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Sheila Clark
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December 1992

Newsletter 26

"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 Okada, Ernie Over, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi everyone, and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope you had a enjoyable time over the festive season. Our thanks to everyone who sent us Christmas cards and gifts. They were much appreciated and we are just sorry we couldn't send you all cards as well.

We have an apology to make to Maggy Edwards. Her story 'Fever' in E-LE 88 was wrongly attributed to Maggie Symon; we're not sure how it happened, and can only guess it was as a result of Classic Trek material being transferred from Sheila to Valerie. Valerie is now editing all the Classic Trek zines and Sheila the TNG ones.

We were very sorry to hear that Enterprise Originals has wound up. The club was run by our good friends Jacqueline Comben, Ray Dowsett, Pam Crabtree and Sue Jones, and it was an excellent club especially geared to those of us who have been in tandom for a number of years. We do understand though as you can get stale after running a club for a number of years. Living where Jackie does, on the Gower peninsula, we don't blame her preferring to take Truffle along the cliffs or down to the beach, rather than be stuck in the house working on her computer. Thanks for all your work with Enterprise Originals,

Jackie. We'll now be looking for some articles for IDIC when you can drag yourself off the beach.

Janet still hasn't caught up with her personal mail. A combination of the newsletter and Sheila presenting her with 6 zines to compile, correct and print the masters of rather put paid to that. In fact, as of writing this there are still three of the zines to do but hopefully when these are done a start can be made on the mail. Don't hold your breath though as IDIC and ScoTpress work has to have priority.

Sheila and Valerie would like to congratulate Janet on passing her driving test at the first attempt despite her qualms. Shona very much appreciates being able to go somewhere interesting for her walks without the dull bit along the road first.

Unfortunately we can't make Starbase '93 at the end of the month which we sincerely regret, especially since Jimmy Doohan is the guest. Jimmy is a friend of long standing (since the very first con) and we'd've loved the opportunity to meet him again. We will need to rely on those of you who attended to send us some reports.

Our thanks to Angela Brown, Sheila Cornall, Julia Daniell, Nic Farey, Richard Gibbs, Mark Horton, Muriel Jarrett, Jane Hose, Sara Jackson, Judith Proctor, Brenda Kelsey, Margaret Rainey, Carla Salveta, John Stubley, Bill Taylor, Jenny Turner, Jon Vernon, Linda Watt and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

The raffle winners are Grace Hawkins, the graphic novel Debt of Honour plus 1 year's membership of IDIC; Lesley Stokes, a copy of the ST:TNG Companion plus 1 year's membership of IDIC and Sue Cole, a year's membership of IDIC.

We're having another raffle in aid of the IDIC Guide Dog Fund with this newsletter. The prizes this time are a copy of the hardback, Best Destiny; a copy of the Making of Star Trek: the Next Generation plus a TNG jigsaw; a year's membership of IDIC. Please state any preference and put it with 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 March 14th. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Please do not send £1 coins (some of these have been lost in the post) and please do not send cheques or POs for less than £2; we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £2).

Thank you to Peter Bayliss, David Burston, Jim Campbell (Future Shock), Contagion, Sheila Cornall, Lisa Dearnley-Davison, Mark French, Kathleen Glancy, Katrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Sara Jackson, Muriel Jarrett, Carol Kean, Angrit Lower, Sharon Mansfield, Philip Morley, Taruka Quauhtezcatl, Stephen Rothwell, Michael Sadler, J Schmidt, Shirley Shatner, Jean Sloan, Amanda Spence, Kevin Thomas (with Kathie's Comics and Dawn of Titan Books), Jenny Turner, Dee Willcox, Edward Woo 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.

We would like to thank Allison Rooney and Maureen Mitchell for trimming stamps. Maureen (ex-chain gang) was home from Canada for a holiday and as well as trimming stamps also helped pack the last N/L. Thanks, Maureen.

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you can send your submissions on disc. We can read BBC & Archimedes discs, MS DOS 3.5" (all formats - but preferably 720K+), 5.25" (720K max. and preferably 720k), Atari ST discs, Amstrad WPC 3" discs. All files should be saved as ASCII text files, aligned left and preferably saved without line-end markers.

If you have an Amiga Simon Plumbe has offered to transfer your ASCII files onto a DOS disc for us, but he needs to receive your disc at least 7 days before our deadline. Send your disc to Simon Plumbe, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN

Keep the submissions coming in - this newsletter has run us fairly low. The closing date for the next newsletter is March 17th (March 13th 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 April 7th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 10/1/93

Friends and fans will be very sorry to learn of the death, after several years of ill health, of Paddie Bryce.

Paddie died, peacefully, on 30th December, 1992.

We were very sorry to hear that William Ware Theiss died in December. He will be remembered for the imaginative costumes he designed for Classic Trek.



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



STAR TREK

The original series is still continuing its Wednesday night screenings on BBC 2 and with a break of just one week over the holidays.

The Animated Series is currently being shown on *Gone Live!*, BBC1, Saturday mornings at approx. 9.15. Brenda Callagher tells us they have a scrolling message across the bottom of the opening credits and the end credits are missing altogether. One of *Our Planets is Missing* was the first episode aired on 7/11/92, followed by *The Time Trap*, *The Terratin Incident*, *The Ambergreis Element* and the *The Slaver Weapon*. Thanks to Brenda for this info; we don't have list of the episodes shown after December 5th at the moment.

The original series has recently been shown on Sat 1 on Sundays at around 12.55pm, with the episode repeated on Mondays.

STAR TREK VII

George Takei stated during an interview on *Gone Live* on Saturday 2/1/93 that there would be a *Star Trek VII*. He said he was pushing for the subtitle to be; "*The Voyages of Captain Sulu*".

TV Zone 38

The latest word about *STVII* has set fan gossip alight. It would seem that following the positive reception of *Scotty's* episode, *Relics*, Paramount execs have mooted the idea that in *STVII* a still unhappy *Scotty* attempts to return to the 23rd Century by creating a time distortion of his own. The result is that both crews of the starship *Enterprise* have to team up and confront some huge problem before any of them can go back about their business!

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION

On Sky One:

Sunday 29th November was a special night for *Star Trek* fans with a showing of the two-hour documentary '*Star Trek: 25th Anniversary Special*' followed by the first TV screening of the TNG episode '*The High Ground*'.

The late evening screening of TNG has been put back to 23.00.

TNG completes its first screening on Sky One with *The Best of Both Worlds Pt 2* which is scheduled to be shown on January 15th. The monthly magazines continue to list TNG until the end of January so if they are correct the question is; will Sky One start repeating the series again from the beginning or have they quietly purchased the 4th season? By the time you receive this newsletter Sky One viewers will know the answer.

The ratings for TNG on Sky One have been increasing. We don't have the figures for December but for the week ending November 15th it rated in the top ten as numbers 6, 10, 13, 14, 19 with *Rescue*, narrated by William Shatner rated as 5, 11, 20

MISC

- The episode of *Nurses*, scheduled for 10pm Ch. 4 on Friday 8th was about *Star Trek*. The blurb in the *Radio Times* read, "When Trekkies from a *Star Trek* convention are rushed into hospital with food poisoning, the staff go 'where no man has gone before' to avoid them."

We would like to have been able to tell you more but we were so involved in the newsletter that Janet forgot it was on!

• Hollywood Report is an ITV Nighttime programme (shown on Mondays at 2:15 in the Devon region) which covers Hollywood events. Julia Daniell says that during 1992 she caught a report from the L.A. 25th anniversary convention; a glimpse of Stewart, Frakes and Burton at Paramount's 50th birthday; an interview with Stewart (while Mr & Mrs Frakes strolled across screen...) at Whoopi's award ceremony.

ST:TNG - 6TH SEASON

Star Trek: The Next Generation
Season 6 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Ep. = Episode number.
PC = Paramount Code.
Date = Date of satellite uplink.
R = A Repeat.

Ep.	PC	Date	Title
136	236	12/12/92	Chain Of Command, Pt 1
137	237	19/12/92	Chain Of Command, Pt 2
138	238	23/01/93	Ship In A Bottle
139	239	30/01/93	Aquiell
140	240	06/02/93	Face Of The Enemy
141	241	13/02/93	Tapestry

Episode Synopsis.
A Short Episode Synopsis:-

135. "The Quality Of Life" - After the discovery of a living machine, will Data sacrifice the lives of Picard and Geordi in order to save it? Directed by Jonathan Frakes.

136. "Chain of Command, I" - The first of a two-part episode where Captain Picard is relieved of duty to lead an undercover mission against the Cardassians with the help of Worf and Beverly. But things go wrong when Picard is captured and then tortured. Meanwhile, Riker doesn't seem to be getting on with the new Captain of the Enterprise and ends up reduced in rank!

137. "Chain Of Command, II" - This episode ties-in with the Star Trek:Deep Space Nine series as it will see Picard escaping and ending up at the Deep Space Nine Station waiting for the Enterprise to pick him up.

138. "Ship In A Bottle" - Barclay will be returning, and will go against Moriarity from "Elementary, Dear Data".

139. "Aquiell" - Plot unknown.

140. "Face Of The Enemy" - (Possible plot) Troi is kidnapped and is surgically altered to look like a Romulan.

141. "Tapestry" - Plot unknown.

Other News:-

This seems to be the final season for TNG fans, and it is also the season for returning guest stars and characters.

Q will return once again for a second episode and takes Picard back in time to his academy days for his mission. It is not known whether Picard is reliving it or merely witnessing it. In this episode, Picard 'dies', and guess who's responsible?

Two-part episodes seem popular this season as another one is being scheduled for Spring '93 which, like "Redemption", revolves around Worf. Apparently the Enterprise will go to Deep Space Nine, and Worf will be walking along the Promenade when an alien walks up to him and tells him that his father is still alive, prompting Worf to investigate to see if it's true.

Finally, Troi will finally get to be seen back in a proper Starfleet uniform in the 2-parter, "Chain Of Command". There will be more Romulan episodes this season. Lwaxana Troi will be appearing in an episode, and Dwight Schuit is considering turning up as Reg in further episodes this season.

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Date	Episode Title
02/01/93	Emissary [Working Title]
09/01/93	A Man Alone
16/01/93	Past Prologue
23/01/93	Babel
01/02/93	Q Less

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

"Emissary" (Working Title) - Possibly picking up where the 2-part TNG episode, "Chain of Command", left off, with the Enterprise at the station. Leonard Nimoy's wife appears as a Starfleet Admiral in this episode.

The rumoured main plot of the pilot episode centres around 8 glowing globes which have magical properties. The Cardassians have 7 of them, the 8th one is hidden by the Bajorans.

Also rumoured for this episode...

One of the scenes will include a baseball scene, made out to look like a 1923 Chicago Cubs training camp. It will show Sisko teaching his son baseball. The scene was filmed at Oak Grove Park, which is a little south of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

One episode (possibly the pilot itself) includes contact with the aliens who created the worm hole. We learn that the ships' power sources are destructive to these aliens, and we will be told how to travel without affecting these aliens.

"A Man Alone" - Plot unknown.

"Past Prologue" - Plot unknown.

"Babel" - Plot Unknown.

Other News:-

One possible episode is "Q-Less" where "Q" drops in for a visit with Vash.

Lursa and B'Etor, the sisters of Duras from "Redemption", will be in Deep Space Nine.

Jerry Goldsmith will be composing the theme to Deep Space Nine. Dennis McCarthy and Jay Chattaway will be doing the incidental music for the episodes.

Lwaxana Troi will also drop by for a visit, and takes an interest in Odo.

Keiko O'Brien doesn't like moving to the station, and a future episode will point that she needs something to do to be productive, so she becomes the school marm.

In a two-part episode, the Enterprise will go to Deep Space Nine, and Worf will be walking along the Promenade (sic) when an alien walks up to him and tells him that his father is still alive, prompting Worf to investigate to see if it's true. This will be a two-part episode, with Part One on TNG, and Part Two on DSN.

A very strange entity begins growing in the station infirmary, and no one quite knows what it is...

Ten episodes have been filmed as of December 15th, and you will be surprised what pops out of that wormhole in those first ten episodes.

The logo is in the Movie-style text fonts, with Star Trek in gold at the top, a line, then Deep Space Nine in Silver below the line.

TV Zone 37

The DS9 station was originally used by the Cardassians to deplete the mining resources of the Bajoran home world. But now Bajor is liberated, and the people have applied for membership into the United Federation of Planets, as well as asking the Federation to send in personnel to have a dual role in administering the station and

providing a presence to discourage the possibility of a new attack by the Cardassians.

The nearby wormhole, leading to the Gamma quadrant of space provides further plot possibilities. To complement this, a new class of starship, the "Runabout" class, has been created. These are small starships which will allow parties of characters to travel to nearby systems as well as through the wormhole.

DS9's co-creator and executive producer Michael Piller noted that when being quoted as saying DS9 will be darker and grittier, he meant that there will be more passion, not more violence.

The teaser to the pilot episode starts off at Wolf 359 during the battle with the Borg

and, in particular, features Picard as Locutus. Captain Benjamin Sisko is on board his starship when it is destroyed, and his wife is killed.

As the episode progresses, after considering taking his son back to Earth rather than trying to raise him in the dangerous environment of Space, Captain Sisko reluctantly accepts his new assignment.

Interesting relationships are said to develop between the Starfleet officers and non-Starfleet personnel on the station. One of them concerns the Trill Science Officer Lt Jadzia Dax and Ben Sisko. Dax's last symbiotic host was an elderly man, and his new host is an attractive young lady. What complicates matters is the developing sexual tension between them.

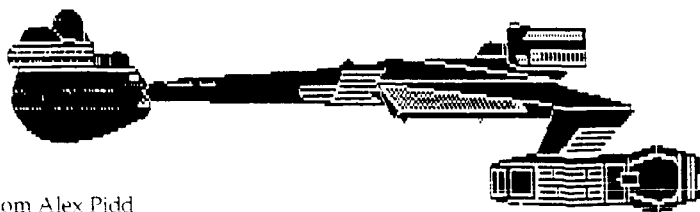
STAR TREK on BBC

Star Trek screening dates and ratings - the figures are taken from Broadcast

Ep. No	Title	Date shown	Viewers (million)	Pos. (BBC 2)
11	Dagger Of The Mind	21/10/92	4.68	6
03	The Corbomite Maneuver	28/10/92	4.74	6
16	The Menagerie, pt.	4/11/92	4.72	6
16	The Menagerie, pt. 2	11/11/92	5.17	4
13	The Conscience of the King	18/11/93	4.76	6
9	Balance of Terror	25/11/92	4.72	8
17	Shore Leave	2/12/92		
14	Galileo Seven	9/12/92		
18	The Squire of Gothos	16/12/92		
19	Arena	23/12/92		
	Star Trek-The Motion Picture	28/12/92		
21	Tomorrow Is Yesterday	6/1/93		
15	Court Martial			

(info Barbara Ellams and Eddie Yau)

★★★★★

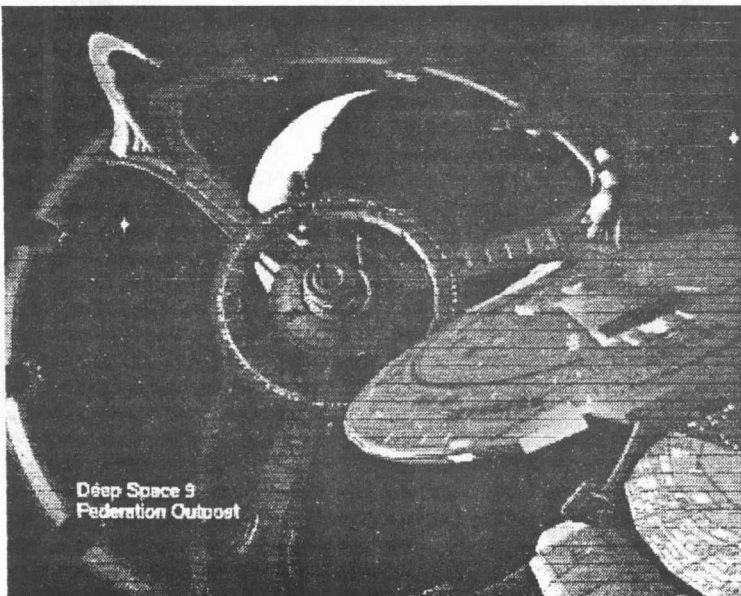
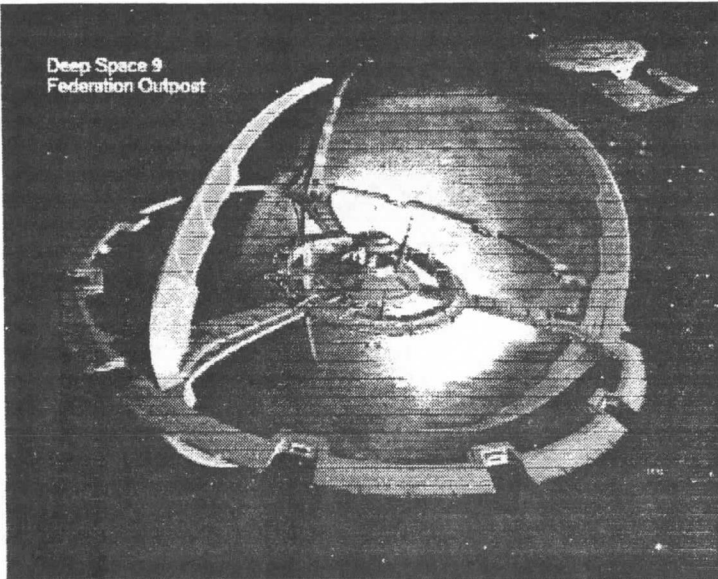


Clip Art from Alex Pidd

**STAR
TREK**
DEEP SPACE NINE

DS9 SPACE STATION

drawn by Tobias Richter



STAR TREK IN THE NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton

The purpose of this column is to let you know which magazines to look out for as well as letting you know some of what has been printed in the papers. Most magazines are available from the book shops in the info sheets and you can often get back issues of newspapers if you write to the publisher.

- **STARLOG 186** January 1993. Includes an article on Patrick Stewart and one on Deep Space 9.

- **TV ZONE 37** November 1992. Includes an interview with George Takei; an article on Carolyn Seymour who played the Romulan Commander in Contagion and Mirastra Yale in First Contact; and a review of the ST novel Death Count.

- **TV ZONE 38** January 1993. Includes part 2 of an interview with George Takei; an article David Carson, a director on TNG; 4th & 5th Season TNG Listing; and a review of the TNG novel Nightshade.

• STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 34 - Articles on Whoopi Goldberg, Captain's Holiday and Tin Man.

Issue 33 - Articles on Holodecks, Hollow Pursuits and The Most Toys.

• STARBURST 172

December 1992. Includes an article on Star Trek from the original series through to Deep Space 9.

• STARBURST YEAR BOOK - SPECIAL

#14 Star Trek Special. Includes a review of TNG Season 5 and the start of Season 6.

- **FINAL FRONTIER 5** November 1992. Includes articles on The Animated Star Trek; Christopher Plummer (Chang); the supporting cast of STVI plus a photo section on the making of STVI and the film itself.

- "Catering to Generations of Fans" Electronic Gaming Monthly.

A 1-page article about the Official Star

Trek Fan Club.

Electronic Gaming Monthly also recently published an article about Deep Space 9.

• "Cosmic Coincidence" 13/11/92

An article stating similarities between DS9 and Babylon 5. It seems that the writer and producer Joe Straczynski pitched BS5 to Paramount back in 1988 but they eventually nixed the treatment, according to Straczynski, because the series might conflict with Star Trek. Straczynski then took the material to Warner Bros' which promptly commissioned a pilot. DS9 was reportedly pitched to Paramount in January 1992.

• "One Trek Mind!" Mail 14/11/92

"Beam Me In To Burn, Scotty!" Mail 14/11/92

"Join Trekkies in Heaven-sent Fun" 14/11/92

Articles about T'Kon which was opened by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham.

• "Uhura Hurrah" - The People, 16/11/92

On the recent mission of the space shuttle Endeavour, Dr. Mac Jemison, the first black woman astronaut, started her shifts by saying, "Hailing frequencies open." It was her homage to childhood hero and current pal Nichelle Nichols, whose inter-planetary exploits (as Lieutenant Uhura on the original Star Trek) began in 1966. "Being able to see a black woman on the Enterprise exploring the heavens was very important," says Jemison, 36, who recalls this defining kindergarten conversation back home in Chicago: "I said that when I grew up I wanted to be a scientist - and the teacher asked me, 'Don't you mean a nurse?'"

- The Stage and Television Today 10/12/92 carried a review of Sky One's screening of the Star Trek 25th Anniversary Special followed by the first British TV screening of the TNG episode "High Ground".

"I was not familiar with the entirely new cast of The Next Generation but I found it surprisingly easy to accept and adjust to

the latest bunch of characters.

"There is now more talk and less action than in the original series but the dialogue is good stuff. I had planned to 'skim-view' the

programme on tape without covering it in any depth, but it had me hooked after the first few minutes and I stuck with the full hour very willingly."



MERCHANDISE



BOOKS -

Dec **PROBE** (Giant Novel) by Margaret Wander Bonanno. This novel follows on where STIV left off. It reveals the secrets behind the mysterious probe that almost destroyed Earth - and whose reappearance sends Kirk, Spock and their shipmates hurtling into unparalleled danger... and unsurpassed discovery.

Jan **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE** Pocket Books. Novelization of the series pilot.

Mar **THE DEVIL'S HEART** (3rd TNG hardcover) Pocket Books. A legendary object of unsurpassed power. Captain Picard discovers the awful truth behind all the legends and the ages-old secrets: whoever holds the Devil's Heart possesses power beyond all imagining...

VIDEOS -ST:TNG

CIC are continuing their release of 5th season TNG videos.

A Matter of Time/New Ground (55)

Hero Worship/Violations(56)

Due Next

The Masterpiece Society/Conundrum (57)

Power Play/Ethics (58)

The Outcast/Cause and Effect (59)

The First Duty/Cost of Living (60)

The Perfect Mate/Imaginary Friend (61)

I Borg/The Next Phase (62)

• **A.H. Prismatic** will be releasing Deep Space Nine holographic merchandise during 1993. A new Photopolymer Film Hologram Picture will once again be the centre piece to

a whole range of colourful embossed holographic stickers, bookmarks, boxes, key rings, magnets, discs and badges featuring key characters and scenes.

At the beginning of December Prismatic released the following earrings which are overprinted black on a Federation Shield shape embossed foil: Original Trek - Kirk earrings and Spock earrings; TNG - Picard earrings and Data earrings. There is also a TNG Communicator Pin with a bar pin back. Most of the bookshops which carry ST merchandise should have these.

• **Creatures Unlimited** are selling, amongst many other things, 'Hamilton' Star Trek toy figures. These are classic Trek and are 12" and 4" tall painted vinyl and are around £12.95 and £3.25 each + p&p. I bought a 4" Spock figure to see what they are like and was impressed. He's giving the Vulcan salute and standing on a base in the form of a full size replica of the Science Office emblem. Regulars & aliens are included in the series. I'm saving pennies for some of the others. The address is: Creatures Unlimited, West lodge, 26 West Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex CO15 1BL. Tel, No: 0255 426 547. *[info Robin Day]*

• **MoonTrap** starring Walter Koenig is available from What Everyone Wants @ £2.99 but the quality isn't brilliant. *[info James Williamson]*

• **LaserSculpt 2000** are issuing Star Trek prints. - "Actual footage from the original series is transformed into brilliant prints, fused to a high density acrylic and sculpted with pin point accuracy by a powerful CO₂, infrared laser. The result is a 3D effect that will startle your sensors."

So far they have advertised a picture of the Enterprise, Limited Edition of 10,000 @ \$29.99 and one of Kirk from Court Martial, Limited Edition of 5,000 @ \$39.99.

We've no idea what these will actually look like although the pictures are nice. There is probably a good chance that shops like Sheffield Space Centre will import them. If you want to try and order them from the States then write for details to Imagine This Inc., Unit 6, 86 Horseblock Road, Yaphank, N.Y. 11980, USA or Starlog Press, 475 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016, USA.

- Hallmark Keepsake Ornament

Enterprise Light Ornament for using in Xmas tree Lights - Saucer section lights up +

neon flashing lights.

Galileo 7 Shuttle Light Ornament for use with Xmas Tree Lights - Shuttle lights up and you press a button to hear L. Nimoy as Spock say, "Shuttlecraft to Enterprise/Spock here/ Happy Holidays/Live Long & Prosper".

Both the Enterprise and Shuttle Ornament are American products but will work in U.K. on a set of 40 Xmas lights. They just push in like any other bulb in the circuit.

I don't know if the products are available in the U.K.. [Graham Probert]

- Scholastic School Book Fairs are selling Kirk and Spock bookmarks for 40p each. We have also seen these at conventions but we're not sure of the source

☆☆☆☆



ACTOR NEWS



- **George Takei**

"Sulu Lands in Brighton" Evening Standard

Superfit George Takei is taking a break from duties as Mr Sulu in Star Trek to enjoy "the terrific buzz" of appearing before British audiences in pantomime.

"It is a marvellous experience, but it requires a high level of energy to give a proper performance."

Hence he is out every day on Brighton beach setting the pace for much younger members of the cast. But it is nothing to a man who usually jogs about 3 miles a day and has participated in six marathons, including the London race in 1990.

"I am determined to be as fit as possible for this latest role - this time as a baddy," adds Takei, who became hooked on British pantomime when he appeared at Reading's Theatre in 1987.

He reverts to type next year, with shooting of Star Trek 7 starting in April.

- **Wil Wheaton** was the voice of one of Mrs Brisby's children in "The Secret of Nih."

- **William Shatner**

"How Star Trek Made Heaven on Earth for Captain James Kirk" Hello! 5/12/92

A 3 page article with some lovely colour pics of Bill's Kentucky Ranch and of him and Marcy riding their horses.

The following info is extracted from Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum, December 1992. See zine ads for ordering details.

- **William Shatner:** Student votes to name McGill Center after him have been vetoed by college officials. Buildings are named for deceased people. Shatner's only problem is that he's still alive.

- **DeForest Kelley** appears in surgicals to answer "Trivial Pursuit Ad" question, "How many chambers in the human heart?" with, "Don't ask me! I'm an actor not a doctor!"

- **Ricardo Montalban** was thrown by a horse while filming "1951 Across the Wide Missouri". This caused a spinal haemorrhage, resulting in a permanent limp.

☆☆☆☆

IDIC RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For Period 1/12/91 - 30/11/92

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
Opening Balance	£ 840.76		
Memberships	£6068.63	Postage	£2793.38
Sales	£2417.65	Printing/Stationary	£5010.22
Misc	£ 20.79	Misc/Computer	£ 591.98
Total Receipts	£8507.07	Total Payments	£8395.58
	£9347.83	Balance in hand	£ 952.25
			£9347.83

IDIC GUIDE DOG FUND - Period 1/12/91 - 30/11/92

Money C/F	£ 90.99	Collecting Box/stamps	£ 415.53
Donations/Raffles etc.	£1126.54	Paid to Guide Dogs Association	
Collecting Box/stamps	£ 415.53	on 3/10/90	£ 600.00
Interest as of 5/92	£ 5.82	Total	£1015.13
Total	£1638.48	Balance in hand	£ 623.35
			£1638.48

☆☆☆☆☆



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.

If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

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

Sheila Clark - Dundee

After seeing ST V again, I am more than ever convinced that one scene is wrongly described; everyone keeps saying that McCoy 'committed euthanasia' on his dying father. I would say he didn't. He switched off the life support, yes - but all that meant was that his father then had to live or

die according to his own strength. That he was not strong enough to survive without the life support didn't mean McCoy actually killed him; he was simply letting nature take its course instead of keeping a very sick man alive and in considerable pain by artificial means.

As for the cure that was found a few months later - I'd have been more convinced of McCoy's feelings of guilt about that if McCoy Senior hadn't looked so old. He looked too old and frail to survive another few months even on full life support; he looked about 80+ - old enough to be father to a man of... well, we know De Kelley's 70, but let's be charitable and say McCoy's 60. But that event took place when McCoy was *young* - say 25 or so. Even ill and in pain, his father shouldn't have looked more than 50ish! Indeed, his father should have looked younger than McCoy did in that scene, if Sybok was taking the incident from McCoy's memory - just as Sarek looked ludicrously young in Spock's 'memory' of his birth - taking Amanda's age into account with Sarek's stated age in Journey to Babel, Sarek must have been around 65 - 70 when Spock was born.

To Marysia Kolodziej (and Lloyd Lewis) - Marriage forms in the 24th century are surely anyone's guess. If the astronomer who suggested that the Swift-Tuttle comet could hit the Earth on 14th August 2116 and destroy most of the life on Earth is right there mightn't even be such a thing as marriage among the handful of survivors. Gene (ST:TMP) certainly spoke of year contracts. Even today, however, there are umpteen different forms of marriage, depending on one's religion (or culture), to say nothing of 'common law' marriages or the Scots 'marriage by habit and repute' (in other words, we ain't legally married but we live together, plan to stay together for the foreseeable future, and everyone thinks of us as being married).

Re naming cats - ours was given Whiskers as a spur-of-the-moment name simply because the vet needed a name for his records. Though she does answer occasionally to Whiskers, I'm convinced *she*

thinks her real name is 'Tea-time'. She certainly comes fast enough when she hears the word!

Re speed of light and relativity - weren't watches worn by astronauts on the Moon missions fractionally out of step with ones on Earth by the time they returned?

To Guy Wigmore - re Patrick Stewart not sounding 'motivated'. Not everyone emotes all the time. I reckon it probably takes more acting skill to sound 'everyday' realistically than to handle a dramatic situation. It's possible that Mr. Stewart feels there's little room to develop in the role of Picard, but I certainly don't see any drop-off in his dedication to the part. (And having seen him in a Shakespeare workshop on the Open University, and how he worried at the background and motivation of his character in Twelfth Night, I'm quite sure he did something similar with the part of Picard.)

To Neil Barrett - Marshak & Culbreath's books are seriously in need of a severe edit by a tough editor! Their plots are imaginative, their story development impressive in its complexity, but I always find myself having to check back at intervals to see what I've missed only to find I missed nothing; something new is too often introduced without any of the prior explanation there ought to be.

Elaine Webb - Sevenoaks

To everyone at IDIC - as a first time writer and very new member, great newsletter.

The ST:TNG Official Poster Magazine issue No. 32 carries an article about Yesterday's Enterprise. The episode was directed by David Carson and the article tells us he also directed episodes of Granada TV's Sherlock Holmes series. For anyone interested, the episodes he directed were: The Blue Carbuncle; The Resident Patient; The Musgrave Ritual; The Six Napoleons. (Source - The Television Sherlock Holmes by Peter Haining.)

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - re Don't I Know That Tune? I found this article very

interesting, particularly the lyrics of Uhura's song to and about Spock. You did say 'further example welcome', which was asking for it! What IS the song sung by Picard and Robert as they recover from their vineyard fight in Family and by Picard alone as he lies in a cave in weakened state in Final Mission? I only know the English lyrics ('I want to be near you, you're the one for me, for me etc) but Picard, logically enough, sings in French.

Re kitchens on the Enterprise. In The Corbomite Maneuver, Yeoman Rand brings Kirk hot coffee on the Bridge, causing Bones to comment that he 'thought the power was off in the galley'. This seems to support the view of catering facilities being available for senior officers, guests, and so on.

Re the physical appearance of the Enterprise crew. I know it's 'only television' but bearing in mind the flawless and highly enviable complexions of all the female crew members, I have a comment to make. The only moment in The Big Goodbye which I find even mildly annoying is Beverly's difficulty with her holodeck powder compact. Back in the real world, ie not on the holodeck, is her make-up sprayed on by the ship's computer each morning?

Bill Murphy - Edinburgh

Having watched Trek since the seventies but never having met anyone who enjoyed it as much as I did, I remained unaware, until recently, of Trek fandom. I am still stunned at what I have been missing, but I look forward to making up for lost time.

Is there anyone in the Lothians area who would like to get together, to talk Trek or watch videos? If so I can be contacted on 031-441-1806 most nights.

To Colin Mackay - my local video shop (VIP Video) is getting in TNG from tape 1 up to tape 54. These were intended for sell through; however the manager has now decided to let me rent them first. It just shows what a healthy amount of grovelling can do!

Michael Sadler - South Wirral

Regarding the debate over Troi being a

sex object for the perusal of male viewers; I recently read in a Blake's Seven fanzine called Dream Watch Base (or something like that) that Troi was going to start wearing a new blue uniform a bit like a medical one during and after an episode called Schisms. Don't quote me as gospel truth on the next bit, but there was also something about her planning to have a baby so she might start to cover herself up a bit more.

To Kirstie Jordan - re my cartoon on P 75 of N/L 24. It is very subtle but it refers to the fact that during ST II people keep asking Kirk to "give the word", eg when Peter Preston is dying. O.K., when you think about it, it's not really funny, but some you win, some you lose.

Could someone please explain to me why, in ST II when Kirk, Carol, McCoy, Saavik and David are in the underground cavern staring at the tropical forest created by Genesis, there is a sun trying to come round the corner, sort of dawning? Don't get me wrong, I'm just being picky - the scene is beautiful and I would not replace the 'sun' with lighting. Come to think about it, where is all the water coming from in that waterfall? I have seen the film a billion times, why didn't I notice this before?

Re Douglas Burke's thoughts on the ST movies, I agree with most of what he said. There is a point also that I found about ST:TMP; if you see this at the cinema, it is about 100 times better than on TV because the SFX in the film are stunning on the big screen but are undefinable on TV. It's hard to describe, but when the Enterprise is going along V'Ger, at the cinema you see intricate flowing lines which move beautifully, while on TV the Enterprise looks like it's moving along a dark murky passage for about half an hour. However, I would agree with Douglas about some of the uniforms in the film. Kirk's white T-shirt type thing is a definite no-no.

After seeing ST VI both at the cinema and at home on TV, going purely on the 'cut' of the film (and not on widescreen, stereo sound etc) I think the video cut is superior. The extra chunks that are in the film explain

a lot. To prove this, even my Mum could understand it, and she gets confused watching Neighbours. Did I fall asleep at the cinema or is the unmasking at the end of the film just on the video? I can't remember. [Ed - It's just on the video, which is the director's cut.]

