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April 1993

Newsletter 27

"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 & Marrie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi everyone, and welcome to the April newsletter. We'd like to give a special welcome to all our new members and a special thank you to Ernie Over for sending us the information on Majel (including her receiving awards for Gene), the obituary on Bill Theiss and some other things.

We have also heard from Majel that there are some unauthorised biographies of Gene Roddenberry being published. The official biography is being written by David Alexander and it will be published in 1994. Gene chose David to write his biography and work was started on it before Gene's death.

How many of you spotted last newsletter's 'deliberate' mistake? - we forgot to change the month from December to February. We'll discover this newsletter's 'deliberate' mistake when the newsletter comes back from the printer.

Not long after the last newsletter was sent to the printer Archie suffered a severe case of amnesia when the hard drive developed a fault. Luckily Janet had done a complete backup over Christmas and important files like the newsletter and zines are backed up regularly. But some files were lost - as are

still discovering. Archie had to go away for ten days to get fixed so we took the opportunity to get a second hard drive fitted and his memory upgraded to 8Mb. Unfortunately they couldn't find the problem with the first hard drive and since it is still faulty he is going to have to go away again once this newsletter is compiled and Janet has printed the masters for two zines.

You have really surpassed yourselves with submissions this time and we apologise in advance for the drastic cuts we have had to make to the Postbag - but 50 pages was just toooooo long! We've done our best to be fair with the cuts but we're sure some of you will think that we've cut the best part of your letter. (In Valerie's words, this wasn't just a hatchet job, it was a vivisection.)

We would ask again that when you are writing your letter for the postbag you make it clear what you are referring to. Members won't normally have the last newsletter beside them when they are reading this one and many new members don't have a copy of the last newsletter.

Thanks to the people who sent reviews of Snow White at Brighton. Because we'd

already printed two in N/L 26, we decided not to print any more, even although everyone's response to it was different. This time we have received quite a few reviews on Starbase 93 and on Deep Space 9 and unfortunately there isn't space to print all of them. We hope that the writers of the ones we don't print will not be put off submitting in future.

We must apologise to the people who ordered IDIC Log 12 & 13 and had to wait for them. We knew there would be a slight delay, but we forgot to put 'Due February' with the ad, and for several reasons it was a longer delay than we expected. The delayed orders all went out on Feb 22nd, so if anyone who ordered these zines in early February is still waiting to get them, please let Sheila know.

Recently, Sheila was sent four poems in an envelope postmarked Aberystwyth. Unfortunately, there was no covering letter or name with them. We can print material anonymously or under a pen name, but for copyright reasons we must know who has written it. It might be the best thing we've ever read, but if you don't give us your name, we can't use the material.

As you will see later we are having another raffle with this newsletter. Occasionally a newsletter can get packed without any raffle tickets enclosed. If by any chance this happens to you but you want to enter, just send us in the money and say it's for the raffle. We'll put in the tickets for you. (There were two successive newsletters when Sheila completely forgot to put out raffle tickets to be included. The first time, the newsletters were in the post when we remembered. The second time we realised when everything was sealed up but not sent out... and the Chain Gang unsealed every envelope to put the tickets in. Blessings on their heads! They now have instructions to say 'Raffle' on packing night if there's no sign of the tickets.)

To those of you requesting IDIC badges. We are looking into this but in the meantime Valerie suggests you photocopy the logo off the cover, buy a cardboard blank and make your own. Regarding T-shirts we're not sure

there would be a big enough demand - there are so many excellent professional T-shirts available these days. One possibility is getting transfers made so that you can print your own T-shirt.

Janet still hasn't answered her personal mail. The main reasons this time were Archie's absence for ten days, having to print several zines and having to work 4 Saturdays on the trot. Life would be so much easier if Janet and Valerie didn't have to go to work. Janet is still not guaranteeing to get caught up with the mail in the next few weeks as there are more zines to print, Archie is going away again and now the garden is shouting for attention. So - Hi, from Janet, to all my friends. I'll write some time - promise!

We hope to see a lot of you at Warp One at the beginning of May. We don't know yet whether it will be possible to have a club meeting at the con, but if it is you should see it advertised somewhere at the con. Other than that, come along and see us at the table in the dealer's room. There will normally be at least one of us there.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 21/3/93

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is May 12th (May 8th for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, discs and everything else to Janet. And PLEASE put your name on all submissions. We hope to post it out around June 3rd.

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 Plumble, 14 Rousdon Grove, Great Barr, Birmingham, B43 5HN

Our thanks to L.E. Attwood, Chris Bailey, Dorothy Bradley, Brenda Callagher, Fiona Campbell, Sandy Cayless, Wai Man Cheung, Marie Chettle, Linda Court, Mark Dwyer, Mark French, Gary Heron, Z.T. Hunt, Muriel Jarrett, Mark Mclean, Fiona McOran-Campbell, Ernie Over, Marion Pritchard, Margaret Rainey, C. Ranger, Stephen Rothwell, G.A. Shaw, Alan Stephen, B. Taylor, Jenny Turner, John Vernon and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are Lynne Butler, Best Destiny; Craig Knight, a copy of the Making of Star Trek: the Next Generation plus a TNG jigsaw and Toni Cumming, a year's membership of IDIC.

We're having another raffle with this newsletter. The prizes this time are an original series gold coloured model Enterprise pendant; a cassette of Brent Spiner's, *Ol' Yellow Eyes is Back*; 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 May 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).

USED STAMPS

If you are only sending used stamps please

send them to Sheila as she is the one who takes them to Forfar. If you are enclosing them with other items you can send them to Janet or Valerie for Sheila to collect.

When trimming stamps please remember to leave a border of paper around the stamp. If you damage the perforations, or if the stamp is torn, it is useless; although some people use these stamps to make pictures, the GDA sells them to dealers who in turn sell to people who collect stamps. It does save us time if you can send the stamps in trimmed, but it's not essential.

Thank you to Frances Abernethy, Shelly Attwood, Jean Barron, Claudia Baschke, S Blackwell, Joyce Bowen, Fiona Campbell, Sandy Catchick, Sandie Cayless, Denise Colucci, Contagion, Martina Copple, Sheila Cornall, Linda Court, Peter & Eleanor Fryer, Staff and customers of Glasgow City Libraries, Ena Glogowska, Becky Gray, J Green, Julia Harmer, Jo Healy, Katrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Lee S. Humphrey, Bill Hupe, Muriel Jarrett, Sue Jones, Carol Kean, Antje Konig, Ruth Kurz, Janet Lawn, Debbie Lee, Manor Park Junior School, Nancy Mackay, Sharon Mansfield, Philip Morley, Barry O'Doherty, Rebekah Owens, Marion Pritchard, Jim Redrup, Gloria Rigg, Ann Robertson, Allison Rooney, Stephen Rothwell, Shirley Shatner, Amanda Spence, Dave Styles, Margaret Sykes, B. Taylor, Kevin Thomas, Jenny Turner, Gratiene Vandkerkhove, Linda Ware, E Webb, Helen White, Gaile Wood, Julie Woolaston 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.

I am making an analysis of how closely the ethos of Star Trek paralleled the American Dream; based on that, whether there is a case (at least on occasion) that Trek is a cold war allegory. Anyone who would like to get in touch to discuss this please write John Hinks, 16 Yarn Croft, Astley M29 7PL or phone 0942 895108.

Bill Theiss Obituary

William Ware Theiss passed away on December 10, 1992, in Los Angeles from the complications of AIDS.

Best known for his costume designs on *Star Trek* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, for which he won an Emmy Award in 1988, Bill had a long and varied career in theater, television and film.

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Bill attended college and was graduated from Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. After college, he served four years in the United States Navy, then, after reentering civilian life, Bill graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles where he majored in fashion design.

Theiss' television credits included:

The Donna Reed Show, The Dick Van Dyke Show, Hollywood Palace, My Favorite Martian, General Hospital, plus Gene Roddenberry's *Genesis II* and *Planet Earth*.

His motion picture credits included: The Pink Panther, Who'll Stop The Rain, Harold and Maud, Gene Roddenberry's *Pretty Maids All In A Row*, plus *Goin' South*, *Kidco*, and *The Man With One Red Shoe*. He received Academy Award Oscar nominations for his work on *Bound for Glory*, *Butch and Sundance: The Early Years* and *Heart Like A Wheel*.

Bill's significant contributions and considerable talent will be greatly missed by the industry as he will be greatly missed by his friends.

WILLIAM WARE THEISS REMEMBERED

by Sue Jones

I was sorry to read in Newsletter 26 of the death of William Ware Theiss. I was lucky enough to meet him at Holodeck in 1991 when he was guest of honour.

I have to confess that I have no interest whatsoever in costume making, (indeed I think the nun who endeavoured to teach me needlework when at school regarded me as her reminder that earth was not her true home and that her reward was in heaven!) but I attended Mr Theiss' talk and was fascinated by his genius creating the alien and different from the mundane.

I was also delighted to have the

opportunity to chat to him in the restaurant afterwards and found that, whilst almost painfully shy when addressing a large gathering of fans, when talking on a one to one basis, he was quiet gentle man of great warmth, charm and courtesy who was kind enough to thank me for the questions I had asked earlier.

His imagination and talent helped to enrich a show which means a lot to all of us. I only met him for a few minutes, but when I read the announcement of his death, I felt as though I had somehow lost a friend.

GUIDE DOGS - UPDATE

We've got good news and bad news about the Guide Dogs. The good news is that on January 20th Sheila went to Forfar (more or less as soon as the roads cleared), handed over another cheque for £1000, and selected a yellow labrador/retriever cross called Squire for our fourth guide dog. Sadie was meant to finish with her puppy walker in January, but in fact was only taken in to Forfar at the beginning of March, so has only just started her training; Squire was already in training when Sheila selected him, so in fact our fourth dog will finish training before the third one does! We're hoping to get a photo with Sadie and Squire for the next newsletter; even although their injections, etc, are up to date, the dogs are put into arbitrary quarantine when they first go to Forfar, and Sadie's quarantine didn't finish in time for us to get a photo of them before this newsletter was compiled.

