993. The Grand Hotel Birmingham. Registration £37.00 (includes meal at the Sunday evening banquet). Room Rates £30 per night single, £25.00 pppn in twin/double, £23.00 pppn in a triple (includes full English breakfast and VAT @ 17.5%). All the usual goodies; guest so far Armin Shimerman, others to be announced. For reg. form send SASE to: Jacqui Clarke, 12 Jessop Close, Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8LJ.

FRIENDSHIP COLUMN

Friendship adverts will be printed in one newsletter.

WANTED: Anyone out there enjoy reading new, unpublished stories? I'm looking for anyone willing to read first drafts - and who is willing to be an honest critic, as my usual two have been unable to help me this time for various reasons and I don't think I'm the best person to judge my own work!

If you think you can help me please get in touch. If you have a preference for either Classic Trek or TNG please tell me as I will then send an appropriate manuscript (if I have one!) Taruka Quauhtezcatl, "Starship Ch'illik'utu", 8 Brook Street, Higher Walton, Preston, Lancs PR5 4DU.

Some time ago I advertised in the IDIC Newsletter to ask if anyone was prepared to lend me copies of Trek zines. A wonderfully generous woman from, I think, Wales, immediately sent me a huge parcel full, for which I was exceedingly grateful. I finished the zines a long time ago, but despite hunting

the whole house. I cannot find her address to return them. So if you're reading this and I'm talking about you, I am very sorry I've had them so long and please could you get in touch with your address. Ellen Foley, 14 Marram Close, Stanway, Colchester, Essex CO3 5PJ.

Are there any other fans in Central Essex? I'd very much like to meet and perhaps organise an informal club. I'm very new to fandom and enjoy TNG, though I've fond memories of Classic Trek. If there is anyone out there, please contact me. Martin Helsdon, 1 Meon Close, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5QG

Maria Woodward is looking for pen friends, both local and around the world, plus people to go to conventions with. Maria likes going to the pictures, concerts and travel and she likes a lot of different music but mainly Queen, Status Quo and Madonna. Please write to Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr. Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH.

Maria Woodward would like to hear from anyone who is interested in going on SeaTrek 1993. It starts on May 16th to the 21st and sails from Miami to Jamaica and Grand Cayman Island. Address above.

Sheila Cornall would like to hear from any others who like actor Christopher Lloyd. She also wants a biography of him plus any articles and photos she doesn't already have. Sheila Cornall, 5 Warwick Crescent, Hayes, Middx UB4 8RE.

I'm an (almost) 18 year old ST fan looking for penpals from anywhere on (or off) this world. I love Classic Trek and like some TNG. I also enjoy Red Dwarf, Time Tunnel and Quantum Leap. My other interests include reading SF and Fantasy, astronomy, writing letters (hint, hint!) piano and music. Please write to Gillian Fry, 16 Frankfort St, Glasgow G41 3XG, Scotland.

I love ST:TNG, my favourite characters are Geordi, Data and Tasha. My other interests are Dr. Who, Red Dwarf, Alien(s), ice hockey (I'm a Warrior), drawing, reading, writing,

skating... I'm 25 and I'd like to hear from TNG addicts anywhere in the galaxy - I'd especially like to know I'm not the only person who *really likes* Geordi! Margie Ferguson, 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne and Wear. NE33 2RP.

I am looking for penfriends or perhaps, local group, to communicate with. I love Classic Trek and some TNG. Other interests include: reading SF and music. Please write to Jo Maguire, 71 Melrose, Hanworth, Bracknell, Berks RG12 7LF.

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.

FOR SALE: complete set series 2 original series trading cards, complete set series 2 TNG trading cards, £25 each including postage or £48 for both. New series TNG trading cards (the blue ones): complete set, no bonus cards, £28 including postage. Helen White, 34 Fletcher Gardens, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG12 1FJ

FOR SALE: I have much in the way of Trek merchandise, both Classic and TNG, for sale. Items include magazines, books. 1st & 2nd season TNG videos, deluxe second edition role-playing game. Prices? I am open to offers! David Jon Thorne, 1 Brookside Close, Batheaston, Bath BA1 7HW, tel 0225 859078.