Peter Bayliss - Walsall

To Lee Sansome/Gaile Wood - Hi, I wrote in as told... By the way, Gaile, there would not be much of a story if Geordi and Ro fell through the floor because they would fall straight through the ship and into deep space, where no amount of anything could save them!!!

Re story line ST VII - How on Earth (or any other planet) can Kirk hand over command to Picard? For starters Kirk would be well over 100 years old. Even someone of his stature would not be in command of a ship. Another fact to break down the script is the fact that between the command of Kirk and the command of Picard there were at least two more captains along with the two Enterprises B and C. Don't get me wrong, I believe there could be another ST movie. It should address what happens to the crew when they finally retire (joke!).

Debbie Lee - Hounslow

To the Editor - Please, articles such as Naked Times and The Enterprise Christmas Gift Catalogue should be marked with a health warning. Laugh... did I laugh? I laughed so much at the gift catalogue that I had tears streaming down my face and neighbours banging on the wall! And as for Naked Times... Thank you, Gloria Fry! It was great.

To Liz Butler - With respect to Jean-Luc aka Patrick Stewart's voice. Oh, yes, my hand is most definitely up to be counted on that one!

To Neil J Barrett - With respect to Strong Women - a Male View. The culture of the Romulans at the time of Classic Trek, if it is consistent with what is written in Star Trek - The Making of the TV Series by Whitfield and Roddenberry, should be along the lines of (I quote) "There is complete equality between the sexes; women are as often found

in command of a ship as are men", whereas the Klingons "have no patience with women, even their own, and treat them as sometimes useful animals". Is that the reason that we still see no lady Klingons on the bridge/on the Klingon Council in ST:TNG? Although there was a female Klingon on the Bridge in ST V, and let's not forget K'ehlevr. Thank you for suggesting there should be more strong female characters, but it would be nice if it did not have to be a specific semi-regular. The writers have Crusher, Troi, Ro and as you pointed out Selar (could they tempt Suzi Plakson back?) should they wish to use them.

I was a little alarmed when I saw Janet's note about ST:DS9 and zines. (Or should I say ST:D\$9?) Hmmm. Perhaps I'd better stop there until something more than rumour comes to light.

Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford

Douglas Burke's comments on ST V have led me to the following theory - the events in the film are almost entirely an hallucination. Only the very first scene and the very last really happened; Spock inadvertently distracted Kirk while he was climbing by appearing wearing a sensible anti-grav unit (not those silly jet boots). The Captain lost his hold and fell a short distance before being caught, and suffered a mild concussion. Spock lowered him to the ground and summoned the good Doctor, who soon brought him round. For a time the semiconscious Kirk drifted into a fantasy world, dreaming all the events of the film. Naturally the face of the Klingon Chancellor was transposed onto a diplomat (a breed the Captain never has much time for) and all sorts of other fantasies drifted in from the depths of Kirk's subconscious. He swiftly recovered and enjoyed a good sing-song in the woods. If a whole series of a soap can turn out to be a dream, why not a film?

To hark back to a topic from earlier issues; the destruction of Praxis and the effect on the Klingon Empire. Totalitarian states tend to exercise control by centralising important economic resources. The ancient empires used irrigation (water power). In the 23rd century the economy depends on the production of dilithium. The Klingon

command could prevent bits of the Empire from declaring independence by controlling the only installation able to produce the substance. Of course some could be bought, though surely not in sufficient quantities to support a high technological society. When Praxis exploded not only did the Klingon homeworld suffer severe ecological damage but the entire economic fabric of the Empire was disrupted. The Federation was faced not with a large militant Empire for a neighbour but a crowd of warlike successor states fighting for resources in desperately short supply. No wonder Spock opted for aiding the ailing Empire.

Given what little we know about other animals on the Klingon homeworld it's not too surprising that Klingons have to grow up quickly. If a Targ is a pet what monsters must early Klingons have had to content with? From orbit the planet looks uniformly green, and given the conditions the surface must be warm and wet. The red lighting suggests that Klingons see a slightly different range of visible light to us - a heat sense would have been useful in the foggy conditions of the marshlands. The bony cranium hides a complex set of sinuses (remember Worf's sneeze?!) to provide a better sense of smell (if vision is limited) or to filter out airborne particles. One explanation for the differing appearance of the Classic Trek Klingons is that they were from the cooler latitudes and the TNG ones are from the warmer regions. As the learning time is reduced by the rapid childhood, perhaps Klingons retain a larger set of instincts (or ancestral knowledge) than Humans. This might support the anachronistic aspects of the culture and the more drastic battle for survival would shape the warrior mentality.

But hold on - what about the other Klingons? The craftsmen, the scientists, the engineers? We have only seen the 'samurai' of the Klingon world. Devil's Due mentioned a Klingon craftsman so there must be an entire 'peaceful' underclass... otherwise, imagine the danger of hiring a Klingon craftsman?

Finally, why does only ST VI refer to the Klingon homeworld as Chronos? Why

no usage of the name in TNG? Is 'Klingon' how the Klingons pronounce 'Chronian'?

Jean Sloan - Liverpool

To Neil Barrett - Re H/C stories - Marshak & Culbreath. I agree that these stories are h/c of a psychological variety; but half the time I don't understand what's going on in the said novels. I cite particularly *The Price of the Phoenix* and *The Fate of the Phoenix*. The novels are intended to have a mystical quality, but I find that the mysticism creates obscurity; there's a sort of terseness in the style, and when I've finished reading, I feel as if there are bits of the puzzle missing. I hate that. *The Prometheus Design* is more straightforward - Kirk behaves irrationally and Spock takes command - but there are gaping holes in the logic of the actions of Kirk and Spock; they behave out of character, and I find my reading spoiled by constantly thinking 'he wouldn't do that' or 'he wouldn't say that'. What I do like as h/c are *The New Voyages*, edited by M & C. I believe the short stories contained in the two volumes are fan fiction, and they are well penned.

To Maggie Symon - I agree it is a shame that both major cons in 1994 are in London. It's really hard on the fans who come from Scotland; it took Bruce from Kelso two days to get to Rec-con in Manchester. It is also hard on the fans who rely on finding cheaper accommodation than the con hotel to help with their budgets; I doubt that Canary Wharf or Heathrow will provide much of the same. However, I was at the business meetings at both SOL III and Rec-con, and the decision about the cons was democratically taken. I think at Rec-con votes were swayed to the Heathrow venue by the sheer weight of experience of the Committee making the bid, and by the Marketing Manager of the hotel, whose delivery was so slick and persuasive that he out-Daleyed Arthur Daley (no insult intended). Also some cons should be in the south sometimes so that people in Cornwall and points south can have a chance not to travel so far too; but I *do* feel sorry for Bruce...

To Lee Sansome - Still on the subject of cons. Attendance figures seem to be rising, perhaps there is a need for more than two

cons per year. I don't know anything about the history of how the Official cons became 'official' - I'm relatively new to fandom. Could you - or anyone - enlighten me?

To Debbie Lee - I loved your article on E/O in ST.

Write to me, Bruce - I've lost your address!

Lesley Hatch - Warley, West Midlands

To John Stubbley - Hi, too! Yes, I remember you. Please write when you can.

Chris C Bailey - Didcot, Oxon

To Katrina Heintz - Your suggestion that UK Trekkers get together via a letters campaign (P 21, N/L 25) to 'force' both BBC and SKY TV to screen the 4th/5th seasons of TNG respectively, appears, on the surface at least, to be an excellent idea, especially in light of the up-and-coming reorganisation planned to 'streamline' said BBC (don't make me laugh!) which could well pressure them to accede to Trekkers' demands, but don't hold your breath...

If such a letters campaign were to be launched (and who's the lucky person who's going to Captain such a huge task?) then I for one would add my name and views more strongly. Two additional points on this subject; 1) Whilst we all must wait X months, years, decades (?) until we get to see the 4th and 5th seasons in question, what do I find that has my blood pressure rising to danger levels? Oh, only that TRE (Irish TV) are currently broadcasting the 4th season in toto! Arrrrgh! 2) Why is it that whenever SKY screens ST/ST:TNG, they sensibly agree to show it five days a week? Perhaps if the BBC were to adopt this modern attitude it would increase its currently nose-diving audience figures. Having to put up with one episode per week in this day and age is quite frustrating.

To Heather Noyce - Yes, I quite agree with you (P 18, N/L 25) that Captain's Log; William Shatner's Personal Account of the Making of Star Trek 5: The Final Frontier - as told by Lisabeth Shatner (Titan 1989 224pp £5.99) gives the Trekker quite an insight into

just how Shatner & Co came up with the idea for the film, as well as showing the Trekker just how much fun he had whilst doing it! Almost certainly, TFF suffered as a result of overspending its budget, as well as having various scenes and SFX necessary to the story's plausibility left on the cutting room floor (much to Shatner's annoyance), which resulted in a poorer film than Shatner, as director, had originally tried to create.

To anyone - Re William Shatner's Rescue 911 on LWT. Can you please tell me what time/day it is shown on so I can watch it. Whilst it's nice to know that SKY One is currently showing it every weekday night at 18.00, it's really quite problematical, as I don't have SKY.

Philip Morley - Fleetwood, Lancs

To Dave Styles - I don't think Captain Styles from ST III was a bad guy. Just because he pursued the Enterprise doesn't mean to say that he's particularly nasty. He was merely following orders, which were to pursue Enterprise. He may not have been a very good Captain, however, because he allowed his ship to be sabotaged - and as his ship was one of the most important pieces of equipment at that time, he was probably reprimanded for it.

SPOILER ALERT to Lisa Dearnley-Davison - Your review of Relics was quite wrong. I had the opportunity of seeing it about a month ago, and the story is like this: 75 years before TNG's time, Scotty was being transported to a colony on a transporter vessel, USS Jenolen; but the Jenolen ran into difficulties and crashed onto a Dyson Sphere it was orbiting. In order to prevent them starving, Scotty and the chief engineer of the Jenolen reprogrammed the transporter to send them into a state of anti-matter until the transporter was reactivated. 75 years later, the Enterprise-D received the Jenolen's old distress call and went to investigate. Worf, Geordi and Riker beamed on board the Starship. Geordi reactivated the transporter as the panel was still active. Scotty rematerialised, but the other pattern was lost so he couldn't be saved. Back on board the Enterprise, Scotty programmed the holodeck to recreate the bridge of the ORIGINAL

Enterprise of the ORIGINAL series. Later on, the Enterprise-D runs into difficulty over the Dyson Sphere the same way the Jenolen did 75 years before, but thanks to the combined efforts of Scotty and Geordi, the Enterprise is saved... what a nice story!

Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

To Dejan Ladika - Denise Crosby explained in some interviews I read why she left. She wasn't satisfied how Tasha was treated in the series. Denise felt that she had too little to do and that her character wasn't developed properly. So she decided to leave and it was also her wish that Tasha had to die. Although I regret Denise's decision very much I can understand her as well. But on the other hand she is back now as Sela, who could develop into a very interesting character, and without Tasha's death Worf would probably never have got the opportunities he had. Therefore I see Tasha's death with mixed feelings.

To Stephen Shaw - Re my remarks about the Trill in DS9 in the last N/L. Recently I got some new information about the Trill in DS9/ It seems that the human body keeps his or her personality in a way. I read that the human body will be addressed as Jadzia and the Trill as Dax. I got a very short description of a planned DS9 episode (Inside Out) with the Trill and in this it seems that the Trill can suppress the wishes of the host if he wishes to do so and also the other way round is possible. Sometimes the Trill is in control, sometimes the host. It seems to be rather complicated and I think we will have to wait and see before we can decide how to judge this strange relationship. At least I am relieved that the host is not completely suppressed. Nevertheless I will watch this topic very closely when DS9 starts!

It was certainly good news for me to read in the latest TV Zone that there will be more women in command in DS9, also in Away Teams. I hope that will be true! It is certainly very good news that Ensign Ro stays in TNG. I enjoyed the episode Rascals very much! It was also good to see O'Brien again in Realm of Fear. I didn't expect to see any more episodes with him because he will be in DS9; hopefully it will not be the only

one. Other nice surprises so far are that Data's cat Spot is back in A Fistful of Datas and that O'Brien also has a pet. I think the end of Realm of Fear when he showed his pet to Barclay is priceless!

I can only agree, Relics is a great episode which I enjoyed as much as Unification. I am curious how many other crew members of the Classic series will appear in TNG or DS9. Actually I was watching all the time in Relics for somebody finally to say "Beam me up, Scotty!" but it didn't happen. I think the authors should have used this opportunity. I haven't got the book yet - perhaps I will find this in there.

To Colin Mackay and everybody else interested - My fiancé is a computer programmer and has an Amiga at home. He can digitalise pictures from all episodes you want and also has many public domain discs. Because I don't want my address printed in the N/L I ask you to send your letter to IDIC and ask them to forward mail to me. My fiancé will contact you then.

To finish, I would like to warn all fans who are interested in ST photos. Perhaps you also have seen the advert in Starlog about them. I ordered most of them in two orders (I couldn't afford them all at once). To my surprise the photos don't come from Starlog but from a company called Creation Entertainment. They sent the photos by UPS, who presented me with a bill for £17.46, which included £5.68 VAT and £10 so-called deferment charge. I was very annoyed but because I wanted the photos, I paid; and immediately wrote Creation Entertainment and told them to send the second package by normal post. Soon another UPS package arrived, with a bill of £18.49, which included £6.47 VAT and another £10 deferment charge. This is absolutely incredible! I've ordered photos like these before from the USA and never had to pay anything extra. I wrote twice to Creation Entertainment, sending IRCs, and never got a reply. I also wrote UPS; their explanation is not satisfying and it seems to me they are using this opportunity to make more money. If anyone orders these photos you should ask first for a guarantee that they are not sent by UPS!

[Janet: While I can't comment on this particular case any merchandise imported into the country is liable to customs and VAT. I paid an extra third on two jackets. Be warned! Check out British shops first as you may get the items cheaper from them.]

B Proctor - Leighton Buzzard

How could Paramount even think about making a Star Trek VII after the brilliant ending of Star Trek VI? The Klingons making peace with the Federation, Kirk bidding farewell to Sulu, the Enterprise sailing off into space, followed by the sign-off. All this would be ruined by the new film - also how stupid the new film will look after that ending!

As for the rumour that Kirk hands over the Enterprise to Picard in Star Trek VII, this is impossible as Picard would not have been born! We know this simply because in ST:TNG Encounter at Farpoint, McCoy turns up at the ripe old age of 137, about 70 years after Star Trek VI - and I don't think Picard is that old!

Can anyone please tell me if a model of the USS Excelsior is available?

Linda Wood - Glasgow

To Gloria Fry - shame on you, Gloria! How could you *possibly* look at Captain Kirk's shaved torso with lustful eyes when, even with his shirt on, Mr Spock's physique is much more - shall we say - appetising? And as for the bearded alternative Spock in Mirror, Mirror - Wow! No matter how often I watch that episode, his appearance still takes my breath away! OK, so I'm biased, but I can only say that, when the two of them are on screen together, I (and you) know who holds my constant attention! Also I was a little surprised at your sideswipe at 'weedy' Illya Kuryakin. David McCallum is, of course, a fellow Glaswegian and the Solo/Illya relationship has more than a few overtones of the Kirk/Spock scenario. Over the last few U.N.C.L.E. episodes, I have found myself being drawn to Illya, although I never was when first the show was aired. And Mr McCallum does a very nice line in 'dies'!

To Kathleen Glancy - "Exactly so!"

However, I'm not sure that an RSC player like Patrick would like to have any kind of association with our beloved G & S!

Dejan Ladika - Slovenia

Here I am again. When I wrote to the last N/L, I had only seen the first season of TNG, but now thanks to SKY 1 and my friend, I've seen all second and third seasons too.

To Gaile Wood - I totally agree with Edwin Yau about Troi's and Yar's 'build'. I think Troi's build, for a Starfleet officer, is not perfect and I don't think it's easy for her to be Security Chief or easy to learn defence and fighting - because 1) she wears a long dress, she couldn't even lift her leg, and if suddenly someone attacks her - a child could beat her up! and 2) I don't think Betazoids can kill because they have very strong emotions. Troi would be an awful Security Chief.

Also I think she should wear uniform (it can be different) like everyone else. And she is no longer as important as she sometimes was in the first season. I hope you don't get me wrong, I have nothing against Troi, but Tasha Yar is a more perfect officer.

The 25th Anniversary Special on SKY 1 was great. Bill Shatner and Leonard Nimoy hosted it well. It was interesting to see all the history of Star Trek and its fans.

Gratiene Vandekerkhove - Belgium

To Dave Styles - I saw Classic Trek as a teenager and I was hooked from the start. Now I'm watching it through adult eyes and it hasn't lost any of its magic, regardless of the facts you pointed out. I see friendship and care, a commitment to each other, and to me these are the most important things. I am not disappointed.

To Helen White - What about Plan D?

To Gaile Wood - You got me hilarious (but then I often don't need much) picturing the men with a low frock and hmmm... the rest too.

To Ann Peters - It was up to Crater to

tell the truth in the first place. No-one would have been killed, the creature included. The only time Kirk provoked it was at the end when he held out those salt pills, but that was to make McCoy realise that the person he defended wasn't Nancy Crater but a lethal creature who already killed five men. By the way, Kirk didn't destroy it, that was done by Leonard McCoy, nor did he give the order to do so.

To Philip Morley - I've watched *Best of Both Worlds* again and disagree with you. The task of a First Officer is to present a smooth-running ship to its Captain, to give any clues or avenues of action or non-action (s)he sees so that the Captain can take the best possible decision. I think that Shelby would make a very fine First Officer to both Picard and Riker; I think they would work well together as it would keep them on their toes.

After reading those articles about children on board Starships, some questions crossed my mind.

1) Is it justified to put an added responsibility on any command officer's shoulders?

2) What bearing has that responsibility for civilians including children on command decisions?

3) Does the fact of having children on board cripple the exploratory and defence role of the Enterprise?

To Neil J Barrett - I love the novels of Sondra Marshak and Myrna Culbreath.

Dave Smith - Northampton

To Katrina Heintz re your letter in N/L 25, I think the idea of a letter campaign to the BBC regarding TNG is a very good one. If all fan clubs in the country (not just IDIC) inundated the Beeb with polite but forceful comments on their policy regarding Trek, that it's possible it could initiate a change of heart at the Corporation. Perhaps the committee could write to the other fan clubs in order to gauge their reaction to the idea. I have written, and if and when I receive an

answer I will send IDIC a copy so that they can see what sort of reaction we are getting.

I have just purchased TNG video No. 45, the episode titled *First Contact*. I think this story to be one of the best of the fourth season, apart from the sexual blackmail incident. Would Riker, who was still weak and injured, be able to 'perform' at such short notice? Even allowing for the alien female's attractiveness I found this segment to be irrelevant to the story, but the remainder of the story was brilliant. The idea of watching a planet's development and having a team of experts living among the inhabitants has always struck me as the ideal way of finding out about the way people really are. Is it possible, perhaps, that there are aliens living amongst us, watching us, studying our behaviour and our customs. If so, let's hope they attend a few conventions! I'm sure that the sight of fans dressing as Klingons, Romulans and the like is sure to endear our race to anyone who cares to show an interest.

As I'm writing this before Christmas I would like to wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and to congratulate the committee and their assistants on an excellent newsletter. It just gets better and better. Well done Robert Grey on his logo. I voted for you, Robert, but I placed you second (after my own design). I bear you no ill will, the best design won.

I'm looking forward to 1993 and to my second convention (*Warp One*); I hope to see some of you there. Finally, can anyone tell me where I can get an IDIC T-shirt? Perhaps the committee could get a button badge with the new club logo made so that fellow club members could identify each other at Trek events. I for one would find it a great help in breaking down people's resistance to starting conversations with strangers. Comments from other members, please.

Katrina Heintz - Bathgate

Living in Scotland I have to be choosy about which conventions I can go to, especially as I have to take holiday time to attend. The further south a convention, the more expensive it is, with travel, hotel, con fee and spending money. So many of the

conventions are out as far as I'm concerned. The same is true in reverse. With Contagion being the only con in Scotland, for many that's the only con they can attend. A governing body on conventions should be enforced - this might help to ensure a fair distribution of the major conventions all over the country.

I've read the reports on Creation Cons and I certainly wouldn't like to see the like over here. Keep our cons the way they are, three days of fun with all aspects of Star trek.

To Kathleen Glancy - I agree up to a point about Gillian Taylor, that could be true, but the reverse may also be correct. She possibly may have been destined to disappear at that point, just as Edith Keeler had to die in the 1930s. Take the episode Assignment Earth - a missile was destroyed by the Enterprise exactly where the history books said it happened; this fact was discovered after the event. The same could apply to Gillian. Many people vanish without trace. If she was returned to her own time, that might lead to an alteration of history.

Margaret Gibb - Renfrew

As a new member of IDIC, I have found the newsletters quite intimidating. I always felt I knew a fair amount about Classic Trek at least, but nowhere near as much as the people who write to your postbag.

However, in N/L 25 I found a question I could answer. Roger Buck asked if The Lieutenant had been on British TV. It certainly has. I remember it on STV in the early sixties. I hasten to add I was quite young at the time!

In Edward Woo's article about Saavik, I find I'm in the minority preferring Robin Curtis' interpretation, specially the way she reported David's death, which was very Vulcan. He mentions a relationship between David and Saavik. According to Harve Bennett in the ST Interview Book, he scripted that Saavik was pregnant by Spock but Leonard Nimoy did not wish this in the film and cut out those scenes. It certainly explains

Saavik staying on Vulcan, and in the parting shot that she is standing with Amanda, Spock's mother.

I couldn't resist buying the video of Unification but must admit I was disappointed. I would like to have seen Spock on board the Enterprise and meeting other members of the crew. It also seems a pity that Sarek is now dead. Although he was ill, they could have kept him going a bit longer. In the scene where Picard goes to see him, there was no sign of any warmth or compassion in Picard's manner - he seemed to act more as a Vulcan would in that situation. This didn't feel right as they had mind melded and Picard felt tremendous respect for Sarek. In N/L 24 Helen White reported a storyline D C Fontana did about Sarek, Spock and the Romulans. This sounded a better idea than the one finally used.

I'd like to reassure Roger Buck that he isn't the only one who takes a great deal of notice of credits. Since reading some of the ST background books I have come to appreciate all these unsung people behind the scenes. I am now re-watching Classic Trek and paying more attention to things like scenery, backgrounds, music, costumes, etc. All these details add to every story.

Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Preston

To all those frustrated paneologists out there who wanted me to do a bit of comic-hunting - I said I would but, like a t'inkisqa kusilloq forgot to put my address. OK. It's 8 Brook Street, Higher Walton, Preston, Lancs PR5 4DU. Don't try to work a fast one on me... I know how much Iron Man No. 1's worth, thank you.

To Neil Barrett and Sara Jackson - and Ms Willcox. OK, so there aren't that many strong women in TNG. I'm a great Ensign Ro fan myself though I'd love to see Wil Wheaton's pet idea, Wesley Crusher locked in a shuttlecraft with Ensign Ro. OK, who's going to write it? For my two-pennorth, I'd say Shelby was a nuisance, Ro gets my vote, we don't see enough of the female Admirals (even DeSoto seemed more decoration than use). And... someone, please, PLEASE tell

me, why are there no more strong female ALIEN characters? TNG hasn't yet come up with one to match T'Pol.

I'm getting more and more worried every time I hear about DS9, you know - unless the idea is that it's going to be comedy. Q I can understand - what could he do to a decrepit space station that he hasn't already done to the Enterprise? Perhaps fix it! Some of Odo's disguises worry me. What if he turns into an Altarian honey-apple and someone accidentally eats him?

Lloyd, agree re time travel. I don't think the moon would take all that weight... would there be space for LM Eagle to land? Purely theoretically, would someone change history deliberately? I'm thinking of the Twilight Zone episode Profile in Silver, where the JF assassination was halted, leading to nuclear war. Or the consequences in Yesterday's Enterprise. Surely if time travel were possible, there must be some pretty tight constraints on it.

Further to the debate re delivery of lines between Patrick Stewart and Michael Dorn. Anyone who has worn braces on their teeth will know the effect it has on the voice. You have this big lump of plastic in your mouth and trying to get a line out without whistling is quite a challenge. Now artificial teeth aren't that much different (at least Michael Dorn's aren't) and he also has to drop his voice about three notes - it's deep enough to begin with but there is a difference. Add breath and phrasing difficulties caused by things outside his control and it's quite a feat. Though I suppose he's now used to it after five years. Bet he's glad to get his teeth out.

How many people want me to back down re stardates, eh? I won't. OK, so I'm a perfectionist. I will, however, back down re The Minstrel Boy. My book said Wales and I took it as such. Oops!

To Kathleen Glancy - Yes, I know what you mean. Got a question the other day, "My friend lives in Laroiya... do you know her?" Achachaw! Between Laroiya and the nearest bit of Bolivia there are several

thousand miles, half the Andes and a lake... and not many roads.

To Stephen Shaw - re Trill. I thought that's what I give my budgie (called Riker) for lunch!

To Neil Barrett - Don't quite get your question. If you mean give it a single capital, you could have slough or reading, but I know there's a more obvious one and I'm going barmy trying to remember it.

By the way - best cure for cold feet I know, wrap them up in a warm cat!

Lydia (Ensign Samrak) Bryant - Guildford

Being a relatively new member, I thought I'd write to tell you how much I enjoy IDIC and await each newsletter eagerly.

Regards the 'not speaking Klingonese' debate, 'anyone who has read the Klingon dictionary' will know there are many forms of Klingon and although Uhura may speak the most popular form of Klingon, who's to say which form these Klingons were speaking?

To Lloyd Lewis - Write a lot, don't we, dearie? Re time travel, I don't agree. Your theory creates a paradox. If there were so many 'rubbernecks' that history couldn't be made this would, presumably change the future, meaning conditions would be different and time travel not invented, making history revert to its former self and time travel being invented again and so on 'til eternity.

To Ann Peters - You complain about the lack of male chests on ST:TNG but I have it on good authority that their costumes are padded so much that the bare chest is a bit of a disappointment, going on what they look like in uniform!

To Philip Morley - The Emperor must be more than 35 years of age, yet he is considered the most honourable warrior. The exception that proves the rule, perhaps?

By the way, anyone who is interested -

I am currently teaching myself Klingonese but at the moment I know only one all-important phrase - 'nuqDaq yuch Dapol' or 'Where do you keep the chocolate?'

To Steve Davies - Congratulations on your engagement.

Did anyone notice in The Enemy Within (shown a while back) how the scratches on Kirk's face change sides when he meets the other Kirk?

To Liz Butler - I agree wholeheartedly. Jean-Luc's voice is enough to turn any self-respecting women to jelly.

To anyone who's interested - I have a new guinea pig named Tiberius Spock McCoy, and my sister's is called Montgomery Scott (Tib and Monty, respectively, for short). Also, does anyone know if I can get any ST sheet music? Any info would be appreciated.

Lastly, would anyone like to donate me the air fare to go to the Washington ST exhibition?

Edward Woo - L*v*r*o*I, M*r*e*s*d*

To Anne Rodgers - Like you I get post-con depression and I've had it since Contagion finished. The only cure will be a visit to Starbase 93 in January.

To Sheila Clark - Your convention laws were very amusing and I agree with every one of them. Another law is - The mundanes will get mixed up between Dr Spock and Mr Spock.

If Picard were to be promoted and leave the centre seat, Riker is likely to get the Captaincy. Various choices have been forwarded for the vacant First Officer position. I would love to see Lt Cmdr Suzanna Lighton (played by Maryann Plunkett from Identity Crisis) promoted to either First or Second Officer. She showed excellent leadership qualities by being in command of the away team from the Victory early in her career. She is not as aggressive as Shelby but seemed to have worked well with the crew and Riker. Being in the line of command of a Starship may be new to her

but would be invaluable to her learning process. I think La Forge would remain as Chief Engineer.

To Dave Styles - I did not think Captain Styles (ST III) was nasty - he was just doing his job, and I liked his military style character. As for the other Styles - he was only nasty to Spock and he only lasted one episode. Were the two Styles meant to be related in any way?

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Like you, I attend both comic and film marts in Liverpool. They are fairly regular and you can pick up quite a few ST bargains, especially photos. I would advise other Trek fans - they are worth a visit if there is one near you.

To Liz Caldwell & Pam Baddeley - This on-going debate about cons is very interesting. I never want to see CT and TNG separated. Originally we only had CT videos; now we have TNG and soon will have DS9 - three Trek rooms. To accommodate this I think the general SF room should be reduced, as I have found on many occasions this room was empty.

To Kathleen Glancy - Re the universal translator problem. The Enterprise crew knew that the penal colony was in Klingon territory and there would be listening posts. The UT could have been set up for the Klingon language. Surely a computer is faster at translating a message and producing an appropriate answer than searching through books.

To Lee Sansome - Yes, 1993 is full of Trek cons and it would seem like a bumper year. 1994 looks a little thinner. However, I do agree we shouldn't have too many cons. Your idea of 3 official cons seems plausible. If there were three, they should be spread out over the year and the Business Meeting system should be used for all conventions devoted to Trek, to avoid too many per year. Two cons in the London area in 1994 is a bit difficult for us Northerners. Surely some kind of geographical spread is needed as well.

To Neil J Barrett & Ann Peters - Like you I would like to see more of Picard's French background, say in his food, drink or history. It was suggested by a fellow fan that his national identity may have been submerged in a unified Earth but surely some of his native past would still be there.

To Gaile Wood - **SPOILER ALERT!** I found Time's Arrow Part II disappointing - a bit of an anticlimax. It just didn't live up to part I. Another problem is Data's head - one in the 24th century and the other in the 18th. I didn't like the Mark Twain character; a bit too nosey for my liking, though he did improve after seeing the 24th century!

To Heather Smith - Thanks for the Christmas card. You don't have to know a lot about ST to write about it - write about how you found it, or your favourite character or episode to start off with.

Lee Sansome - Tamworth

To Dave Styles - I think all of us look back on our first encounter with Classic Trek through rose-coloured specs and, if you try to make direct comparisons with TNG (especially technical ones) CT is bound to come off worse. After all, it's 25 years old. But I'd say try to suspend the disbelief the 60s feel of the series gives you (in particular the sexism!) and look at what drew you to your granny's TV every week all those years ago. There was conflict (not just with aliens but, as in most 'families', between cast regulars) which led to lots of good drama; there was good SF, some penned by the genre's top writers; there was political and moral comment; there was tolerance and respect and love. All those things are still there to be enjoyed; 25 years hasn't changed all that. And yes, I like TNG too!

To Kathleen Glancy - Re The Outcast. It's an excellent episode but yes, the asexuals are played by women and it would have been more powerful had they been played by men. However, Jonathan Frakes is on record as saying that he wishes they had used the men who were tested for the parts, including that of his opposite number. I'd think it was Paramount, not Frakes, who weren't brave enough!

To Neil J Barrett - When asked at an American con why Picard didn't speak with a French accent, Patrick Stewart asked if the questioner was implying that Picard would speak Federation Standard/English badly? In fact, he said, Picard speaks impeccable, accentless Standard, just as he speaks impeccable French!

To Janet Q - I agree, Relics is a wonderful episode and now rates among my top ten TNG shows, but I'm absolutely certain you have to be a Classic fan to fully appreciate it!

To Eddie Yau/Gaile Wood/anyone else who's remotely interested in Troi's frock - 1) Star Trek justification: I always assumed she wore something different (ie not a uniform) because she was Ship's Counselor. Even now the trend is for health professionals in the psychiatric wing of the service not to wear uniforms, since more informal wear lessens the 'them and us' divide and relaxes the patient. 2) Real Life justification: Marina is pretty, she's got a good figure and yes, a sexy lady probably will help with ratings in some quarters! I don't feel threatened or offended by that - it's just a fact of 20th century life. I think Marina most probably recognises it too and, in a profession where 90% are out of work at any given time, is glad that nature gave her an edge! First you get the part, then you prove to the producers that not only do you look good, but you can act, too. Then you hope that the writers give you material which actually reflects those abilities!

Re the possible ban on DS9 fan fiction. This is very bad news. I don't know if I'll like it enough to want to write about it, but I sure as hell want the option! To stifle fan creativity and enjoyment like this is a very big mistake on Paramount's part. I cannot imagine their motives are anything other than financial and, if they truly feel that the sale of fanzines damages their profit margins (which I cannot believe) then they should take a long, hard look at the quality of some of their 'professional' material.

To Chris Blenkarn - Thank you, thank you for your 'Gift Catalogue' - I laughed until

I cried and I've been humming "I Perceived my Parent..." all Christmas! Where, oh where can I get a Vulcan Miniature of my very own? I need one - badly!!!

Karen Sparks - Exeter

I just thought I'd mention that on a visit to the Science Museum in London over the holiday, I discovered they were running a special Christmas programme called, "Science Fiction, Science Fact". As part of this there was a small display in a glass case of several genuine Star Trek items on loan from the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington. There was a communicator, two tribbles, a shuttlecraft model (1701/7 - with badly peeling paint!) and a 14" model of the Enterprise - the surface of which had a cream coloured, plaster-type of finish, with very little detail - not what I had expected at all; I'm not sure which kind of shots that would have been used in. (There was also a flying saucer from "Invaders" for some reason!)

I attended a talk by the SF author Brian Stableford, which discussed "The Science in Science Fiction", talking about which writers based their work on hard science (as it was known at the time of writing), and which used sheer imagination and speculation. His comments on those writers who invent convenient and unbelievable devices to get around difficult problems in the plot were less than approving! His only two mentions of Star Trek came into this category, with the transporter and warp drive being the culprits. I am deeply regretting that I didn't have the courage of my convictions to try to counter-balance this by mentioning the Star Trek inventions which have come true since the series was written, particularly some of the medical devices (scanners and hypos), and even automatic doors. However, it was considerably more formal than a convention and my nerve deserted me - sorry!

Janet Quarton - Lochgilphead, Argyll

I was interested in Lee Sansome's comments in the last newsletter regarding this year's numerous ST conventions. I feel that the main problem with the Business Meeting system is that only those people

attending a convention have the chance to vote. This didn't matter so much while the conventions were fairly central but with both conventions in 1994 being in the London area, and therefore more accessible to fans in the south, what is the bet that the conventions every two years will be held in the south.