The letter we got from the GDBA with the official receipt for Squire says, "Please convey my sincere thanks to all your members for the sponsorship of your fourth dog."

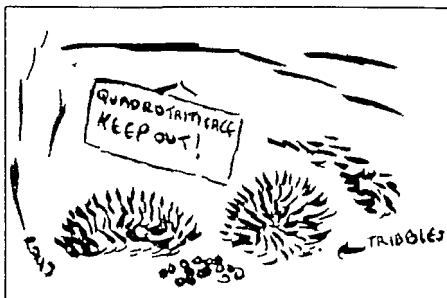
The bad news is that as of January 1993 the cost of sponsoring a dog has doubled, so that we'll have to raise £2000 before we can sponsor our fifth dog. We got Squire for £1000 because the major part of the fund-raising for our fourth dog was done before the price went up and to make sure, we lent the GD Fund £180 to make up the amount so that it was paid before the end of January. This has been repaid by the last raffle. £2000 sponsors a dog to the end of its training and pairing with a blind owner; and as far as we understand, for £2500 we could sponsor the dog for its working life with its owner - the GDBA pays the vet's bills and part of the food bill for the working guide dogs. What do you think? Should we go for £2500, or just settle for £2000, and put the £500 towards the next dog?

The GDBA has held the cost of sponsoring a dog at £1000 for the last 15 years, so an increase is reasonable - £2000 is

nearer the actual cost, and is still a little cheaper than sponsoring a hearing dog for the deaf - it's just an enormous jump all at once! It will mean, however, that instead of managing to sponsor a dog a year, it will probably be early 1995 before we have enough to sponsor our fifth dog.

We've made a start on it, however. Sheila has been up twice with the collecting box, and thanks to the generosity of the fans attending the Glasgow Away Team over three meetings, £61.74 went onto our accumulator card at Forfar. A further £42.67 was collected at the February meeting. Many thanks to Lesley Atkinson for rattling the box for us at the Away Team meetings!

If anyone has books, zines or general Trek memorabilia that they no longer want, perhaps because of lack of space, we'd be delighted to get these for resale in aid of the Guide Dogs. If you're going to Warp One, we hope to be there by early Friday afternoon and can be found in the sales room at any time it's open (except during guest speeches) and can take donations of anything there. If you have anything you no longer want and aren't going to Warp One, please consider sending what you have to Sheila by mid-April (say the 20th). What you have read, enjoyed, but no longer have room for may be the out of print item that someone else is desperately looking for!



"The only trouble with Humans is that they breed so quickly!"



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Qarton



GENE RODDENBERRY / STAR TREK HONOURED

Majel Barrett Roddenberry - Majel flew to Washington, D.C. on Saturday January 30 for several functions.

First, she accepted the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal for Gene presented by NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin. The presentation plaque reads: "The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Presents to Gene Roddenberry the NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal for distinguished service to the Nation and the human race in presenting the exploration of space as an exciting frontier and a hope for the future." Only a handful of these medals have been awarded in the history of NASA. It truly is a very high honor.

Second, she closed the Smithsonian Institution's Star Trek Exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum. As you might have heard, the exhibit drew a record crowd of nearly 900,000 visitors in less than one year! Also in attendance for the ceremonies were Mark Lenard (who flew in from New York) and Richard Arnold.

Majel will accept an "Angel Award" on February 18, 1993. Presented by the "Excellence in Media" organization, Star Trek will receive a Gold Angel, their highest award, for Star Trek, Star Trek: The Next Generation and for the six motion pictures for "a lifetime of excellence". According to Angel Awards Founder Mary Dorr, "the Angel Awards were created to accentuate the positive in the media by honouring the most outstanding moral/ethical/social productions of the preceding year in all phases of communication: film, radio, television, stage, books, magazines, et al, internationally as well as nationally." The award presentation on February 18 will be the 16th annual. (Our thanks to Ernie Over for the above.)

STAR TREK HEAVEN ON SKY Press Release

Sky Television has acquired the exclusive British rights to the spectacular new *Star Trek* spin-off *Deep Space Nine* as well as rights to brand new episodes of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* for Sky One.

The new shows will begin on Sky One from May. *Deep Space Nine* is the latest development in the *Star Trek* phenomenon. It follows a team of Starfleet officers who take command of an alien space station in a threatening, hostile environment.

The Next Generation, which will be screened five-nights-a-week Monday to Friday, follows the Starship Enterprise as it enters new galaxies. Continuing the *Star Trek* tradition which began over twenty-three years ago, *The Next Generation* takes viewers on an odyssey of dazzling adventures. Both series feature the most provocative sets and special effects.

These latest acquisitions, together with the special feature-length episode of *Next Generation Unification* currently airing on The Movie Channel, and *V*, the cult series about an invasion from outer space currently screening on Sky One, Sky is definitely the place for sci-fi fans.

STAR TREK

The original series has been doing well on BBC 2 with most episodes being rated as the 3rd or 4th most popular acquisition.

The animations are no longer being shown on Going Live on Saturday mornings. The last episode shown was The Lorelei Signal on December 5th.

A severely cut version of STIV was shown on STV on ITV.

STAR TREK VII

The following is from USA Today, 23/2/93.

Once Deep Space and Next Generation wrap production for the year, Berman has another interesting Trek assignment on tap: He's been given the go-ahead by Paramount to produce and write the long-awaited Star Trek VII, the movie in which the original Trek cast hands over the baton to Next Generation's Capt. Picard and crew for a new series of films to keep them busy once their show exits the airwaves.

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION

The cast of ST:TNG have been awarded the Friendship Award from the Starlight Foundation.

The Starlight Foundation is an organisation that provides seriously ill children the ability to act out their fantasies, as in meeting the cast of TNG and sitting in Captain Picard's chair.

The Award was presented to the cast by the president of Starlight, Emma Samms, at a ceremony in Los Angeles. Also rewarded was Arsenio Hall for his work. Info Showbiz Today, CNN 15/3/93.

TNG has been consistently doing well on Sky with most episodes being in the top 20 Satellite Transmissions- usually two or three episodes are in the top 10. The highest position was number 5. However it has

slipped since they started showing the repeats, and since week ending Feb 7th it has slipped out of the top Ten.

On March 7th the TNG double-length episode Unification had its premiere on the Movie Channel.

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

Ep.	PC	Date	Title
138	238	23/01/93	Ship In A Bottle
139	239	30/01/93	Aquiel
140	240	06/02/93	Face Of The Enemy
141	241	13/02/93	Tapestry
142	242	20/02/93	The Birthright, Part I
143	243	27/02/93	The Birthright, Part II
144	244	27/03/93	Starship Mine
145	245	03/04/93	Lessons
146	246	24/04/93	The Chase
147	247	01/05/93	Frame of Mind
148	248	08/05/93	Suspicions

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

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 by none other than Cardassian David Warner! (Last seen as Gorkon in "Star Trek 6").

137. "Chain Of Command, II" - Picard is continually tortured by the evil Cardassian, and the new Captain of the Enterprise doesn't like Riker at all, who ends up relieved of duty! All this just when the Enterprise prepares to go to possible war! This episode does not physically tie-in with Star Trek: Deep Space Nine as previously reported.

138. "Ship In A Bottle" - Barclay returns and Moriarity gets out of the holodeck! Other guest stars include Stephanie Beacham a Moriarity's love.

139. "Aquiel" - Geordi falls in love with a Lt. Aquiel Uhnari, but could she be the cold-blooded killer behind an unspeakable murder, can he prove her innocent, and will he be her next victim? Watch out for a few loose Klingons!

140. "Face Of The Enemy" - Troi is kidnapped and is surgically altered to look like a Romulan. She is then forced to play the part of a Romulan Intelligence Officer in an elaborate defection scheme. Guest stars Carolyn Seymour.

141. "Tapestry" - Picard dies on the operating table. Q then takes Picard back in time to his Academy days for his first mission. It is unknown whether this involves Picard reliving it or merely witnessing it.

142. "The Birthright, Part 1" - Data dreams and meets his 'father', and Worf visits the DS9 station and is told that his father is still alive...

143. "The Birthright, Part 2" - Worf continues his search of his father. Brent Spiner guest stars as Data.

144. "Starship Mine" - Plot unknown.

Other News:-

1) The big news is that there will be a seventh (and final) TNG season.

2) There will be more Romulan episodes this season.

3) The secret of Picard's relationship with Guinan will be revealed before the end of the sixth season.

4) Possible episode - "Q and Order" where Q brings the Enterprise or some of its crew into the Q Continuum. Another Q episode under consideration involves Q duplicating the Enterprise for some reason.

5) There may be a few episodes with Wes coming back to the Enterprise for a "spring break".

6) They are looking for scripts to bring back Barclay, Lwaxana, Lore, and Q, but have apparently given up hope on bringing back Sela. However, Denise Crosby will be seen in three episodes as a number of different characters.

7) They are thinking about a love interest between Bev and Picard, and Geordi may get married.

8) They are planning several Romulan episodes for season six.

9) Michael Dorn will play another character without the Worf makeup. Dorn wants Worf to have a ponytail.

10) We are supposed to see a bathroom on the "Big E" by the end of season six.

11) Possible future guest stars are Robin Williams, John Goodman, and Elliott Gould.

12) Finally, Starlight Effects (SFX) are working on a model of the 'Calypso', the Captain's Yacht.