FOR SALE: PHOTOS - good selection of photos from the 1992 Star Trek: Next Generation Creation Con in Los Angeles. Photos include Picard, Riker, Dr. Crusher, Data, Troi, Worf, Geordi and Troi's Mother. Catalogue, including price lists quoted in

English pounds - £2.00. Also available: a catalogue of Classic Trek actor photos, £2.00 and Klingon actor photos (William Campbell and Michael Dorn) photos, £1.00. English pounds and American dollars (equivalent amount) both acceptable. Jo Taylor, 1039B Bluebonnet, Pleasanton, TX 78064, U.S.A.

FOR SALE: Star Trek and other Sci-Fi novels - Average £1.50 each (inc. p&p): Making of Wrath of Khan £3.50: Large selection of older Trek zines (STAG, Scotpress, Alnitah, Emanon, Computer Playback etc.) average £1.25 each: various magazines (Starburst, Starlog, ST Film Souvenir Brochure). S.A.E. for list to: Liz Butler, 88 Pickering Road, Pennywell, Sunderland SR4 9DY.

FOR SALE: The Star Trek Official Fan Club Magazine Nos 48,49,51,54 £1.60 each plus a 9x6 SAE. Nos 63,65,67,68,70 £0.80 each plus a large A4 SAE. ST:TNG The Official Magazine Volumes 9-17 £2.00 each plus a large A4 SAE. All magazines in good condition. Please contact Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, LL28 5SY.

FOR SALE: Star Trek Merchandise. For list send SAE to Peter Hughes - Address above.

FOR SALE: Star Trek Next Gen Impel Trading Cards (120 cards) £8: Star Trek 25th Anniversary Cards Series I & Series II £8 each: Thunderbirds (pro set) cards £6. P&P £1 first set and 50p each additional set. Single cards available 10p each plus S.A.E. Send to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE: Official videos of Classic ST Episodes 1-40 and 59/60, plus STII: The Wrath of Khan and STIV: The Voyage Home, all @ £5.00 each or £110 for all 24 videotapes (postage extra). Some never played, others only played once. Ring Paul on Romford (0708) 851008. (Any queries to Jean Barron, 39 Dersingham Avenue, Manor Park, London E12 5QF.)

FOR SALE: ST:TNG Giant Novel No. 1 "Metamorphosis" £2.50. Contact Mala Laroiya, 47 Highfield Lane, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1QR.

FOR SALE: ST zines, both K/S and gen. Offered very cheaply for quick sale, as I'm only over here in the summer. Please write before the end of August to Ann Reynolds, Upper Flat, 2 Jameson Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, for details enclosing S.A.E.

FOR SALE: A long term collector of SF books, I find my bookshelves overloaded. I need to thin my shelves out, preferably to SF fans. Most of the books are out of print and forgotten - that does not always mean of poor quality. Mostly collected in the 60's and 70's. There are 263 books in reasonable condition, too many to list. £150.00 the lot, or lucky dip 20 for £18 or 5 for £5, fully inclusive. No Star Trek, mostly straight sf, some old fashioned fantasy (not too many warrior fantasy). I also have some books with failed bindings (due to age), some pages are loose leaf but they are complete and readable (with care). Mixed lot of 20 for £10. Also 14 hardbacks (mostly SFBC editions), £20 the lot, post paid. Part exchange for Star Trek videos (classic, TNG, cartoon) at a rate of £4 per video, is a possibility! Other SF videos considered. Stephen Shaw, 10 Alstone Road, Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5QH.

FOR SALE: Many Star Trek and TNG books and annuals, all in mint or near mint condition. Scott Carrick, Craigview, Craigton, North Kessock, Inverness; tel 0463 73 584 between 7 and 10pm.