My personal preference would be for one major convention a year voted for by fans - ideally with some way being found to give all ST club members in the U.K. and ST convention attendees the chance to vote. This convention could be limited geographically to no further north than Leeds/Blackpool and no further south than Coventry/Leicester. This still means that the fans living at the far points of the compass have the furthest to travel but whereas Dundee to Coventry is just possible to drive, on a Friday after work, Dundee to London (and then some) isn't.

My wish for one main convention is selfish as I would like that chance to meet as many of my friends as possible at least once a year.

Outside that one convention I don't see why anyone who wants to run a convention shouldn't be able to. Just because a convention is voted in doesn't mean it is any more likely to get a major guest than any other convention. As we've seen in the past, getting an actor isn't just down to how much you can afford. It also depends on finding one who is willing to travel, is free to travel, and who isn't offered work just before the convention. The more conventions there are the more likely we are to see the actors but I feel that an actor is a bonus at a convention, not the main reason for attending.

The non-business meeting cons tend to cater for more local fans and grow to meet demand. For example Contagion started as a local convention but has had to grow in size to cater for everyone who wants to go. Obviously fans who can travel are attracted to a convention that they have heard good things about but even so the majority of attendees are Scottish fans who cannot get down to the English-based conventions. If

Contagion put in a bid at a business meeting it would probably lose because Glasgow is too far north, thereby depriving many Scots of the opportunity to attend a con.

There is also the point that there are far more fans wanting to attend conventions these days and the May convention, which has always been the best attended, has not been able to cater for everyone who wanted to attend. Hopefully Warp One will be able to cope and won't need to turn anyone away but there aren't many venues which can cater for over 1000 people.

As to choosing which convention to attend - I think fans should feel free to attend the convention which suits them best. After all it can cost a lot of money to attend a convention. I personally try to attend business meeting conventions and although I have had to miss a couple of August ones I have been registered for them. Other than that I try to go to at least one other convention, preferably one which is closer at hand. In fact I would have loved to have gone to Starbase 93 in Leeds but the weather is too unpredictable in January.

So far I have never missed a May convention but there is a large question mark over 1994 as I just can't see how we are going to get ourselves plus a large number of boxes to Canary Wharf. I have to admit feeling a bit peeved at possibly having to miss the main ST convention of the year because it is being held in a place almost impossible for me to get to.

I feel I should point out that while we can discuss business meeting conventions in this newsletter to our hearts content the only way any changes can be brought about are at a business meeting at one of the conventions. If anyone wants to put forward any amendment to the rules they need to submit the amendments in writing to the convention committee so that they can be discussed at the meeting.

To David Styles - The original series was unique and far more ahead of its time when it was produced than TNG. When we look at it now the early episodes seem a bit

strange compared with later episodes, but all series have to grow and develop, just as TNG did. The special effects may seem primitive compared with what is produced these days, but I always liked Star Trek for its characters and for what was to me a totally believable universe. The original Star Trek means as much to me today as it ever has - maybe more. It has been a special part of my life for nearly 23 years.

To Ann Peters - All Kirk was trying to do in Man Trap was to capture a creature that was killing his crew. He never deprived it of salt - it never asked for salt. In fact the creature killed Green for no reason as Crater still had salt and if it had waited the Enterprise would have supplied him with more. Again, on the Enterprise, the creature could have asked for salt or even got some in the mess - it had no reason to kill. Crater was the real person at fault for trying to hide its existence.

Lt. Cdr. Shirley A. Shatner - Winsford, Cheshire

To Eddie Yau - I don't think you can compare Kirk with Picard. They react to a given situation in different ways because of their characters. In Kirk's time there was a constant danger of war with Klingons or Romulans since they share boarders with the Federation. In Picard's time the Romulans are quiet and the Klingons are - if not allies - at least not enemies. There are, of course, other dangers, the Q, the Borg, the Ferengi, but different situations call for different solutions. It would have done Kirk no good to try talking to Klingons and it would do Picard no good to pick a fist fight with Q or the Borg.

To Lloyd Lewis - Given the choice I would prefer Bones or failing him then Kate as my doctor. You need someone who will get your fighting spirit up (if it is serious) rather than someone who seems distant and unconcerned.

To Marion Pritchard - When I attended Sol 3 '91 I went on my own and it was a bewildering experience. Everyone else was in groups and as I'm shy I couldn't go up to

someone and introduce myself. Consequently I did not have as much fun as I could have.

To Lee Sansome - I can't complain about where cons have been held over recent years. However, all things considered 3 official cons a year each held in a different part of the country would give people more chances to go to cons. I wouldn't like to see British cons held like American cons, they don't sound nearly as much fun!

Peter J. Poole

Well here we go - finally succumbing to the urge to write a letter to IDIC, firstly to publicly commend the Committee on what has to be the best Trek newsletter around, and secondly to throw in a few random numbers on some of the letter column topics.

TNG vs Original Trek? Trek in the sixties and seventies was a major influence in my formative years. I loved it, and have fond memories of many episodes, but I don't particularly want to collect them all again or to spend a lot of time rewatching them, mainly because they were a product of what was technically and socially acceptable for TV viewing at that time. Nowadays I prefer the greater depth that TNG offers in terms of character and plot development. That's why I love playing with the TNG characters but can't ever see myself doing an Original Trek story.

K/S, hurt-comfort - these do seem to be mainly by women, for women, and really don't do a great deal for me - either because I can't see the characters acting this way or because there's only so much 'plumbing' I can read without yawning. Most slash I've seen/heard of seems to be original Trek, presumably because the closeness of the 'Big Three' lends itself to such stories - is there any TNG slash? (Picard/Riker! Geordi/Data! Wort/Wesley? Enquiring minds want to know....) Fifth season episode 'Outcast' was pretty good attempt at handling alternate sexual preferences, but for me it coped out on two points, one where the aliens were supposedly evolved from two sexes allowing those who preferred gender specific roles to be classed as 'throwbacks' and in the

passionate appeal speech where the defendant asks for 'sympathy', a word which puts a different complexion on the cause being defended.

A final thought - one thing I find strange in most recurring Trek fanzines is the lack of a letters column. I miss the feedback on stories, and the constructive criticism that can be given this way. Comments anyone?

Lorraine Goodison

All the news about problems getting TNG on TV at home and abroad reminded me of something my Australian friend reported, and I quote; 'One of our channels did screen TNG in between weeks of the cricket matches, which meant we'd have one night of TNG then three weeks of cricket. It was scheduled for Wednesday nights at 7.30pm, but they really mucked it around, showing second season episodes with Whoopi Goldberg, then bits and pieces all chopped around in first season. Tasha was killed off then resurrected. They really tried to do their best to drop the ratings. Each episode had a grand total of 32 minutes - including front and back credits and the bits they cut were sometimes relevant to the plot. After not being on for several weeks, they changed the time slot to 11.30pm and then took it off while Wimbledon was on!' Thank goodness I live in Britain!

William Marsh - Atherstone, Warwickshire

Re N/Ls 22-25:

I've had enough of reading peoples' views on stupid little things such as the scene in STVI where Uhura tried to communicate with the Klingon outpost. Are people that desperate to argue about something they have to moan on about a 30 second joke? [Janet - Star Trek fans have always enjoyed trying to find explanations for scenes that have continuity errors or which don't seem quite right.]

I would like to say that although people thought that ConFederation '92 was badly organised and advertised, it was an excellent convention and I'd like to congratulate Fiona Barrowclough on a good convention. If it wasn't for people like this there would be no conventions. [Janet - I don't

think anyone criticised ConFederation in the IDIC newsletter.]

I hope TNG won't go into movies after the 6th Season as I don't know about anyone else but I'd rather have another 26 episodes instead of 3 or 4 films.

To Dave Stiles - I want to say that the original series was excellent in its time and if you look don't at it for out-of-date uniforms and obvious happenings it is still good now. I'm sure TNG will be looked upon like the original is now when it is old and DS9 is prospering

Robin Day - Kingswinford, West Midlands

I've just qualified with my first Guide Dog. She's a two-year old German Shepherdess named Jodie. She's absolutely wonderful and much more fun than a VISOR - Geordi doesn't know what he's missing. I had to spend four weeks at Leamington with Jodie to learn all about how to work with her and to build up a relationship. GDBA refer to a guide dog and owner as a unit; I enclose a photo of the unit.



Robin and Jodie

My wife Paulin, and I were mulling over the possibility of Patrick Stewart not continuing his role in TNG. At first we could not imagine that any other actor could take over as captain of the Enterprise with any success.

We don't feel that Riker would be promoted to fill his shoes just on the basis of being there. After all, the Enterprise is Starfleet's flagship. They'd want a tried and tested captain in command, not a newly promoted one. I imagine that capable as he is, Riker would have to captain some other vessel first before getting Enterprise.

As far as the acting side goes, it would obviously be difficult to imagine someone new to Trek replacing Patrick Stewart in the captain's seat. They would have to portray someone with a very strong personality and not just be a carbon copy of Picard.

The series would be doomed, we thought. Then it occurred to us that we could have the best of both worlds, no pun intended. We could have a Trek actor portraying a new character with a strong and interesting personality to keep the audience involved. We want to see George Takei taking over as captain, in the role of "Son of Sulu". I'm sure he'd be enormously popular. He could be different from his father in being very oriental in outlook. He could teach Worf a few oriental martial arts for instance, and perhaps compare the Klingon culture with Japanese tradition and honour. I'd love to see him talking to Riker about stories his father told him about his years with Kirk & Co.

Mind you, having said all that, I don't want to see Patrick Stewart go.

We've just watched Unification. We thought it was one of TNG's best episodes but were very sad that Sarek died. He is (or was) one of our favourite characters, mainly, I suspect, because Mark Lenard plays the part so well. We now want to see him restored to live - how about "The Search For Sarek" as a forthcoming episode. (What did happen to Sarek's Katra? Did it go to Picard when they touched hands at the end of their last meeting or what?).

Simon Plumbe, Birmingham

To Colin Mackay - thanks for giving my zine, "The Final Frontier" a small plug in N/L 24. Nice to see that the work I've been

doing over the last couple of years is appreciated!

To Helen White - at last! I finally find someone else who prefers Robin Curtis' interpretation of Saavik! What I enjoyed more about her performance is that she played the character with a slight hint of emotion, something that was somewhat lacking from Kirstie Alley. Well, if Saavik is half-Romulan, she should find it harder to suppress her emotions than a full Vulcan.

To Marion Pritchard - as far as Paramount having someone working there checking for continuity errors, they USED to have Richard Arnold until they sacked him. It shows how Paramount really care about getting their "facts" right. However, continuity IS important in Trek - can you imagine being told something in one episode, only to have that statement contradicted a few episodes later? It DOES happen and it can really spoil a good story.

To Eddie Yau - well, I had to write something to you again! Riker and Troi being carbon copies of Decker and Ilia? Give me a break! Riker, I agree to a limited extent, but the only similarity concerning both of them is the background concerning their past relationship. As for Troi being a copy of Ilia... I can't really imagine Worf going to see Ilia for advice concerning Alexander, can you? Also, I dread to think what would life would be like on a long space mission with no-one to turn to for professional advice!

To the T'Kon '92 Committee - thanks for a great con and I'm eagerly looking forward to the next one in '94!

To Maggie Symon - re: your comment on my disk zine, "The Final Frontier". I can understand how you may feel about the possible demise of books, but have you ever actually SEEN a copy of THE FINAL FRONTIER? If you had, you'd realise that it is not simply text on a screen. By having a zine on disk, it allows me to have all the features and contents other zines would love to have - colour art, music, animations and VERY large articles. In fact, in Issue 3, there was enough text to fill a 700 page zine. As

far as zines are concerned, I don't really think the medium it comes on is important. None of my readers seem to think so either, and it has also been highly praised in the general Amiga press - a review recently gave The Final Frontier a rating of 10/10 - and that was from someone who wasn't a Trek fan! If you're going to pass judgement on things, please try to see them first. No doubt you are one of the fans who has already pre-judged DS9 as well.

To Everyone! - As far as the long running debate over the use of dictionaries in STVI. As Chekov said at the time, "The Universal Translator would be recognised".

Angrit Löwer - Aschaffenburg, Germany

To Maggie Symon - The music video is from Austria and called "Raumschiff Edelweiß" (Starship Edelweiss). That's not the German ST-title which is "Raumschiff Enterprise" (Starship Enterprise). It's about the voyages of the Starship Edelweiss with Cpt. Wayne T Kork, Mr Speck, Jim B Scotch, Dr McKorff, Mr Cleritschekoff, Lin Lulu and Sandra Saharce. The ship is driven by Space-Beer-Bottles. It's a parody on ST and really funny to watch (Pink Alert!!!)

To Colin Mackay - if you are looking for Star Trek Clip Art for the Amiga you can write to Tobias J Richter, Leuthenstr. 8, 5000 Koeln 60, Germany.

In June I was at the Supercongress '92 in Rome which was organized by the Fokolar movement. The aim of the movement which was established in World War II is a United World in which people live together accepting their differences and live in peace. The movement has followers in nearly every country and of different religions, cultures... In Rome were 9000 teenagers between 12-17 years from 71 nations of all 5 continents. It was translated in 31 languages and was shown via 5 satellites in 80 nations (about 16 million viewers in the USA alone). There were also live connections with the USA and Canada.

Teenagers from different countries showed dances and told us about their experiences with their living for an United

World. This was very impressive, especially the experiences from groups from countries with war. They also interviewed some people like Chiara Lubich the founder of the movement. It was great!!

It was really IDIC, because there were so many people from so different countries, with different religions, skin-colours, mentalities... but that didn't matter for being together and having a good time.

You see if we all together have the aim of an United World it is possible.

If any of you are interested in the work of the Fokolar movement, you can write to the following address or me:

Fokolar/New City	Angrit Löwer
57 TWY Ford Ave.	Bustellstr. 18
London W3	8750 Aschaffenburg
England	Germany

Is there any Star Trek fan who knows the movement? I would like to know!!

[Janet - I apologise to Angrit for any spelling mistakes.]

Helen White - Bracknell, Berks

First of all, can anyone help me with the title of a book? It's by Paul Gallico, and is about a land in which all the men are magicians and all the women assistants. One day a chap turns up who can do real magic (rather than tricks); I seem to remember that he whisked an egg, then returned it to its whole state. I'm pretty sure that his name was also the book's title. [Sheila: *The Man Who Was Magic. The Magician's name was Adam.*]

Also, thanks to all IDIC members who sent me Christmas cards.

To Dave Styles - re original Trek being 'disappointing'. I love original Trek; for me, the wobbly bits are all part of its charm, including the Captain's 'conquests', dead security people etc. Another thing, of course, is that children tend not to look at a television programme and say, for example, "oh look at the polystyrene scenery."; rather, they tend to take things at face value. I can remember watching Trek as a child, and all the snippets

and episodes I remember from then have one thing in common; they're about the people (whether Human, Vulcan or anything else) and the stories.

To Kathleen Glancy - I'd forgotten about 's/he'. I've always thought of it as either suh-he or shuh-he, though goodness knows whether that's correct.

To Lee Sansome - re which cons to go to: Contagion is a Scottish con, so it's sort of separate from the others. As Janet and Sheila and Valerie pointed out to me last year, there are people up in the north of Scotland who can't really get to cons south of the border, because it takes them so long to travel down. (See also Maggie Symon's letter, n/125.)

To Maggie Symon - The trouble with the current voting system at cons is that it's the attendees who vote, and they're probably going to vote for the closest venue, all other things being equal. This seems to mean now that cons are getting further south; I shall be interested to see who wins the vote for May '96. Perhaps we ought to have some sort of system whereby the May con is in Birmingham or south of it, and the August con is more northerly; if that was a rule, con committees could arrange their bids accordingly. What does anyone else think?

To Neil J Barrett - re Saavik; I've read *The Pandora Principle* - it's actually one of my favourites - and I agree with you that Kirstie's Saavik is the one for the novel. I still think of Saavik as Robin, though!

Re Marshak/Culbreath 'novels'; I loathe them, although I do love h/c. I find them, on the whole, unutterably tedious.

To Kirstie Jordan - cons are really the only thing I spend my money on; also, I had a fair amount of time off work last year. Having said that, I can't afford to go on Seatrek this year, so everyone will have to pressgang someone else to do a report!

To D Lee - re *The Most Toys* - I didn't notice that, and I'm usually the first one to spot anything of that ilk; do explain!

To Gaile Wood - I agree with you wholeheartedly re Worf's costume in Ethics. I reckon it's Bev's way of getting her patients out of Sickbay as fast as possible; they all want to get back into decent clothes! And I did like your idea of 'costumeless' TNG.... most interesting....

To Margie Ferguson - Ensigns are the ones with no pips; lieutenants and upwards have them.

To Peter Arnett - I've got a copy of Where's Captain Kirk, but I'm afraid I can't remember where it is(!) If you want to write to me, I'll see if I can find it and do a tape of it for you. I'm not selling it, mind you, if you want to buy rather than just have the song. Sorry!

Robert Gray - Seaton, Devon

With reference to Michael Healy's question in n/1 25, I enclose some samples of my own video cassette labels which I have been using for the past year. Should this be of interest to anybody I may be able to supply them (at a small charge to cover materials + post.

The song on MTV that Maggie Symon has seen is Raumschiff Edelweiss by Edelweiss - I managed to tape it from the European Top Twenty - the song is quite "catchy" and the video quite funny as well!

Robert Gray, Winwhistle, 21 Townsend Road, Seaton, Devon EX12 2BB.

Graham Probert - Blaina, Gwent

Star Trek Spotting:

8/12/92 - Interview with German ST fans on 3 Sat.

9/12/92 - Interview with George Takei on Daytime Live - covered ST6 with clips. 9min

The Simpsons opened with Star Trek 12 "So Very Tired" (Sky One)

3 of A Kind - 4 sketches on Star Trek (UK Gold)

L Nimoy/N Nichols - at the opening of the Sci Fi Channel. (Showbiz Tonight)

The Goodies - 1 episode featured a mock-up of the original Star Trek bridge.

MTV - Raumschiff Edelweiss - song on Star Trek (promo video)

10/12/92 - Interview with George Takei on This Morning. 9min.

2/1/93 - Interview with George Takei. (Gone Live)

Neil J Barrett - Preston

To Sheila Clark - I think there are likely to be a lot of changes in working patterns between now and the 23rd or 24th Century. What about job-sharing, teleworking, second careers? If technology and social change are controlled and applied correctly then work should be more fulfilling and people will be content to spend longer periods in employment. Employment is not just manufacturing, what about service industries, education and academe, research, entertainment? Unemployment will no longer have a social stigma attached and people may choose to contribute to society in other ways. I accept that this is an optimistic view but at least we can see the beginnings of it now.

To Dave Styles - I think Captain Styles is deeply misunderstood. He may be pompous and overbearing but at least you know where you stand with him. He inspires respect from his crew and he could never be accused of waffling. I think I would rather serve under Styles than under Picard.

To Taruka Q - Shakespeare varied the spelling of his name so why don't you do the same? I find that Trekkers are the only people who get my relatively simple surname right first time. No prizes for deducing why.

To Marysia K - Not feeling brave enough to spell your name either! I'm the only Trekker in my office and they think I'm weird because I'm not a Thunderbirds fan. (Actually I am weird but that's another



story.)

To John Stubbley - I was talking about identifying an author's gender from the writing style. I've read Julian May, knowing she was a woman, and couldn't tell. What about James Tiptree Jr? If there weren't clues in the text what would you think about Lee Sansome?

To Margie Ferguson - I didn't say jeans were impractical, I suggested they would be superseded by something more practical. I'd like something equally hardwearing that can be washed and drip dried without ironing, doesn't fade, comes in any colour, style or weight and looks as good as an Armani suit. Of course, if we had a material that good we couldn't watch Kirk having the shirt torn or whipped from his back so often...

To Barry O'Doherty - If you can assume so can I. I assume that Troi's rank is semi-honorary in nature. She is never addressed by her rank or as ma'am by junior crewmembers; she does not wear any rank discs therefore no-one can tell that she is an officer. I suspect that the rank of Lt Commander goes with the position of Counselor rather than Deanna Troi as an individual.

To Edward Woo - If I had to live in Liverpool I'd be ashamed of it as well. 1) There are quite a few steps between Lieutenant Sulu and Commodore Stocker. 2) Stocker may never have had a field command but a Starbase CO must have had some command training. 3) Stocker first asked Spock to assume command and only took over when Spock declined. 4) A Commodore is a flag officer, neither line nor staff.

To Barry and Edward - Another view of this problem appears in Diane Duane's novel "Doctors' Orders".

To Kathleen Glancy - Why don't you quote 'Tomorrow is Yesterday' at me - if Capt Christopher is not returned then Col Christopher will not be born. Try this for a sequence of events :- 1) Gillian comes forward in time and trains some more whale experts. 2) Spock researches the historical

consequences of her disappearance. 3) Jim convinces Gillian she has to go home. 4) The Enterprise-A pops along to the Guardian of Forever and Gillian jumps through to arrive in Golden Gate Park five minutes after the Bounty took off.

To Debbie Lee - I hated 'Up the Long Ladder' because of the blatantly stage-Irish characters including the daughter who triumphs by force of personality. If it hadn't been such a luscious actress I might have given up on the episode altogether. As for Ro, it's not just TNG. There are an awful lot of 20th Century women who can't tell the difference between 'assertive' and 'aggressive'.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth

The 6th January?! I screeched. Better get your skates on, gel! So, for better, and probably for worse, here are my thoughts on the last N/L.

Now I'm going to put in my twopenn'orth about the debate raging concerning Uhura and the use of Klingonaase dictionaries. At least she didn't attempt to make them understand Standard by shouting - a technique mastered by the British, because, as we know full well, a foreigner understands English *perfectly* if you increase the decibels it's delivered in! And besides, it was fairly amusing, and that's probably the *only* reason it was put in.

To Lloyd Lewis: Answer number 2...! After a sharp intake of breath, I thought, this guy has got to be kidding! However, I *might* let you off with a severe reprimand because you belong to a moggy.

To Dave Styles: I don't reckon it's a matter of preferring CT to TNG, just a way of looking at it. Compared to many series from the sixties, OT has kept its appeal remarkably well. Yes, Spock is not as unemotional as I remember either, and Kirk seems to be bed-hopping at a rate of knots, but for all that, I still love it. Even the appalling wig poor Chekov wore just served to make it all the more charming. Television, and taste, has grown up in the intervening years (I'll take that back with regard to a few American

imports to British TV such as... ugg... the A Team, arghhh... T. J. Hooker, Falcon Crest, A.L.F., C.H.I.P.S. et al which are, in my humble opinion, best watched from the under-stairs cupboard, door tightly sealed, with well-fitting earplugs in the dark!) so you've got to expect the viewpoint to differ too.

To K'Tan Vestai Kuragan: ...? Which knobbly bits are we talking about? I'd *hate* to ruin anything you've spent a long time painting brown...

To Eddie Yau: Is an episode of TNG only good if measured by the criterion that there is something pertaining to OT?

To Neil J Barrett Like you I recall Sins of the Father which suggested Worfy-baby was actually 26/7ish - I still don't think the theory holds water (perhaps this is why the make-up changes so radically from season to season, and why Michael acquires a different shaped set of lumps i.e. he's aging). However, *why* I don't think it holds water I stated in an earlier N/L. I won't reiterate my reasoning, but suffice to say, I was intrigued by mention of the differences metabolic rate could make. This is something which was discussed earlier as well - speed, time at which species live. The larger a species, the slower its metabolism generally - and boy, I'd have thought Worf's was positively glacial! - and as Humans and Klingons are roughly of a size then a difference in metabolism wouldn't be likely. Far more logical, as you said, is that they kill each other off before they ever reach a reasonable age, and by that I mean an age where reason actually starts to have some meaning.

To Marysia Kolodziej: The only trouble with the 5th Season is they forgot to write SF. Trek is supposed to be a science fiction show, and a lot of those episodes relegated this to a poor second - the 'B' story being utterly appalling e.g. The Cost of Living. I like inter-personal exploration as much as the next person - it teaches us something about the characters and creates audience identification, and no story is good unless you have that kind of interaction - but the writers did not, or were not allowed, to get

the mix right. Very often, the episode was spoiled by the SF, and that's bad *and* sad. There were exceptions, Darmok, Violations and Power Play, but they were few and far between. Time's Arrow, in my opinion, did not work, and was, dare I say it, average. The only good thing about it was the aliens, and that's because they were a cut above the normal Trek let's-stick-some-latex-on-the-forehead jobbies.

To Roger Buck: Yes, I appreciate the production team immensely. Without their technical expertise I wouldn't be able to forego the pleasure of polishing a screaming sprog for an hour or so once a day. Pass me the Sparkle, please.

For Xmas, I asked for, but did not get, a brightly painted nesting Klingon (who needs an android?). Santa let me down again, dammit! (*Not* a hint, K'Tan...)

Edwin Yau, Hove, Sussex.

Baerbel Schmidt (and Paul Hulford) - Regarding my comparison in saying that Riker & Troi are copies of Decker & Ilia. I believe that they are rough copies because-

- 1) Ilia and Troi both just happen to have empathic abilities, albeit different ones.
- 2) Decker & Riker are Executive/First officers, basically the same job.
- 3) They all just happen to serve on board the Enterprise.
- 4) Ilia was to have been 'pregnant' in the aborted Star Trek - Phase II series episode "The Child". The script was re-written for Troi in TNG season 2, presumably because Troi is similar to Ilia.
- 5) Decker & Ilia were once in love and Decker did not stay to say goodbye when he left. Ditto for Riker & Troi.

You seem to be comparing the one movie to the whole TNG series, which is unfair. Comparing the movie with the TNG pilot, "Encounter At Farpoint" is much more reasonable, and by doing it this way I feel that ST:TMP outclasses "Encounter At Farpoint" immediately. And, considering Decker & Ilia only lasted one movie, the characters didn't have a chance to develop. However, I do feel that Decker & Ilia were the better characters.

I'll probably get a lot of flak for saying this, but I feel that Deanna IS in the show and wears low-cut clothing PARTLY as incentive to attract male Trek viewers and to get them to stick with TNG, but obviously the show itself has got something to do with it.

By the way, I don't like the character of Troi as she is portrayed, but that doesn't mean I don't like Marina Sirtis, the actress, as a person. You seem to be confusing Deanna as a person - she's not, she's just a fictional character.

Before all you female fans write in screaming sexist pig etc., I'll also say that in the same way Wesley was partly in TNG as well to attract the female Trek fans and to get them to stick with the show. This IS true. If you deny that then you're not opening your eyes to the obvious truth. As an example, I probably wouldn't have seen the Schwarzenegger movie "Total Recall" if Richard Dreyfuss was eventually cast in the role of Doug Quaid before Arnie got it. I may have gone to see it with Dreyfuss, but when Arnie was named as the star, I definitely decided to see the movie. His name will attract fans in the similar way that Marina and Wil Wheaton attract fans. You can't deny that.

Also, how do you know that some women don't watch TNG partly because they like Deanna, or that some men don't watch TNG because of Riker? There are probably gays and lesbians in the world who watch TNG.

As to Worf saying "The body is just a shell..." in the episode "The Dauphin". Well, he's also the very person who said "Nice legs..." (about Vash) in the 4th season episode "Q-Pid".

To Gaile Wood and Baerbel Schmidt - With regards to Troi. Obviously a security officer would be wearing suitable clothing on duty. Because Troi isn't actually a bona fine Starfleet officer, she can get away with wearing what she likes.

From what I know, Marina Sirtis was originally going to play the Chief of Security,

but ended up as Counselor, probably partly due to her height and physical build as that isn't Security Officer material if you see what I mean. As an example, there are quite a few petite female policemen around, and if I was a burglar I wouldn't feel that threatened by one, but coming up against a 6'4", 54" chested cop would give me second thoughts.

Now if, hypothetically-speaking, Marina was Security Officer Tasha Yar; even if she did have the same skills as Denise Crosby's Tasha Yar, and they both HAD to fight a Schwarzenegger-type alien in hand-to-hand combat, Denise's Yar would still have an advantage in height and reach, and you can't dispute that. Ok, in rare circumstances a smaller person may have the edge, but generally Denise's Yar would have the advantage over Marina's Yar.

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Lloyd Lewis - Presumably your reply to Marion Pritchard is *meant* to be provocative if choice 2 means how it reads - "I'll let you know when I find (a clever woman)." I won't make the obvious retort as I know some clever men (as well as really thick ones) as well as very clever women.

To Kathleen Glancy - Another famous pronoun used in SF for asexual or hermaphrodite races is 'hir'. I *think* Ursula Le Guin coined it.

To Neil J Barrett - Re Worf's possibly age and not looking 26 - maybe Klingons are like a lot of non-Human (Terrestrial, present day) species who stay hale and healthy for much of their adult lives and undergo a relatively rapid ageing/deterioration near the end of their lives. That would fit in with the short childhood, too.

On your point about Saavik: think you're a bit harsh on Helen but agree that Curtis does not come over as a convincing character.

To Barry O'Doherty - Funnily enough, I first came across the tachyon idea in the early 70s in James Blish's original Spock Must Die. Tachyons were used in experiments to increase the use of the transporter and

resulted in Spock being 'split' into positive and negative personas.

I enjoyed Gloria Fry's lighthearted piece on Kirk's shirt mishaps. In fact, there were a lot of interesting articles in this issue with the complementary pieces by Neil J Barrett and Debbie Lee. I would love to see a strong but not aggressive competent woman in TNG. Too often we get the Shelby type.

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

A very brief snippet in the Daily Mirror claimed that in the new ST film Captain Kirk would murder Mr Spock. Gee, does William Shatner not love Leonard Nimoy any more (he said he did in his, Shatner's, This Is Your Life). As Spock is one of the few original series characters to have been seen definitely still surviving at the time of TNG perhaps they got it wrong and Spock is going to murder Kirk. Either way it sounds wildly out of character.

To Lloyd Lewis - Well, I only borrowed the book. Thus I can't verify whether Jake Cardigan's 'late 40s' refers to his real age or the age he looks. He has after all spent several years, I think 5, in suspended animation. While I was clearly incorrect in placing him in his late 30s my original point, that he is considerably younger than William Shatner, remains valid and I would only add that the way he is drawn in the comic adaptation (which, to refresh people's memories, I described as 'a Shatner look alike, younger of course') would appear to be too young for complete fidelity to the books.

To Baerbel Schmidt - I'm with you on the question of female effectiveness in a fight. Muscle is only useful if you can get hold of your opponent or hit her. A small woman who had very quick reflexes and was trained in karate, savate or Thai boxing could bring down Arnold Schwarzenegger with a hard kick where it would do his prospects of producing little Schwarzeneggers in the future no good at all. While Arnie was doubled up moaning, clutching himself and being sick the small woman would be well advised to get past him and run like hell, of course. All of the self-defence advice for women stresses that if you must fight you

strike fast where it will both hurt and temporarily disable - the eyes or the genitals, usually - and then run.

To Stephen Smith - You (or ye editors) got the wrong half of Turnabout Intruder (apparently fondly called 'Captain Kirk, Space Queen' on set) for the title of the Thorne Smith book about a husband and wife whose bodies were swapped by a supernatural entity. It was Turnabout, not Intruder. Incidentally the pair retained their own voices in the book, so the film you mention was being unusually faithful.

To Helen White -

We all know a lady called White.
Going to cons is her chiefest delight.
She writes witty reports
On the cons where she sports
She must write them a lot, day and night.

Who said I had to use your *first* name?

To Gloria Fry - Naked Times was both diverting and thought-provoking. Now that I think about it I have never seen *anyone* in a film or or TV who had spots on their back, yet as you say most of us have them. One can't but suspect that some of them have a little help from the make-up department. More seriously, what indeed if Miramane had lived. That's worth a separate article.

To Edwin Woo - Your piece on single parents does credit to your sex. Some men might not have even noticed the odd preponderance of sons of single parents over daughters in TV programmes, but you remind me that not all of you lack perception. You'll gather I agree with your views almost entirely. The 'almost' is that I doubt if Kirk can really be counted as a parent. He had no part in David's upbringing and was only just getting to know him when he was killed. This seems to have been Carol's choice; she may well have chosen, as even now some professional women are doing, to have a child but not a partner. Presumably she did *ask* him to be her child's father and not just let him think she was using birth control when she wasn't - and the way he says 'David?' on their first

meeting in TWOK suggests that he knew David existed but hadn't really pictured him as an adult.

Jackie Marshall - Norfolk

This is by way of a late response to Guy Wigmore's letter in N/L 23. Perhaps it'll provide the reasoned argument Guy was looking for!

I would have to agree with you that Picard is not the same after BOBW. As you say, after an experience like that, the only peculiar thing would be if he *hadn't* changed! For me (and others I have spoken to) Picard was very vulnerable during season 4. I don't believe the Picard of earlier seasons would have reacted quite so badly to the death of the alien creature in Galaxy's Child. I've heard it suggested that his inadvertently destroying the creature reminds him of the death and destruction meted out by Locutus, and certainly he's shaken to such an extent that Troi finds it necessary to tell him forcefully that he's not to blame, and the fact that she does so immediately, on the bridge, indicates the urgency of reassuring him. His movements (especially early on in the season) are slow and measured; I know one person who described him as "moving like a machine", and that makes perfect sense. When you're struggling to come to terms with some trauma you *do* "go through the motions" without your heart being in it. You say and do what's expected of you in the most mechanical of ways. It wasn't until Redemption II that I can honestly say I felt Picard had come through and made the mental adjustment to live with what happened to him. The experience might even have made him stronger and more resilient; he certainly seems to cope after Inner Light, and I'd have thought that would have been a shock to anyone's system!

So unlike you, Guy, I wouldn't say that Picard is *currently* unfit for command, barring any other traumas the scriptwriters see fit to inflict on the poor man! But I would agree that his grip might not have been all it should during season 4. Is this why Riker stayed on, as back-up, instead of being offered a further promotion?

I don't know whether the change in season 4 was actually scripted or not. It's a subtle change, more down to how the character is played than anything else. I agree with you, Guy, that to a large extent this is due to Patrick Stewart varying his interpretation of the role. But this is where I felt your argument fell apart. An actor who is subtly varying his interpretation of the role cannot also be strolling through most of his episodes! Varying his interpretation may be where Stewart finds his motivation.

Liz Caldwell - Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd

To D Lee - Thank you for your comments on my 'Most Toys' article. I'm glad it was of interest to you. I can understand what you mean about Fajo having 'designs' on Data, especially the way he says "Personally I'd be delighted to see you go around naked."