MISC

TREK TOPPER: The 1993 Guinness Book of Entertainment Facts polled 33rd Int'l Broadcaster's Convention, Cannes for 10 most popular TV series in the world (number of viewers per million per week in parentheses):

1. Original Trek (213.5 million)
2. Muppet Show (211.2)
3. Sesame Street (207.4)
4. World of Disney (199.0)
5. Little House on the Prairie (192.3)
6. Bugs Bunny/Roadrunner (173.4)
7. Coronation Street (116.2)
8. ST:TNG (114.8)
9. The Beachcombers (108.3)
10. Dr. Who (103.1)

(info Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum)

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

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

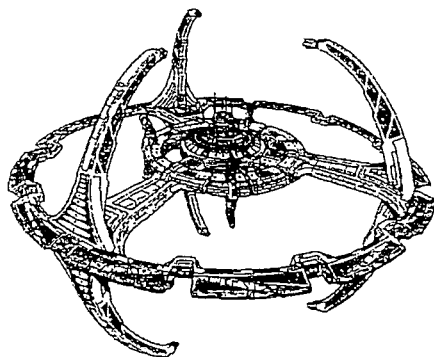
Ep. No	Title	Date shown	Viewers (million)	Top Ten Acquisitions
19	Star Trek-The Motion Picture	28/12/92	5	
21	Tomorrow Is Yesterday	6/1/93		3
22	The Return of the Archons	20/1/93	4.76	4
24	Space Seed	27/1/93	4.11	4
23	A Taste of Armageddon	3/2/93	4.27	3
25	This Side of Paradise	10/2/93	4.51	4
	Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home	14/2/93	9.68	1 (Top Ten Films)
26	The Devil In The Dark	17/2/93	4.27	4
27	Errand of Mercy	24/2/93		
20	The Alternative Factor	3/3/93		
28	City On The Edge of Forever	10/3/93		
29	Operation Annihilate	17/3/93		

(info Barbara Ellams)

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

(A rating point equals 931,000 TV households) Info USA Today 23/2/93.

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



DS9 premiered in January with a 21.0 rating, making it the highest rated series premiere in syndication history. Since then it had two weeks at 14.4, fell to 12.6 and then climbed back to 14.2. These numbers make it the No. 3 show in syndication with TNG holding the No. 4 spot.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Date	Episode Title
02/01/93	Emissary
09/01/93	Past Prologue
16/01/93	A Man Alone
23/01/93	Babel
30/01/93	Captive Pursuit
06/02/93	Q-Less
13/02/93	Dax
20/02/93	The Passenger
13/03/93	Move Along Home (formally titled "Sore Losers")
20/03/93	Friends and Foes
24/04/93	Vortex

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

"Past Prologue" - A Bajoran terrorist from Kira's past seeks asylum on DS9 from a

Cardassian warship in pursuit. The Cardassians demand extradition, but Cmdr. Sisko refuses. The Bajoran claims that he has given up his terrorist activities, but has he really? And where do Kira's loyalties lie? (Lursa and B'etor (Duras) appear in this episode. [info Brenda Allan]

"A Man Alone" - A Bajoran, whom Odo had sent to prison some years ago, is released and comes to the station. Odo is suspicious of him, and they come to blows. Later, the Bajoran is found murdered under mysterious circumstances, and Odo becomes the prime suspect and the object of hatred and ridicule by a mob of Bajorans seeking justice. [info Brenda Allan]

"Babel" - A neurological contaminant is accidentally released into the station's replicator system by the Bajorans, affecting residents with a disease that makes them unable to communicate. Kira has to break quarantine to kidnap the only person who has the antidote, a former acquaintance.

"Captive Pursuit" - The hunt is on when a wanted alien travelling almost 90 thousand light years ends up on the DS9 station, but is he really a dangerous criminal or just a pawn in a brutal game? O'Brien befriends the "prey" - can he and the rest of the officers save the being from a life in captivity?

"Q-Less" - The first DS9 Q episode. Guest stars John DeLancie as Q (what a surprise there!) and Jennifer Hetrick as Vash. Vash has a priceless icon to be transported to a Federation research lab. Several of the crew begin to have disturbing dreams, which compel them to take the icon, commandeer a Runabout, and travel through the wormhole.

"Dax" - Dax is brought to trial for a crime she supposedly committed while in a previous host. Written by D.C. Fontana, who is now returned to Trek.

"The Passenger" - A female security officer arrives on Deep Space Nine in search of a renegade scientist. The security officer and Dr. Bashir form a relationship, neither one of them knowing that the scientist has transferred his mind into her body.

"Move Along Home" - Quark is forced by aliens to play a game which sends crew members of Deep Space Nine to a strange world where they become the playing pieces..

"Friends and Foes" - Quark's nephew Nog and Jake Sisko pal around, and Nog gets Jake into trouble. Nog and Jake teach their elders a lesson in friendship and trust.

"Vortex" Odo journeys through the wormhole in search of answers to his origin.

"[title unknown]" - A very strange entity begins growing in the station infirmary, and no one quite knows what it is.

"[title unknown]" - Odo locks up Guinan's son. Guest stars Whoopi Goldberg as Guinan.

"[title unknown]" - A Lwaxana Troi episode where she talls for JelloMan! When he tries to dissuade her from pursuing the relationship, explaining how he reverts to this jello shape every night, her response is said to be something like "That's okay - I can swim."

Other News:-

Lursa and B'etor, the sisters of Duras from "Redemption", are in the Deep Space Nine episode, Past Perspective. Jerry Goldsmith will be composing the theme to Deep Space Nine. Dennis McCarthy and Jav Chattaway will be doing the incidental music for the episodes.

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 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.

Thanks also to Margaret Rainey and Brenda Allan for info.

TITAN BOOKS

We had been hearing that Titan's Star Trek Licence has expired. Titan gave the following explanation in TV Zone 40.

In 1994 Pocket Books (UK) will take over the

☆☆☆☆

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 187** February 1993. Includes an article on Rick Berman introducing Deep Space 9 and one on TNG writer/producer Rober McCullough..

- **STARLOG 188** March 1993. Includes articles on Andreas Katsula who played the Romulan, Tomalak, in the TNG episodes The Enemy, the Defector and Future Imperfect; Terry Farrell who plays Jadzia Dax in DS9; and Joseph Ruskin who played the thrall, Galt, in The Gamesters of Triskelion.

- **STARLOG 189** April 1993. Includes articles on Larry Brody who wrote the ST Animated episode, The Magicks of Megastu; Harve Bennett; Deep Space 9; TNG writer/story editor Rene Echevarria; and Arthur Batanides who played Lt. D'Amato in That Which Survives.

- **TV ZONE 39** February 1993. Includes an article on Elizabeth Dennehy (Lt. Commander Shelby) remembering The Best of Both World plus reviews of the DS9 pilot, Emissary and the book Star Trek the New Voyages 2

- **TV ZONE 40** March 1993. Includes an interview with Cliff Boles, the director of many TNG episodes including The Best of

publication of new Star Trek: The Next Generation novels in the regular series; this will not, however, affect our backlist of over 100 titles, and we will be continuing our active Star Trek programme of novels, 'fact' books and graphic novels in the future.

Both Worlds, Remember Me, First Contact, QPid and Redemption; a review of the Original Trek novel, Shell Game, by Melissa Crandall; an article introducing the DS9 crew; and episode guide to TNG 6th season episodes 1-12.

- **TV ZONE SPECIAL #8 - THE EIGHTIES SPECIAL** March 1993. Includes a feature on the Genesis of ST:TNG and an interview with director Cliff Boles.

• STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 36 - Articles on Mark Leonard, Menage a Troi and Sarek.

Issue 37 - Articles on The Borg, Transfigurations and Best of Both Worlds Part 1.

Issue 38 - Articles on Season Three Overview, Best of Both Worlds Part 2 and Family.

Issue 39 - Articles on The Lost Colonies, Brothers and Suddenly Human.

Issue 40 - Articles on New Life, Remember Me and Legacy.

• STARBURST 173

January 1993. Includes an interview with Majel Barrett.

• STARBURST 174

February 1993. Includes an interview with Joe Nazzaro, director of the DS9 pilot, Emissary.

- **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 89** Jan/ Feb 1993. Articles on Designing Deep Space 9 and the DS9 characters.

- **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 22** (Starlog) Special Writers Issue. Articles on Adam Belanoff, David Assael, Michael Horvat, Brannon Braga, Thomas & Jo Perry,

Richard Danus, Hannah Louise Shearer, Hiliary J Bader, Vanessa Greene & Alan J Alder, Pamela Gray, Bruce D. Arthurs, Patrick Barry and Ed Zuckerman.

- **ST DEEP SPACE NINE 1** (Starlog) Articles on the set of DS9, Makeup FX, Emissary - The Pilot, and director David Carson.

- **CINEFANTASTIQUE Vol 23, No. 6** April 1993. Includes 28 pages of articles and pictures from Deep Space Nine. The articles cover: Rick Berman; Casting DS9, Michael Piller; Filming the series; Ensign Ro; Herman Zimmerman; Alien Makeups; Behind-the-Scenes of the pilot; Richard Delgado (artist); Odo; and Scripting the adventures.

- **ELVIS IN THE 90s** Feb/March 93 The magazine of the Official Elvis Presley Organisation in Great Britain.
Elvis Mail - April/May 1987

Lincoln Police Officer, Vern Cambell, commenting on Elvis' security prior to departing for a concert in Lincoln, 20th June, 1977.

"Elvis was very friendly to all of us and when he left, I do remember this, he was about a half hour late. It seems that he was always watching the television series "Star Trek". When it was time to leave Lincoln, there was a new episode on and he wasn't about to miss it. Everyone just had to sit and wait until it was over and when it was, he stood up and said "Let's go!"

This magazine is printing a series of synopsis of the original ST series by Luap Doow. They contain rating and items of interest to Elvis fans. The synopsis this issue range from The Cage through to Menagerie. Non-members of the Presley Organisation can get copies of this issue for £1.00 inc postage from The Official Elvis Presley Organisation in Great Britain, P.O. Box 4, Leicester, LE3 5HY.

"Behind the Scenes of the New Star Trek Series" OMNI

Also "Architect of Illusion: Designing Deep Space Nine Article by Howard Zimmerman" and "ST:Deep Space Nine real science, real science fiction" Interesting articles.

"Black Rubber & Latex Ears" Marie Claire

11/92. A 5 page article about Rec-Con in Manchester. It includes a two page spread of photos of fans in costume.

- New York Magazine 21-28/12/92.

This carried an interesting advert in the personal column - Jean-Luc Seeks Beverly - Starship Captain, 40, brave, cerebral, handsome, humorous, passionate etc., seeks petite, brainy, beautiful female Earthling for permanent promotion to status of "Number One" (best friend and lover). No Ferengi, Q's, Romulans or smokers. Starfleet records and recent photo required to "make it so" (will exchange).