WANTED - THE OTHER SIDE OF PARADISE - specifically a story in it. Game of Chance by Frankie Jemison, possibly reprinted elsewhere. Stephen Shaw, 10 Alstone Rd, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5AH.

WANTED - Japanese posters for STMP, TWOK, TSFS, TVH, TFF, TUC; also Japanese theatre programmes STMP, TWOK, TVH, TFF, TUC Will pay your price. Also 1991 Klingon 4.5 figurine, will pay your price. I need two cards from the ST:TNG set to complete my set of cards - holograms Klingon Vorcha Cruiser and Romulan Warbird. Name your price. Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, Scotland.

For Sale - I am selling my Star Trek

collection - books, zines, videos, merchandise. If you are interested please contact J Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX, or phone 021 443 2995 after 6 pm please.

WANTED: copies of Star Trek: The New Voyages 1 & 2 in good condition. Will pay any reasonable price including postage. Contact Lorna Elliott, 88 Spring Drive, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8BA.

WANTED: The zine NIGHTVISIONS. Any reasonable price paid. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

WANTED: A copy of the zine 'QUARTET'. Any reasonable price paid. Note: To the lady who phoned me (sorry I can't remember your name) I didn't get a copy of your list of zines. Sorry. So could you get in touch again please. Please write to: Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Road, Shepshead, Loughborough LE12 9HQ.

WANTED: Video of STIII:SFS, and STV:TFF. Negotiate price, contact Philip Morley, 407 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood, Lancashire FY7 8HN.

WANTED: Any photos, or video recordings of the Contagion opening ceremony. Any reasonable price paid. Contact: Robert T. Kirkwood, 2 Isles Terrace, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JZ.

WANTED: ST related books and magazines. I buy, sell and trade. Also wanted sf-tv video (NTSC). Would like to hear from fans anywhere in the world. Tom Lalli, 306 Sarah Circle, Orange, CT 06477, U.S.A.

WANTED: a video of the ST:TNG episode Family. Will pay. Mark Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 1LF.

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.

USS ARAGO NCC-1806: A new STAR TREK club, affiliated to the International Federation of Trekkers and launching on June 1 1992. Membership costs £5.00 per year. For further information, contact Matthew Conway, 1 St George's Terrace, Station Road, Lambourne, Berks RG16 7PW.

THE FINAL FRONTIER TNG FAN CLUB
3 A4 newsletters (Galaxy News), Personalised Certificate, Membership card. Dues: single £3, family £5.50 (3 people), overseas £10.00. The Final Frontier, 167 Rosefield Road, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 6DY

USS INTREPID Star Trek fan club with world-wide membership. £6.50 pa, membership includes 4 bumper newsletters and organised events including a second one-day Get-Together being held on Sunday June 1992, Gravesend, Kent. For further details please send an SASE to Tina Hewett, 65 Park Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1ST.

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.

OUTPOST ONE - the club for Trekkers who are fans of ORIGINAL Star Trek ONLY! Membership costs £10 per year for 6 newsletters and a membership package. Payment by International Money Order in sterling, or cash in sterling. Please note that

this club's language is English! Contact: "OUTPOST", Karen Hayden and Bettina Rackel, Rheinstrasse 23, 4150 Krefeld, West Germany. **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS.** Karen & Bettina apologise to members that because of their move they are behind with their newsletters and have been unable to answer mail. They will be back 'on line' as soon as possible.

ATTENTION KLINGONS! All Klingon Assault Group communications should be sent to 2 Isles Terrace, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotlands KA16 9TZ. Send an S.A.E. for further details.

RICHARD DEAN ANDERSON APPRECIATION SOCIETY: Join the Society for fans of the T.V. hero MacGyver, and its star Richard Dean Anderson. For your yearly membership fee of £7.50 (UK members) you receive four issues of our quarterly handbook, membership card and colour photograph. Info: Richard Dean Anderson Appreciation Society, Barbara M. Heywood, 50 Albion Road, London N16 9PH.