You may be interested to know that in the original script for The Most Toys, there is a scene where Varria asks Data if he will 'do it' with her and when Data refuses, we discover Fajo has been monitoring them to test Data's sexual abilities. Presumably this was cut either for time reasons or because it was considered possibly embarrassing or taking things too far. It does, however, show that Fajo is quite keen to discovered whether Data is 'fully functional' (to coin a phrase).

Lt Cmdr Katan Vestai Kuragan, 2nd in command KAC Scotland

To Neil J Barrett - What English word changes its pronunciation when you capitalise it, then?

To Lee Sansome - Regarding all the cons for next year, Contagion is the only Scottish Star Trek con and caters for us Jocks and the people who can't travel to the English cons. At SOL III when the bids for the official cons were done, one group (not the Contagion committee) bid for a con in Glasgow and their bid was shot down in flames as 'being too far to travel' etc - yet both official cons in 1994 are to be held in London. Is that not far enough for anyone north of Watford Gap to travel to? I know of a few people who are not going to bother

going to these cons but would rather to to other ones.

To Mark Dwyer - Hope you enjoyed Starbase 93. Us Klingons did!

To Paul Greenstreet - TNG Vulcans and Romulans have acquired ridges on their foreheads because they are what was left of our genetic experiment - or they may have been head-butted a few times by us Klingons.

Re Uhura speaking Klingonaase - has anyone stopped to think that what Uhura and Co were looking up in ST VI were actually Klingon phrase books, not dictionaries? It helps tourists visiting Klingon territory to know phrases like "Who goes there?" and "Put down your phasers!" so we do put out a good range of phrase books.

To Carol Kean - Want to buy an autographed photograph of Data (£76 min bid)?

Sue Felby - Australia

In the November N/L Taruka Quauhtezcatl was wondering if Brent Spiner played the violin.

Brent Spiner does not play the violin, but by his own admission he plays a pretty poor guitar. Marina Sirtis is actually an excellent violinist, and instructed Brent on holding the instrument correctly.

Simon Trick - Kingston, Surrey

First of all, hello to everyone! Happy 1993! It's been nearly a year since I've written to IDIC; work and studies have taken up most of my time, so it's nice to be in touch again with the liveliest newsletter this side of Orion's Arm.

The new logo is excellent -well done, Robert Gray. The logos for the various sections of the N/L are very good and the recently introduced typeface is much more appealing and clearer.

To Pam Baddeley - re the picture quality of the Classic ST on BBC at present. I agree that the picture is quite poor compared to the CIC videos. I did a simultaneous

comparison of The Galileo Seven while it was being run on the BBC, with my own CIC copy. This is what I noticed:

1) The BBC picture was comparatively a little fuzzy (no, my TV reception was fine, thanks). 2) The BBC version had much weaker, 'greyer' colours than the more vibrant CIC video. 3) The CIC video was being played at *more* frames per second - I know because I started my copy a few seconds *after* the BBC. Mine caught it up and passed it in 5 to 10 minutes. Thus the music and voices were pitched a half a tone or so higher on the CIC copy.

So, given the choice, I would rather watch the copies I have than the BBC version, as the picture quality is better with CIC. I'd be interested in hearing any similar - or contrasting - experiences. Hats off to the BBC that *someone* there realised that the *full* uncut episodes are not going to cause public outrage or damage young minds.

To Roger Buck - No, my friend, you are not alone in appreciating writers, directors, producers and so forth. There are many gloriously written episodes of ST (I have to stick here to Classic Trek because I know the episodes far better and in more detail than TNG episodes, but I *am* a fan of TNG): Arena (Gene L Coon); This Side of Paradise (D C Fontana); Amok Time (Theodore Sturgeon); Mirror Mirror (Jerome Bixby; and Journey to Babel (D C Fontana). As for directors, my absolute favourites are Marc Daniels and Joseph Pevney. Between them they directed some of the most enthralling episodes. They brought out exceptional performances from the cast and their story-telling abilities were superb. I enjoy the episodes for all the elements involved. ST is quality television, which is one reason why it stands the test of time.

To anyone who knows - Where can I get hold of Classic Trek blooper tapes? I'd be very grateful if they could let me know. My address is; 5 Rivermead, Uxbridge Rd, Kingston upon Thames, KT 1 2LR, Surrey.

Finally, in answer to the favourite quotes section:

Q - What do I have to do to prove that I really am Human?

Worf - Die!

(P.S. - Happy quarter century of issues, IDIC!)

Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W. Sussex

SPOILER ALERT Has anyone seen True-Q yet? I was disappointed by this episode - firstly, John de Lancie had virtually nothing to do in it (I think he was even listed about 3rd or 4th on the guest credits!) and the story was a basic retread of Hide and Q. I was shocked to find that his episode was written by Rene Evecheria - usually she comes up a winner with stories but this time she's come up with a real stinker. I hope Q's next appearance this season is far better than this. I've also heard that he's due to pop up in DS9 with Vash (not seen since Qpid). Season 6 so far has been a mixed affair, the best so far (for me) were Times Arrow 2, Relics, Rascals and A Fistful of Datas, the latter two of which had funny moments throughout (check out Data in drag!) The worst were Realm of Fear and Man of the People, where again, like True Q, the basic idea seemed to me like a retread of the Sarek episode, where at the end Picard mind melded with Sarek so he could continue with his mission. The basic principle was the same with Man of the People.

I think TNG has lost some of its best writers over the last couple of years, which shows in the quality of stories recently; the only two great writers remaining for me are Ron Moore and Jeri Taylor. There have been many high points in the last couple of years, but I think there were many more before. Still, TNG still proves to be a worthy successor to Classic Trek and I shall continue to watch it.

As for DS9, I'm reserving judgement.

Ann Peters - Kidderminster

To Edward Woo - The tachyon field was too large to go around? Nice try, Edward, but I'm not convinced. The path the Romulans tried to take by knocking a hole in the field was so close to the edge, I can't believe it would have taken very much

longer to go around Data's ship. And while we're on the subject, Picard made a hole in the net so that when the Romulans went through, he could reinstate the net and catch them. How would he know when they were going through the hole if he couldn't detect them? And if he could detect them without the net, why bother with the net in the first place?

To Gaile Wood - My objection to Riker's 'tantrum' in Ethics is not that it was emotional, but that he saw things from a Human viewpoint. To deal with alien life forms, one needs to be able to accept another's point of view as being as valid as one's own. Picard did this in Ethics - Riker did not. We had a similar situation in TOS where Spock saw alien viewpoints and Kirk didn't, but in TNG, the wiser man is the Captain! Silicon Avatar was a bad mistake on Picard's part, it's true, but Richard Arnold told us that Gene was very upset by that episode, and had he not been ill, he would probably never have allowed it to end as it did. I usually feel very safe with Picard in charge and know that he will think clearly and compassionately and do whatever is best for all concerned. I don't have that faith in Riker, and I never had it in Kirk. I love your socks hypothesis (The Next Phase) but wouldn't unphased socks have prevented Geordi and Ro from walking through all those walls?

To Dave Lee - Seeing something between Fajo and Data may well have been your imagination. There was a scene in the script that had Fajo trying to start something between Data and Varria, so I doubt the writer intended Fajo to have designs on Data himself. But it's an interesting idea; I shall have to watch that episode again...

To Steve Davies - Nice comment about gravity generators - they certainly must be *extremely* well protected. However, I do seem to recall they were interfered with in one of the animated episodes.

To Lee Sansome - I agree with your comments about over-all planning of cons. I couldn't decide whether to go to Midcon or IFT in October 1992 and ended up going to

neither! If larger British cons become a free-for-all and compete with one another, they could lose the reputation for reliability that Richard Arnold has indicated they have at present.

To Paul Greenstreet - Excellent point. If we embark on elaborate explanations of why Klingons look different now, we also have to explain why Romulans have changed. Better, I think, to simply look at TOS episodes as the best that could be done at the time, and not to attempt to explain away such problems - at least, not seriously.

To Lloyd Lewis - MCPs don't need to comment about lack of female exposure in TNG as long as Troi is aboard the Enterprise - we're just trying to even things up a little. And don't forget, women seldom ogle men in the same way as men do women - as anonymous sex objects as in pornography. We 'appreciate' them. Asimov's story was sexist because it involved a woman trying to be exactly what her husband wanted her to be, without regard for her own personality and talents, and it was written as if all this was perfectly correct. Contrast this with Picard's view in The Perfect Mate - an episode which a lot of people regard as sexist, but which I think is commendably *anti*-sexist.

To Roger Buck - I too particularly like the first season of TNG and ST:TMP. They have a feel about them - and I would include The Cage in this - that is lacking in the rest of Trek. I like to think that feel was what Gene really wanted, and kept trying to get back to, but it clearly isn't what most Trek fans want.

John Stubbley - York

To Douglas Burke - I have read many, many newsletters before N/L 25, and have read many pages of people giving the poor old movies a bad time. They have been slated for being too militaristic, not real Star Trek, Gene wasn't involved so they're not proper... etc, etc, etc. It's so refreshing to find *someone* who feels the same way as I do about them.

My first Trek love is the novels (another much maligned genre) but running a very close second are the movies. I saw

them WAY before any original series or TNG, and the relationships involved are far more matured than any of the above. I hope there are others that feel the same way as I do. I often feel I am stranded between "original and the best" and the "new and different" camps, ducking the flak.

To Edwin Yau and the other computer networkers - I have access to the networks via York University, and would love to help! However, I don't know where the computers are! I just need somewhere in the US to get a foothold and I'm sure I'd be away.

David J Raper - Keyingham, N Humberside

Speaking of ST VI, Klingons and Shakespeare - was Gorkon joking at the dinner table or was he serious when referring to the Bard in 'the original Klingon'? Personally I think that the last Chancellor was trying to reduce the tension at that dinner as best he could and it is a pity that they never had the opportunity to return the gesture and invite Kirk and crew to dine on Kronos One, though they might have found the meal a little too 'lively' if the canteen in the TNG episode A Matter of Honor was anything to go by.

As for the rulers of the Empire liking Shakespeare, why not? When you consider the recurring themes of such works as Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Richard III and 'The Scottish Play' (Macbeth to us non-actor types) - namely ambition, murder, passion and revenge, it does not seem too unlikely that he would find favour with those Klingons familiar with his works, aside from renegade generals and visionary chancellors, though I don't know what they'd make of the comedies. Would The Taming of the Shrew appeal to a warrior? Possibly, if what we know of Klingon marriage customs is true, but could the same be said of A Midsummer Night's Dream or The Merchant of Venice? What does a Klingon find funny? I'd like to know.

To other matters and why all the fuss at the thought of Troi as a Security officer? I am sure that Worf would be the first to admit that mere physical prowess does not make for good security and assuming she met all

the necessary requirements or there was none better qualified, why not? After all, any confrontation involving actual hand to hand is by definition a failure of security (prevention is far better than confrontation) and if size was all that mattered then nobody would bother with phasers or courses in unarmed combat in the first place. If I met someone who was bigger than me and not inclined to listen to reason, I'd sooner stay out of arm's reach and stun him/her/it any day, it being quicker, neater and far safer for all concerned in the first place.

Let me add in passing that as a male of the species I do not watch TNG because Troi wears a low neckline, however attractively, and I did not watch the original for Uhura's legs or those infamous Theiss costumes which seemed to be held on by no more than static electricity and careful movements. My one pet criticism of Starfleet uniforms (of either generation) is that whilst they were doubtless fine for a controlled shipboard environment, when exploring 'strange new worlds' they seem to offer very poor protection indeed, as well as very few pockets - if any. I thought that the 'field' jackets of the films, as well as The Cage, were probably a good idea, but TNG seems to have dispensed with the idea, except for Picard's fifth season jacket, which is not the same thing and doesn't have any pockets either, which does raise the question: where do Starfleet officers keep their loose change, hankies etc? At least Worf has his sash, but in A Matter of Honor Riker had to keep his emergency transmitter in his boot!

To Maggie Symon - As well as an exploration vessel, the Enterprise is still a warship and in an emergency it is only logical that phasers be readily available to the crew, even in the galley. If a crippled Enterprise were to be boarded by an enemy, there will not be time for Security to issue phasers from a central armoury and the galley crew can hardly be expected to repel boarders with a barrage of kitchen utensils, can they? Failing which, if a phaser can be used to heat rocks in lieu of a fire (Enemy Within) why can't it be used to heat food in an emergency?

Finally, does anybody know where and how Data acquires a cat and why does he call it Spot, assuming he picked the name? For the sake of my own curiosity, I would like to know.

Gary Heron - Falkirk

Firstly I would like to say how much I like the new IDIC logo. Does the appearance of a new logo mean that we can expect a new IDIC T-shirt to be produced? I'm sure it would look great.

I hope that if the rumours of CIC producing ST videos in card boxes at a lower cost are true that they will also continue to produce some in hard covers to give fans the choice. Obviously the lower price of the card boxes would make them popular but I feel that the hard covers are much better for a long term collection.

I would like to know where the idea of Klingons having a short lifespan came from. I can't remember it being stated in any episode or film. In ST V Kirk says that General Koord's military campaigns were required reading when he was at the Academy; this would make him a good deal older than Kirk.

I agree with Margaret Richardson about the behaviour of fans at conventions. If Star Trek fans can't practice IDIC, who can?

To David Styles - I find myself enjoying the episodes of the original series more now than previously. I believe they stand up against anything currently being produced.

To Katrina Heintz - You say that you enjoyed the TNG episode Shades of Grey. Could you please expand on what you liked about this episode?

To Kathleen Glancy - I can't remember the book or the author but I do remember the word 'per' being used as a neutral personal pronoun.

To Eddie Yau - I would be interested to know how many fans have such strict definitions of the categories of Star Trek fact. I myself accept as 'fact' the two TV series and

the films, but in my own personal view of the Star Trek universe I also add parts of the animated episodes I enjoyed plus ideas from the novels and fanzines which I like and seem to fit. I think it can be clearly seen from this newsletter that every fan has their own personal view of the Star Trek universe.

I agree with Michael Sadler who says that in TNG the Enterprise does not seem to have the same spirit, as the original was a character in her own right. I think that part of this is due to the difference in the relationship between the two Captains and their ships. Kirk loved the Enterprise, as can be seen from several episodes (Elaan of Troyius, for example) and fought to get her back in ST:TMP. There is not such a strong relationship between Picard and the Enterprise-D; although he is obviously proud of his new ship, I suspect that his heart still belongs to the Stargazer.

To Anne Peters - The main problem with deciding if a virus is alive or not is that we are trying to impose artificial definitions onto a universe which does not lend itself to such simple labelling. Matter exists in many forms in the universe, some of which we call 'alive' and others which we don't. The classification is a product of the human viewpoint rather than inherent in the thing being described.

On a final note, the idea of DS9 zines being outlawed by Paramount is very worrying. Why they should try to stop the creativity of fans is beyond me. I don't believe for a moment that such a ban would stop fans writing DS9 stories but it would make it very difficult for other fans to enjoy them.

Paul Hulford - Camberley

To Matthew Conway and Marysia Kolodiej - I see your point about alternate universes but really the discussion could go on forever. If someone had prevented JFK's assassination in universe 2 what's to stop the Lee Harvey Oswald of universe 1 going back to put things straight? If someone from an alternate universe popped into this one and killed me I wouldn't mind, because I know that my other self would travel further back

in time and stop him. My memory would be changed and I never would have been killed... Except if he had killed me in the other universe too, but then how many alternate universes are there? Also, if you decided to stay in the alternate universe would that one not become your 'real' universe and the one you had left the 'alternate' one? I love time travel stories but I'm afraid that until someone proves it - empirically, not theoretically - I won't believe a word of it, and hence have no qualms about discussing the consequences of it.

To Roger Buck - I tend to agree that TNG has been getting worse, but for different reasons. My main gripe is its current predictability, especially that of Picard. Whenever he is faced with a problem or a threat he simply gets up, straightens his tunic, utters a few well-chosen words and the alien surrenders and the problem is solved. It worked well at first, but did anyone really believe he wasn't going to get a cloaked ship from Gowron in Unification?

Knowing that the crew will all be alive at the end of the episode is enough reassurance for me, I don't need to know that Picard can out-reason anyone in the universe and that Geordi/Wesley can solve all the engineering problems. Where's the suspense? In the first series we were less well acquainted with the characters and they with each other. Consequently their actions were unexpected and exciting - but now?

Now, Riker/Shelby/Ro, with or without Picard, would be an explosive combination. It might not work, but I would love to see it tried. One of the reasons I so enjoyed The Best of Both Worlds was that Riker was pressured by Shelby. He had to get used to the idea that he had competition and his life wasn't going to be so comfortable. The tension between the characters made the episode more exciting.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - We seem to have our wires crossed. I was merely pointing out that Data didn't know how to construct an android. He had to learn about it at the cybernetics conference that he had just returned from in The Offspring.

I tend to agree that Starfleet will find it difficult to find someone to construct androids. However, Commander Maddox presumably has more time to devote to the problem than Data, and it is not inconceivable that he (and his team?) will solve it eventually - especially as the people at the conference seem to be taking steps in the right direction.

To Colin Mackay and all other Amiga owners - I don't have any ST clip art, but I do have a very good TNG parody disc. It contains hundreds of pages of stories and poems about the characters, with the occasional cross-over to series such as Battlestar Galactica. It is public domain and freely distributable, so if you'd like a copy send me a floppy and a SAE (address in the small ads). It works on the A500, 600 and 1200, and the text can be printed easily.

CNN International seem to have caught the ST bug. Firstly I am sure that Mark Lenard is the voice behind the ads for their business service - anyone know for sure? Secondly, I tuned in the other day to a report about NASA's new robot, 'Dante', which is going to walk into a volcano as preparation for the rocky Mars surface. The reporter was none other than Miles O'Brien.

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

N/L 25 was another bumper issue with lots of very interesting articles. Chris Bailey is to be admired for running through the complete ST collection to find the closest remark to "Beam me up, Scotty". That is what I call dedication.

Neil Barrett's and Debbie Lee's articles on women in the ST universe made many valid points and I would agree with the majority of them. However what we - and especially the younger fans who did not live during the sixties - must remember is that to show women in responsible positions aboard a military vessel was extremely daring. In the episode Tomorrow is Yesterday, the 60s pilot Captain Christopher is shocked on seeing a woman as a crewmember, as it was unheard of at the time to have women serve as officers or crew aboard military vessels.

Gene Roddenberry - after being ridiculed for showing a female second in command in The Cage, and not only by men, but by women also - a fact that showed how indoctrinated we were before the women's lib movement - still made sure that there were plenty of strong, responsible female characters who broke the mold of the helpless little woman parts so prevalent in the TV and movies of the time. In ST, for every terrified Yeoman Barrows in Shore Leave, there were highly competent career officers like Dr Ann Mulhall in Return to Tomorrow and Lt Uhura herself, apart from the occasions she had to voice the fact that she was frightened. In Gamesters of Triskelion she had to fight and was just as tough as the men, and in Mirror Mirror her bravery was well shown. Other examples are of course the Romulan Commander, T'Pol, etc. Yeoman Tamura in A Taste of Armageddon was another example of not only a tough wee woman but oriental to boot, another of Gene's brave new visions, having a racially mixed crew of both sexes.

We must always remember how daring all this was at the time, and not compare it to what is expected today. It actually stands up extremely well. Yes, of course by today's standards it is a little sexist, but it helped to break the mold, despite the fact that so many of the writers and production team were men. Actually, it is amazing to think that ST had women as leaders (T'Pol) before Mrs Gandhi ruled India or Golda Meier led Israel. They showed women as doctors, scientists, even an engineer (Lt Masters in Alternative Factor) at a time when there were only a small percentage of women doctors, fewer scientists and even fewer - if any - engineers. I wonder how many young girls were inspired to try for careers in these areas because of Star Trek?

TNG had the opportunity of showing women in every field of endeavour, drawing on the real-life achievements of so many successful women of the last twenty or so years, but although it paid lip service, I don't think it has successfully given young girls any role models such as Uhura in the original series. For me, the women have lost

something in TNG; perhaps in the effort of trying *not* to be sexist they have made most of them insipid. Where are the heroic female characters in TNG? Characters showing bravery like Uhura, Amanda or even T'Pol in invoking the challenge. TNG has actually shown more sexism than the original series ever did, because in the 60s the word hadn't been invented and we were all completely unaware of it. We were used to seeing only the men in heroic roles on TV and were delighted to see women shown in such a positive light.

Not only women, but people of different races, not to mention species. Uhura broke the mold for women and for blacks; Sulu changed the public's perception of the Oriental, who had always been depicted as the 'yellow peril', and continued to do so as the Vietnam war was shown on nightly news reports of US TV. He gave the example of the Oriental as the dashing young hero. Then of course Spock, showing the alien as one we could love and admire, different, but one of the greatest TV heroes of all time.

Kathleen Glancy in her interesting piece on Gillian Taylor has failed to come up with the one other answer about the reason for Gillian coming to the 23rd century. Perhaps it is her fate to do so and Kirk only brought her there because he did bring her back at that time so he had to return to 20th century San Francisco so he could take the whales and bring Gillian to her rightful place in the 23rd because history said she had disappeared so he had to go back and make it happen... Confused? Me, too. I hope you get what I mean.

The Enterprise Xmas Gift Catalogue (N/L 25) was a delight. Are you taking any orders yet, Chris?

To Edward Woo - I agree with you about Robin Curtis. I thought she was excellent as Saavik, different from the equally as excellent Kirstie Alley's interpretation, but just as valid. I would like to see her in the role again.

To Lesley Hatch - I don't respond to

Kirk or Spock maternally either. I didn't mean to give that impression, only that one could see the little boy in them.

Jennifer Cobbing - London

To Gratiene Vandekerckhove - you didn't offend me at all. In fact I had to look back at N/L 24 to see what your 'offensive' comment was because I certainly couldn't remember any such thing. Your comments were your opinion, as were mine - each to his own and no offence taken.

To Dave Styles - Kirk has definitely not 'goosed' anyone (not on TV anyway!) I'm afraid you don't know the meaning of this rather vulgar term and I'm certainly not going to explain it in the pages of IDIC. Perhaps you have an older male relative who would explain it to you.

To Paul Greenstreet - It is interesting that one can always tell the 'aliens' in TNG because they have ridges on their foreheads. I put it down to lack of imagination by the production team. I remember reading that Andorians would not be in TNG because they looked too much like old B movie monsters. But they were more imaginative than the TNG aliens who resemble Humans who have suffered at the hands of an inept plastic surgeon.

To Marion Pritchard - There are very few good K/S zines around. Many are obsessed with the kind of sexual violence that would get the authors locked up if the vice squad got hold of them. It seems that the only thing to do is re-read old zines such as Courts of Honor and not buy any new ones until you've had the chance to vet them first.

To Lee Sansome - The over-abundance of conventions has also worried me. I believe the May con will remain the 'biggie' and no doubt the October one, which is half way through the year, will survive. But how long will it be before the organisers of a con find the attendance so low they will lose money and end up with a huge debt to pay? It has been said that new committees are needed, but to organise a con without some kind of liaison with other committees seems to me to be courting disaster. And as you say we do

not need the likes of Creation Con in this country. I have no experience of running a con and have no solution to the problem - perhaps a past or present committee member has. I do think the main annual con should be held over a bank holiday weekend because there are many fans who cannot take annual leave whenever they wish. What will happen if the government decides to move the May bank holiday? Will the con move with it?

To Eddie Yau - 'Believe-what-you-want fact' is exactly what I do. There are parts of Classic Trek and the films I pretend never happened and there are parts of zines and my own imagination that I add. After all, it's *all* fantasy so why not?

To Janet Quarton - so Paramount is going to ban DS9 zines. Paramount appears to have no idea that they are making huge profits from a phenomenon that was kept alive by fans. And do they not realise that the reverse can happen? If Paramount thinks it can tell fans what they and cannot do, the fans might turn their backs on DS9 and it'll end up on the pile of forgotten, failed TV shows. I loved 'Kirk - the Perfect Leader', particularly 'It's not what hooked me on Star Trek but who'. My sentiments exactly!

I've been convalescing at my sister's home for some weeks, following an operation, and have had the dubious pleasure of watching SKY. (A total waste of money in my opinion.) I've watched quite a few TNG episodes and have finally decided why I prefer Classic Trek. (Apart from the fact that Captain Kirk isn't in TNG.) Classic is so much more alive, more animated and humorous. The cast of TNG seem to stand stock still to deliver their lines - don't cameras move or editors edit any more? I don't find the acting of the TNG cast very good and wonder what kind of show it would be without the special effects.

Kay Stagg - Guildford Surrey

To Lee Sansome - I had to smile at your reaction to hurt/comfort and maternal instinct. I think when I mentioned it in my article, I was thinking more along the lines of caring and comfort which is a part of

maternal instinct. I am at present looking after Nicholas, who is 15 months old. He has enormous hazel eyes and a mischievous smile. He is extremely demanding and has to be watched constantly and in fact makes me think of a young James T Kirk. And that is as far as my comparison goes. As anyone who knows me will tell you, including my husband, my feelings towards James Kirk are anything but maternal.. They have a solid foundation of pure lust.

I also agree wholeheartedly with you about the number of conventions. Do the committees realise they could go bankrupt if their convention clashes with another one?

To Marion Pritchard - I was interested in what you said about cons being 'cliquey', and I cannot help but agree. I've been going to conventions since 1984 but admit that I would not happily go to one on my own, particularly if I was new to fandom. Con committees try to overcome this by holding 'first timers' meetings but it has always been difficult becoming part of a well established group and this doesn't just apply to Star Trek fandom. It applies to most clubs and groups, no matter what the subject.

To Kathleen Glancy - Actually, I was joking - a poor joke! I agree everyone is entitled to an opinion. I wouldn't dream of mentioning certain aspects of Trek I don't like as I do not wish to upset any fellow fans. I know how it feels, you see. You said that the only thing you positively dislike in Trek are some of the less pleasant aspects of Kirk's character and the whole of Chapel's. Are you honestly telling me that every other character within Trek is so perfect you can find no fault? How unrealistic can you be? Or is it that the others do not strike any powerful reaction, whether negative or positive for you to feel like/dislike? There is one thing you have to acknowledge where Kirk is concerned. You may hate him, you may only dislike him or you may love him, but you CANNOT ignore him. Anyway, Kathleen, at least your views are based on sound knowledge of Classic Trek, for which I thank you.

To Dave Styles - what do you think

fandom is based on? Without Classic Trek there would be no TNG, no DS9... If you prefer TNG, then do so, but please don't criticise Classic Trek in quite those terms.

To Steve Davies - Congratulations... does Sandra know about your 'hobby'?

To Lisa Dearnley-Davison - I was at ConFederation and when I had time away from the dealers' room I did find time to sit in the Classic Trek video room and enjoy watching episodes. It was a most enjoyable small convention, so thank you Fiona Barraclough and all her stewards and helpers.

To Helen White - I'm still sniggering over Plug and Socket.

To Ann Peters - Re Kirk and salt monster. I'm ashamed to admit I never thought of it. Anyway, it was Spock who said "Kill it", not Kirk. In fact, Mantrap is an exact reflection of opinions in the 60s. If somebody or something kills, then you have the right to kill too. Hopefully we have all moved on from there. You have implied that it is in Kirk's character to shoot to kill - perhaps you had better watch Arena, Devil in the Dark, Spectre of the Gun and many others. In fact, in Mantrap and Devil in the Dark it is Spock who wants the 'monster' to die to save his Captain. Dare I say, another aspect of hurt/comfort!

To Gloria Fry - I LOVED your article on Naked Times and appreciate your slaving many exhausting hours over a hot video recorder. Are you positive it was the video that was hot by the end of it? As for Shore Leave... most definitely one of my favourites and as regards all the episodes mentioned... Yum! Yum!

And last of all, to Janet - Thank you for Kirk - The Perfect Leader. I couldn't have put it better myself.

Jean Barron - London

To Alex Pidd - I did not describe 'anyone attending (a convention)' as a moron. I love Star Trek fans - they are my family - but people who, in any situation, adopt threatening and boorish behaviour in order

to get their own way are beneath contempt. 'Moron' is too mild a term for them but I was exercising restraint.

To Ann Peters - If you have ever had the experience of trying to find a convention hotel which will accommodate approximately 1000 attendees, and have enough large function rooms for all the events that fans have come to expect from a Star Trek convention, you will know that the task is virtually impossible. Con committees have to compromise, and most fans understand this. However, those fans who don't, or won't, appreciate the difficulties involved would obviously prefer to have TNG episodes shown in every available room, to the exclusion of everything else on the programme. Do we really want our cons to deteriorate to this level?

I'm not quite sure I understand the last paragraph of your letter - we advertised TNG episodes at SOL III and we showed TNG episodes (around 75 of them!)

To Edward Woo - I agree with you. Where video rooms are too small to accommodate everyone who wants to watch videos, the only solution to the problem is for the room to be cleared after each episode - or maybe two episodes to cut down on the disruption factor.

To Helen White - Please don't let anyone put you off reporting on conventions. I love 'em, even when I'm bristling over a bit of criticism. (Incidentally, I think I can beat you; I lost 11 lbs in 4 days with something weird called Viral Labyrinthitis. Yes, it all went back on again.)

To Pam Baddelley - I, too, mourn the passing of colourful events like the Fashion Show at cons, but the sad fact is that entries became fewer and fewer over a number of years (I think most committees will agree) and eventually we had to be realistic and accept that the interest was no longer there - fans wanted to watch, not participate. The Fancy Dress competition is still a featured event at most cons, but as Anne Page will confirm, it often takes a lot of 'encouragement' to get people to enter,

despite the fantastic parade of costumes that can be seen around the hotel throughout the weekend! To have live events, you need human participation and unfortunately we live in an age when entertainment means sitting in a chair - whether at home, in the theatre, or at the cinema - and being entertained by others. I don't know what the answer is.

Barbara Ellams - London

Re: "Beam me, up, Scotty." ad.

I would like to thank all four of the people who responded to my advertisement. Unfortunately, such is the way of television that the production meeting was brought forward to the day IDIC was published. Therefore, I had to do some intensive viewing myself. 16 hours intensive research yielded the information, but is NOT recommended as a way of enjoying Star Trek. Whizzing through on fast forward to any scene where the magic words may have been said - the eyes go crossed just thinking about it.

It was great to receive from the four confirmation of my work. The programme for which we were looking at it, regarded 'Fame in the 20th Century' and after much it's in, no it's out, it is out. For the moment, anyway. But thanks again to those who took both time and trouble to contact me.

On a completely different note, today my fax bleeped and the front page proclaimed it was a Telefax/melding from Norway. Beneath it had a sub heading of Melding/Message. Could it be, after all, that Vulcans have Norwegian ancestry!?

Questions

• **Jason Wells:** Where can I get a copy of the ST:TNG Chronology you mentioned in the last newsletter? *(Janet: We haven't seen copies available yet. You need to keep an eye on the specialist bookshops. Write to me enclosing an SAE if you would like a list of shops we know about.)*

The cost of conventions seems very high, what with £20-£30 for registration plus £25 for accommodation. Can you explain where

the money goes and what I get for my money. *[Most hotels where conventions are held have to be big to accommodate the numbers. The rates quoted for accommodation are usually for rooms which have their own bathrooms, TV, phone and often tea-making facilities. Convention room rates are normally well below what the hotel usually charges. However you do not have to stay in the con hotel. You can arrange your own accommodation.]*

As to what you get for your registration money - well that depends on the con. There are usually two or three video rooms, often with large screen video; there are guest speakers (and if you are lucky these might include actors or production staff, although conventions can't usually promise these because they may have to cancel due to work commitments at the last moment); there are dances, parties or discos in the evening, fancy dress competitions; there's usually a dealers's room and art room. Different conventions have different events but one thing you can be sure of is that you will share the weekend with other fans and have the chance to make many friends. Conventions are very expensive to run and are not run for profit.

What does NCC stand for? *It was never actually specified but some say Naval Construction Contract Number.*

• **Brenda Kelsey - For Dawn Tittley.** There is a Star Wars fan club but I've no details of the value of the club or the response. U.K. Star Wars Fan Club, 81 Raglan Avenue, Waltham Cross, Herts EN8 8DD.

Can You Help

• **Shirley Shatner:** Does anyone know the present address of Second Skin in Leeds? Or anywhere else I can get similar latex Vulcan ears.

Is there anywhere that sells Star Trek jewellery by Mail Order in Britain?

• **Sue Jones:** I should like to work a Star Trek related sampler or piece of embroidery but I have never seen any advertised and I'm not clever enough to design one for myself. Can anyone tell me where I can obtain one or alternatively is there some kind and clever person who would be prepared to sell/loan me a copy of a chart which they have designed. Any help would be much

appreciated. I am quite willing to meet any reasonable costs. Sue Jones, 16 Sandiway, Meols, Hoylake, Wirral, Merseyside L47 6AJ.

• **Gratienne Vandekerckhove** - Where can I find the video of the 25th Anniversary show - the *complete* version?

☆☆☆☆

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE TAKEI

by Gloria Fry

This Morning, Friday Dec 11th 1992 - interviewers Richard Maddeley & Judy Finnegan.

JF: The panto season brings many strange visitors to our shores. One panto star is out of this world. Joining us from the USS Enterprise... Sulu. Beam him down, Scotty.

George materialises wearing sober suit. His hand is raised in the Vulcan sign. He walks over to the interviewers.

JF: It's extraordinary seeing you in the flesh and wearing a suit.

GT: You introduced me by talking about the strange people coming to visit you. I guess I'm the strangest of the lot.

RM: We've watched Star Trek for years and years and we interview lots of stars on this programme, it's not a frisson, but to meet you is a frisson, it's very strange.

GT: (Grins) Well, I've been visiting you for a long time. I'm in my 27th year with ST now. Some women come up to me and say, "You visited me in my bedroom last night".

Laughter from everyone then they discuss the video release of ST VI.

GT: I think it's the best of the lot, most substance, best drama, best science fiction of the lot.

They then talk about ST lasting long into the future

RM: People just don't want to give you up, nobody wants to see it finish.

GT: mentions TNG and DS9, adding - We'll be long gone and there'll still be a Star Trek for your great grandchildren.

JF: Do you get stopped in the street a lot?

GT: Oh yes, regrettably they call me Mr Sulu, not George Takei.

Laughter, then they discuss how the sets during the 60s were very cheaply made due to the lack of money, but the movie sets were much more elaborate.