- "Stark Trek's Comic Turn" Sunday Mirror 27/12/92. According to this there is an American Comic called Stark Trek which portrays the ST characters as perverts.

- "New Trek spin-off boldly goes on air" Daily Express 7/1/93. Articles about DS9.

- "Cult Heroes" Yorkshire Evening Post 8/1/93. An article about Star Trek fans and Thunderbirds fans. The article mentions Leeds Starfleet and the Starbase Convention.

- "Ear... Ear... What's all this then?" Best 28/1/93. A pair of rubber ears worn by Leonard Nimoy in STVI was sold for £700 at a Christie's auction to aid the London Federation of Boys' Clubs.

- "We're not mad insist the bold Trekkies" Article about Starbase 93 in Leeds.

- "Trek Fan Sticks to Klingon" Sport 3/2/93. An article about Alex Greene saying he is the only man in Britain who speaks Klingon. I wonder if the other British Klingon's would agree.

- "Trekkies beam down to Angus" Dundee Courier 8/2/93. Article about the first Dundee local group meeting. Between 40 and 50 people were expected and over 150 turned up. The club is called URS Discovery.

- "Beam me up or down, Scotty" Ayrshire Post 12/2/93. An article about the Star Trek mini-convention in Troon which raised £240 for the Girl's Brigade.

• "Deep Space Nine" The Couch Critic TV Guide 13/2/93. A favourable review. "The cast is at least as strong as ST:TNG's. But the series is stronger, for it is more than just a spin-off - it's a wholly new show with its own vision and its own messages for our new world."

• Today 3/3/93

A picture of Worf and a Klingon called BaEl, played by Jennifer Gatti. The article says that they share the first TNG Klingon kiss in a

recently filmed episode.

• "Our Mo's A Trek Star" Daily Record 8/3/93.

Glasgow star Maurice Reeves plays a Romulan in TNG.

• "Beam Me Up Ahmad" The Sun 16/3/93. Akeel Ahmad and other members of the Glasgow Ship (A branch of Starfleet Command) are planning to film their own spoof version of Star Trek.

☆☆☆☆



MERCHANDISE

compiled by Janet Quarton



BOOK UPDATE (TITAN)

The dates are for Titan releases, are taken from TV Zone 40 and the list is subject to change.

Mar **THE DEVILS 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 secret whoever holds the Devil's Heart possesses power beyond all imagining...

Mar 18th (TNG 25)

GROUNDEN by Dave Bishoff. Infected by an alien life-form, the Enterprise begins to disintegrate.

Apr 22nd (ST 59)

THE STARSHIP TRAP by Mel Gilden. Klingon ships are disappearing and it is up to the Enterprise to discover what is happening to the missing vessels - before there is full-scale war.

May 20th (TNG 26)

THE ROMULAN PRIZE by Simon Hawke. The Romulans plan to claim Hermeticus 2, a planet with a deadly secret. Captain Picard and the Enterprise must stop them.

June 24th (ST 60)

WINDOWS ON A LOST WORLD by V.E. Mitchell. While exploring the ruins of an ancient civilization on Careta TV Kirk, Chekov and two security guards disappear. They find themselves

trapped in a strange alien environment in danger of losing both their sanity... and their lives.

July 15th (ST)

THE GALACTIC WHIRLPOOL by David Gerrold

Aug 19th (61)

FROM THE DEPTHS by Victor Milan

Sep 16th

STAR TREK LIVES by J Lichtenburg, S Marshak and J Winston.

Sep 23rd (TNG 27)

GUISES OF THE MIND by Rebecca Neason.

Oct 20th (ST 62)

THE GREAT STARSHIP RACE by Diana Carey

Nov 15th (ST)

THE PRICE OF THE PHOENIX by Sondra Marshak & Myrna Culbreath

Dec 12th (TNG 28)

HERE THERE BE DRAGONS by John Peel

• VIDEO UPDATE - ST:TNG & DS9

This list is taken from TV Zone 40 and is subject to change.

March 15th - TNG

The Perfect Mate/Imaginary Friend (61)

I Borg/The Next Phase (62)

The Inner Light/Time's Arrow (63)

April/May - TNG (6th Season)

Time's Arrow, Pt. II/ Realm of Fear (64)

Man of the People/Relics (65)
 Schisms/True Q (66)
 Rascals/A Fistful of Datas (67)

June ST:DS9 - Emissary

July ST:DS9 - Episodes 2-6

August ST:TNG - 2 releases (6th Season)
ST:DS9 - 4 episodes

September+

On a monthly basis two cassettes of ST:TNG and one cassette of ST:DS9 will be released until season's end.

• **STAR TREK CHRONOLOGY: THE HISTORY OF THE FUTURE** by Mike & Denise Okuda. Pocket Books 192 pages, nearly 500 small b/w photos. This should be available from SF bookshops which import US books for approx £9.99.

• **ALTERNATE KENNEDYS** edited by Mike Resnick published Tor, 1992, ISBN 0812519558, £3.99 (info Cory King)
 This contains a story by David Gerrold called 'The Kennedy Enterprise' and it's a 'what-if' story about Jack Kennedy being the Captain of the Enterprise in Star Trek.

• From Debbie Lee:

The bookmarks mentioned in N/L 26... would they be the ones by Antioch Publishing Company, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387, USA.

ISBN 0-7824-0833-8 (Captain Kirk)

ISBN 0-7824-0833-9 (Captain Picard)

I guess Mr Spock's ISBN must be similar. I

bought mine from Volume One bookshops, which is a large chain of bookshops in SE England.

Also;

Star Trek TNG Simplicity Pattern 9394AA (Ladies 6-16); 9394BB (Men's 34-44).

The TNG fitted jumpsuit uniform designed by William Ware Theiss for TNG. Available from shops that sell Simplicity patterns I suppose - I got mine from Owen Owen! Make it clear as to which you want, either ladies or gents, as the packet is identical.

• From Sue Jones:

Timex are producing a range of Star Trek watches both digital and with hands and with designs appropriate to both Classic and TNG. They seem to vary from approx. £20 - £25 ish and vary in style from the very discreet with tactfully placed logo and letters (I wear mine to work and nobody's noticed yet) to something a bit more flashy and jazzy.

• From G.A. Shaw:

Panini have brought out a ST:TNG sticker album. The album costs 50p and six stickers for 20p. there are 240 stickers to complete the album, Hamilton Collection in America have released a plate of Picard (I think first of a series.)

• Franklin Mint have brought out a DS9 medal with the space station on one side and a 1993 calendar on the other. Price £150 for the one in sterling silver and £39 for the pewter one. It is a limited edition, available only until 31/12/93. Franklin Mint, 138 Bromley Road, London SE6 1BP.

☆☆☆☆☆



ACTOR NEWS



• **William Shatner** - is having his "ST Memoirs" written at present, and they will be out in November 1993. (info Margaret Rainey)

According to a piece in the News of the World, 31/1/93, William Shatner once starred in a vampire movie with the

soundtrack in Esperanto.

"Beam me up, Scotty" Sun 20/2/93

This has a picture of Bill eating a live piranha. He plays mad General Mortars in the spoof film Loaded Weapon 1.

"TV trek for Kirk's hero Tek" Sunday Mirror 7/3/93. William Shatner is to write and

direct a multi-million dollar TV production of his Tek War books. A two-hour pilot episode will be followed by 12 programmes in the autumn.

Further info comes from TV Zone 40

The series will be co-produced by Universal, and Atlantis Films and Shatner's own company Lemli Productions will be involved with Shatner as executive producer with Peter Sussman. Series producer will be Seaton McLean. Universal's executive vice president Ned Nallie feels the project has "tremendous sales potential".

• **James Doohan** is to get an honorary degree at Milwaukee for inspiring thousands to become engineers.
Info: The Sun 18/2/93.

• **Patrick Stewart** was nominated for a "Grammy" award, for his audiotope reading of "A Christmas Carol". Unfortunately he didn't win.

A second "TV Guide" cover in the USA within six months for Patrick Stewart; he and Avery Brooks were pictured together as Sisko and Picard for the issue of the week of January 2nd, which saw the launch of DS9.

Any news you may hear from National Enquirer and/or Daily Record that Patrick is to marry again is categorically not true. He says so himself. (info Margaret Rainey)

The following info is extracted from Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum, Jan/Feb 1993. See zine ads for ordering details.

Send TNG and DS9 mail to: Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, USA.

Send Original Series and Movie Mail to Lincoln Enterprises, POB 691370, W. Hollywood, CA 90069 - they will forward it.

• **William Shatner** is moving office to Universal Studios to develop TekWar for MCA Universal & Atlantis TV. Bill was in Family of Strangers with Patty Duke & Melissa Gilbert - it aired on CBS on Feb 21st. Bill's autobiography will be out in November.

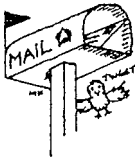
• **Leonard Nimoy** has signed to direct the 6-hr limited series Deadly Games for ABC. He was on the Simpsons in February. Leonard's wife, Susan Bey, is an Admiral on DS9.

• **George Takei** attended the White House Gala to welcome Bill Clinton in.

• **Patrick Stewart** plays Daddy Warbuck in Annie & The Castle of Terror which is filming in March.

• **Whoopi Goldberg** is in the HBO film of AIDS, And the Band Played On" with Alan Alda, Angelica Huston & Richard Gere. She will be in Ghost II.

☆☆☆☆☆



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

To Martin Helsdon - Re the name Chronos in ST VI. I thought 'Chronos' (Kronos?) was the name of the Chancellor's ship.

To Edward Woo - Re promotion. If Picard left, no matter how much we might like the rest of the crew to stay together, Starfleet would probably regard internal promotion as bad for discipline because the other juniors could be on too intimate terms with the promotee. Even the First Officer of a Starship, when promoted to Captain, would surely be given a smaller ship as his first command, then after a year or two be considered for promotion to a larger vessel. Equally, I would expect any junior officer promoted to a senior position to be moved to another ship.