TIMEWARP is the Official British Rocky Horror Fan Club catering for both film and show followers. We are in our most exciting year yet, with plenty more to come. Four newsletters per year, membership card, and a chance to buy exclusive memorabilia, and advance information on tour and screening venues and dates. Costs £7.50 plus four large S.A.E.s at least 40p postage per envelope per year. Overseas members welcome: costs as above plus 16 International Reply Coupons. For membership forms send S.A.E. to Timewarp, 1 Elm Grove, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HE. Monies made payable to Timewarp.

HELPERS NETWORK UK: Your first contact for anything related to Beauty & the Beast. Quarterly newsletters, flyers, fanzines, merchandise etc. Subscription rate: £6.00 per annum. For further details send a SASE to: Gwen Lord, 6 Meadow Lane, Leasingham, Sleaford, Lincs NG34 8LL, England.

B.I.A.S. - THE BARRIE INGHAM APPRECIATION SOCIETY: A newly

formed club which Barrie has authorised. Annual dues are £4 in the UK (£5.50 Europe; £7.00 U.S.A. & Canada; £8.00 Australia) for which members receive a welcome pack (including biography, credit list and signed photo). & the **BIAS CHRONICLE** three times a year. **BIAS** will be taking a retrospective look at Barrie's varied career, as well as keeping members informed of his future activities. Declare your **BIAS** now! Details from: B.I.A.S., First Floor, 5 Walker Terrace, GATESHEAD, Tyne & Wear NE8 1EB, England. Please enclose an s.a.s.e. or 2 IRCs.

HORIZON, the Blake's Seven Appreciation Society. Founded in 1980, Horizon is a friendly club and welcomes new members, who will receive 4 glossy, A4 size, 80+ page newsletters containing interviews, LOCs, articles, news on the cast, etc.) plus free club badge and membership card. Optional additional membership to **LETTERZINE**. Also vast range of fanzines & merchandise (incl. photos, scripts, notepads, mugs, badges, photo-stamps and special deal on the BBC B7 videos) and regular London and regional meetings and outings. Please sent SAE (or US \$1 or 2 IRCs for overseas) for application form, current rates &/or further information to: Miss Ann Steele, Horizon Club, 66 Sherwood Park Rd., Surrey SM1 2SG, UK.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

MANCHESTER STARFLEET: Branch of the NSFA. Meets the third Sunday of the month, starting 16th August, at Shane Hall Community Centre, Ormston, Manchester. 1pm - 5pm. Videos, quizzes, raffles, outings. For more info and directions send SASE to Ardra Cochran, 27 Common Lane, Leigh, Lancs WN7 4QW.

ENTHUSIASTIC FANS WANTED! - Would you be interested in joining a new Star Trek Group (Classic and T.N.G.)? If you live in the Staffs, Warks, Birmingham area, within easy travelling distance of Tamworth... **CONTACT US!!!** : Lee Sansome & Gaile Wood, 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs, B77 4HY.

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.

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 - 21st June, 19th July, 16th August, 2pm - 6.30 pm at Marist Rugby Club, admission £1. For more information contact Tracy Beadle, 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE, tel. 0482 48562)

FARPOINT needs you! If you live in the Isle of Wight area then this new local group needs you. SAE for info to Philippa Timms, Silver Glade, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, Isle of Wight PO38 1RW.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP meets every two months or so at the Britannia Intercontinental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. Nearest Tube: Bond Street. The next meeting is September 12th, starting at 10.30am till about 7pm, at a cost of £5, children accompanied by an adult free. For more details send an SAE 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: 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: Sunday 6th September. 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: WERE 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 September 16th (September 12th 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 newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise 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 £7.50, USA/Middle East Air \$26.00 (£13.25), Australia £14.50, Europe £9.50.

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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