GT: At one time the buttons were absolutely practical: we played with them too much so they decided it would be better if they didn't work.

They talk about the voices he did for The Simpsons, then the pantomime where he plays the Mirror Master, Lord of the Universe.

RM: You have the voice for it.

JF: You look absolutely amazing, you don't look like you've aged at all.

GT: (Gives her a wide smile and says laughingly) Well, I'm beaming.

JF: I'm sitting next to an icon...

RM: Sitting next to a living legend... amazing.

End of interview.

It was obvious that both (especially RM) were fans. He kept interrupting George and stumbling over his words, very excited all

during the five minute interview. George was imperturbable and laughed a lot, no doubt used to overawed TV interviewers. I learned a new word from watching this - frisson - so who says daytime TV is rubbish?

Actually, it was just pure luck I saw this, for I rarely watch TV in the morning. George did look terrific, very smart in his suit. The man is a delight.

☆☆☆☆

AN INTERVIEW WITH GEORGE TAKEI

CHANNEL 4 ORACLE (PAGE 564) MON DEC 14TH, 1992

Transcribed by Mark Horton

There's every chance your Christmas this year could be just a little out of this world. First of all, CIC Video has just released a cluster of star-studded "Star Trek" movie vids. Also, one of the original stalwarts, George Takei (Mr Sulu), is about to open here in his second ever panto!

We shot up to Warp Speed 9 and caught up with George to ask him all about Star Trek", pantos and more...

Is there going to be a "Star Trek VII"? Well the studio is reading scripts but they haven't selected one yet.

When's it likely to be made? I presume we'll do what we did last time and use the set "The Next Generation" TV series uses (though we dress it up a bit) when they go on their break in May.

Are you excited? It's always good fun and wonderful to get back every two years for a family reunion.

Don't you get fed up with talking about "Star Trek"? No, I enjoy it and I'm proud of my association with it.

What do you say to your critics who say you originals are getting a bit long in the tooth? Ha! Ha! In 27 years we've all, you could say, matured!

How much of you is Mr. Sulu? I'm an actor so his appearance and voice is me but he's a skilled technician as well as a master of military strategy. When it comes to anything mechanical, George Takei is an absolute dud!

What makes you want to come over here and star in a panto? I'm an Anglophile so I come here at the drop of an opportunity. I also think panto is a wonderful way to let my hair down.

I consider myself to be a serious actor and come over to do plays at the Edinburgh Festival, but this is an opportunity for me to overact with abandon and throw out all shame!

Which role are you playing in "Snow White"? I'm the Mirror Master - the wizard of the Universe.

George's Log: Born in Los Angeles, he spent his childhood in internment camps along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans after the outbreak of World War II. He's made nearly 20 films and guest starred in hundreds of TV shows.

Typical Trek by Helen



Spock's shirt, after
one day's wear



Kirk's shirt, ditto

16.92

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

reviewed by Caroline Lewis

The opening of the pantomime was nicely done with the Star Trek fanfare played and followed by the original theme tune while lasers projected an image of the Enterprise NCC 1701 (I assume) and various asteroids and other space 'debris' onto the front curtain. This was followed by a sequence of pictures related to the Home and Away theme which was appreciated by the Home and Away fans.

The first person on stage was George as the Mirror Master. He was wearing an impressive silvery oriental costume. The music was too loud (or the microphone nearest the musicians was too high) which made it very difficult to hear what George was saying, and this problem recurred at various times throughout the pantomime.

George gave his part his all and one could tell he was really enjoying it. He took great delight in making the audience boo and hiss. The parts where George came on as Mr Sulu were both enjoyable and aggravating; enjoyable because anything to do with Trek is great; aggravating because it just did not fit in easily with the story and showed up the weaknesses in the script (of which there were many).

The lasers were used to good effect to begin with, but by the end being blasted with green lights was very tedious. Pity the people downstairs in the front rows.

All in all the pantomime was below average. The costumes were fine and some of these were very good, such as the Wicked Queen's and the Mirror Master's. Most of the cast tried their hardest (particularly George!) but good points just could not make up for overzealous use of the lasers and the very poor script.

AFTERTHOUGHT

On a different tack, it was a good experience. An usherette, who had spotted

that my party were Star Trek fans, told us that George would be coming down into the foyer after the pantomime to sign autographs. He does this after every performance which I think is marvellous of him especially on days, like the day I went, when he had two performances to do.

I must say at this point that all the staff at the Brighton Dome were exceedingly friendly and helpful and I for one would like to thank them for making our visit a pleasant one.

After the general masses had gone and only the die-hard Trekkers and autograph hunters were left, George did indeed come down into the foyer where a table had been set out for him. He was extremely friendly, funny and kind, putting everyone at their ease and chatting to all those who queued up for autographs. He seemed oblivious of the flashing lights (one man had a video camera!) but paused to let people have their pictures taken with him.

When I had finally worked up the courage to get an autograph and photo (and forgotten to ask all the questions - or even any of the questions - I had thought of) and the staff were locking up, trying to lead George away by an elbow and saying, "George, come on, we must go and get something to eat now"... SHE appeared.

SHE was a very intense red-haired woman and seemed to have come from nowhere. She planted herself firmly in front of a somewhat startled George who said "Hello," (he did know her name), to which she replied, "You do remember me?" It was the way she said it. You could see the thought racing through George's mind, "Do I need a lawyer?" but this was quickly followed by the look of half-recognition again.

"You said I could come round afterwards," she continued, and it was

obvious from George's bemused face that he'd meant for a chat and an autograph with everyone else but having been backed into a corner from which there was no gracious exit he invited the lady very kindly to have a meal with the staff and him at Pinnochio's over the road.

I think George showed remarkable kindness and generosity to all the fans who waited to see him (and it took quite some time) and I would like to say thank you for the photo and autograph and your easy friendliness. Just one question: what happened at Pinnochio's?!!

☆☆☆☆

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS

The Dome, Brighton, Friday 18th December 1992 - a reaction by Jane Hose

George Takei in panto? This promised to be bizarre - I mean internationally famous, Los Angeles movie star meets Widow Twanky - my mind boggled. I was powerless to resist...

George played Mydrakon the Mirror Master - a part written especially for him - who controls the Wicked Queen through her magic mirror. How to describe him?

The natural evolution of his 'evil' counterpart in Mirror Mirror, George strode about with movements recalling Mr Bryner's King of Siam, gorgeously arrayed in a cascading silver and black number with sleeve appeal, cackling unmercifully in a hysterical portrayal of megalomania variously aided by dry ice, lasers and a fizzy mike.

Try as I might (I didn't really) all I could do was goggle in disbelief at this, the best helmsman in the Fleet, corrupted by power - was he going to catch it when Kirk found out! They should never have given him the Excelsior.

The vision of a panto written about the Enterprise crew, with Shatner camping it up as Twanky and Spock trying to remain sane while McCoy did Groucho Marx impressions was so clear I could almost see them running about on stage - oh god, my sides hurt.

The highlight had to be George singing

"I'm Gonna be Master of the Universe" while two leotard-clad young ladies cavorted on either side of him - I have no idea why they were there.

The same could be said for a lot of the show - surreal in places, especially the puppet show in the middle - why was that person dressed as a watering can?

Back to the point. It was opening night so hiccups abounded but no-one minded and everyone had a great time (except the man sitting on my left who squashed himself into his seat every time I yelled "Behind you!", "Boo!" etc.

Mydrakon was eventually dispatched after a display of swashbuckling - whereon the Wicked Queen was released from his power and become sickeningly nice - and they all lived... well, you know the rest. Personally, I prayed for the Klingons to make a guest appearance.

I was proud to be on undoubtedly the best half of the audience during the singalong of "Star Trekkin" - well, we were led by George's DEEP voice - now changed into uniform, somebody else's by the size of it!

All in all, a wonderful evening's entertainment for children of all ages - I can't wait to see more of Mr Takei's undoubted talents.

☆☆☆☆

T'KON

And now... just when you thought it was safe to read your IDIC n/1....

"I really feel like ripping my ears off...." (Jo)

or

"I took my head off, because it was coming off anyway...." (The Author)

or

Famous Author (ahem) in Bloodbath Horror

Yes, it's me, Helen White again....

NEW! SPECIAL OFFER! FREE ADDED ILLUSTRATIONS!

Friday

Did you know that the services on the M1 charge 80p for an ordinary jam doughnut? Well, you do now. We drove up to Birmingham via said services, where I resisted the doughnut but was forced to buy a stuffed lemur. He caught my eye as he sat on his shelf, and said, "take me with you!" So I did.



Once we got to Birmingham, we made a detour round the city centre (it's called, 'we only have a small map with about two roads listed on it') and eventually located the hotel. Having got ourselves registered, we found our room and discovered that 'triple' room meant twin beds plus a 'pull-down' attached to one wall. Jo had the top bunk when we went on Seatrek in 1991, so I grabbed the pull-down. We did think that it was rather strange to have to climb on a stool to get up on the bed, but never mind....

We tootled down to the main hall for the opening ceremony - me with Turnip (the forementioned lemur) wound round my neck - and said hello to several friends. The opening ceremony was performed by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham! He told us that this year's T'Kon was dedicated to the memory of Alec Lewis, and we stood in silence for a moment; then he finished his talk with a joke, as he said that he didn't want to leave us feeling sad.

After the ceremony was the stewards' meeting. I was down to steward for all of Star Trek V, and wondered whether anyone would like to swap? No, they wouldn't. Luckily, there turned out to be some 'spare' stewards, and Melissa Arnold volunteered to cover half of it for me, thanks. In the event, another chap volunteered to do the whole lot for us; I think he was Simon Plumbe, but I can't remember for certain; thanks a bunch, anyway.

After supper - at Pizza Hut, of course - we played Jo's Final Frontier game, which we initially found rather tedious. It's a board game, and the idea is to make your way to various planets before returning to Earth; en route you pick up cards which issue you somewhat boring instructions, eg: You are recalled to Earth. The game makers had thoughtfully included a number of blank cards, so we invented some new instructions, eg: Kirk is constipated and is stuck in the toilet with the Captain's Log; miss four turns (you're not eating your breakfast. I hope?)

Anyway, back to the report; after supper we wandered around the uniform party, then went to the cinema at the back of the hotel for a midnight showing of STVI. There were about thirty of us there, and we had great fun. We eventually retired to bed at around 2.30 am, remembering to set my alarm clock for 7.30, urgh.

Saturday

Confucius say, be sure to check battery in your clock is working.... We awoke at 8.30, so Jim and I skipped breakfast; we wanted to get to the dealers' room. I finally managed to get one of those dreadful FX keyrings, oh dear, and at last indulged myself and purchased a Klingon head (from Hightower, hello Paul and Sadie) whose hair was exactly the same shade as mine. Well, I had to buy it, didn't I? Having had said head, plus makeup, applied, I went to steward the art room, where the new disk zine *The Final Frontier* was running; very impressive and great fun.

Next on the agenda was the famous T'Kon game, which Jo and I had won for the previous two years; this year a team of five was needed, as it was Tribble Maze, so we recruited Marguerite (hello), a slightly reluctant Jim and a chap called David Dumbell (also hello) who turned out to be just as trivia-minded as myself. We got to the final, having done such things as adding a list of Trek-related numbers (eg: the prefix code for the Reliant, which is 16309) and found that we had a set time in which to burst every bubble in a (large) sheet of bubble-wrap! Goodness knows what we all looked like....

After lunch, having again visited the art room and dealers room, we went to attend John Carrigan's usual talk. This time, he did a Batman-and-Catwoman staged fight, with Toria (oh dear, my memory's given out and I can't remember her surname, but she's a Klingon) as the latter. Following that was a general stunt display; I don't think I'll ever get bored of seeing people apparently beating the **** out of each other only inches away from me!

At supper time we wond our way to the Pizza Hut again. By this time, both Jim and myself were in Klingon heads; we were seated in a corner. However, the restaurant wasn't as yet busy, so we moved!

It was then time for the Kings and Queens party, which also included the fancy dress contest. When we arrived, we were given a pile of balloons to blow up. Once they were all done, our table started a balloon fight; eight adults all hitting each other with balloons, oh dear....

The fancy dress contest had 22 entries! They were all very good, as usual, but far and away the hit of the evening was 'K'Donna', who appeared wrapped in a Klingon cloak (should that be 'kloak', perhaps?) and danced to 'Vogue'. During this, he - for it was a chap called Ian Andrew, in a frothy blonde wig - removed said cloak/kloak to reveal a thoroughly ridiculous undergarment of a doubly pointed nature, to wit (to whooo) a bra top. He was absolutely brilliant.



The other entry that I particularly liked was another man in a frothy blonde wig who was dressed in a pink Angel One outfit; also brilliant.

Once the fancy dress was over, the disco - run as usual by Moses (no, not that one) - started, and so did the dancing. After a

while, Joe 90 came on, and we joined in, whereupon I managed to cut my foot on a piece of flashing (the metal 'spare' bits on the edge of models etc) and had to go out into the lobby so that I could see to remove it. As is not uncommon with foot injuries, it was bleeding rather impressively (it was actually a teeny wound) and Kerry Endacott, who happened to be there, kindly fetched me a plaster from reception. I then had to go and fill in the hotel's accident book!

Having got cleaned up, I went back down for a bit more disco, then went to bed.

Sunday

Confucius say, chuck clock in rubbish bin.

Even with a new battery, the stupid clock played up; I'd set it for 6.45 and it went off an hour later.... I don't think it likes cons, blooming object.

After brekker, we went yet again to the dealers' room, where I got my nose retouched (ooer), and I then went to the second half of Bo Maxwell's talk, which was about the US space programme, and very interesting.

Next up was John Carrigan again, this time with his new Twilight Zone episode, Hollow Man. He also showed us a film that had been made in the shopping centre behind the hotel; it (the film, not the shopping centre) was called The Good, the Bad and the Dangerous, and was full of stunts. Great fun! He then introduced a harmless-looking old chap called John Ducie, who in fact used to be a paratrooper and fences, does martial arts etc; he played the villain in Hollow Man. John C demonstrated various make-up effects on John D, and told us such useful snippets as the recipe for internal and external stage blood. (In case you're interested: i) golden syrup + cochineal + however much water you feel is needed, and ii) washing up liquid + cochineal. Ugh!)

After that, John C told us some stories about his past (erm.... that doesn't quite sound right) such as the time he visited the

set of Star Trek III with Gene and Richard Arnold and was left for two hours as they had something else to do; he thought that he'd have a go on the hydraulic lift in engineering (you know; the one that Kirk uses in STTMP and gracefully descends to the lower engineering deck from that gantry thing.) Wheeeeeeeee! Oops! He hadn't realised when he stepped on, but the hydraulics weren't switched on....

He also told us that he's off to the States in February or March for Bruce Lee's star ceremony, and is going to try out for DS9; good luck John!

He also told us that Bill Shatner is currently (or was in November, at any rate) in Canada, filming Tekwar; he didn't know whether Bill was acting, directing or what.

After John's talk we went out for lunch to a little Wimpy cafe; it wasn't your usual burger place at all. It appeared to be run entirely by two ladies, one old and one young. The old one was extremely reminiscent of Julie Walters' 'soup' waitress; she was incredibly slow, and did our orders in two 'goes' - mine and Jim's, then Jo and Marguerite's! A chap came over to our table and asked if we were Trekkers - mind you, he was on a fairly safe bet, as Jim and I still had our heads on, so to speak - and we had a good chat, hello Tim.

All too soon it was time for the closing ceremony. While we were waiting for everything to be set up, the assembled audience played balloon volleyball (batting a balloon round the room without letting it touch the floor), at one stage having three balloons 'going' at once.

After the ceremony, we bid various friends goodbye, although we'd decided to stay until the Monday this time; it was lucky that we did, as my car's windscreen wipers gave up the ghost on the way home, and we had to call the AA, and if I'm going to be stranded I'd rather it was in daylight!

As usual, T'Kon was excellent, and I'm looking forward to the next one, even though it's not until 1994, boo hoo. Great job, chaps!

T'KON

reported by Dave Smith

I'm no longer a virgin. What I mean to say is that I have just attended my first Star Trek convention. What a bunch of crazies! I felt right at home.

The convention in question was T'KON, which took place in Birmingham. I only attended for the one day on Saturday (breaking myself in gently) but I had a really good time. I met a Klingon female in the lift, spied Deanna Troi from a distance and bumped into a Romulan lady in the dealers' room. Talking about the dealers' room, I was spoiled for choice as to what to buy; anything from a Star Trek pen to a Klingon disruptor pistol. I restrained myself up to a point, but a TNG communicator pin was soon being given pride of place on my jacket.

A few episodes of TNG later I made my way to a room on the first floor to have my photo taken in TNG uniform, and after squeezing into a first series one-piece jumpsuit uniform, I struck my best Starfleet officer's pose. Click, click, click. Paid my money. Gave my address and that was that. Later at home when my aughter (aged 16)

found out about the picture and my intention of framing and hanging it up on the wall, she said that if I did she would never be able to bring her friends home due to me embarrassing her with my childish behaviour. Tough.

Anyroadup, back to the con. It was as I entered the lift that the Klingon female joined me in the descent to the foyer. She looked rather warlike but on speaking to her I found that she was really a very nice young lady and not a bit like you expect a Klingon to be.

It was then time for the guest to make his appearance. John Carrigan's stunt display and talk were both very funny and informative; the hour went by too quickly.

After a few more TNG episodes it was time to depart. I enjoyed the whole day, met and talked to loads of people (hello to Marion Pritchard and her husband) and saw some great TNG. I'm now trying to persuade my wife to come with me to Warp One next year and spend a few days in the company of

☆☆☆☆

GENESIS II CONVENTION 13 - 15 NOV

report by Jenny Turner

The con was dedicated to Alec Lewis who died suddenly; a very nice man you could have a good laugh and joke with, and who did a lot for Genesis II.

I arrived about 9.30 on the Saturday morning. The weather wasn't very nice - wet and windy. YUK! The hotel was buzzing, as it usually is at cons. I collected my con book and badge and sat down to have a look at what was going on. After a while I wandered over to what looked like a queue, which was for the sales rooms. (They had two rooms which were not very big.) I didn't buy very much as most of the stuff was quite

expensive. I bought the book Relics and a Star Trek one, a couple of badges and some NG postcards. I enquired about some cardboard cutouts of Spock and Kirk. £15 each! EEK!! I then went to see my friend's table, which her mom and a friend were running. They were doing very well, especially with the Star Trek earrings and visors.

After about an hour I went to get a cup of tea. I didn't think it was going to be very nice as it was in a paper cup, but it was O.K.

About 11.30 I developed one of my

famous migraines. I usually get them at cons. I think it's the heat and noise. So I decided to go outside for some air. I managed to shake most of it off, but decided to go home, via the shop Nostalgia where I bought a hologram of the Enterprise and a small poster, getting home about 12.30.

especially the stunt display and the auction, which wasn't on till 6 o'clock. Perhaps next time it will teach me to take my Migravele with me, but I had run out of it.

I asked my friend later on the phone how it went, and she said very well. They made quite a bit for charity.

I would have liked to have seen more,

☆☆☆☆

LONDON AWAY TEAM ONE-DAY CONVENTION

29 November 1992, University of London Students' Union.

reported by Liz Tuckett

Since joining IDIC and starting to be a serious fan, I have found it well worth while to read the small ads at the back of this magazine. One such small gem of an event was this occasion, advertising such goodies as season 5 episodes and a bar. The A to Z guide in my handbag at the ready, I went along on a rather damp and windy Sunday morning. The mapbook proving essential, I found my way up to the correct floor and was quickly inside the video room which was offering season 6 TNG. Chatting later to the organisers, I found their main concern was to provide recent TNG and other visual Trek treats as well as the other benefits of a convention, such as dealers' room and fundraising, as cheaply as possible within the central London area. Well, you can't get much more central than ten minutes' walk from Oxford Street.

has been exposed and explored, it could be said that the solution may lie in having large numbers of Away Team meetings like this. From the use of venue to the quality of the bar (one of the best kept secrets in London) this would offer a timely solution, but it is most certainly not a way to mix with a variety of fans. Talking to others there, questions ranged from "Doesn't Troi look better with her hair down?" to "Doesn't Picard like children very much?" As again recent N/Ls would suggest, the back catalogue of Trek is as relevant, popular and thought-provoking as ever.

The second aim was to provide a top quality convention and as a rather fussy observer I can say that this was most certainly achieved. The dealers' room, although showing only a few tables, had nevertheless some interesting variety of Trek collectables on sale. Raffle prizes were most certainly desirable - bundles of novels and model kits being the chief items which caught my eye.

Here at this event was almost the answer to the great dilemma. The one-day convention at cut price did not have guest speakers or auctions, nor fancy dress, but was none the poorer, really - the quiz offered was most sensibly held near to the bar and the bar was excellent. Proving again that one well-chosen site for a poster serves the same purpose as twelve poorly placed, expenses do not have to be enormous or a great burden to the organisers. Use sites such as schools, clubs and other meeting places where the public can be gathered together in reasonable numbers, where refreshment are available, and offer an alternative activity such as chat, zine library and sales, and a quiz, which are after all the best ways to make new friends and expand one's knowledge of Trek of all sorts. Basically, all you need are the videos, a way to play them (clearly and audibly would

From previous correspondence in N/L 22 - 25, where the great debate about video watching at conventions versus taking part

be nice, but we are all prepared to make allowances) and a seat from which you may see what is going on without neck strain or hairstyle hazard. It is nice to have a reasonably warm, quiet room in winter or cool quiet room in summer, and for the adults food and alcohol near to hand. We would wish for enabling facilities such as toilets for the disabled to be available, but I'm sorry to say not for creche facilities personally. I expect to infuriate some by saying this, but silent polite older children only can mix with an adult audience. LATCon was mercifully free of tiny children

almost all of the time.

Again to say it clear and loud, LATCon was a great success, and if anyone is interested in filling the gap between the huge convention of a thousand or having a few friends around, take courage. There are a huge number of cheap venues around and a little ingenuity will provide the rest. A sense of humour and an outgoing personality will help a lot, as will friends and friendships. Congratulations, and more of the same next year, please.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

REC-CON REC-COLLECTED

by Sue Jones

I'd got it all sorted out. It was quite simple really. I'd had a "proper holiday" in 1992 so Conventions were quite out of the question. "Live according to your means." I told myself. "You can't afford it so you're not going and there's an end to it. Think positive, you won't have to write a con report!"

.....So I paid my registration fee and fled the grey and windswept reality of August Bank Holiday weekend like a migrating swallow.

It was obviously a good omen for the weekend when I met a fellow Trekker leaving the train and we took a taxi which followed the blue RAC signs marked "Star Trek Convention" (This Con did things in style) to the hotel.

Things looked up even further when, as our taxi drew to a halt, the door was whipped open and a porter swept away our bags and had them lined up in the reception area before our feet touched the pavement. If there wasn't actually a red carpet on the floor, it was certainly a strong shade of pink.

The only other people who separate you from your luggage with that kind of alacrity are airlines. It's written into the small print of their Citizens' Charter under "Customer Amusements". They guarantee to

provide your baggage with a head start so that you can while away the potentially tedious hours of your holiday trying to track it down. (Only kidding Jan.)

Having been told that check-in was at midday, I was allocated my room without demur at 11.00am. They have a matter transporter too. It's the only way I can explain the arrival of the guy with the ironing board outside my room on the 12th floor so soon after I phoned to ask about borrowing one, (the ironing board that is, not the guy, although I might have been tempted...) and he smiled, and he'd gone before I'd even had time to reach for a tip - that's what I'd call a five star hotel.

Half an hour later I had everything unpacked ironed and squared away in the pious hope (unfulfilled) that I would manage to keep my quietly sumptuous room in a state resembling something other than the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew and set out to boldly go etc. etc.

Actually it's not true. I have been there before. In fact I know Manchester city centre quite well. It possesses something absolutely indispensable to Economy-size ladies like me - a Tall Girls' Shop. Suffice it to say that I went out and spent serious money and returned to find that the Con, like a fine wine,

was maturing nicely.

I collected my Con-package from Registrations and paused to chat to Sadie Mason who was at her customary post, (I didn't actually see the oxyacetylene cutter which they must have used to separate her from that desk at the end of the Con but I expect I wasn't looking at the right moment) when Paul-Jean Luc/Chief Steward) Anson hove into view, clipboard in hand. Which is how I got to spend an entirely satisfactory amount of my convention at Registrations. Anyone who has read one of my con-reports before will know that asking me to steward Registrations is akin to throwing me into the briar patch.

Memory is a little vague at this point, but in no particular order during the evening I know I helped out for a while on Registrations, visited some more friends in the dealers' room, got sidetracked into buying a trio of little dragons who obviously urgently needed a home, attended the Opening Ceremony and considered going to the Greek and Romans party.

I say considered, because during my stint on Registrations I met the band, "Desperate Dancing" plus attachments, all of whom seemed to be a nice bunch, and in a rush of misguided enthusiasm I thought it might be fun to go along and lend some support.

Sadly, my years are starting to show. I crossed the pain threshold halfway across the ante-room to the main hall and by the time I reached the door, the volume of the music was enough to blow the leaves straight off my natty little con-issue laurel wreath - I retreated and since I had been "roman" around since early morning I decided "to-ga" to bed. (All together now - groan!)

I awoke the following morning to the "desperate moose" bleats of the new Manchester trams sending out mating calls down below, showered, dressed and sallied forth to catch a lift. (Catch, as in lasso, bear-trap or possibly use an elephant gun.)

I am sure that when the architects

originally designed the hotel, they considered 3 lifts to service 14 floors, if not precisely generous, at least quite sufficient. Absent from all their calculations I am equally sure, was the possibility of a Star Trek convention with 802 attendees, 600+ of whom would be resident in the hotel, of which 598 at least would wish to be in transit at any given time.

By Friday night most of us had got the hang of the system, which was basically to catch a lift, any lift, up or down, regardless of your ultimate destination, in the certain knowledge that sooner or later (usually later) it would pass the floor of your choice. By Saturday morning they had assumed the nature of sleeper ships, people grew old and died in transit, leaving their descendants to make landfall on the floor originally designated. Catching the lift on the 12th floor was a gradual process.

I was standing watching my grey hairs grow and getting hungrier, when I became aware that I had company. Two members of a small delegation of Japanese, the only Mundanes which the hotel had not moved out for our benefit (or possibly theirs) who had been waiting even longer than I had. We exchanged pleasantries then the lift doors swished open to reveal - wall to wall Trekkers!

Amidst cheery encouragement I shoulder charged the mob, my erstwhile companions-in-waiting quite understandably blanched. As the doors started to close I looked back. They were standing looking wistful and, well, hungry as the prospect of the third floor and breakfast receded. There were 10 of us in the lift and a maximum safe number of 12 - I hit the door open button and we all scrunched up some more.

Nose to navel with one attendee, one Japanese gent made a comment about all getting to know each other terribly well to a chap standing with an arm round his girlfriend. "That's right," the chap agreed, "but it's ok, we're engaged. We weren't when we got in, but we are now!"

Breakfast was followed by the first "feeding frenzy" round the sales rooms.

Sheffield Space Centre and Andromeda Books were both there with loads of assorted goodies, but it was nice to see that there was still room for "amateur" traders, although if the person selling Next Gen uniform tops hadn't been there, I'd be a richer woman today. Then back to Registrations again.

The nice thing about helping to "person" Registrations is that like life, it is marketplace where all men meet. Sit at Registrations for long enough and sooner or later most of the Con comes to you. On Friday night I was lucky enough to meet Dorothy Fontana, a charming lady, and her husband Dennis Skotak; also Jackie Cockle and Mark Hall of Cosgrove Hall (of Truckers animation fame), clutching a variety of mysterious looking boxes.

Saturday saw the arrival of an awful lot more folk and we did a brisk business in one and two day registrations. It also saw the arrival of three delightful ladies from the Cot Death Charity. I suspect that three of them had come in order to lend each other moral support in case we really were that bad. They stood in a little huddle in the foyer in the manner familiar to Mundanes at their first Star Trek con and to all fans of "One Man and his Dog" when a particularly nervous flock of sheep come eyeball to eyeball with their least favourite sheepdog. They looked so worried about us all that I felt sorry for them and stopped for a little chat. Thereafter we kept bumping into one another around the hotel and I'm pleased to report that once the initial shock had worn off they had a whale of a time.

Unfortunately I managed to miss both Dennis Skotak's first talk and Jackie Cockle and Mark Hall's talk. I did however prise myself away in the afternoon intending to go to the Writers' Workshop only to find it had been cancelled. However, the four of us who did turn up (Sheila Clark, Brenda Kelsey and another girl whose name I didn't catch and I'm too short sighted to be able to read her con badge at that distance) whiled away a pleasant afternoon discussing plots, story lines, descriptive writing and generally running our own writers' workshop entirely to our own satisfaction.

The session was finally wound up by the arrival of Jackie Cockle, who was booked to run an animation workshop in that room, still clutching the mysterious box which proved to contain three of the figures used for making the animated version of Terry Pratchett's Truckers.

Although I completely missed the series and can't honestly say that animation terribly interests me those figures were truly amazing. They stand approximately 9 inches high and are perfect in every detail down to the jointed fingers and the tiny creases in the skin across the knuckles. A couple of other people and I were making enthusiastic ooh and ah noises and were told that, yes, it was perfectly all right to pick them up for a closer look. I was in the midst of playing happily, (Anyone who thinks they've grown out of dolls has never been offered a Nome to play with) when Jackie, looking placidly over my shoulder said, "Yes, they are complicated so it makes them quite expensive. They cost about £1,000 each." I put that Nome down with great care and even greater alacrity.

I also made a point of getting to both of the talks by Dorothy, or D.C. Fontana, to give her her correct professional name. Saturday's talk dealt mainly with her own career and her involvement with Star Trek and was delivered to the accompaniment of silently projected footage from the Trek shows for which she had been responsible. I thought it was an excellent idea as it served as a tactful memory jogger for her audience. In fact I hadn't realised that she had written so many of the stories which are high on my list of favourites, ie stories where the emphasis is heavily on characterisation.

She began as Gene Roddenberry's assistant but was soon given the opportunity to write a script for Trek. You'll have to pardon my appalling memory, but I think it was Charlie X. Other episodes followed, including This Side of Paradise, Amok Time and The Ultimate Computer and then she branched out into writing scripts on a full time basis for other shows as well as Trek. She has written for such diverse shows as detective series and westerns, including two episodes for The Big Valley, a long time (and

long ago) favourite of mine. At age 13 I was passionately in love with Nick Barkley.

Ms Fontana is obviously a talented lady who has had to work hard to become recognised in her chosen field. She changed her professional name to DC Fontana because, she said, it was "lucky" for her. She tactfully sidestepped the question of whether using her initials might have proved lucky because it would not be immediately obvious whether the script had been submitted by a man or a woman. However, she did agree that in the 1960's it was harder for a woman scriptwriter to gain acceptance in Hollywood (and indeed things have not improved all that much) unless the programme makers wanted to do a show about a woman.

There was to be an autograph session following Ms Fontana's talk so I set off on the journey to my eyrie - sorry, room. Unfortunately, on the way up I met a man from Radio Piccadilly in the lift. "Are you with the Star Trek Convention by any chance?" he asked. "S'Funny," I thought. "Whatever makes him think that? I always run around the streets of Manchester and expensive hotels dressed in a plum and black Next Gen uniform top, complete with communicator pin!" Apparently he wanted to interview somebody connected with the convention since it was a nationwide event taking place in Manchester, so I told him I would ask someone to get back in touch with him urgently provided he wasn't going to make us all sound like a bunch of idiots running around pretending to be Captain Kirk and Mr Spock. He nodded (insincerely I suspect) and I took his phone number and dropped it in to Ops, no mean feat since it involved running down the back stairs from the 12th floor! (I'd missed the lift while we were talking.) Consequently by the time I tottered back to the autograph session it had wound to a close but Ms Fontana was still standing around chatting. Book in hand, I tentatively asked whether she would mind one more autograph. Not only did I get my autograph but a specially-posed-for photograph as well. As I said before - a very nice lady.

By now my stomach was sending out

plaintive enquiries as to whether my throat had been cut and Brenda Kelsey and Beverley (sorry Beverley, I've forgotten your other name) invited me to share a pizza with them (actually, we had a pizza each plus huge ice creams) at a Pizza Hut tucked away round the corner out of sight of the main hotel, but well known to habitués of the last Manchester con at Sacha's. After this we escorted Bev to the train as she had only come for the day and wandered our way back to the hotel.

I know there was a Fancy Dress competition but I'm afraid I missed it (I was nattering) and unlike many another con I've been to there were very few people wandering around in fancy dress afterwards regardless of whether they had entered the competition or not. Perhaps the age of the "do it yourself" fan who enjoys creating a little of the magic for themselves has drawn to a close. Either that or the recession has hit this particular aspect of our safe little world and people are finding it hard enough to finance basic convention requirements like accommodation and food without laying out extra money on costumes as well. As usual a disco followed the Fancy Dress so Brenda and I did our bit to bop the night away.

Came the dawn. Oh all right, a good few hours after it, I rose stiffly from my bed to gaze out from my watchtower at another summer day; force seven gales with the rain lashing across the square and the deserted tram platforms. Thank goodness for unreality!

I went to see "I Borg" even though I am not really a Next Gen fan because everyone had been recommending it so highly and I can see why - A real three-box-of-Kleenex job with good acting all round and in the best traditions of Trek.

Back downstairs at Registrations I found Sadie looking rather as though her eyes had been stitched with red cotton. Apparently someone had come to grief on the dance floor the previous night, shortly after I left, and poor Sadie had been up all night at the hospital and then come straight on duty, also in the best traditions of Trek!

Between us, John Field and I managed to surgically remove the desk and packed her off to get some rest, then we sat at Registrations and watched the world go by and occasionally come and pay us a visit, until Sadie returned. Consequently I missed the Auction and the Astronomy talk, not that I'm grieving, since one would probably have cost me money and the other would almost certainly have gone right over my head! However I did manage to get to the second of Dorothy Fonatana's talks.