Re the Business Meeting cons - three spread throughout the year could be iffy. If they were spread evenly, with one in May, the others would be August and December/January - and I for one am/willing to commit myself to travelling in December/January. You just have to look at the mayhem on the motorways in December 92 to understand my reasons. If they're voted on at business meetings, Scotland is at a decided disadvantage since hardly anybody south of Liverpool wants to travel that far north, so any Scottish bid is unlikely to succeed. Yet most Scottish fans are completely unable to get to an English con. At the same time I concede the problems experienced by fans in - say - Cornwall!

To Pam Baddeley - I'm in the minority who prefers Curtis. Alley came over to me as hollow wood while Curtis at least had an astringency I found very refreshing. But then it's not the first time I've preferred the second

actor to play a part. Going back a long time - I'm possibly the only person who, in Alias Smith and Jones, couldn't abide Pete Duel and infinitely preferred his rather more restrained successor, who, I thought, was a much better actor.

To Neil J Barrett - re words changing pronunciation when capitalised - polish, august and nice come to mind, as well as Taruka's reading and slough. While we're on the subject of language, can you list half a dozen words or phrases that have two contradictory meanings? (There are at least 30) As an example - to sanction something is to allow it, to apply sanctions is to forbid or stop something.

Carol Sterenberg - Brighton

With reference to the suggestion that Kirk will be handing over command of the Enterprise (presumably 1701-A?) to Picard at the end of ST VII: I don't see how this can happen, given the time lines. Surely Rachel Garrett captained Enterprise-C. Picard would have to be very, very old to have commanded A, B & D. I'd like to know what has become of Kirk by the time of TNG. Does anyone know?

I strongly disagree that Patrick Stewart's acting is suffering from a lack of motivation (Guy Wigmore, N/L 25). It's true he hasn't recently had many such scenes as he had in Sarek and Final Mission, but his acting is a triumph of tasteful economy; in other words, 'less is more', a style also employed to good effect by Brent Spiner. Stewart brings a total concentration to every scene; his merest facial expression conveys all that is necessary. It's a principle I think William Shatner could have used to advantage. Having said that, though, I suppose Shatner's 'Method' style was the acting fashion of the time, but to me it's as embarrassing to watch as the exaggeration of silent film acting. Perhaps ours is a more subtle generation which can interpret a more subtle style of acting; certainly it has been possible to develop more profound, and frequently very moving, story lines, and deeper glimpses of the personalities of the characters.

I also enjoyed Strong Women - a Male

View (N/L 25). I wonder if at long last the viewing public is ready for a female Number One? If Riker were indeed promoted to Captain, the appointment of Shelby as his Exec might be a possibility - although I'd very much prefer to see Data in that role. However, the Captain usually chooses the Exec and I don't think Riker would choose someone with whom he would likely experience friction, when this could endanger the ship. Shelby might still be after his job. Although Guinan doesn't appear in every episode, I was surprised not to see her mentioned as a strong female role - to me, the strongest role of all save that of Picard. She has intuition, experience, maturity, strength, serenity and total integrity.

Peter Arnett - London

I personally feel the Classic episodes lost much by the cuts in previous showings which in some cases butchered the episode in such a way as to make it confusing. Sometimes almost whole scenes of dialogue are cut or lifted bodily from the episode; in *The Menagerie Pt 2*, the picnic scene setting of the Mojave Park and city skyline is one such example; in *The Cage*, the scene is longer as Vina talks about her headaches and Pike talks about his boyhood and his home town Mojave, and the scene has dark undertones as Pike mentions that Vina's headaches will be hereditary and that their children and their children will suffer such headaches as well. Without this, much characterisation is lost, I feel, which is a shame because the picnic scene is such a beautiful one showing us what Earth is supposed to be like in the future, ie nice little towns and futuristic cities with fifty miles of parkland around it, and although this brief look at Earth's future only gave hints, it was nonetheless exciting to humanitarians and environmentalists, 'greens' and ecologists alike because it was depicting an optimistic visionary future, a future to look forward to - a goal to strive for; the challenge to turn the Mojave Desert of today into a beautiful, breathtaking nature reserve - a National Park of Star Trek's era.

I don't think I've ever seen another show which has caught my imagination in such a way as this scene from *The Cage*. It

was not until the advent of the Star Trek movies that we get to see Earth in the 23rd century; but in 1964 it must have been a real eye-opener to those NBC executives who viewed the pilot for the first time.

To David Raper - In the revised script for *The Cage*, dated 20 Nov '64, the Captain's name was James Winter. Apparently Captain James Winter was the unsung Captain of the Enterprise.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I thought it might be interesting to explore some of the grey area of the early years of the Enterprise's voyages when she was under the command of Captain April (and the unknown Captain who took over from April) and Pike. There must have been a good 25 years or more of adventures. Pike commanded the Enterprise for 11 years and it's probable that April commanded her for at least two 5-year missions. The as-yet-unrevealed Captain (Winter?) could have commanded the Enterprise for at least one 5-year mission. With the story potential of those early years becoming quite apparent it is difficult to see why Paramount imposed a clampdown on stories featuring Pike's crew or set before the events of *The Cage*. It does seem a harsh judgement from the Powers-that-be. Is it really necessary? Also why did they kick up a storm when Dorothy Fontana wrote *Vulcan's Glory*? Still, as long as Captain Kirk and the Enterprise continue to boldly go where no man has gone before, I'll be more than pleased. Although I like Star Trek immensely in all its various incarnations I must admit to a strong abiding love for the Classic series, having grown up with it. I think it's more than a sentimental thing as it's nurtured an interest in, among other things, astronomy. The whole Star Trek universe fascinates me, although I find it a shame that some parts of the ST world are sadly neglected, particularly the history of this great Starship, while other areas of Star Trek are not.

Linda Wood - Glasgow

Thought for today - is Commander Sisko's child called 'The Sisko Kid'?

Can't remember whether this has been

done to death before or not, but how about having fun with the 'Does it' phrase, ie - patient.

Kirk does it commandingly.
 Spock does it logically.
 McCoy does it medicinally.
 Scotty does it engineeringly.
 Uhura does it communicatively.
 Sulu does it steeringly.
 Chekov does it navigationally.
 Picard does it discussionally.
 Data does it bionically.

Ian Colbert - Birmingham

Having just joined IDIC, I was very interested to read the comments of other fans on the current state of Trek. I'm 31 and consider myself fairly average on most scales. (Let's face it, how many of us would actually qualify to serve on a starship?) The conventions I attended were over ten years ago and they were great. You *could* talk to anyone and the cliques were few, so I'm surprised to read about the problems encountered by some people. Although I've been technically 'inactive' as a fan, I have all of Classic Trek and TNG from TV, I collect and scratch build the kits, listened to the audio tapes and read the books. But isn't that how Trekkers started in the first place? You see, I think people are missing the point. I've seen The Doomsday Machine over a hundred times. See - nobody laughed. That's because all serious fans accept the viewpoints of others. It's not a case of Classic being 'better' than TNG (or DS9). It's an evolution that's creating a more diverse form of what 'we' already had.

TNG will eventually be cancelled. There will only be a smaller number of hard core fans who will then be in the same position as 'Original' fans. They in turn will have no choice but to accept whatever follows. From the two different 'cultures', if you like, you'll find a newer and more dedicated group of followers than is apparent now, with various 'trekkies' of the 'I want' culture who are jumping on the bandwagon, and creating people problems. Give it about five or six years to settle down, and then Star Trek fandom will most likely be back to its roots and the true meaning of IDIC will have its renaissance. All you need to do is be

Steve Davies - Huntingdon

Now come on, ladies/girls/women/females, I'm not mentioning any names but surely some of you are being a little hypocritical. If it's OK for the female audience to lust after Jonathan Frakes' chest/eyes/boyish smirk and Patrick Stewart's voice (it's a lovely voice, agreed!) then it's OK for us chaps to lust after Troi in her low-cut tops (I'm spoken for, so I can't!) - after all, it's only natural! I don't want to get into some massive argument with every female member calling me a 'sexist pig' (or worse) but that's my opinion - so there!

David Gallagher - London

How about this as an idea to build around for ST VII... Captain Sulu is still in command of the Excelsior, which has now been recommissioned as the Enterprise NCC 1701-B! This is quite feasible, as the Enterprise A was to be decommissioned after ST VI, and as the Excelsior class Starships are the latest state-of-the-art design, surely it would soon become the flagship of the Fleet (especially with the likes of Sulu in the command chair!) and by Trek tradition, the flagship of the Fleet should be called the Enterprise. This way we would have a complete history of the Starships Enterprise and a full list of their Captains from Robert April through to Jean-Luc Picard.

On to DS9. Having read the novelisation of the pilot episode - Emissary - I must say I found it an enjoyable read - very easy to 'get into' - and it felt tight! As far as I am concerned it is Star Trek - and I for one look forward to seeing it!

And finally - and Trek fans in the London area who fancy a chat over a pint, why not drop me a line at 47 Broxholme House, Harwood Rd, Fulham, London SW6 4AA.

Graeme G Lowe - Stonehaven

Beam me up - the closest example I can find is from STIV:TVH when Chekov has just been rescued from hospital and Kirk is saying goodbye to Gillian. He says, "Scotty, beam me up".

To Helen White - My first memories of Star Trek were about people too. I clearly remember the shock of discovering that Romulans and Vulcans looked the same.

To Barry Doherty - Where did you find out that the Federation President was Efrosian? I couldn't accept the novelisation of STVI saying he was Deltan. Well, not unless he was wearing a wig in the film, but he doesn't seem the type to be self-conscious about baldness!

To Baerbel Schmidt - Not having seen any TNG episodes involving Trills I've been wondering if there's ever been a case where, although someone has consented to become a host, they have subsequently become so disgusted by having another organism inside them that they have committed suicide?

Annoying bit from STVETUC - Why was Lt Valeris wearing a re cadet undershirt and Lieutenant-Commander's rank insignia when she isn't either? After much deliberation and cogitation I came up with the following: If an officer wears a red undershirt this shows that for the duration of their current assignment they have been temporarily promoted to the rank indicated by their rank insignia pin. Once the assignment has been completed they will resume their official rank and wear a departmental coloured undershirt and appropriate rank pin. Only officers who are due for promotion or show sufficient aptitude (Valeris graduated top of her class at the Academy) may be considered for temporary promotion to the rank immediately above their own. They will perform the duties of their temporary rank but will be addressed by their official rank.