Sunday's talk concentrated mainly on the preparations for "Deep Space 9" which seem to be going ahead apace. Apparently the series concerns the goings-on aboard a space station taken over from an alien race who built it in order to facilitate the asset stripping of the planet below. (Ecology lesson No 1)

The Commander of the station is a single parent with a normal 13 year old son, ie he gets into the kind of scrapes that your average 13 year old can manage to achieve and doesn't save the space station. Personally I think he sounds even worse than Wesley but I hope I may be wrong. There is also to be a shapeshifter, provisionally named Odo and someone else who is a T'rill (I presume that he/she keeps budgies which bounce with health.) Overall I feel more optimistic about the prospect of this series (always assuming the Beeb decide to buy it) than I did about Next Gen. I'm probably in for a thundering disappointment but there's no harm in hoping.

At some point, the conversation turned to Classic Trek and the movies and Richard Arnold called out from the audience that William Shatner is said to have moved into offices in some building, the name of which I did not catch, but that this was only a rumour although I thought I followed the implication.

I ducked out of the Business Meeting which followed as I don't feel that I go to Cons with sufficient regularity to be entitled to vote on where the next one will be held. However I did bump into Jackie Comben on her way in. It takes real devotion to fandom

to travel from Southport (where she was staying having first travelled up from South Wales) to Manchester with the express purpose of attending the Business Meeting!

Unfortunately I also missed Alan Burrows' talk which I rather regretted since he is a very talented illustrator of comics and a very pleasant guy as well, although he lost more con-badges than any other attendee I have ever come across, 4 in total, including the one on which Sadie had simply inscribed "Super-hero".

I did however manage to make Dennis Skotak's second talk. For those of you who didn't get to Rec-Con and might therefore quite reasonably be saying "Who he?", Mr Skotak is the gentleman who has been responsible for many of the special effects in films like "Worms", "Terminator 2" and "The Return of Batman".

He showed us some video film taken in the studios which showed how the special effects were put together and how the finished footage looked when incorporated into the film. This included the beginning of the Batman movie where the Penguin's baby carriage is pushed over the bridge and goes floating down into the sewers and the flight of the Bat-boat along the tunnels.

It was quite fascinating to discover that both sequences were filmed using miniature models and since then I've found myself model-spotting when it comes to the action/adventure sequences in films on TV.

Pizza time again and a return to Pizza Hut for a repeat performance of Saturday night but with extra toppings and this time in the company of Brenda and Joanne. Fed to within an inch of our lives, Jo decided that an early night was called for. (For various reasons she had actually had to commute to and from London in the middle of the con and was understandably just a teensy bit shattered. In the interests of burning off a few calories (too little too late in my case) Brenda and I took to the dance floor for a touch of the Time Warp and the Joe 90 wheel, executed with homicidal fervour by those younger and fitter than I!

After this, energy was starting to flag a little and wending our way to the bar I spotted Richard Arnold and decided to risk being irrevocably labelled as "Person Who Irritates Richard" by asking him to enlarge on the rumour he'd mentioned and provide a little grist for the rumour-mill.

In fact what I got was a friendly welcome and a warning that it was only rumour but Bill Shatner had moved into offices in Building Whose Name I Forget but which obviously meant something to the two Hollywood types who were with him.

I said I was sorry but the significance of that had just whizzed straight past me, but were these by any chance the kind of offices allocated to producers. He said no not producers, but often to directors, but of course it was only a rumour. I assured him that it was quite all right, after all, all he had told me was that those particular offices are frequently allocated to directors. It's not his

fault if I choose to put two and two together and come up with five. Now you can make of that particular conversation what you will, but Brenda and I went away into a corner and danced a small, unseemly jig of delight.

And so to bed. And all of a sudden it was Monday morning and the lovely leisurely four days which on Thursday night had stretched like infinity before me had suddenly telescoped themselves up and disappeared.

I fitted in the Next Gen episode, "Time's Arrow" between the packing in a last ditch attempt to convince myself that it wasn't all coming to an end, but then there was the Closing Ceremony and all the goodbyes. I postponed the inevitable as long as possible by getting a late afternoon train, but the time just whizzed by and before I knew it, it was time to go home and begin my symbiotic relationship with my word processor!

☆☆☆☆

THIS MUFFIN IS ENORMOUS (or HYATT, LAX CONVENTION Nov 7/8)

reported by Victoria Law

I've read a lot about Creation Conventions, some complimentary, some critical, but you can't always go by other people's opinions so I decided to see what they were like for myself. I combined it with a week's holiday in LA just after the Presidential elections.

Before you read any further, you should know that I am a big fan of Brent Spiner and Data, so this report may be slightly biased towards a certain fully functional android and the brilliant actor who portrays him. I should apologise for any errors but it is not easy taking notes when the only light comes from a slide show or when you're trying to take photos and ask a question at the same time.

For those of you who have never experienced a Creation Con, there are basically just two rooms - a dealers' room and

a main hall. The dealers' room at the Hyatt was large, with plenty of room to walk around. Just about everything to do with Star Trek is for sale, including the TNG blooper video. Many items when converted from US\$ to UK£ are cheaper than in Britain. Instead of forking out £80 for an autographed picture of Brent as Data (Contagion 92 auction) you could buy one for just \$15 (or any of the TNG cast) which is good value.

In the main hall, if you have money you can get privileged seats. These cost extra (\$35/day for the Hyatt) and have to be bought in advance. You may get lucky and find yourself with front row seats. Normal seating costs \$20/day and is available at the door.

The main hall has the auction. Between guest talks and slide shows (see

later) there was the Creation No Minimum Bid Auction where items such as wool and suede jackets were going for \$150, \$100 less than normal price. I got an embroidered sweatshirt for \$25, \$15 less, but I think that Americans have a different idea about large size because you could quite easily fit 2 people in mine! There was also a sound alike contest and a quiz where you could win a share of \$300. But the best things were the Creation Music Video Salutes. These were to the various stars of Star Trek including Majel Barrett, Whoopi Goldberg, Worf, Riker, Captain Kirk and, of course, Data. I don't know if Creation would ever consider lending these to British conventions, but they are great.

The convention was for two days and the main guest, and the reason I went, was Brent Spiner, who appeared on both days. Other guests were Lolita Fatjo, script co-ordinator; Brannon Bragga, story editor and writer; Ron Moore, co-producer and writer; and on Sunday, David Rossi, assistant to the line producer.

Lolita's, Brannon's and Ron's talks I have put together (easier for me as I don't have to remember who said what). They all gave slide shows. Lolita's was an overview of the sixth season so far and Brannon's and Ron's the episodes they had written.

In this, the sixth season, there will be two Barclay stories. The first is Realm of Fear and the second will see the return of Moriarty with Holmes making a brief appearance. Alexander may appear in six or seven episodes including Rascals, which is directed by Adam Nimoy, son of Leonard Nimoy. At Christmas there will be a two-parter, Chains of Command. In this, Captain Picard goes into Cardassian space undercover, is captured and tortured. He is replaced temporarily as Captain of the Enterprise by Captain Jellico, played by Ronnie Cox. Part 2 will have an advisory at the beginning saying that some scenes may be disturbing.

The Borg, Lore, the Traveller and Wil Wheaton *may* return but there are no scripts at the moment.

Ron hated writing Yesterday's Enterprise. In part 1 of Redemption Denise didn't have pointed ears as her hair covered them. Brannon found Cause and Effect the easiest to write (if you've seen it you'll know why). Power Play, also written by Brannon, was supposed to be a cheap episode but ended up as one of the most expensive. Realm of Fear is based on Brannon's fear of flying.

David Rossi was very entertaining. His job means that he spends a lot of time running (or cycling) around Paramount studios between various departments. His talk related to his slide show and does not transfer to paper; however, a few facts. It takes 7 - 8 days to film an episode plus a further 1.5 months to add the SFX. Each episode has to run to exactly 42 mins and 48 secs. Each episode is acted out by Cosmo Genovese (I think) at home and it if too long or short it will go back to the writers for adjustment. Did you know that extras are no longer called 'extras'? No? They are now called 'atmosphere'. Finally, if you want to get an idea of what David looks like go and get ST:TUC. When you reach the fight scene on Rura Penthe look out for a Klingon draped in yellow. He's only there for a second so look carefully!

On the DS9 front, the style of lettering will change to be more like the movie lettering. The show is committed for two years. The first season will have a two-part pilot plus 20 one hour episodes. There will be 26 episodes in the second season. This year DS9 and TNG will wrap at the same time. Both Majel Barrett and Whoopi Goldberg may appear, as may Vash and Q. The O'Briens have transferred to the space station and Molly will have grown quite a bit since last seen.

Finally, and the reason I went, Brent bounded onto the stage, dressed casually, to loud applause and flashing cameras. First he apologised as he had a touch of laryngitis. He had just looped an episode because he had a cold, so Data has gone from having a cold to having laryngitis.

His favourite episodes are those that

feature him, eg Measure of a Man, Time's Arrow, Brothers, but he also felt that First Contact was very good. Least favourite is Code of Honor which isn't very surprising (see recent poll results). The most challenging scripts have been Brothers and A Fistful of Datas, which is brilliant. He plays 6 characters.

On the subject of TNG he has to get up at 4.30 am and then spend 1.5 hours in make-up. Once the make-up is on he can't touch his face otherwise it would have to be done again. By around mid-day the make-up gets under his contacts which he can't take out. Being a contact lens wearer myself I know what it must be like. He finds the make-up a bother, and who can blame him.

Under Gene's supervision the scripts had more comedy in them. However, after Gene's death this became less but they are starting to return to this, which he likes. He would like to see Aids, riots and the environment covered by the show.

He is a Sherlock Holmes buff. He would also like to see Lore come back, but doesn't know how Data could get the chip back that Lore stole as it would be hard to hit himself! The cast would like to do a Christmas show and pick up guests for the party as they travelled along (great idea!).

One of the more unusual moments occurred on Sunday. Someone in the audience asked if Brent would talk to her sister in New York. He said yes. Out came the portable phone. Brent asked her where she was in her flat; lying on her bed watching TV. The ensuing conversation was very interesting, if one-sided. Only in America would someone bring a portable phone to a con!

I was very surprised on Sunday when he recognised me and some others as having

been there the day before. That may have had something to do with being in the front row and wearing the same clothes two days running.

I did ask him two questions, one on each day. On Sunday I was first to ask him a question - how is his back? At the moment it is fine. Obviously Jonathon hasn't been throwing any children at him recently (see Silicon Avatar). On Saturday I asked him when is he going to come to Britain to do a convention. The conversation went something like this -

Brent - You mean Great Britain?

Me - Yes.

Brent - Where in Britain?

Me - Anywhere, preferably Scotland.

Brent - You're from Scotland? Which part?

Me - Glasgow.

Brent - I was in Glasgow in 1973, do you remember?

Me - No.

Brent - When am I going to come? Invite me.

Over all, I enjoyed myself a lot. There was a lot more going on than I thought there would be. If Creation want to improve their image on both sides of the Atlantic, they might try bringing ticket prices down and any proceeds from the auction could go to charity, perhaps one supported by the main guest.

Finally, all the guests were great. If any British con is looking for a guest they could try Lolita, Brannon or Ron. It goes without saying that they should of course ask Brent because he was great, very funny and entertaining.

"What about the muffin?" I hear you cry. Well, I had breakfast on Saturday at the hotel and ordered a cinnamon muffin. It was enormous, and would have fed a family for a week!

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STAR TREK WORD WORKOUT

by Jim Redrup

Each number in the grid represents a letter, eg if 9 turns out to be N, write N in all the squares numbered 9 on the grid. Every letter in the alphabet has been used, and there are four in the check grid to start you off. (Be lucky) Answer on page 79.

18	24	9	13	18	3	18	6	7	18	4	20	4	22	23	18	2	13	18	1	9	7	2	13	9	4
13	13	15	9	13	4	9	9	9	6	2	6	20	18	22	18	9	9	9	20	2	9	6	2	13	14
13	9	13	4	9	4	9	9	3	9	20	2	16	22	16	9	22	19	9	24	7	9	9	6	9	
23	23	23	10	9	25	6	4	4	22	1	18	24	2	3	25	9	6	24	2	2	24	24	2	24	5
5	9	7	23	20	9	21	5	23	4	23	18	23	4	11	9	4	19	9	3	9	6	23	18	19	
19	19	22	7	22	9	23	14	15	2	3	7	6	11	9	4	19	9	11	6	24	11	19	22	9	
4	4	4	5	5	18	18	7	18	9	7	16	22	10	2	3	2	25	13	23	24	5	15	18	24	
24	2	1	21	2	4	12	9	2	9	9	7	9	4	4	6	2	9	24	22	5	18	25	23	18	
9	9	26	26	26	26	24	11	6	22	23	7	9	4	15	9	23	18	9	24	22	5	18	25	23	
6	6	22	24	22	7	25	22	16	13	19	4	18	22	22	20	17	18	6	22	7	18	23	23	18	
19	22	24	22	19	19	18	18	15	4	4	4	4	13	5	5	2	14	4	6	2	3	2	6	9	
4	4	20	20	20	22	6	7	4	16	19	18	4	6	22	24	8	3	22	4	3	11	9	6	6	
16	12	20	16	16	16	23	23	23	23	9	9	6	6	22	24	8	3	22	4	3	11	9	6	6	
16	12	20	16	16	16	23	23	23	23	9	9	6	6	22	24	8	3	22	4	3	11	9	6	6	

POKER NIGHT

A Logic Puzzle by Lindsay Jane Shelton

After several rounds of poker Deanna becomes tired and asks if they can play something else. Data suggests the simple game of Twenty-one. Riker agrees, explaining that the winner is the first person to reach this figure. If, however, anyone goes over it, they are declared bust and have to withdraw.

At first draw Riker's card is twice the value of Data's, whose is four less than Deanna's, who has two more points on Beverly's seven of hearts.

Then both ladies take a three, while Data triples his score and Riker finds he has the six of spades.

Everyone glances at everyone else trying to gauge who is nearer to the magic

number 21. Beverly can play her next card high or low. Riker's card is three less than Data's, whose is half the value of Deanna's red Queen.

The winner shouts out 21 and smiles with pride as they turn over their cards.

Questions:

- 1) Which of the players went bust at the last moment?
- 2) Whose score was the higher, Data's or Riker's?
- 3) Who won the game by scoring exactly 21?

Answer on page 79.

☆☆☆☆

STAR TREK VI QUIZ

by Barry Doherty

1. The President of the Federation had his office in this city. (5)
2. The Enterprise's new helmsman. (7)
3. Over-exploited Klingon moon. (6)
4. Kirk and McCoy were imprisoned here. (4,6)
5. NCC-2000. (9)
6. The Klingon Chancellor's ship. (6,3)
7. The gravity-boots were found in this crewman's locker. (3)
8. Chancellor of the Klingon High Council. (6)
9. Earth-orbiting structure used by Starfleet vessels. (9)
10. The Vulcan Ambassador. (5)
11. The Klingon Chancellor's daughter. (7)
12. A patch of this material was used to keep track of Kirk and McCoy. (8)
13. Communications Officer of NCC-2000. (4)
14. Chameloid. (6)
15. The peace conference was held here. (8)
16. Starfleet's flagship. (10)
17. The Federation President was of this race. (8)
18. Got his own command (finally!) (4)
19. The Klingon Chancellor's Chief of Staff. (5)
20. Starfleet Admiral implicated in the conspiracy. (10)
21. Klingon lawyer who defended Kirk and McCoy at their trial. (7,4)
22. Brigadier who informed NCC-2000 that an 'incident' had occurred. (5)
23. This empire was facing collapse. (7)
24. Ruling body of 23. (4,7)
25. Method used to obtain information about the conspiracy. (4,4)
26. Federation Emmissary. (5)
27. Starfleet is based here. (3,9)
28. Crossing this is a violation of Treaty! (7,4)
29. This incriminating evidence was found on the gravity-boots. (5)
30. The Romulan Ambassador. (7)
31. Sulu's new rank. (7)
32. Sulu's first name. (6)

33. Used as evidence against Kirk. (8,3)

34. First Officer of NCC-2000. (7)

35. The Klingon Chancellor's ship was fired on by this vessel. (4,2,4)

Answers on page 84.

☆☆☆☆

A VIEW OF CONVENTIONS

by Gary Heron

This article is in response to some of the points raised by Lee Sansome in N/L 25.

Firstly, let me say that I have only been attending ST cons since 1989 and have never been on a committee running a con so my view of conventions is that purely of an attendee.

In the short time I have been attending cons it has been clear that there has been an increase in the number of fans, due mainly to TNG and in lesser part to the movies. It is this increase that has led to the problems Lee has highlighted. More fans mean a greater demand for conventions and therefore more committees organising conventions to meet this demand.

From what I have seen the business meeting system has worked well in producing two major conventions a year and even with the increase in the number of conventions taking place I feel that these two cons are still the ones most fans think of first when they are planning their convention-going for the year. I think it would be a mistake to try and extend this system to cover specialist ST conventions (eg Klingon-based cons) and regional conventions. A bid from a specialist convention would by its very nature not attract enough votes in a business meeting and would therefore never take place under the business meeting system. A bid by a regional convention would have a chance of being accepted but since the point behind such a convention would be to guarantee the people in a particular area of the country a convention, having only a chance of putting it on would defeat the purpose which inspired the committee in the first place.

I believe that Lee's idea of increasing

the number of official cons to three a year is a good one. This would result in three large conventions each year covering all aspects of Star Trek; although this may result in a small drop in the numbers attending each convention it would have the benefits of giving more people the chance to attend at least one and the smaller numbers would increase the choice of hotel open to the committee.

If such a change to the current system is to be put into place then I think that the whole system of business meetings should be made more accessible. There are a large number of fans who do not attend business meetings and when such meetings go well over time I don't blame them.

I would suggest that all committees running official cons give a copy of the business rules to each attendee when s/he registers for the convention so that they will be familiar with the system when they arrive and will be able to decide on any amendments they would like to propose. [*Ed: Business meeting rules state that amendments must be notified in writing in advance.*] Also I would like committees putting up bids to supply the con committee with a detailed bid which could be included in the con package. This would allow fans to formulate their questions and would remove the need for some of the more commonly asked questions; car park facilities, special menus, access for the disabled etc.

Since the cons are called British conventions I would like to see more emphasis placed on making the conventions accessible to all the people of Britain. The fact that the 2 cons for 1994 are in London will make travelling very difficult and expensive for fans in Scotland and the north

of England. I accept of course that the committees involved chose the hotels concerned because they feel that they offer the best venues to cope with the expected numbers but I do feel that they may suffer because some people with a long way to travel will be put off attending. Of course, no

location will please everybody, but a more central location would reduce the travel problems for the majority of fans.

It is good to know that Star Trek fandom is currently healthy enough to be worrying about 'too many' conventions.

☆☆☆☆

To Write, or Not to Write...

Gaile Wood

This article has been prompted by a need to open my big mouth and set the cat among the pigeons. Basically, I felt I just *had* to say something about the very disturbing rumour which has filtered from Paramount about 'They Whom We Should Adore' stopping fans writing DS9 fiction. How, first of all, do they propose to do it, and why, when Gene Roddenberry himself was flattered and pleased people should use his creation as a launching pad for their own fledgling ambition? Will 1993 be 'Shades of 1984' and Big Brother, I wonder? All I can say is this is a very clever way of making certain the new series dies aborning.

I am, through no fault of my own, a fan writer. It came on me, this sudden urge, after an extremely serious illness, and the reading of some also extremely banal ST novels. Hey, I thought, my mind filled with visions of Spock, Kirk and crew, Picard and t'others, I bet I could write my own story. At that time, innocent that I was, I had no idea there was a whole world out there devoted to fanfiction - that amateurs like myself could have their work published! And not vanity publishing! So I joined a local creative writing group, and worked on writing with the aim of submitting to Pocket. Then I found out about SciTpress, revised my opinion concerning Pocket Books after reading about 'difficulties', and Sheila (you're wonderful) kindly looked over my very first story and saw it was indeed, if not brilliant, good. I haven't stopped since, and I look on fanwriting as good experience in honing my skills because one day I fully intend a novel of mine to be on sale in a bookshop.

What I'm trying to say in my rather long-winded way is that without the avenue of ST, I would not be even this far along the road to professional authorship. Writing is a risky business, and in these days of recession it is even more risky than usual. If I had not had the outlet of SciTpress, and the hope of other fans liking and reading my work, where would I get the impetus to continue? If anybody out there has ever submitted to a professional publisher you'll know exactly what I'm talking about. First you've got to get past the readers, then a very junior editor, then another editor, to another, who has to persuade the directors the story's a worthwhile proposition. Then, they send corrections, you post it back and it's rejected... All this can take months. And before that, you'd better make certain you've got an agent, or your precious M.S. which you've slaved long lonely hours over will simply end up on the slush pile!

Fan writing is a good way of learning the process of story-telling, and has, I know, helped many a writer to professional status. People like Jean Lorrah, Susan Sackett, and others. So why should we, the ordinary Joe Bloggs of fandom, lie down and let 'them' dictate what we can or cannot do? If it's a question of copyright, then perhaps they should look to their own laurels and stop calling the kettle black. The point about Data and 'Human-like' androids being completely relevant at this juncture. What should we do with all those fermenting ideas in the heads of us future authors - forget them, allow them to dissipate? - if we are not allowed to create? What is more futile, I wonder, than a frustrated writer who is burgeoning with

good ideas just to have them knocked out?

Perhaps I should also say in defense of fanfiction that there's (thank heaven for this!) a disturbing trend in the professional novels for cruddiness. I have to agree with Sara Jackson about *War Drums*. Certain episodes of this novel jarred an otherwise pretty reasonable book (not brilliant, but none of the pro. stuff is these days since Pocket have demonstrated an interest only in the Great God Money, and not in the quality of the writers they're attracting). This is the reason why many of the good writers have left *Trek*; they don't get recognized for their efforts, and they're messed around with so badly the story is not often recognizable as their own. I feel, personally, this is despicable. *Your* story is a part of you, every word is sometimes written in blood, and to see a beloved child ripped to pieces in that manner must be disheartening. No wonder Diane Duane, Vonda McIntyre, Peter Morwood etc. said 'no way, Jose'. I would too. It does, however, leave the way clear for the often much better fanfic to proliferate... *if* we buy it.

As for submitting a script - another venue which has popularity with ambitious fans - well... sorry, but that's another no-no. You have to sign a waiver which means you sell *your* ideas. No thank you very much! Part of the kudos in writing is not the cash - you have to pen bodice-rippers for remuneration - but in seeing your name among the credits. That's more important than gold to any writer worth their salt. I'm

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JUST TOO FAST

by Martin Stahl

In the episode *Wink of An Eye* the Enterprise meets the Scalosians who are speeded up, due to poisoning of their water, so much that they move in the wink of an eye. They are so fast that no one can see them, Kirk hears only a humming like that of insects. The Scalosians accelerate Crewman Compton and Kirk. Spock joins his Captain later.

in it for the recognition, *not* for money! But not just that reason either for why I wouldn't consider it; chew on this... once Paramount have the premise you can kiss goodbye to *ever* using what may be an original SF idea - *your* idea, folks. The one which could be a best-seller. Who knows, maybe you could've been the next Ted Sturgeon, or Lem, perhaps even a McCaffrey, Cherryh or two except for that early folly.

So does all this opposition mean I advocate you postponing the story which has been keeping you awake at night, and daydreaming over the more mundane tasks of our meagre existence? Certainly not! Just ask any fan-editor and they'll tell you about the sad lack of input from people today, and how badly they need good stories. So get on paper, or disc (this is the one major advantage over professional M.S. as those submissions *must* be typed, double-spaced, no more than 200 words to a page) whatever it is Picard, Riker, Kirk and Spock et al are doing and bung it off!!!! They can only say no, and most are *very* gentle with fragile egos. Write, I say, and write again, and keep on writing, and show 'Those At The Top' we mean business. Paramount had better watch out, because fanfiction will still be written, no matter what the hell they say.

(P.S. Oh joy... my very first rejection slip has arrived. It will have pride of place - framed - on the wall... The first of many, no doubt.)

When I saw this episode for the first time I enjoyed it very much. It was very funny to see Kirk walking through the Enterprise and the other crewmembers standing like statues.

Now, 9 years later, I have seen *Wink of an Eye* several times and although the idea behind this episode is fascinating, it is purely fiction, but no science.

Due to the poisoning of their water the Scalosians are accelerated so much that they are invisible to the crew of the Enterprise. When Kirk meets Deela, the Scalosian queen, he fires his phaser at her. She moves out of the direction of the phaser beam without problems. Phaser beams are just a special kind of light which means that Deela is faster than the speed of light! We know since Einstein that this is impossible. The Enterprise can move faster than light as it creates its own universe in a warp bubble which enables this speed. But Deela can't. But let's assume she can or she isn't moving faster than light. To be invisible to the crew the Scalosians nevertheless have to be very fast. One of the simplest physic formulas is $\text{force} = \text{mass} \times \text{acceleration}$.

When Kirk begins to walk through the bridge his speed is first zero. He is standing. Then he must accelerate his body to get a certain speed. He has the mass m and the acceleration a , therefore he needs the force f . The faster Kirk moves the more he has to accelerate the mass of his body, the more force he needs. No human being has the power needed to accelerate the mass of his/her body near the speed of light. Even if he only pushes a button, Kirk has first to accelerate this button. The power needed is enormous.

It is the same matter when he goes slow. When he strikes Rael his arm has such a high energy ($\text{energy} = 1/2 \text{ mass} \times \text{speed}^2$) that it would cut through Rael like a knife.

We must not forget the resistance of air, too. It would be so enormous that the Scalosians would need immense energy to move.

This topic was very physical, but there are also other causes why the episode can't work.

Kirk is speeded up so much that from his point of view the crew of the Enterprise moves so slowly that they are obviously not moving at all. But the doors open at their normal rate speed. If Kirk is speeded up so much the opening to the doors would need hours for him. It should take at last a day

before the turbolift takes him to the next deck. The same time would be needed to dematerialise the Scalosians when they beam back to their planet. But all technical devices function in their normal speed in relation to the accelerated and the non-accelerated people. When the Scalosians beam up with the landing party at the beginning to the episode they have to stay on the transporter pads during the process of materialization. At least during that time they should be visible to the transporter officer. For the Scalosians it would take days they are in the process of being transported. It's shown in several episodes and especially in the movies that people can move while being beamed but they surely cannot leave the transporter pads.

Spock and McCoy need several hours to discover the secret of the Scalosians. During that time the Scalosians would have aged at least several years. But Kirk was only a few hours with Deela before Spock came to him. For both of them about the same time had passed. Even if we consider the dilation of time (remember Einstein?) the situation is just reversed. Then years would pass for the crew of the Enterprise, but only hours for Kirk. But we can assume that Spock didn't spend years watching the tape of the distress call. A few hours after the arrival on the Enterprise he followed Kirk. If we consider the theory of relativity from Kirk's point of view the other ones should move even faster than himself.

Last but not least, when the Scalosians move so fast the sound waves should become ultrasonic. Nobody (perhaps, except Spock) should be able to hear that humming. When Spock accelerated the tape of their distress call they speak fast and faster and their sound becomes higher. That is quite correct. But it should become higher and quieter before vanishing. There should be no humming.

One cannot imagine that any chemical substance could accelerate an organism so much, as all of our movements consist of chemical reactions. If we covert energy the reactions would go faster, but at a certain point the chemical compounds would break

up - the body burns up. Another cause of your death by burning would be friction of the air (remember what happened to Galileo ??).

A solution how this episode could work would base it not on a chemical substance but in another time line or dimension which is the same as ours but

where the flow of time would be at another speed. Due to a Scalosian device the transporter beam could be interfered with in such a way that Kirk materializes in their time continuum. We had a similar situation in Mirror Mirror.

Or does anybody else have another suggestion?

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GERMAN TNG TITLES

listed by Martin Stahl

ORIGINAL TITLE	GERMAN TITLE	TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
Q Who?	Zeitsprung mit Q	Jump Time With Q
The Samaritan Snare	Das Herz eines Captains	A Captain's Heart
Up The Long Ladder	Planet der Klone	Planet of the Clones
Manhunt	Andere Sterne, andere Sitten	Different Worlds, Different Customs
The Emissary	Klingonbegegnung	Klingon Encounter
Peak Performance	Galavorstellung	Gala Performance
Shades of Gray	Die Kraft der Traume	The Power of Dreams
Evolution	Die Macht der Naniten	The Power of the Nanites
The Ensigns of Command	Die Macht der Paragraphen	The Power of Sections
The Survivors	Die Überlebenden von Rana IV	The Survivors of Rana IV
Who Watches the Watchers?	Der Gott der Mintakan	The God of the Mintakans
The Bonding	Mutterliebe	Motherly Love
Booby Trap	Die Energiefalle	The Energy Trap
The Enemy	Auf schmalem Grate	On a Narrow Edge
The Price	Der Barzanhandel	The Barzan Trade
The Vengeance Factor	Yuta, die letzte ihres Clans	Yuta, the Last One of her Clan
The Hunted	Die Verfeimten	The Outlawed Ones
The High Ground	Terror auf Rutia IV	Terror on Rutian IV
Deja Q	Noch einmal Q	Once Again Q
A Matter of Perspective	Riker unter Verdacht	Riker Under Suspicion
Yesterday's Enterprise	Die alte Enterprise	The Old Enterprise.



SO WHY DOESN'T THE ENTERPRISE HAVE THE CLOAKING DEVICE?

by Peter J. Poole

Let's face it, it's a pretty obvious question, and one which comes up quite regularly in conversations, particularly conversations about role-playing. The cloaking device is just too useful to ignore, and we know that the Federation has had its mitts on the blueprints for a good few years....

The real-world reason is the fact that it is too useful - if the Enterprise did have the cloak, then writers would need to explain why they were not using it, or how the enemy-of-the-week could negate it, in every situation where it would be of use. Or if they have it and use it, you end up with either costly effects or stock footage being used every week. The bottom line is that there's enough 'magic' science in the show with warp drive, shields, tractor and pressor beams, and the transporter without adding any more to the equation. (Besides, with a cloaked Enterprise we'd miss out on all those lovely exterior shots as she zooms by!)

A reason was given - I have been told - in one of the various technical manuals, saying that the power supply for the cloak is incompatible with the Federations engineering systems. Personally I hate this answer - c'mon guys, they've had the plans for seventy years! No one in the Federation can get this sucker to run on AC instead of DC??

I propose two alternatives:

1) The Federation does have the cloak, it's used on Federation destroyers and heavy cruisers that patrol the Cardassian borders and other known trouble spots. The Enterprise does not have it, because her primary missions are exploration and diplomatic showboating as the flagship of the

Federation Starfleet - a cloaking device is so obviously a military utility that it was considered unsuitable for the Enterprise.

2) Examination of the cloaking device revealed that the effects of being on a ship which was cloaked had a potential for extremely hazardous side effects in terms of brain damage to the crew - something on the order of one chance in a thousand that you go stark raving bananas when you turn it on! This is a critical feature of the device, and as yet there has been no way found to rectify it and retain a functioning cloak. Obviously, the Federation would not fit such a device to any of its ships.

Either a part of Romulan and Klingon training for service on one of their ships is to be exposed to the cloak to see if you start seeing eighty foot high tribbles, or the field does not affect them in this way, or they're just so macho they don't give a damn. (It is arguable that the prototype Klingon vessel which could fire whilst cloaked had a device modified such that General Chang was affected to the point of going raving doolallie, thus explaining why that particular model was never put into production!)

The use of the cloaking device by the original crew in ST IV is either an example of a calculated risk they had to take, or it could serve as an explanation for much of what happened in ST V, certainly as regards the bizarre delusion that the ship had eighty four decks.... It was after this episode that Kirk and crew were taken into custody and given several years of intensive basket weaving therapy to counter the effects of their exposure to the Klingon cloaking device. This explains the Federation decision to assign Counsellors to Starships, and Kirk's unreasoning hatred of Klingons in ST VI!

SOME PEOPLE TAKE PLEASURE IN THAT?

The 'dehumanisation' aspects of Best of Both Worlds, Family and Violations.

by Karen Atherton and Taruka Quauhtezcatl

There is a strange facet of human behaviour which has been forcefully struck home to me (we are using 'me' throughout although we really mean 'us'); there is a large group of people who actually enjoy humiliating others. Having, during one particularly nasty experience, endured every kind of (sexual) aberration for which the police can prosecute, one of us at least is in a particularly strong position to comment.

"They took everything that was human from me," Picard states to his brother in Family, and that is a pretty good summing-up of the aftermath of assault. However, with a physical assault the scars can be seen; with rape they can't. You may look fine on the outside but the scars are every bit as deep and take just as long, if not longer, to heal.

What the Borg actually did to Picard was not only rob him of his identity by tying him into their collective consciousness, but to do it piece by piece with his knowledge, and equally his inability to do anything about it. "Resistance is irrelevant" is not just the rallying cry of the Borg.

He could see what was happening but had no power over it; he was to an extent under the will of the Borg - there were more of them than there was of him. Many rape victims have used similar phrases to explain why they didn't put up a fight. Fear can be a powerful weapon.

This fear is manipulated even more skilfully in Violations, in which a memory is twisted out of all proportion. One of Troi's more pleasant memories; a nightmare of Riker's, and a moment Beverly can't forget and probably wouldn't wish to.

There are subtleties in this episode which most people would not notice (and they had to be pointed out to me), such as the gleam in the Ullian's eyes or the rather forceful way he grabs Troi. Personally I

would have found this scene more effective had Troi not been able to fight back - she is, after all, empathic (hey, why didn't she guess what he was going when he first did it, then?) and a normal person can feel what's going to happen there, let alone a half-Betazoid. His guilt and shock at getting caught would have been all the greater. But that's just me.

In both episodes one thing stands out; the rights, wishes and almost existence of the individual are totally ignored, to the pleasure and/or benefit of another. While there are those who say "That doesn't happen today", believe me, it does. Someone I know put it this way; "If a person can treat another like a lump of meat, with the feelings of one, then deny it ever was more than normal social contact, then the world's a pretty poor place."

I included Family because although it covers some of the ground I don't think it went far enough. You certainly don't get rid of an experience like that in a few weeks - it's taken me over three years.

So what am I getting at? I think it's that what is actually well hidden within the episodes (and let's face it, it usually has to be to stand a chance of seeing airplay) is the darker side of human nature. You cannot force someone to do something against their will - be it the Captain of the Enterprise betraying his ship or a frightened young lady in a darkened shop - without leaving a scar. Not only on your victim.

The Borg, by dehumanising Picard, gave Data the chance to destroy them by short-circuiting their command structure. They thought they had covered every eventuality including assuring his silence but they had reckoned without Picard's strength of mind; he broke their hold on him to tell Data what to do.