Jim Redrup - Reading

To Shirley Shatner - Second Skin in Leeds now goes under the address of - Mike Stringer, 'Highcroft', 63 Town Street, Guiseley, LS20 9OT.

What happened to the last paragraph of Dave Smith's T'Kon report? *[Janet: I suspect I made a frame too small and I didn't notice when the last couple of lines disappeared. The one problem with the way we do the newsletter is that while*

Sheila and Valerie proof read all the separate sections of the newsletter, I actually compile it on my own - a job that takes about 3 evenings. It is quite a complex job fitting everything together and with a 100 page letter it isn't really surprising that I make some mistakes. Unfortunately there is no one living near me who could proof read the final newsletter and posting it to anyone would delay it's publication by over a week. If I remember correctly, the last line read - 'the best people in the world' or words to that effect. Our apologies to Dave for the mistake.]

Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Your remark about the Trill made me laugh because I had exactly the same idea when I first heard the name. In Germany also Trill is best known as bird seed. The names of other members of the DS9 cast remind me of a shopping list as well. Quark is a milk product I haven't seen yet in English supermarkets, something like a mixture of yoghurt and cheese; and Odo(l) is a mouthwash you use after brushing your teeth. Is that a coincidence or is more behind that?

To Edwin Yau - Re your views about the elements of the proposed ST II series that are found in TNG. You are of course right, but that doesn't change anything I said. Even if I only compare ST II with Encounter at Farpoint I would see it the other way round: the authors used some ideas from ST II and developed them further in TNG. Deanna and Riker are not copies of Ilia and Decker, they are improvements. I think that Encounter at Farpoint is definitely better than ST:TMP; it immediately started to give interesting insights into the characters. In ST:TMP nearly everything was about this alien being, what it is, what it wants, but very little was done to make the new characters interesting. For me good characterisations are the most important thing in a story and because I missed that in ST:TMP I still think it is the worst Star Trek movie.

I also read that Marina Sirtis was originally going to play the Chief of Security but was given the part as the Counselor at the end. This only confirms to me what I said before - many men still have trouble to imagine a beautiful, feminine woman in

action scenes! It wouldn't matter to me what build the policewoman has when she points her revolver at me - and Deanna is a first class shot as you can see in *A Fistful of Datas*. It seems the producers (or perhaps even Marina herself) are fed up with Deanna being seen as people like you see her. Deanna already changed her hairstyle into something less becoming, although I still like it. In *Chain of Command* she gets a uniform. I regret this, because her nice dresses were something of what made her special, so I hope it is only a temporary change. It would be interesting to see if a mere change of clothing would really mean Deanna is treated more seriously in future - but if so, it's sad that she has to hide who she is. Incidentally Worf said to Vash, "Nice legs - for a Human". He didn't see her as a sex object but only recognised natural beauty, and there is nothing wrong with that.

I didn't say "some women don't watch TNG partly because they like Deanna or that some men don't watch TNG because of Riker". This is absurd! And - oh, yes! You are right, gays and lesbians are watching TNG. We have two good friends we visit quite often, a gay (I prefer the word homosexual) couple who have lived together for a long time and they both like TNG as well. I think they would be annoyed if they read what you wrote.

Tracey Saunders - Westcliff on Sea

I would like to make a comment on the article 'Some People Take Pleasure in That?' I was in the same position just over 14 years ago and I know exactly what the two ladies were talking about. Fortunately (if that is the right word) I was not raped - I was kicked in the head about a dozen times and ended up with epilepsy; just because I wouldn't sleep with him. He got 18 months and I have to bear this for the rest of my life. I have to go and see a psychiatrist or psychologist now, because as my doctor says I have got to stop torturing myself; so I urge those ladies to do the same because as you can see it has taken (and still is) a long time to try and get over it. Let us hope that there will be a future like *Star Trek* predicts where everyone accepts each other - especially people like Riker who totally oppose rape.

To Peter Bayliss - I can well believe that Kirk could hand the *Enterprise* over to Picard. Seeing that I am interested in archaeology, through my reading and observations over the years, people have been living longer because of better medicine etc. When you think that just in the Victorian era you were considered old and useless at 40, and that wasn't all that long ago. So yes, it is possible.

To Edward Woo - Concerning Picard's past, I think it would be very interesting to learn about this, because that way we can understand why he is so uncomfortable where children are concerned and why does he just want to be a Starship Captain and not settle down?

To Robin Day - I can remember how apprehensive we all were when TNG first came on the scene, so how can you say that no-one would be able to replace Picard?

May I finish by saying how interested I am in the different looks between CT Klingons and TNG Klingons. The only answer I could come up with was that maybe unlike our own evolution (from the apes) that there could be two species of Klingon - but then I thought to myself, 'where did the other Klingons get to?' We have never seen them in TNG, have we? So I thought that the only solution must be that there must have been a mass holocaust. I cannot say that evolution was involved because of the time period.

Gratienne Vandekerkhove - Belgium

Re ST VI and the universal translators. As far as I recall, wasn't it mentioned that the UT had been sabotaged, hence it produced nothing but gibberish?

To Edwin Yau - If you feel up to it, I need some clarification here. Are you implying that every female/male watcher who likes Deanna/Riker must automatically be lesbian/gay?

To Sheila Clark - Switching off the life support is also considered to be euthanasia, albeit a passive one. Have you taken into consideration the character of McCoy? He is a very compassionate person, always

thinking he hasn't done enough, always hurting inside so how much more would there be if it happened to his father? The pain must have been beyond endurance, especially when only a couple of months later a cure was found. I don't know if I'd have the courage to do it nor where I would find the strength to face myself afterwards.

If Picard leaves the centre seat, who'd vote for a female Captain? I think it would be a solid basis for good drama.

Fiona Campbell - High Wycombe

I belong to Royal Holloway College - which used to, but does not any more, have a Star Trek group. I was resigned to this when last Thursday I saw a huge poster in the UCL library advertising a showing of The High Ground and a censorship debate - organised by the London University Star Trek group - and then, this week, my newsletter (26) arrives and what is in it? A report from a London Away Team con held in the ULU students' union! So *please* - if there are any London students/IDIC members, please get in touch through the newsletter - or put another poster in the cloakroom of the DMS Watson Library! (Unfortunately I was too late to get to the debate - next time, though!) I'll keep my eyes peeled for posters in the Union, but I don't get in there very often.

Having said all that, the newsletter is as brilliant as ever. I love the new title fonts (please do more 'shadow' ones, they are beautiful, my favourite!) Helen White's con reports must be the mainstay of all recession-hit, not-enough-money-to-bear-the-temptation-of-a-con people! She thoroughly deserves to be a committee assistant, I reckon! Thanks, Helen!

I do wish Edwin Yau would shut up about Troi. Intellectually I can appreciate his points - and he has made them several times now (...doth protest too much??) - but I find the whole subject extremely irritating 'emotionally'(!), especially given Star Trek's dreadful record on sexism (Roddenberry's biggest let down, if you ask me - though I know he *did* try). Sorry, I'm feeling aggressive at the moment because I've got to write my CV next (hate, hate!)

Sara Jackson - Leeds

To Edward Woo - Thanks for supporting me in the Sisko daughter/son debate. I very much enjoyed reading your article regarding siblings, single parents, etc. By the way, did you happen to be hovering outside the Neville Room while A Fistful of Datas was showing?

To Gaile Wood - Excellent article. To Write or not to Write... I can think of only one answer to this - There Is NO Question. In all honesty, I much preferred reading your novel Poppies to slogging through Pocket Books' latest offering - Nightshade.

To Taruka Q - SPOILER ALERT I completely agree regarding Q and Q Continuum rules. Why didn't the Q simply remove Amanda's parent's powers while they indulged themselves in Kansas? They stripped Q of his powers in Deja Q - so why couldn't they render Amanda harmless instead of threatening a melodramatic execution. After all, Q(2) would not let Q wreak retribution on the Calamarain at the end of said episode - so are we to believe that the brother and sisterhood of the Continuum are really going to 'murder' a young girl who is in effect one of their own kind? After seeing Rene Echevarria's excellent The Offspring - what a disappointment True Q has turned out to be.

Lynne Collinson - Portsmouth

I enjoyed N/L 26 very much and the logo looks impressive.

Can anyone tell me why it seems to be the convention to call Geordi La Forge by his first name yet Will Riker by his surname? Is it something to do with rank?

There were lots of references to the speed of light and relativity in the N/L. I always found it difficult to get to grips with the science despite reading Stephen Hawking, until I came across a children's book called The Time and Space of Uncle Albert by R Stoddard which explained it all very simply - even I understood it.

To David Raper - Where do officers on the Enterprise keep their loose change - do

they ever need to use money in TNG? Apart from gambling scenes (The Royale and the episode about being caught in the time loop, the title of which I can never remember (*Ed-Cause and Effect*)) money doesn't seem to have a physical manifestation as far as I can remember. They certainly don't use it in Ten Forward and there are no vending machines.

To Gratiennne Vandekerckhove - I agree that Shelby would be an excellent First Officer. I don't consider her aggressive, merely terse and self-assured; she doesn't suffer fools gladly and speaks her mind - this could give rise to some great scenes with Data in particular.

To Edwin Yau - I watched TNG partly because I like Deanna Troi. Does that make me a lesbian?

Does anyone know what school Marina Sirtis attended?

Celia Wenban-Smith - London

I don't usually write in to the newsletter, but I thought of something I would like to see more of - reviews, both of books and of fanzines. So if anyone out there has burning opinions, I for one am interested. And if I got really motivated, I suppose I could even write some (why should everyone else do all the work?) (*Ed - Sheila tries to review all the new novels and Edward Woo (in particular) reviews a lot of the large format books as they come out. Valerie has reviewed some zines, as have some members. We'd welcome more reviews of novels and especially zines from members - for example, we can't very well review Scotpress/IDIC ones ourselves, can we?*)

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

Firstly, re Jackie Marshall's comments about Picard and how someone had described him as 'moving like a machine'. I think it's not only that Stewart is trying to suggest he's still coming to terms with what happened, I think it's also meant to remind us that Picard had actually *been* part machine - a cyborg. Maybe it would take a while, after having implants removed, for the brain to adjust and your body 'relearn' its former way of moving.