The Ullian thought he had shifted blame successfully to his superior, Tarmen,

but had reckoned without two things. Firstly someone checking whether it was an isolated occurrence, and secondly the fact that he still wanted to dominate Troi. When the two pieces came together he was caught.

These are, of course, much simplified scenarios; in real life things don't happen quite that way. A combination of fear and guilt ("Did I do anything to make it

happen?") tend to prevent a lot of reports, and police interrogation doesn't help.

If anything positive does come from these two stories, it must be that something can be done if you have the courage of your own convictions and the strength to see the thing through. Also that things do get better in time. That must, for anyone like me, be a very comforting message.

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HOMOPHOBIA

by Stephen Shaw

To James Brand and Janet... I find it hard to believe that Gene would suggest the unused TNG script made homosexuality "an issue". The relationship is between two male crew members, but if we change one to female, the script still works without amendment - so same-sex bonding is not an issue, any more than the constant heterosexual flirtation makes heterosexuality an issue. The script contains the following lines, which represent almost all we are given to identify the relationship between Freeman and Eakins (P16):

HODEL: ...So how long have you and Freeman been together?

EAKINS: Is it that obvious?

HODEL: Yeah, it's that obvious.

EAKINS: Since the Academy. Two years.

THAT is it, from a 58-page script. Imagine one partner being female... any problem? So how could this being two men cause rejection? I can imagine the script being rejected for OTHER reasons... it is pretty horrific and would have caused the BBC a few problems! BUT if Gene has specifically mentioned that homosexuality is an ISSUE here, we are left with fairly strong homophobia.

Everyone can judge for themselves however, as this script is readily available for just \$10 plus post.

happy with the end of THE HOST? We are led to believe in a love affair between Beverly and a symbiote, which can be carried on regardless of the host body. A serious relationship is suggested. BUT when the host body is female, it is all over. OK, Beverly may well have sexual preferences, but a) the relationship was supposed to be deep and meaningful, which suggests 'preference' is 'phobia', and b) why must a relationship be sexual? There are ample 'buddy' relationships which avoid that complication. Sorry, I find the story ending unsatisfactory.

TNG is set in an imperfect universe with imperfect people, so there is no problem in it including racism (all those non-white actors!), sexism (all those women admirals) and homophobia. But such attitudes - whether they are considered right and proper or imperfections, do need recognition. It WOULD be nice if TNG addressed them, but even if it doesn't, we need to!

Did someone mention Riker's preference for interspecies relationships?

More on homophobia... The October 1992 issue of Cinefantastique is full of Star Trek material, including a detailed discussion of 'Tackling Gay Rights', a five-page article on the Gerrold script, The Host and Fifth Season title The Outcast. It is highly recommended for anyone having an interest in this aspect of Trek.

Speaking of sexual preferences, anyone

I managed to catch The Outcast at Rec

Con, and again the ending disappointed me. Fine, intolerance of sexual preference was raised as an issue. But the 'deviation' was from non-gender to politically safe heterosexuality, and I was distinctly uneasy with the final line being that a person with 'unnatural' preferences is unhappy, easily TREATED of their ILLNESS and readily converted to a happy NATURAL preference.

We have yet to learn from Kinsey, it seems.

It was noted in the article that although Riker again got the alien female, it was felt he would have performed with a male without a qualm - he is a very gutsy actor, eating grubs (edited out from Conspiracy) and getting dragged into a yucky black tar pit amongst other enjoyments.

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STAR TREK, THE NEXT GENERATION AND DEEP SPACE NINE: A PONDERING

by Brenda Allen

"Star Trek was formed out of the void of science fiction, and Star Trek begat The Next Generation, and The Next Generation begat Deep Space Nine."

With the premiere of ST:DS9 just around the corner, I have speculated much on what this will mean to Star Trek and its fandom.

I was not around when the original Star Trek first blasted across our TV screens; I only caught the occasional rerun as a young child in the late 70s and early 80s, never dreaming or realising all there was to the world of Star Trek.

Because I had no preconceived notions of what Star Trek was, I did not go through the feelings of hostility that many fans had towards the birth of a next generation Star Trek. However, because of syndication, my network (in Canada) did not broadcast ST:TNG. It was not until the end of the third season that I was able to really watch the show. Now I would never think of missing a single episode.

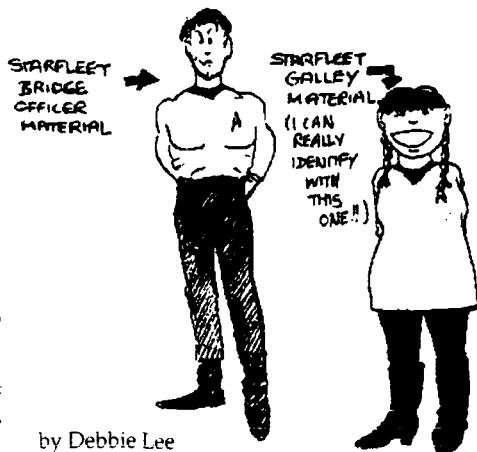
Now we are placed in the same position that we were in six years ago. A new Star Trek is on the horizon, and it is going to be even more of a deviation from ST than ST:TNG was. How do I feel? How do you feel?

I have gathered from the letters of readers that there are mixed feelings. There

are those who are convinced that ST:DS9 is destined to be a supreme disaster. But I also get another impression from some who were so quick to judge ST:TNG before they had watched it, people who, upon further reflection and research, have determined that ST:TNG is not what they had guessed it to be.

As for me, I plan to withhold judgement until I see ST:DS9 for myself. I do not want to fall into the same snare that kept many people from enjoying a good show for so long. I know it would be wishful thinking to believe that people will watch ST:DS9 without comparing it to its predecessors, but let us at least give it a chance before we pass judgement. We may find that it is just one more part of the Star Trek family for us to embrace.

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by Debbie Lee

THE CHIPPENDALE THEORY

by Lee Sansome

Let me state for the record that I am a Science Fiction fan. I've read it for as long as I've been watching Star Trek. And I appreciate the SF in Star Trek, really I do. I'm not just interested in the men - honest! But when you get to watch your favourite type of fiction *and* hunky men to boot... well, who am I to deny myself the opportunity to have my cake and eat it?!

That said, Gloria Fry's 'Naked Times' article (N/L 24) was both very enjoyable and uncannily timely (as will become clear). It's nice to know that I'm not the only one who navigates her way around the 79 Classic episodes by means of JT's pectorals and biceps! ('JT' - hmmm - now why have I never noticed before how Freudian those initials are?) I suppose there are hundreds of us, really, but we seldom admit to this unashamedly sexist side of our natures - too busy convincing people we're in this for the SF.

I must also confess, Gloria, to being something of a Kindred Spirit (pun intended!) when it comes to your recently-discovered affliction, although mine is the mirror image. I've always been a Kirk fan but these latest runs on the Beeb have been having a strange effect, Spock-wise. More than once I've caught myself gazing admiringly at a close-up of those lovely brown eyes, that shiny hair just asking to be mussed up; found myself thinking how wonderful those cheekbones are... And I finally realised I was hooked when, watching 'The Galileo Seven', I had to re-run the scene where Scotty is on his back, under the 'dashboard', talking to Spock. It wasn't Scotty I was interested in, you understand - more the way a certain Vulcan was leaning over him, providing a very nice angle on his trim rear end! Most provocative, I'd call it. Couldn't quite believe it of someone so physically... tidy. Had to run it several times just to make sure I'd seen right. Then I spent the rest of the episode studying how well he walked *away* from the cameras!

A most disturbing phenomenon, this

'falling for another character'. Still, I suppose it given me twice the enjoyment per episode, so I'm not complaining!

Now to the timely aspect of Gloria's piece. I refer to her subtitle, 'Who needs the Chippendales?'. Definitely uncanny. Just a day or so prior to receiving the NL, a problem had arisen with the story I'm currently working on. I'd duly discussed it with a friend (of course you will remain nameless, Gaile) who'd been no use whatsoever, as she disagreed with me! Let me explain...

The story is movie-based and one scene involves Kirk getting out of a swimming pool. Now (correct me if I'm wrong, Gloria) to my knowledge Kirk has never taken off his shirt in a movie. *But*, we did catch a glimpse of some (shock, horror) chest hair over the top of his long johns in ST:TMP. Of course, it *may* just have been his pet tribble but it looked, to me, as if Kirk had acquired chest hair. How? When?? Why??? Whatever happened to Jim of the glorious, smooth, bronze pecs that he should become so... *hirsute*? Burning question of the year; when he gets out of the pool, is he hairy or not?

What's the problem? says Gaile. Everyone knows Bill has a hairy chest. If the story's movie-based, when he gets out of the pool, he's hairy. But I'm not talking about *Bill* I said. I'm talking about *Kirk*. Kirk never had any chest hair! When a man gets older, he gets baldier, not hairier. (Except for inside the ears - has anyone else noticed that? Grandads always have hairy ears. Pardon the digression.) How did Kirk get to be hairy?

This was when I came up with The Theory. And I thought I'd run it past all you Kirkophiles out there and see what you think.

Kirk was a poor Iowa farm boy. So he had to pay his way through Startfleet Academy by working evenings and

weekends as a Chippendale. Now everyone knows Chippendales have to... glisten. So the hairy chest had to go and, to make it look like he was naturally smooth, he bleached all his remaining body hair (even on his legs - please see Plato's Stepchildren) blonde-ish (copper, golden, tawny...). Years of painful waxing (yes, I know it would probably have been painless depilation but 'painful waxing' makes for a better plot, especially if you like H/C!) led to his chest hair simply refusing to grow back for a long time (five years or so...) Thus he kept the rest of his hair light, so that no-one would suspect.

Eventually, some time during the hiatus between the end of the five year

mission and the events of ST:TMP, his chest hair at last began to re-emerge. And, of course, it was *dark*. So the hair colourants had to be phased out. Kirk explained this transformation to his colleagues at HQ by saying (darkly) that becoming an Admiral certainly puts hairs on your chest.

There may even be some corroborating evidence to support this hypothesis. I swear, if you look at the bare-chested scenes *very* closely and examine Jim's strong, muscular neck, you can still see the elastic marks - from the collar and bow tie!

PS: I've decided it *was* a tribble. When he gets out of the pool, he's smoooooth!

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PARDON ME, YOUR ARTISTIC LICENCE IS SHOWING

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

Can somebody tell me, please, what is going on in the Q Continuum? I thought the ground rules of this august body of omnipotent beings were by now pretty well established or if not then simple logic would dictate them.

Then along comes an innocent TNG episode called True Q and breaks almost all these rules and throws up a pile of puzzled questions. For those who haven't seen the episode I'll try not to give the plot away too much, but it concerns the question "When is a Q not a Q?" It also carries echoes of Suddenly Human - at least to me. But what I'm going to concern myself with are the following points.

The Q are omnipotent and immortal (Deja Q). Now we have the same person saying they're not. "Almost immortal" are Picard's words to him after he says two Q were executed by the Continuum. I'd like to know how, as Q states that they still had all their powers! (Also, doesn't 'in a tornado in Kansas' sound a little like The Wizard of Oz?)

When Q gave Riker his powers (Hide

and Q) and tried to persuade him to join the Continuum, when he refused to use them the Continuum restored things to normal. Here we have a similar situation. If the Continuum can grant Q powers, it follows that they can remove them as well. This has been casually forgotten.

Am I now to assume that the powers of the Q develop at puberty? Oh, come off it! You can't hide an omnipotent being for years. This is quite clearly shown by how quickly Q's 'student' learns things. If no-one on Earth knew about them, surely the Continuum, who would be monitoring the child's progress, would know. This doesn't make any kind of sense.

"An omnipotent being loose in the Galaxy is a danger." (Q's excuse in True Q.) The Continuum have let him out often enough! Is he afraid of a rival? Though his masters do ask him what he thinks he's going to have to do, and he is uncertain. I doubt if even the Q would have such a cavalier attitude towards what may or may not be one of their own.

Picard accuses Q of appointing himself judge and jury and reminds him that it's not the first time he's done it. "The jury's still out on that", is Q's reply. I thought the Continuum had suitably punished him for that already. Or was Deja Q a joke?

From the episode it appears that Q can live outside the Continuum, as long as he doesn't use his powers. If he does, then the Continuum reserves right of executioner over him. Why? When they can just as easily remove those powers - witness the humiliation they heaped on Q in *Deja Q*. This makes no sense at all.

And now, to top it all, poor Q appears to have been appointed the Continuum's expert on the Human race. Oh, dear! Isn't that a bit like making a five-year-old an expert on sweet manufacturing?

He is asked what the Continuum is like... and gives an evasive answer. I think

something more concrete than "Imagine the whole universe as your playground" was called for there.

Also, and this is just a personal view, it would have been interesting and effective had we seen the true appearance of both Q at some point. Effective dramatically and to the story too, as how can you decide to give up what you know and take on another identity if you don't know what that identity is?

There are other points - surely the child of two Q must also be Q, though the Continuum doesn't seem to think so.

These, admittedly minor to the plot, points, mar what could have been a very good episode. Paramount scriptwriters and editors please take note. What is the point of building up an accepted reality within the ST universe - in this case the Q Continuum - only to pepper it with holes under the guise of artistic licence?

☆☆☆☆

THE MOVIE ERA

by Edwin Yau

Now that the movie era of Star Trek has ended (or has it?), and with the advent of the boxed set of the movies, I thought it would be nice to have a quick trip down memory lane, look back at the movies, and pick my favourite scenes, special/ optical effects and lines out of each movie.

a) Star Trek - The Motion Picture.

Kirk & Co. return for the first and most expensive Trek movie. They're older, but they're still slim and fit. They must intercept a mysterious god-like cloud and prevent it from possibly destroying Earth. It turns out to be the Voyager 6 probe with brains. The uniforms are new. The Enterprise has a nice new look too and is metallic in colour, but whoever designed the interior of the ship lied about passing his or her starship interior design course! The first hour was good - I nearly dropped off for a while in the second hour, but managed to stay awake by doing

some Vulcan meditation.

Best Effect.: The cloud (but waaay too long!).
Best Line.: "Spock, you haven't changed a bit. You're just as warm and sociable as ever." - McCoy.

Best Scene.: Seeing the new-look Enterprise.

b) Star Trek II: The Wrath Of Khan.

Kirk and Co. battle the Klingon-quoting "revenge-is-a-dish-best-served-cold" Khan from "Space Seed". Kirk's feeling old. Spock dies in the opening scene (or has he?) The uniforms have changed again. The Enterprise gets a real pasting, but triumphs in the final battle (hurray!) The Enterprise is nearly destroyed by Genesis, but is saved by Spock, who meets his maker (or has he?) Kirk meets his son. Saavik's really nice. Scotty's putting on weight, Uhura's hairstyle's changed, and "Remember"....

Best Effect: The final battle.

Best Line...: "Of all the souls I have encountered in my travels, his was the most... human." - Kirk.

Best Scene...: Spock's death.

c) Star Trek III: The Search For Spock.

Kirk and Co. unite and disobey orders to find Spock and put him back together again, and come across a few evil Klingons who want Genesis in the process. They "ship-nap"? the Enterprise and Scotty disables the all-new experimental Excelsior. The Enterprise battles a Bird Of Prey and meets her maker (sob!) McCoy thinks he's Spock and tries unsuccessfully to neck-pinch a security officer in a bar. Spock's been regenerated (shades of Dr. Who) and becomes one again. David Marcus is killed. Saavik has had major plastic surgery. Scotty's getting bigger and Uhura's hairstyle's changed.

Best Effect: Destruction of the Enterprise.

Best Line...: "Up yer shaft." - Scotty.

Best Scene...: Death of David Marcus & Kirk's reaction.

d) Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home.

Kirk and Co., exiles on Vulcan, travel to Earth on the H.M.S. Bounty to face trial, but find a probe ionizing the Earth's atmosphere in their way. They travel back in time to find two humpback whales and bring them back to save the planet (hurray!) Admiral Kirk is demoted for disobeying orders and becomes Captain Kirk again, and gets a new Enterprise (hurray!), with new white paint too. Spock feels fine and speaks with colourful metaphors, Scotty's getting bigger and... surprise, Uhura's hairstyle's changed.

Best Effect: The whales (I didn't know they weren't real at times!).

Best Line...: "No, I'm from Iowa. I only work in outer space." - Kirk.

Best Scene...: Spock neck-pinches the punk.

e) Star Trek V: The Final Frontier.

Kirk and Co. meet a god-like creature (didn't something like this happen in the first movie?) and battle the evil Klingons once again. Actually it's not as bad as people make out (honest). Pretty good directing, but shame about the script and the timing of the release. Kirk looks younger, everyone else looks older. We find that Spock has a half-brother, Sybok, who's very emotional for a Vulcan. Sybok hi-jacks the Enterprise and takes her through the Great Barrier to meet "god", who turns out to be an evil alien. Scotty's looking bigger and Uhura's hair has got white streaks in it.

Best Effect: The shuttle entering the Enterprise at high speed.

Best Line...: "Captain, not in front of the Klingons." - Spock.

Best Scene...: The shuttle entering the Enterprise and the Klingon ship about to fire.

f) Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country.

The Federation makes peace - the Klingons are the good guys now ("Ye canna be serious!") The Enterprise appears to have fired on the Klingon ship and Chancellor Gorkon is assassinated. Kirk and McCoy are accused of Gorkon's murder and sent to Rura Penthe for life. Kirk battles Kirk. Kirk and McCoy are saved and the Enterprise heads off to Camp Khitomer to a final battle with the Shakespeare-quoting Klingon, General Chang in his "ha!-we-can-fire-when-cloaked" Bird Of Prey. Spock gets angry. Traitors are everywhere. The Enterprise gets a real pasting this time, but when Kirk says "FIRE!" everyone cheers! With 5 photon torpedoes rammed down it, the Bird Of Prey bites the dust (hurray!) and Kirk and Co. beam down and save the day once again, before sailing off into the sunset for the final time (sob! (or have they?)) Everyone looks older and larger but all the wiser, and Uhura's hairstyle's changed back to curly hair again!

Best Effect: The photon torpedo going through the Enterprise's hull and the Klingon blood floating around in zero-g gravity.

Best Line...: "Earth, Hitler, 1938" - Kirk's response to Chang's "We need breathing

room".

Best Scene: The final battle between the Enterprise, the Excelsior and the Bird Of Prey, especially the bit where the photon torpedo goes through the Enterprise's hull. Also the scenes from the mysterious firing on the Klingon Battlecruiser to Kirk's surrender, especially the bit where the assassins beam on board the Klingon battlecruiser.

I'd rate the movies in this order:- first equal are 2 & 6, followed by:- 3, 5, 4 and finally 1. Best Soundtrack has to be ST6, followed by:- 5, 2, 3, 1 and finally 4. Is this the end? Well, I don't know, but I do know that until I go to the great starship in the sky, for me, THE one and only crew of the starship Enterprise will always be with me in my heart. "...second star on the right and straight on till morning..."

☆☆☆☆

THE BORG

by Sheila Clark

The Borg were presented to us in the first place as a ruthless and relentless enemy against whom there was no real defence. Damage to their ship was repaired with almost insulting ease; phaser attack was quickly analysed and a defence found. Yet when it came down to it, in Best of Both Worlds part II they were defeated with almost childlike ease (though not before doing considerable damage to Starfleet - damage which seems to have been pretty well ignored in later episodes. Surely there could have been some occasional mention made of - say - a shortage of new or replacement equipment, because all the available money was being put into repairing and rebuilding badly damaged ships, or the available ships being overworked because there were now so few of them.) I find myself wondering, however, if quite enough thought went into the Borg and the background of the race - if indeed they are a race.

Here we have a race with a hive mentality. A race where each individual seems to have no survival instinct at all; a race where no individual has any personality. A race which appears to be entirely male, with new Borg being assimilated and created from those other races they conquer. Their ship is purely functional in design, and presumably gets another layer added as its population expands. (Has anyone seen a Borg they would describe as female?)

The inference, for me, is that there

should only be one enormous Borg ship - or else that each ship is a completely independent entity, with little or no interaction with the others. (Where did they originate from? Is there a home planet somewhere still spawning the nucleus of Borg ships?)

Yet in any society, even in a hive society, someone gives the orders (so to speak). O.K., in a hive of bees each individual is hatched to an instinctive sequence of work, beginning as nursemaid and ending up as forager. But it's the queen who decides when it's time to split the community into two, by laying queen eggs then leading a swarm away from the hive. The Borg set-up isn't the same. Assimilated beings can't have that instinctive sense of what they're supposed to do in Borg society. They have to be assigned a position. Meanwhile, the ship(s) are en route through space apparently with no other purpose in mind but to seek other races to assimilate. (They don't seem to want - or need - the planets. We know, from Guinan, that those are destroyed - or are they only destroyed when the natives fight back? If the natives can be absorbed into Borg society without any effort, are their planets left undamaged?)

Some articles on the Borg speak of the hive mentality as producing a hive agreement, hive decisions. But all you have to do is watch an anthill to know that social insects don't necessarily agree on what they're doing. No, someone on board the

Borg ship must decide where they're going.

Is it possible that the 'original' Borg were like - oh, say, the Talosians; a race who lacked the will or ability (or perhaps even the physical build) to do something themselves, but could coerce others into doing it for them - but instead of running into stubborn Humans, they found a more pliable race, one they could manipulate by turning them into semi-androids. Contrary to the above supposition, is it possible that the Borg home planet had become uninhabitable for some reason, so they made their ship(s) 'home'; that they preferred to 'recruit' new slaves instead of allowing the existing ones to breed in case they bred a revolt; that somewhere in the heart of the Borg ship(s) there is an inner community composed of 'original' Borg, with females (or even hermaphrodites) breeding generation after generation of parasitical masters? All right, that also poses the question of what those masters eat, etc, unless they too 'eat' electrical power.

Picard, as Locutus, seemed to have a degree of independent thought (although his individuality had been carefully suppressed) which most of the Borg seemed to lack, but then he was intended as an 'Ambassador'. Again, one wonders why; the Borg 'instinct' seemed to be to assimilate, not to talk. And that, of course, leaves us with the possibilities presented in I, Borg. The individuality can be tapped.

And Guinan's knowledge of the Borg leads us to another question; when the Enterprise first encountered the Borg, they were - thanks to Q - a long, long way from Federation space, and had presumably never been in Federation space because they were apparently heading towards it, not away from it. So Guinan's home planet must have been hundreds of light years from Earth. Long-lived her race may be - but how did Guinan get to Earth? If she had travelled there five hundred years previously, just when did the Borg destroy her world, and how had she found out about it?

I admit I haven't studied the Borg episodes in detail, and this article is primarily dealing with the questions that arose in my

mind while I was watching. Would anyone like to comment on the above points?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SEQUELS II

by Simon Trick

After Steve Davies' wonderful "sequels", what else but... more sequels?

Plato's Second Cousins (Twice removed)
Wink At Me Once More And You're Dead,
Buddy!
This Is Really, Absolutely, And Completely
Your Last Battlefield
Roger of Gideon
Vicious Tapestry (Savage Curtain 2)
Breakfast at Methuselah's
The Deadly Eyebrows
Is There, In Hairpieces, No Reality?
Corbomite Maneuver 2 (Using Forward And
Reverse Gears)

The Banana
You Mudd, Me Tarzan
The Amazingly Uneventful Journey Back
From Babel
Patterns of Velcro
The Pen-ultimate Computer (The Pre-quel)
The Timex Glory

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Star Trek Word Workout answer

1.G, 2.O, 3.K, 4.R, 5.C, 6.N, 7.T, 8.Z, 9.A, 10.J,
11.V, 12.F, 13.M, 14.Y, 15.B, 16.U, 17.X, 18.E,
19.D, 20.P, 21.W, 22.I, 23.S, 24.L, 25.H, 26.Q

Answer to Poker Night:

- 1) Deanna
- 2) Data
- 3) Beverly

	Beverly	Data	Riker	Deanna
1st Draw	7	5	10	9
2nd Draw	3	10	6	3
Total	10	15	16	12
3rd Draw	1 or 11	5	2	10
End Total	21	20	18	22

EPISODE REVIEWS

by Lesley Hatch

CONSCIENCE OF THE KING

Directed by Gerd Oswald; Written by Barry Trivers; Produced by Gene L. Coon

I watched this episode for a purely sentimental reason, that being that I had studied Hamlet for A Level English, and developed a keen interest in the play, which I still have. I failed the A Level, but my learning on the subject, encapsulated in a rather dog-eared paperback, later helped a friend to pass hers. However, that's not exactly relevant.

For me, Conscience of the King was an excellent example of how well what would normally be a straightforward murder mystery can be transformed into something greatly special given an extra-terrestrial setting. It was also notable for Uhura's rendering of the haunting song Beyond Antares and the conflict between Spock and McCoy over Kirk's actions.

Guests

Arnold Moss	As Karidian
Barbara Anderson	As Lenore
*	
Karl Bruck	As King Duncan
Marc Adams	As Hamlet
Bruce Hyde	As Kevin Riley
Eddir Paskey	As Lt. Leslie
David Troy	As Lt. Matson
Natalie Norwick	As Martha Leighton
William Sargent	As Dr. Thomas Leighton

BALANCE OF TERROR

Directed by Vincent McEveety; Written by Paul Schneider; Created and Produced by Gene Roddenberry

Another of my favourite episodes, this, for reasons which I initially found a bit hard to decide on. However, I have to say that the story itself, as well as the acting, was superb - and Stiles' reaction to Spock when the resemblance was discovered was very well acted. I found myself feeling great sympathy

for the Romulan Commander, who reminded me of Christopher Pike in his feeling of weariness and regret at the action they had taken at the orders of the Romulan High Command - clearly he did not agree with the attacking of the Federation outposts, but had no choice except to follow orders. Full marks to all concerned.

Guests

Mark Lenard	As Romulan Cmdr
Paul Comi	As Stiles
Stephen Mines	As Tomlinson
Barbara Baldwin	As Angela
Garry Walberg	As Hansen
John Warburton	As The Centurion
*	
Lawrence Montaigne	As Decius
John Arndt	As Crewman Fields
Robert Chadwick	As Romulan Scope Op
Walter Davis	As Romulan Crewman
Vince Deadrick	As Romulan Crewman

MIRI - a Retrospective

Directed by Vincent McEveety; Written by Adrian Spies; Produced by Gene L. Coon

I was going to say that I had an unfair advantage over quite a few Star Trek fans, in that I had actually seen Miri once, but this proved not to be the case. As the episode unfolded, I realised that I was remembering the James Blish story adaptation.

Putting that aside, it was well-written and well-acted, with the honours going to the children, but the whole cast worked remarkably well together.

On the question of the negative aspects of the episode, I haven't heard any examples of children in this area emulating the onlies. The appearance of the grups, in this day and age, didn't seem particularly disturbing - there are far worse creations in films these days, for example the creatures in the Alien trilogy.

Guests

Kim Darby As Miri
 Michael J. Pollard As Jahn
 Keith Taylor As Jahn's Friend
 Ed McCready As Boy Creature
 Kellie Flanagan As Blonde Girl
 Steven McEveety As Redheaded Boy
 David Ross As Security Guard

Jim Goodwin As Farrell
 John Megna As Little Boy
 *
 Jim Goodwin As Lt. John Farrell
 John Arndt As Crewman

*Info from Star Trek Concordance by Bjo Trimble

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



NIGHTSHADE by Laurell K Hamilton
 Pocket TNG 244 £4.50
 reviewed by Sheila Clark

Called in to help negotiate peace between the warring Torlicks and Venturies on the planet Oriana, the Enterprise is called away to answer a distress call, leaving an away team of Picard, Worf and Troi on the planet. The planet is literally on its last legs; the population is down to two hundred thousand and virtually all children born are malformed in some way - those who live (and appear normal) do so only through medical intervention and surgery. There are only a few animal species still alive, the water is impure, the soil poisoned, the rain literally acid enough to burn what it touches... and some of the Orianians still think that peace is only possible when all the other side is dead. Nobody is even sure how the war started.

There is a small 'Green' party, who have found a way to live, and even restore what has been destroyed, but they are distrusted, even hated. Picard, however, persuades the two main parties that the Greens should be included in the talks. These, however, go wrong when one of the leaders is murdered; Picard and the Green delegation are accused of the murder and arrested.

Worf takes over as the new Federation Ambassador; but then he and Troi discover that accused 'criminals' are routinely tortured to force confession from them - and unless the accused are proved innocent by an outside source, they are automatically

tortured to death three days after arrest...

This is a 'formula' - or perhaps that should be 'format' - book. I've read I-dunno-how-many books on this particular ecological theme. A war that is destroying the entire world, the ship called away on an emergency leaving the away team in effect stranded, the mentality that prefers genocide/suicide to peace... There were even a couple of OT episodes on the subject of this kind of war. Even the first of these stories can strike one rather like taking a steamroller to crack a peanut; after half a dozen it hits the 'ho-hum' stage. Booooring.

I thought the book was over-dramatic - that the whole situation was over-done. It didn't help that by halfway down page 1 I was mentally reaching for my editing pen, which I didn't put down again until the second last page (after a bad continuity error).

With a world population down to the level of population of one reasonably-sized town, with virtually no 'normal' births for twenty+ years, with no pure water and a food supply contaminated at source, the situation is so bad that one wonders almost from the start how either side can even *think* of continuing the battle. With a situation considerably less drastic, I could just about understand the fanatic viewpoint of 'No negotiation! Death to the enemy!' at least as a dramatic point. Given the situation as presented here, however, I would have expected everyone on both warring sides to have been poisoned by either their food or their water years previously, with the

survivors all in the last stages of cancer.

In addition, many of the native Orinians were discovered to be telepaths, though they themselves believed the ability to be legendary. I can't see a race as strongly gifted as they were made out to be being so warlike that they could come so close to destroying their world. Ms Hamilton does seem to have realised this, and made an effort to explain it away, but I wasn't convinced.

Another weakness was having Picard as the Ambassador accused of murder under immediate sentence of death. Of course he's not going to be killed! It would have been more convincing - should I say suspenseful - if the Ambassador had been just that; a Federation Ambassador sent for the peace negotiations, who might have been expendable.

The one redeeming part of the book, for me, was the handling of the Milgians, the race who sent out the distress call early in the book. Here we have a truly alien race, with truly alien engineering, and I could have wished for more than the two or three chapters where Geordi and Crusher were on the alien ship.

I can't give this one more than 4 out of 10, and most of the 4 is because of the few chapters with the Milgians.

RELICS by Michael Jan Friedman, based on the TV episode, story and teleplay by Ron Moore Pocket \$4.99

Reviewed by Jenny Turner

SPOILER ALERT - This is the story of the episode where Scotty turns up on 1701-D.

This book tells the story of the now Captain Scott on his way to retirement on the Norpin Five colony. It begins where he is daydreaming about hang gliding. Scott is on the Jenolen when it suddenly comes across a sphere in space nearly the size of Earth's orbit around Sol. Scotty tells them they have run into a Dyson Sphere. They find an antenna and open hailing frequencies but get no reply. Suddenly there is an explosion. They are caught in the sphere's gravity and

can't get out. Scotty tells them they are going to crash in seven minutes thirty five seconds.

They decide to enter the transporter platform and take the risk of keeping their atoms flowing until their distress call is heard. Scott says to Franklin, "See you on the other side."

Seventy five years later aboard the USS Enterprise 1701-D they realise they have entered a gravity field. They locate the source of the gravity field but have difficulty scanning the object. Picard asks if it could be a Dyson Sphere - an old theory says that the interior would be the equivalent of more than two hundred and fifty million Class M planets.

Suddenly Worf locates a distress signal. He identifies it as coming from the transporter ship Jenolen.

When they get to the Jenolen the air is pretty stale. Suddenly Geordi realises that someone's pattern is still in the buffer. Could someone survive in a transporter buffer for seventy-five years? The one way to find out is to get him out.

A figure wavers and materialises; although his arm is in a sling he is otherwise hardly the worse for wear.

The rest of the story is how Scotty copes with things, especially the holodeck (where he gets to see Kirk and his friends again), to the saving of the new Enterprise. He then takes off in the shuttle Christopher. Obviously they can build on this, which I hope they do; after all he could still meet Spock.

Perhaps not such a good story as some of the NG I have read, but still worth a read. Scotty never changes!

NEW VOYAGES II - TNG Fifth Season Guidebook Episodes 101 - 126 by M Altman & E Gross. Image Publishing 1992 Available from Nu Earth Comics, York, £9.95
Reviewed by Edward Woo.

This is the second part of the previous

TNG Guidebook (first 100 episodes). Produced along similar lines, it has a story outline of each episode followed by news, views and production details to that script. The authors give their own comments about each episode along with a star rating system.

This time it's printed on better quality glossy paper with some excellent colour and B&W photos. Half a dozen pages are devoted to DS9 plus interviews with all TNG cast as well as Michael Piller and Rick Berman. But where was Colm Meaney's interview?

Here are some interesting facts revealed in this book.

Conundrum was a script left over from last season. Time travel stories are the most interesting to fans, with the visual effects of Cause and Effect surpassing ST III. Ensign Ro is well liked despite the lack of use to any depth of Dr Crusher and Counselor Troi. Disaster is based upon the classic disaster movie storyline. How come the Universal Translator failed to work in Darmok? There were four possible endings to Perfect Mate, of which two were filmed.

It's a good, informative book and to those who liked the first one, this is a must. But I couldn't help thinking they could have delayed it till the end of season 6 and had 2 seasons' worth of episodes instead of one, if TNG is to finish in 1993. (I hope not!)

P.S. - So far I have found 3 spelling mistakes in it.

STAR TREKKER by Atelier Lana. Antarctic Press. £7.99.

Reviewed by Lorraine Goodison

A Star Trek parody, this strange little item was found by accident in a branch of Forbidden Planet. 159 pages long, it is a black & white comic fanzine which uses the creator's own ship (Constellation II) to take a look at movie Trek in a uniquely Japanese way. Lana's Captain, Aya Nakajima, crosses swords with Kirk from the start, eventually fighting it out fist to fist, but unlike most parodies this treats movies and stars with

genuine affection instead of taking cheap potshots. There are some terrible puns, plus some jokes only fans of Japanese animation will understand, but it's worth a look if only to note that Star Trek fans are much the same the world over...

STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY - Video release

Reviewed by Neil Barnett

Waiting for nearly 9 months for the release of Star Trek VI was one thing, but being told that it had all of 2 minutes additional material was another. So in the tradition of being a total mug I bought the rental version of this excellent film.