I was amazed to read, in Victoria Law's

con report, that someone had paid £80 at Contagion for an autographed photo of Brent as Data but that you could get one for 'only \$15' at Creation Con. I'm amazed, bearing in mind that if you write to him and ask for a photo, he'll send one personally autographed (ie to your name). Admittedly you have to wait several months but it's worth it.

Talking of Brent brings me to a problem I've had with a club dedicated to him and Data, namely Electronic Male. Before I go on, let me stress that I *don't* hold him responsible in any way for this club's activities. I joined in 1991 and paid, in addition, for a copy of Spinerisms, which they sent. They also sent newsletter 6, dated July 1991, and a list of merchandise available through the club. This included many items I had been trying to obtain for some time. I sent off a banker's order in dollars; after all, they'd sent Spinerisms and my first N/L so I had no reason for thinking this an unacceptable risk. Quite a lot of the stuff I wanted was sold out so, thinking there would be more stuff and considering the bank charges I had already incurred, I asked them to keep the balance on the slate. Joyce McDonald, the club president, sent me a receipt for it - \$60 - and I thought all was O.K. I heard nothing for several months and wrote on June 10 last year asking about N/L 7 and other merchandise for sale. Ms McDonald replied on June 22 apologising and enclosing a photo of Brent and *another copy of N/L 6*. I wrote on July 13 asking again for N/L 7 and, for the first time, requesting the return of my money as a sterling banker's order. There was no reply but on 18th November I got issue 8/9 which referred to difficulties in distributing issue 7. I wrote on December 14 asking again for issue 7 and my \$60 and enclosing a photocopy of the receipt. I said if she did not return the money by the end of Jan '93 I would lay the facts before the membership of various clubs. As you can infer, I have had no reply. Could anyone who is a member of EM write in and let me know of their experiences? I'm just wondering if I'm the only one or this is a regular occurrence. Whichever, it brings fandom into disrepute.

On with the N/L. There were some

very interesting and thought-provoking articles in N/L 26. I thought perhaps 'Some People Take Pleasure in That?' could also have extended to cover Most Toys which I think is very much about dehumanisation. Data's personhood is denied, he's treated as an exhibit or exotic pet, and his defiance punished by retaliation against others - emotional blackmail. I also found Stephen Shaw's article on homophobia interesting; what is the title of the script in question? I haven't seen either The Host or The Outcast yet, but as described, the latter in particular sounds pretty retrograde. If it's talking about an illness etc, that sounds like the 50s/60s view of homosexuality. It's a pity if they don't have the nerve to challenge such attitudes - after all, Classic Trek stuck its neck out on birth control and other sensitive issues and that was in the 60s and on network TV. You'd think they could be a bit braver in the 90s and in syndication, but I suppose it ties in with the attitude to women characters as well.

Kevin Peters - Gosport

I'd like to endorse Gaile Wood's article in N/L 26 (there's a person who's going to succeed). This rumour about not being allowed to write ST:DS9 fan fiction is ludicrous. And as Gaile noted, how the hell do Paramount intend to enforce such a ban? *[Ed - we have further word on this elsewhere in the N/L]*

Further to this, I've noted that all that has happened (is happening) has occurred since the death of Gene. I seriously doubt that ST:DS9 would ever have got off the drawing board if Gene had been alive. Paramount decide they are unable to make the sort of profits they would like from Gene's versions of Star Trek, so, drawing on Gene's Star Trek fan base as ready-made consumers, they create a Star Trek related show that they have *full* control over, from production through to *total* merchandising, professional *and* amateur.

I realise this is something of a cynical attitude to take, but looking at Paramount's general treatment of anything Star Trek related since the death of Gene I'm afraid I'm unable to adopt any other attitude. The Star Trek Office disgrace is a point in hand.

And what of conventions in this country? I am certain, positive even, that before very long we are going to have purely profit-motivated commercial conventions, as they have in the States. They will be run as a business *by* business. Unfortunately, of course, they are going to prove immensely successful. With the birth of ST:TNG, and now ST:DS9, Paramount has a brand new, massive fan market just waiting for something like a commercial, soulless convention. There must be literally thousands in this country alone who have never even heard of Star Trek clubs and conventions, but a commercial convention will make very sure that 'Joe/Jill Bloggs' knows about their conventions. Attendance, I'm sure, will be tremendous. And once that happens, the old, comfortable, fan-run conventions will take a nose-dive. You can be sure, also, that these conventions will be based *only* at venues that can support such massive numbers, and that will probably mean more and more conventions taking place in and around London.

Still, there is a positive side to all of this. We are getting more Star Trek. More movies, more new episodes of ST:TNG and, of course, a brand new series, DS9. I only hope that it all proves to be worth the losses.

Ann Peters - Kidderminster

To Dave Smith - What about a badge saying 'I'm in IDIC - talk to me'? If you spot me at Warp One, please do talk to me.

To Russell Witheyman - SPOILER ALERT. Well spotted. Man of the People and Sarek did show exactly the same thing - except in one it was portrayed as a bad thing and in the other as a good thing. Picard was certainly used as a receptacle for bad (by Vulcan standards) emotions every bit as much as Troi, but Sarek had permission, so I suppose that makes the difference.

To David Raper - Brent Spiner's answer to your questions (from con appearances) is that Data's cat came from a replicator - he just popped in a cat chip - and that Spot was the actor cat's real name.

To Neil Barrett - I found the 'Irish'

characters in Long Ladder hilarious - they contrasted superbly with the super-technical Enterprise. And I loved the sentiment that women do the work in this world while the men enjoy themselves - very true in many cultures. What I didn't like was the clones - they are boring and unbelievable. Why was 'replicative fading' a problem? Several animal and bird species have successfully built up thriving populations from just a few individuals. All the clones had to do was mix up the genes a little, and if they weren't smart enough to do it in a test tube, ordinary sex would have done the trick.

Re the Salt Monster - When a writer creates a villain, he makes it believable by giving it believable motivation, but if the motivation is such that it generates sympathy in the audience, then the writer has failed to create a true villain. For me, this is what happened in Man Trap. The salt monster acted out of a desperate need for survival and has my full sympathy, and the writers went on to develop a situation which was inappropriate for the villain they had created. It is true that Crater lied and must take part of the blame, as must Spock and McCoy who, between them, actually killed the creature, but Kirk is the Captain of the ship and in charge of the mission, so his attitude controls the situation and the overall responsibility, as written, is his. Kirk did conduct himself much more commendably in Arena and Devil in the Dark (eventually!) and I thoroughly approve of these episodes, but that does not excuse his behaviour in Man Trap.

Stephen Shaw - Stockport, Cheshire

ats seem to be recurring recently... at RecCon, DC Fontana suggested that people who like SF like cats more than people who do not... from letters published in IDIC, this does seem to be the case...

To Ann Peters - re 'anonymous sex objects' - a mild disagreement. There are good and bad examples of every art form and worthwhile textual pornography has very deeply developed female characters. They may or may not be credible or worthwhile in a feminist sense, but not anonymous. The 'genre' by its very nature encourages 'hacks' and poor quality, while distribution problems

and low expectations (and social limitations) limit the promotion of 'good quality'.

To Karen & Taruka - Am I the only one who dislikes the constant humiliation of one character by another on TV? Constant shouting and bickering (is your family like that?) Seriously - there are an awful lot of traumatised people walking around who get no counselling or help. Even witnessing less than a minute's total violence (with no-one hurt) can cause sufficient trauma to produce nightmares five years later. If you see an old lady get knifed while out shopping, what sort of counselling do you get (if you think about it at the time?) And to BE a victim, possibly of extended domination, is really nasty.

As reviewing a traumatic experience can be very unpleasant, I am not too sure if H/C type stories can be a good idea, but for anyone NOT having experienced a serious hurtful episode (anyone?) a good, well-written story could perhaps help them sympathise/empathise better with victims - maybe with an emphasis on counselling?

Perhaps a victim locked away in shock and the cause has to be found? A victim reacting oddly to an apparently innocent incident, and a cause for the odd reaction needing to be found? The TNG episode Violations came pretty close, but more can be done. And there are very, very few serious attempts to deal with the reasons a long term victim IS long term, the failures of society and the 'hostage syndrome'.

Ian Colbert - Birmingham

I have read with interest the comments of Peter Poole in N/L 26 on why Enterprise does not have the cloaking device, and it isn't because of any problems of compatibility. Nor would it be available on other classes of vessel, closer to the neutral zone. In Enterprise Incident they stole one *and used it* - and that's a Trek 'fact'. No, it's far simpler than that.

A stealth aircraft in our real world is a first strike weapon. Just look to Iraq's ruined air defences of a couple of years ago for that. If you carry a weapon on the street, you will use it to threaten any mugger who comes up

to you. If a dictator picks on your friends and using the F117 will save lives, you'll do it every time. But Starfleet - in itself controlled by the UFP - would morally and legally be barred from carrying a cloak on any of its vessels.

You can reasonably assume cloaking devices could be stored at various outposts or starbases to 'hand out' if the 'enemy' (in whatever series, ST or TNG) attacked. But unlike our real world, Starfleet - in our viewpoint the 'good guys in white hats' - would never be given the opportunity to shoot first, because they are a more highly advanced and ethical civilisation than we are. Sad - but true, I'm afraid.

Jean Sloan - Liverpool

To Dave Smith - First Contact is one of my favourite episodes. I remember seeing it for the first time at a con on the big screen, and being stunned by it. However, I have a friend who objects very strongly to the premise of Observers spying on a race the way Riker does. Does anyone else feel the same way she does?

Edward Woo - Guess Where I Come From?

I am very, very proud of that city, Neil J Barrett. I think you misunderstood the idea of my various names for the city. Instead of just writing 'Liverpool' I tried to be a bit more creative by identifying various symbols of the city.