I was not disappointed, the film had transposed onto video very well and the quality was up to C.I.C.'s excellent standard, and the film itself was a joy to watch.

The extra 2 minutes seemed longer as it linked all the film together; who was the Klingon assassin? What did the Federation have planned to get Kirk and McCoy out of Rura Pentha? Did Spock and Scott count every torpedo? All these questions were answered in the video release plus an extra look at the damaged Enterprise through the Bird of Prey's viewer.

Watching the film at the cinema ten times and now on video when ever I wish to is the best Christmas present I could have bought myself, and I still cringe when the Photon Torpedoes slam into the Enterprise. The best part for be will always be the destruction of the Bird of Prey at the end; if I was a film critic the film will always get 10 out of 10. Roll on STIII!!!

THE TRANSFORMED MAN by William Shatner has been re-released by Creation CREV00 4CD. Reviewd by Janet Quarton.

This consists of William Shatner either speaking the words of songs to their music or 'reciting' prose passages. Most of the items are linked in pairs to give contrasting moods.

This record has been reviewed and voted on by some magazines and pro-

grammes as the worst ever made. I bought the record nearly 20 years ago purely because it was William Shatner's and although I found it a bit strange at first I do like it.

STAR TREK 25TH ANNIVERSARY GAME FOR PCs & COMPATIBLES

Reviewed by James Williamson

The first impression given that this might be a good game is that it takes up 8 megs on your hard disk, this means that it uses 8 3.5" disks. For some reason it takes well over an hour to install this game but it is well worth the wait.

Once loaded you are greeted with the immortal words "SPACE THE FINAL FRONTIER" with the original theme music played in the background, the quality of which depends on whether you have a sound card or not, although the PC internal speaker produces a quite acceptable sound. The opening is done to resemble the main title of the television series including the Enterprise swishing past.

Once into the game you start on the bridge of the Enterprise; all the crew are there sitting at their respective stations. Up front is a large view screen where you are able to see out into space at the stars or any ships outside. Your first task is to engage in a battle simulation with another starship; this is not that easy but is fun.

Once this is complete you are contacted by Starfleet Command and instructed on your mission. You are told which system you have to go to, and this is done by referring to your star map which is in the instruction book. If for any reason you

do not choose the correct system then you are attacked by enemies and usually destroyed (this is the coding system to prevent copying).

Each level of the game is a separate story similar to an episode of Star Trek in which you have to work out the solution to the problem set, and it is very difficult and requires a lot of thought and consideration. I do not know how many levels there are but I am still stuck at level 4 where I have run into Harry Mudd (any suggestions will be gratefully received).

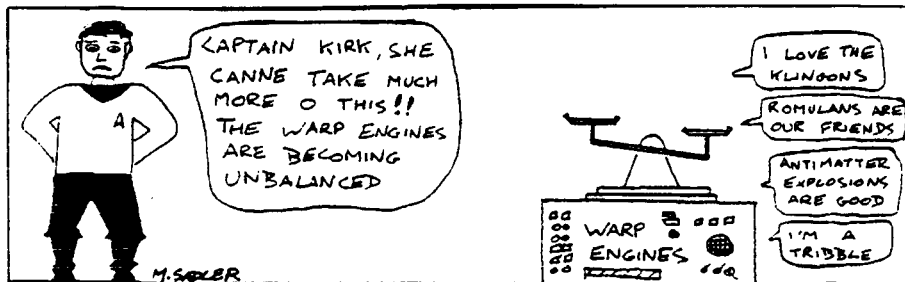
Over all the game is first class with superb graphics and great playability even if difficult, the characters all respond like the television cast do, even Spock and McCoy argue with each other. The sound is also very good; I use a adlib sound card but as already said the internal speaker produces an acceptable sound.

The game is produced by Interplay and is available from most computer software retailers for £34.99 or there about.

☆☆☆☆

Star Trek VI Quiz Answers

- 1.Paris, 2.Valeris, 3.Praxis, 4.Rura Penthe,
- 5.Excelsior, 6.Kronos One, 7.Dax, 8.Gorkon,
- 9.Spacedock, 10.Sarek, 11.Azetbur,
- 12.Viridium, 13.Rand, 14.Martia, 15.Khitomer,
- 16.Enterprise, 17.Efrosian, 18.Sulu, 19.Chang,
- 20.Cartwright, 21.Colonel Worf, 22.Kerla,
- 23.Klingon, 24.High Council, 25.Mind meld,
- 26.Spock, 27.San Francisco, 28.Neutral Zone,
- 29.Blood, 30.Nancus, 31.Captain, 32.Hikaru,
- 33.Personal Log, 34.Valtane, 35.Bird of Prey



STAR TREK V: THE FINAL FRONTIER REVISITED

by Philip Morley

I am writing this article after seeing ST V on TV last Saturday (12 September, BBC1 at 6.25pm). I know that I'm probably sounding a bit of a hypocrite when I say this, but I liked it!

When it came out in the cinema about two years ago, like many others, I didn't like it, but now I have seen it a few years later, I admit I may have been wrong - so I think it's about time someone gave it a good report.

The film's main theme titles seemed to be a combination of The Motion Picture's and TNG's - which I thought was quite effective.

I know they aren't as important as the storyline, but the special effects in places weren't as good as they could have been. The story itself doesn't actually have an 'introduction', a 'middle' and 'ending'; it seems to be action-packed all the way through!

The story: Sybok, a renegade Vulcan who we later find out to be Spock's older brother, holds hostage Federation representative St. John Talbot, the Klingon General Koord and the Romulan Consul, Caithlin Dar, on the planet Nimbus III, the 'Planet of Galactic Peace', in order to get a Starship there.

Kirk, Spock and McCoy are called from shore leave, which they spent together in Yosemite National Park, to the new Enterprise-A, to warp to Nimbus III to retrieve the hostages. But the Enterprise literally is in pieces! The transporter is inoperative and the doors don't even open!

On arrival at Nimbus III, Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Uhura and a Security team go down to the surface in the shuttlecraft Galileo to Paradise City, the planet's capital, to rescue the hostages. They are quickly defeated; Sybok captures them, and, heading back to

the Enterprise, they encounter a Klingon Bird of Prey. After escaping from it, Sybok takes command of Enterprise, sending her to the centre of the Galaxy, to Sha Ka Ree - or Vorta Vor, Quie Tu... Eden.

Sybok has a strange power; he can take people's 'pain' away. He converts the Enterprise crew to his quest - that of ultimate knowledge - all but McCoy, Spock and Kirk. We learn that McCoy's greatest pain was that of committing euthanasia on his dying father; not long after, a cure was found. McCoy felt guilty that if he hadn't killed his father, he might still be alive.

Spock's pain was that of rejection by his fellow Vulcans; he was considered an outcast. Kirk refused to have his pain taken away.

(I have been wondering what it might be. Could it be his leaving Carol and David Marcus before becoming Captain of the Enterprise, or could it be the loss of his once best friend, Gary Mitchell? We may never know.)

On approaching Sha Ka Ree, Sybok, Kirk, Spock and McCoy go down in the shuttlecraft Copernicus, whilst Scotty continues to repair the transporter. There, on the planet, they meet 'God'. He tells them to bring the Enterprise closer so that he could '...carry his power to every corner of creation...' Kirk asks, "What does God need with a Starship?"

Realising this energy-creature is NOT God, Sybok realises what a terrible mistake he has made, and so, asking forgiveness from Spock, he goes to attack the energy creature.

Fleeing, the others run to Copernicus, only to find it non-operational. Scotty manages to beam Spock and McCoy back to Enterprise, but just as Kirk is to be beamed

aboard the Klingon Bird of Prey fires on Enterprise.

Back on the planet, death seems imminent for Kirk as the energy creature comes closer, firing bolts of energy at him, but then the Bird of Prey appears out of nowhere to blast the creature away.

Back on Enterprise, there is a reception party, showing that the Federation and Klingons could work together.

Later, Kirk, Spock and McCoy finish their shore leave in Yosemite.

I found the film good in several ways.

☆☆☆☆

NEW ZINES

IDIC

IDIC LOG 12 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 1 (stories 1 & 2) £3.80 U.K.

IDIC LOG 13 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 2 (stories 3 & 4) £4 U.K.

THE TVARON CHRONICLES - a series of four alternate universe stories by Gloria Fry. Vulcan holds itself apart from the rest of the Federation. In an attempt to encourage some integration, one Human is assigned to the Vulcan ship TVaron to see if Vulcans and aliens can learn to work together. Kirk is assigned, with the promise of a command of his own if the experiment proves successful. Although the Captain is encouraging, Kirk has to face and overcome bigotry and scorn in a situation which to a gregarious Human is lonely in the extreme. At first he finds things difficult, and although his growing friendship with Spock helps him, misunderstandings between them also arise because of the differences in their two cultures.

Scotpress

MAKE IT SO 12 - Lore's youth; a Poppet story; the crew is subjected to testing by an advanced race; a freighter carrying Picard and Worf is attacked by pirates; the Enterprise is carrying two Ambassadors... or are they? £4 U.K.

We learn a bit more about each character; Spock has (or had) a half brother (son of Sarek). He seemed to show his Human side more in the film. He didn't mind so much being touched. He took shore leave; a holiday instead of work. McCoy, for a change, got on well with Spock, and there was a lot of friendship between the three.

The ending I thought was good, except the sing-along. I thought that was rather poor, compared to the reception. I would have much preferred that to be the ending. But the poor ending did have one advantage; it led on to Star Trek VI being made!

MAKE IT SO 13 - Two more Poppet tales; Jeremy Astor goes home from school; an Enterprise teacher becomes empathic; a crashed spacecraft creates a puzzle for the Enterprise crew; and others. £4 U.K.

Farpoint Press

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 2 - two stories from the first five year mission. The Enterprise encounters a thousand year-old machine; Kirk is sent to acquire a mysterious painting that could join two planets together, or start a war. £2.00 U.K. includes p&p. Cheques to be made payable to P.C. Timms. Philippa Timms, Classic Encounters, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, PO38 1RW, I.O.W.

Sue Embury-

IT NEVER HAPPENED - or did it? The explicit sex scene that never was in "The Better Man", between Jan (female Kirk) and Spock. A brief indulgence, lavishly illustrated. Age statement please. £2.00 inc. p & p. Available from: Sue Embury, Lower Baileia, Tregare, Monmouth. Gwent NP5 4JL

LONESTAR TREK No. 5 All Classic Trek stories by Joanne Seward, Pam Corsa, Laurie Haaynes, Gloria Fry, Lorraine Anderson, Mimi English & Jan Meek; art by David Lawrence, Bev Zuk & Patti Prevett, with a

colour cover by Kay Wells. Approx 200 pages. Europe, \$21, USA \$18, Canada \$19, Pacific \$23. LoneStar Trek, c/o Laurie

Haynes/Jan Meek, 335 Smith Lake Road, Vidor, TX 77662, U.S.A.

☆☆☆☆



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 12 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 1 (stories 1 & 2) U.K. £3.80

IDIC LOG 13 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 2 (stories 3 & 4) U.K. £4.00

Told by Kirk, The TVaron Chronicles by Gloria Fry is a series of alternate universe stories in which Kirk is assigned to the Vulcan ship TVaron in an attempt to see if Humans can work successfully with Vulcans.

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 - short stories by various writers. 7, 8, 9, 11 U.K. £4.00; 6, 5 U.K. £3.90, 4 U.K. £3.80; 3, 1 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 88 - a First Contact mission; Kirk, Spock & McCoy are taken prisoner by a planetary government; Kirk must come to terms with Miramanee's death; some of the crew want rid of Spock; Arena - the Gorn's-eye-view; Kirk is given orders that require him to be in two places at the same time; and others. U.K. £4.00

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 U.K. £4.00; **85** U.K. £3.90; **84** U.K. £3.80; **83** U.K. £3.70. - short stories by various writers.

MAKE IT SO 12 - the crew is subjected to testing by an advanced race; a freighter carrying Picard and Worf is attacked by pirates; and others U.K. £4.

MAKE IT SO 13 - Two more Poppet tales; Jeremy Astor goes home from school; a crashed spacecraft creates a puzzle for the Enterprise crew; and others ; U.K. £4.

MAKE IT SO 11 - A novel, POPPIES, by Gaile Wood. The Enterprise has been called to Injaab, which is trying to break away from the Ferengi... but some of the Injaabi are happy with the status quo. U.K. £3.90

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. Few left.

Nos 1 - 4 out of print. Accepting submissions for issue 17 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.

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ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion Van der Voort. The adventures of Captain Bill Sava, First Officer Radin and Dr. Teddy Bhaer of the Aquarius. THIS IS NOT STAR TREK but there are many resemblances. On embarkation leave, Bill and Radin get to know each other; and we learn something about the Empire in which this series is set. 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 and most o/p zones worldwide; 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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fanzines - out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5, R & R, Archives, Showcase, Masiform D, Grup, Quartet + 2, all T'Kuhtian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - 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, Kay Staggs & Pat Mitchell. We now have two agents in Britain: Susan Ford, 5 Tyrell Rise, Warley, Brentwood, Essex CM14 5LE, England (SAE her for complete list of our zines; she collects orders for case shipments) or Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE her for British prices.

Greycloud Services

Large quantity of Star Trek and other fanzines always in stock. Includes new US and Australian zines, second hand zines and reprints of classic Trek zines. Send large (at least A5) SAE for full list. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

Linda Wood -

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.

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ZINES by Kay Staggs

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Staggs 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.

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FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required.

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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 EOs members, £1.75 for others. Add 35p for Postage and packing. Cheques in sterling only to Enterprise Originals.

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HIATUS PRESS

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Klingon Peace hangs in the balance. All eyes are on the Enterprise, the Ahrax and fleet. Their scientific mission must not fail. Human honesty confronts Klingon honour. Can the fighting really stop? K/S and adult relationships; age statement please. Price to be announced; SAE for flyer (U.S. 2 IRCs or \$1).

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IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Why didn't Spock say his father was the Vulcan Ambassador? How does Amanda put up with husband and son? Why must Kirk and Spock take to the desert? And much more! Prices as ITW1.

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 is next in line. I would like more stories, preferably established relationship; political, original, humour would be nice but please no S/Mc, menage or death. New writers, gentle, caring editor would like to see your work. (K/S only please).

Please note **VOICE 1** - 4 are out of print. Orders already in for No. 2 will be filled as soon as possible. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants. K/S and adult relationships. Age statement, please.

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CONTAGION ONE - All of the fan fiction entered in the Contagion '92 writing competition contained in a single volume with a specially written forward by Jean Lorrah! Price £3.80 inclusive of p&p (ALL PROFITS TO CHARITY). Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to Contagion. Available from Contagion, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

INFINITE FRONTIERS

INFINITE FRONTIERS is a fan publishing team devoted to releasing some of the best possible zines we can, 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 was the world's first disk based magazine for Trek fans. Our first three issues are available now (Issue 4 is available during January 1993) and feature work from some of the top artists and musicians on the Amiga including Tobias Richter and Bjorn A. Lynne, along with dozens of articles and a selection of art and photos. Each issue contains well over 200 A4 pages of text! (Issue 3 had almost 700 pages of articles!!!)

Don't just take our word for it though! The Final Frontier was recently reviewed in the top Amiga magazine "Amiga Shopper" and was awarded a rating of 10/10 for value for money!

Prices are: Issue 1 (2 disks) - £3, Issue 2 (3 disks) - £4, Issue 3 (4 disks) - £5 and Issue 4 (4 disks) - £5. (Orders for issue 4 will be sent within a few days of its release.) All the above prices included P&P. Overseas orders are welcome - with no extra postage charges!! As a special offer to IDIC members, order all 4 issues for only £14.50, saving £2.50.

We are also official distributors of the highly-acclaimed music disk magazine **AM/FM** (also for the Amiga) produced by the top Norwegian musician Bjorn Lynne. Each issue is packed with articles, discographies, utilities, tutorials, original music and much more. Issues 1 - 10 are currently available at only £2.50 each (again with NO additional postage costs for orders outside the UK!) for

each single-disk issue. Please note that £1 from the sale of every disk goes direct to the producers of AM/FM.

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.

Hailing all writers of *original* Star Trek stories and poems, both Gen and K/S!! and artists!! "OUTPOST" will be publishing both Gen (The Preserver's Chronicles) and K/S (The Preservers Secret Chronicles) zines in the near future and is looking for submissions. We are willing to consider *all* subjects, as long as they deal with Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the crew of the Enterprise (including all the films!). All contributors will, of course, receive a complimentary copy of the zine in which their material is printed. Please send to: "OUTPOST", Bettina Rackel and Karen Hayden, Am Tannenbusch 31, 4192 Kalkar, West Germany.

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: Available in US from Bill Hupe, send him SASE for price.

Farpoint Press

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 2 - two stories from the first five year mission. The Enterprise encounters a thousand year-old machine; Kirk is sent to acquire a mysterious painting that could join two planets together, or start a war. £2.00 U.K. includes p&p. Cheques to be made payable to P.C. Timms. Philippa Timms, Classic Encounters, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, PO38 1RW, I.O.W.

THE CONTINUUM - Who are Q? The Continuum is a joint role-playing and fan fiction zine. It deals with the Q, their society and the peoples and universes around them.

I need submissions. If you are into role playing, take on a Q; be that Q or be someone else in that Q's life. If you write stories, write some on the Q and their lives. If you're an artist, draw some of the Q. Basically, if you're into Q, it's up to you, but please, no slash. I plan a March 1st 1993 publication. Send submissions to Arianwen Everett, 32-54, 45th Street Rear Basement, Astoria, NY 11103, USA.

H Gibson

We're looking for Trek writers to contribute to a new Classic/NG zine. No K/S and a definite slant toward "minor" Classic characters. Any NG stories welcome. If you've any work to show us please submit stories, poems and artwork to H Gibson, 23 Blairatholl Avenue, Glasgow G11 7QJ.

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 THREE - Available January 1993. **ISSUE 1 & 2** also available. Each issue costs £1.50 including postage, cheques/POs payable to Stuart Halliday, M3(IDIC), 35 Pinewood Park, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8NN.

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.

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).

AIRWAVES: A multi-media fan-fiction zine, A4 size, computer printed. 27 issues currently available, new issues out on a quarterly basis. Also available: **THE HOODED MAN** (Robin of Sherwood - 3 issues); **KNIGHT 2000** (Knight Rider - 14 issues); **FIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (B7 crossover with Battlestar Galactica). **IN PREPARATION, CHILDREN OF PEACE** ('V'); **RIDER COMING IN...** (The Young Riders - 2 issues). Submissions welcome for any and all publications, no limits to length. Amstrad PCW (Locoscript 1 or 2) users can submit their work on 3" disc (180k) or 3.5" disc (720k). Compatible computers, please use ASCII for documents. Discs will be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) for further details to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

CITYPRESS/OUTER ZINE

Boldly going where everyone has gone before, an all-new combined newsletter and zine! What more could you ask for??? (Please see our OUTER ZONE ad in the "Local Group News" section for details of The Outer Zone SF/Fantasy club.) Each issue costs just 85p inc. p&p! We have back issues of **ZONE GUIDE Nos 1-4** available for just £2.00 inc. p&p. Just out is **ZONE GUIDE - PHASE II, Issue No. 1** (January 1992 edition) which has the **WHOLE** plot to Star Trek VI and the latest TNG info, stories, art, a Blake's Seven column and more! **Issue No. 2** (out April 1992) will see the start of an

EXCLUSIVE! We will be publishing the first part of an **ACTUAL SUBMITTED TNG SCRIPT** called "The Ghosts of Yesteryear"! What are you waiting for??? Please send cheques/p.o. payable to Susan Parker, 42 Victoria Street, **BRIGHTON**, East Sussex. BN1 3FQ, or an SAE for more details.

WARP NINE: Issue five is now available. The 38 pages feature articles on Doctor Who, Star Trek (all versions), The Prisoner and other cult sci-fi. Send cheque/PO for £1 made payable to the **DREAMWEAVERS** to the address below. Back issues available (SAE for details). Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6HT. Enclose SAE.

Blue Jay Press - Multi-media zines

ENIGMA 7 - Z Cars, Captain Scarlet, Incredible Hulk; **ENIGMA 8** - Tales of the Unexpected, Dr. Who, Knight Rider, Captain Scarlet, Incredible Hulk, Professionals; **ENIGMA 9** - Sherlock Holmes, Emergency, The Quest, Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, Captain Scarlet; **ENIGMA 11** - Laramie, North and South, Buck Rogers, V, Blakes 7; **ENIGMA 12** - Secret Army, Robin of Sherwood, Mad Max, V; **ENIGMA 13** - Ace of Wands, Elfquest, The A Team, Battlestar Galactica, Professionals, Blakes 7, Knight Rider; **ENIGMA 14** - Simon and Simon, Robin of Sherwood, Star Trek, Sherlock Holmes. These are multi-media genzines. Prices: Issues 7,8,9,11 - £2.75 (UK); \$8 (US), Issue 12 £3.25 (UK); \$9 (US), Issue 13 & 14 £3.75 (UK); \$10 (US). Also single series zines: **RED DUST 2** (V) £2.75 (UK); \$8.00 (US); **GROWING PAINS** (V) £2.00 (UK); \$7.00 (US); **DISINFORMATION** (Sandbaggers) £3.75 (UK); \$10.00 (US). All prices include p&p. Make cheques/money orders payable to Pamela Dale. Please order from Pamela Dale, Hillcrest, St Mary's Road, Riddlesden, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD20 5PA

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CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

TREK/DWARF The First Star Trek/Red Dwarf Convention. 26th - 28th March, 1993. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Registration £25.00 (£35.00 after Dec '92). Guests: Richard Arnold, Guy Vardaman, Mike Butcher, Adrian Rigglesford, Colin Howard. Plus unconfirmed guest/s from Red Dwarf. For further information write enclosing 2 SAEs 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.

UNICON '93 Universal Science Fiction Convention [about 70% Star Trek] (presented by BSFR). Venue: Unicorn Hotel, Bristol 25th - 27th June, 1993. Registration: Adults £20, kids under 14 £10, under fives free. Highlights will include: full video programme including Klingon Extravaganza - guest talks & panels - static displays - dealers' room - disco & fancy dress party - all kinds of science fiction and fantasy material plus lots & lots of fun fun fun! Send an SASE for full details to: Bernie Walsh, 55 Kildare Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1

CONTAGION the Scottish Star Trek Convention. 17-19 July, 1993. Venue: The Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. Guests to be announced. Registration (until 1 January, 1993): Adult (15 years +) - £30; 10-14 years - £15, under 10 Free. Note: children under 10

must be accompanied by at least one paying adult. Creche facilities will NOT be available. Special discount for Contagion '92 attendees and Away Team Members until 1st January 1993 - ask for details. Hotel rates (per person per night): Single £35, Twin/Double £25; Triple £20. Price is for Bed & Breakfast and includes VAT and Service. £15 per person non-refundable deposit at time of booking. For further info send a 9" x 6" SAE to CONTAGION, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR, Scotland.

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.

UFP CON '94 (The 37th British Star Trek Convention) 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.

NON BRITISH ST CONVENTIONS

STARLIGHT UNION presents: Majel Barrett-Roddenberry and Richard Arnold. August 20-22, 1993, in Hanover, Germany. For more information please contact: Angela Dargel, Am Graswege 38, W-3000 Hanover 1, Germany. Please include 2 International Reply Coupons and a self-addressed envelope.

MISC

AWAYTEAM '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, Universal Studios, Vasquez 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. *Please note - this group is not connected to The Away Team (Glasgow).*

OTHER EVENTS

TIMEWARP The Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin. 6th & 7th March 1993. Guests: George Takei, Diane Duane and Peter

Morwood. A media convention celebrating SF and fantasy, with a special emphasis on Star Trek and Dr. Who. The convention will be loosely 'themed' around a 'United Federation of Planets' conference. Programming will include a Starfleet Academy entrance exam, and an "Ambassadors" Ball". Registration Rates: Adult £25, Juniors (U16) £17 for the weekend. Supporting rate (adult or junior) £10. Day rate will also be available. Hotel Rates: £25 per person per night in a double room, £36 single. Triple rooms are also available. Charity: The Children's Medical & Research Fund, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Cromlin, Dublin. Registrations/further information from: 178 Woodfield, Scholarstown Road, Dublin 16, Ireland.

The Time warp Convention has no connection with the Rocky Horror Fan Club of the same name.

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.

Perthshire FK16 6AD.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Attention all PC users - if you would like to exchange ideas, PC graphics etc. then contact James Williamson, 75 Caledonia Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5AN, Scotland or phone 0294 - 63381.

WANTED: Some helpful people to give me some feedback on my TNG (and some Classic on the way!) Trek stories as the person who helps me already is in danger of being somewhat overworked! So if you feel you are up to the task, let me know! Write to Dee Willcox, 17 Cameron Lodge, Stanley Road, Hounslow TW3 1YX.

SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - 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: K/S zines, send SAE for list. Also D.C. comics no 1-34 plus some of the old issue 60p each + p&p. Sue Burdfield, 5 Solent House, Redlands Lane, Fareham, Hants PO16 0TZ.

FOR SALE: ST Fan Club Mags Nos: 63,67,68,70-87. Please list alternatives £1.50, ST Novels: Making of ST V £3.00, Lost Years + Spock's World £1.50, Audio Novels: ST Final Frontier £3.50, Lost Years + WS Tek War £4.50. P Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Clwyd LL28 5SY. Prices include p&p.

FOR SALE: Star Trek zines (mainly classic Trek) & magazines. Send SAE for list to Fiona Crawford, Deanston Lodge, Doune,

FOR SALE - Zines from various fandoms, including ST, SW, Starsky & Hutch, The Professionals, Blake's Seven. Sales are on a first come, first served basis. SAE and 2 IRCs for list, prices and availability, to Rita Schmaltz, 11818 Springfield, Garden Homes, IL 60655, USA

FOR SALE: New Next Generation figures from Playmates, excellently detailed collectors items - Picard, Troi, Data, Worf, Riker, Le Forge, Ferengi, Gowron. All available at £11 including p&p. Phone to reserve, 0442 250424 or send to Brian Sells, 106 Crabtree Lane, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 9EJ

FOR SALE: Star Trek zines - all types. SAE for list to A Brockett, 18 Hertford Ave., East Sheen, London SW14 8EE.

FOR SALE - ST & ST:TNG merchandise: books/photos/jigsaws + other sci-fi TV related material - Annuals etc. SAE to G. Probert, 38 Abertillery Road, Blaina, Gwent NP3 3DW.

WANTED: "The Price of the Phoenix" novel by Sondra Marshak and Myrna Culbreath, and the zine "One is One" by Janet Kilbourne. Please contact A Brockett, 18 Hertford Ave., East Sheen, London SW14 8EE.

WANTED: Good copy of the extended version of ST:TMP. Will buy or swap for copy of ST 25th Anniversary Special. Sue Burdfield, 5 Solent House, Redlands Lane, Fareham, Hants PO16 0TZ.

WANTED: Good condition copy of FASA's "Next Generation: First Year Sourcebook" Rules Supplement. Good prices paid. Other FASA Rules Supplements also required, especially a second edition of "Starship Tactical Combat Simulator". Contact John Stubbley, Langwith College, University of York, Heslington, York YO1 5DD

WANTED - copies of the following ST:TNG episodes: No. 12-19, 30, 37, 42, 49, 59, 75, 78-79, 82-91, 94-97, 104-105, 108-109 and any other episodes from No. 112 onwards. All

VHS video formats acceptable (ie, prerecorded, tv, etc. etc.). I'd like to hear from you if you can help. Chris C. Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7PF.

WC1 9LP.

STAR TREK FAN AND ACTOR CLUBS UPDATE

WANTED to read zines in the K/S vein and any others like Men From UNCLE, A Team, Knight Rider, Professionals etc. Will pay postage. You can have any of my books until I return zine, mostly American cop fiction, and general stuff. Please contact E Francis, Flat 4, Park Lane, 22 Dunsfold Croft, Aston, B'ham B6.

WANTED - Red Dwarf series 1 and the Max Headroom episode Grossberg Returns, to borrow, will pay costs both ways. P Hulford, 14 Hartley Close, Frogmore, Camberley, Surrey, GU17 0DE.

WANTED: Does anyone have any Season 6 TNG or Season 1 DS9 episodes on PAL or NTSC format video tape they are willing to lend me? If so would you please write to: Mark Horton, 21 Garry Way, Rise Park, Romford, Essex, RM1 4YU, with a list of titles.

WANTED: Can anyone recommend or lend me any Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea fan fiction zines? I'm particularly interested in any relationship stories, but not of the "/" variety. Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

MUTURA SPACE CENTRE: Small supplies of collectable merchandise (T-shirts, Videos, Mugs, Model Kits, Jewellery, Posters, Pins, Books and Props). For a catalogue please state which line you're interested in (i.e. jewellery or Books etc...). Remembering to enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope. post it to Mutura Space Centre, 129 Westfield Road, Wellingborough, Northants NN8 3HN

PLANET 8921V SLAVE SHIRTS Authentic reproductions as worn by Kirk, Spock, McCoy and sun (of God) worshippers in the classic 1960s TV episode "Bread and Circuses". For more details write to: Mr Ben Lennard, 101-A Kings Cross Road, London

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.

SPACE CENTRAL - the NEW Midlands Star Trek Group is up and running! If you're enthusiastic about *any* aspect of Trek, Classic or TNG, then we want you!!! Meetings to be held on a monthly basis from JANUARY 1993. For more information 'phone: Lee (0827) 64911, or Gaile (0827) 897613 or write to 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs. B77 4HY

SOMETHING ELSE - The UK branch of the Klingon Strike Force. We are a club for fans off ALL Trek's aliens... Klingon, Vulcans, Betazoids, even Ferengi welcome. There are many activities to get involved with, and membership is FREE! Send an SAE to Something Else, P.O. Box 16, Consett, County Durham DH8 8YZ for details.

NATIONAL STARFLEET ALLIANCE - A club for fans of Star Trek in all its forms. Members receive four 'Star Trekker' newsletters, membership card and rank certificate with regular advancement tests. Affiliated branches hold meetings in Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster, York, Manchester, Wakefield, Kirkcaldy and Cumbria. Dues: U.K. £4.00 pa, Overseas on application. For details please send an S.A.S.E. to Miss Lynne Butler, 7 Edge Wells Close, Foxhill, Sheffield S6 1FF.

Sheffield Starfleet: Monthly meetings (4th Sunday, 4-7pm) at Stradbroke Community Centre, Richmond Road, Sheffield. For details please send an SASE to Steve Warren,

35 Ashover Road, Inkersall, Chesterfield S43 3EG

Rotherham Starfleet: Monthly meetings (Last Thursday, 7-10pm) at the Bridge Inn, Chantry Bridge, Rotherham. For details please send an SASE to Carolyn Boydell, 57 Eldon Road, Eastwood, Rotherham S65 1RB.

Barnsley Starfleet: Monthly meetings on the last Friday of the month. For details please send an SASE to Linda Phillips, 10 Grange Lane, Stairfoot, Barnsley S71 5AE.

Doncaster Starfleet: Monthly meetings on Sundays. For details please send an SASE to Membership Sec., 17 Thirlmere Gardens, Kirk Sandall, Doncaster DN3 1LB.

Manchester Starfleet: Monthly meetings (Third Sunday 1-5pm) at Shaw Hall Community Centre, Flixton, Urmston. For details please send an SASE to Ursula Nolan, 27 Common Lane, Leigh, Lancashire WN7 4QW.

York Starfleet: Monthly meetings (Third Sunday 7pm) in the York area. For details please send an SASE to Linda Hodgson, 8 Upper Newborough Street, Burton Stone Lane, York YO3 7AR.

Cumbria Starfleet: Monthly meetings in Brampton. For details please send an SASE to Darren Robinson, 79 Dacre Road, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 2BP.

Wakefield Starfleet: Monthly meetings on Sundays at Ossett Community Centre, Prospect Road, Ossett, Nr. Wakefield. For details send an SAE to Mel Brooks, 196 Station Road, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 0JP.

Kirkcaldy Starfleet: Monthly meetings (Last Monday) also starship combat and cadet groups. For details please send an SASE to Meg & Martin Hayward, 18 Braids Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland.

fffJF - FRIENDS, FANS AND FOLLOWERS OF JONATHAN FRAKES
(new address) Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, New Hampshire 03071, USA.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Anyone wishing to start a local group in the BATH area, please contact me. L. J. Turner, 21 Shaws Way, Twerton, Bath, Avon BA2 1QQ.

IPSWICH STARFLEET Star Trek Fan Club encompassing all forms of Star Trek. Raffles, videos, role playing games, competitions, free news sheet, tactical combat, displays, social outings and 'Ten Forward' coffee bar! For details please write, with SAE, to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF or telephone number above.

HULL STARFLEET Video programme, social outings, competitions. 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. 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 certain Sundays at the Headingley Community Centre, North Lane, Leeds. Send for details.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. at the Central Hotel, Glasgow, 10.00am - 10.00pm. Come along and watch the latest videos - you will also get the chance to chat with other fans and to buy merchandise. Entry £5.00. Forthcoming dates: Sundays; 21st February, 4th April and 9th May. 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: 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 CITYPRESS/OUTER ZINE ad under the "Zine Ads" section for more details). Issue No.1 costs 50p (or 85p inc. p&tp). 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.

DREAMWEAVERS local group specialising in Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi. Meets once every two weeks in the Bury St Edmunds/Haverhill area. (Annual membership (£5) includes free copies of our 30+ page quarterly newsletter Warp Nine (available separately). For more information please send a SAE to Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

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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 \$23.00 (£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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LATE ITEMS

It seems that Sky are repeating TNG, starting with Encounter at Farpoint Pt. 1 on 19/1/93.

MARTIN STREET/"REGENERATE"

Apologises to those who have written in requesting guidelines for writing stories for comic strips. I'm not able to write to everyone personally. A photocopied guideline will be sent to everyone who has written in. Please be patient. Thanks to everyone, response has been phenomenal! Martin Street, 50 Cobden Street, Palfrey, Walsall, West Mids. WS1 4AQ.

"REGENERATE" Comix Issue One... Creative Exploration of the Worlds of Doctor Who. 28 pages of strip-art for £2.00 inc p&P. Martin Street, 50 Cobden Street, Palfrey, Walsall, West Mids. WS1 4AQ. Cheques/POs payable to Regenerate Publications.

★★★★★

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