To Kathleen Glancy - Thanks for your appreciation of my articles, Single Parents, etc. There's a small correction, it's 'Edward' Woo, not 'Edwin' - not to confuse me with Edwin (Eddie) Yau of Brighton. *[Ed - Oops! It might have been our mistake. If it wasn't, we should have noticed it. Sorry.]* I enjoyed your poem about Helen - very witty.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I thought we had seen quite a few female admirals but the thing that is missing is middle line officers. We get the female top brass or the low-down Ensign. It's the middle ground - the most prominent area - that is missing. A female Captain is a real rarity in TNG.

Odo in one DS9 episode describes

himself as sitting inside a bucket behind his desk - it's a great one-liner!

To Robin Day - I like your idea of son of Sulu as the new Captain of the Enterprise if Admiral Picard leaves the captaincy. This sort of leaves the bridge command crew the same. Another alternative as suggested by Simon Plumbe is to promote Riker, Data would be First Officer, Geordi La Forge Operations Officer and Scotty back as Chief Engineer!

To David Raper - Security is not a question of size but of speed, technique and the ability to read the situation. That's how a good officer is made.

To Bill Murphy - Go to Contagion 93 to find the experience of a ST con.

To Gratiennne Vandekerckhove - If a problem arises the saucer and star drive sections could be separated. However, losing the main saucer does lose the main top and bottom phaser rings though the star drive is the superior weapons platform.

To Dave Smith and the IDIC committee - For relatively new con attendees would it be possible to have a club meeting at Warp One or Contagion so we could put more faces to names and break the ice? I'll be at Warp One and any new ST members can introduce themselves to me as I'll be (maybe) the only Chinese Trekker there.

To those who know me from past cons - you can correspond with me at the following address - Edward Woo, 553 Smithdown Rd, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 5AF, Merseyside.

Maggie Symon - Fochabers

To Simon Plumbe - Whatever happened to the spirit of IDIC? I'm sorry if I offended you with my comment about your zine-on-a-disc, it *was* merely meant as an illustration as the only tangible example nowadays of what we see in ST - and an idle comment at that!

I am sorry to contradict you again, but the medium something comes on is important

to some - as someone who spends 75% of her working day staring at a computer screen working on text, DTP, Graphics, CAD, Animation... the last thing I need at night is staring at a computer screen with text, DTP, Graphics, CAD, Animation... even if it is ST. And what's more, you can't take a computer to bed! (Well, you could try... but I can think of better things.) My idle comment was purely subjective on my own experience; but reading a zine on a disc would be like work to me! I didn't pass any judgement - all I said was, I won't be buying it. I can't see people not buying in droves because I say so! a) I don't have access to an Amiga b) I would find it more like work than fun regardless of content!

To Peter Poole - Re the cloaking device article. In Relics they had difficulty converting between Scotty's ship and the Enterprise-D - wouldn't that be akin to your AC-DC? Perhaps they have overtaken the plumbing till the drains don't work? Joking aside, I agree the standard excuse isn't much good and yours are much more feasible.

To the Con discussion - I think any committee who takes on running a con deserves a medal for doing it; if it weren't for them we wouldn't have any at all! But I always understood there was an unspoken agreement that they try and find hotels as central to the whole of Britain as possible, thereby stopping a north/South divide. I understand the problems of finding suitable accommodation; in situation, size - and especially price. And I have heard that London hotels are cheaper over the bank holiday weekends. I'd really mourn if we suddenly had cons all over the place and didn't have the two major cons to focus on - all the friends I'd miss seeing because we are all going to our closest con. I believe the business meeting system has worked fine all these years and should be able to now, except - as some people pointed out - that it is closed to everyone not attending the con. I personally can't think of a feasible way round that that is easy to set up and run year after year.

Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent

Reading N/L 26's postbag I think I

may have offended one or two people. This was not my intent; my point of view was put forward in a more eloquent way by John Stubley (N/L 26) / Basically, as John says, in the films (and especially in the novels) of CT the characters and relationships are far more matured and developed than in the TV series. This was what I was trying to say. In quoting a few examples I just seem to have upset people. Sorry!

To Russell Witheyman & Taruka Quauhtezcatl - SPOILER ALERT I saw True-Q at LATcon and thought that it was brilliant, especially the shadow thing (what was it?) that gave Q his orders. So far all that is really known about Q comes from his boasting, which cannot really be considered a reliable source. If Q were truly omnipotent, Picard would not be able to thwart him so often, and Q would have no real need to show off. True-Q has given us another and perhaps more accurate perspective.

To Liz Tuckett- At LATcon I very much enjoyed the opportunity to watch videos I had not seen before and while not wishing to undermine the efforts of the organising committee, I agree with your observation that it was not a way to mix with a variety of fans. Who did you find to speak to who would reply? I managed conversations with only four people; one was a lady on her own who seemed very lonely, the second person was trying to sell me photographs, the third was the barman and the last one was the friend with whom I had travelled up. I tried to speak to lots of other people but the responses I got varied from being totally ignored to getting an embarrassed smile. It seemed as though most people had come with a friend or two and were not going to speak to me. As an introduction to the fellowship of fandom, LATcon was discouraging to say the least.

I agree wholeheartedly with your comments about children. As there were no creche facilities and because we couldn't arrange babysitters my wife Tina agreed reluctantly to stay at home with our two children, although she wanted to go to the con. Had we taken our children they would have spoiled the day for everyone. It is a sad

fact of having young children that they are noisy, easily bored and that they do limit your ability to go out.

Paramount won't allow ST:DS9 zines? So what? The N/L carries a message saying that it is illegal to offer videos for sale. Need I say more? *[Ed - That's not quite accurate. Anyone can offer a CIC video for resale. What's illegal is to offer copies of CIC videos or episodes taped from TV. Strictly speaking, taping and keeping a video from TV, even for your own use, is illegal, but since everyone does it all they can do is jump on pirate copying of these.]*

Marion Pritchard - Plymouth

Re ST VII - Leaving the cinema after watching ST VI I had a really good feeling inside me about the graceful and fun way the 'old' crew were bowing out, and hearing about ST VII has put me between a rock and a hard place; on one hand I would love ST to go on for ever, but on the other hand I thought TUC was so good it would be a very tough one to follow or even to beat. Whatever happens, I already know we will go and watch it in uniform, etc, but in the meantime I will definitely keep my fingers crossed. I am looking forward to DS9, though!

Ordering things from the USA: we have done so a few times and have found that when we had things sent surface mail, we usually were not charged any extra costs. (Luck?) Once I had a belt buckle sent over which cost \$13. As I was in a hurry to receive it (it was a birthday present for a friend) it came by air mail, and I had to pay £12 on top. So even though surface mail can take up to 4 weeks, it has definitely been the cheaper thing to do so far. *[Ed: Surface Mail can take up to 3 months.]*

To Janet Quarton - Yes, the location of cons can be a problem. As I live in Plymouth, any con is a problem to get to; even though travelling to some places is quite easy, everything is far away, so I do sympathise with you. We have to choose which cons we go to, because of the time (as a teacher I can't just travel earlier or stay on) and the expenses involved.

To Jean Sloan - I too was at the Rec-

Con business meeting and the London bid was an excellent one. The quality of the presentation and of their representative was highly professional and convincing, and left little chance to the other committees, however hard they tried. However, I do agree with people when they say that two major cons in London is unfortunate. It would be nice to have events all over the country, especially my part of the UK, and we have tried very hard to advertise our Plymouth con in the south-west and Cornwall. The response from Cornwall has always been very disappointing. If any Cornish members have any idea how we could improve matters, I would be more than grateful.

To Pam Baddeley - As a teacher I do realise that boys later catch up with the girls, but this still leaves me wondering where all the girls are when it comes to allocating the good or top jobs... (Any comment, Lloyd Lewis?)

To Kay Staggs - I was very relieved to read your reaction to my 'cliquey cons' as I was a bit worried about possibly having offended people. After my first bad experience I did meet people and recognised others and now see familiar faces at most cons I go to. This social aspect is one of the most important reasons to go there in the first place.

Helen Cakebread - Coventry

Could I say how much I enjoy reading Encounters and Countermoves by Nicole Comtet.

I know they can never take the place of Kirk and Spock, but it's a shame they never brought another young Captain and mysterious First Officer into TNG. I think that's what I miss in TNG as both are Humans; no secrets, no hidden mystery that comes out. I am not saying another Vulcan, but an alien one could first hate, then love, because of his/her ways; and there must be other young Captains who made the grade.

Also, could I say when I went to see ST VI I enjoyed just seeing them, but after reading all the letters I wonder if I did see the film! As for the kitchen scene, my view is,

why shouldn't there be one, as remember in Amok Time Christine Chapel made Spock some soup, and Dr McCoy said, "I bet you made it yourself," and she gave him a weak smile. Surely if it had come from a machine she would not take credit for pressing a button. I could understand on TNG not having a kitchen, for that Enterprise is more advanced, though when Troi asked for a real chocolate drink and the computer could not make it, I gathered that it did not have any.

But I wonder; even if they have millions of recipes, new ones are also being made. Who tastes these or makes them so they can be programmed, as not everyone has the same tastes. New aliens, too - what do they eat?

I miss not seeing more of sickbay, and I do miss the closeness between Kirk, Spock and McCoy after all they've been through. Here's hoping they make another movie for all to treasure.

Nicole Comtet - France

Well, all I can say is that Gloria's hilarious article "Naked Times" published in N/L 25, has triggered a profusion of witty comments and of speculation, which is not surprising considering the fascinating points that she brought back to our memories. One thing had me truly baffled, however; the reference to Chippendales in the title, a reference taken up by Lee Sansome in her "Chippendale Theory" in N/L 26. This really puzzled me, as I could not possibly see the connection between Jim Kirk's hefty physique and the rococo type of mahogany furniture known as Chippendale over here. I was about to ask for an explanation in the next IDIC N/L when... surprise! I spotted the name 'Chippendale' in my TV magazine and the mystery was unravelled; one of our TV channels had programmed "for the benefit of its feminine audience" a show of male strip tease performed by American experts, the Chippendales! Everything became clear, and on reading again Gloria's and Lee's articles, I can better appreciate their descriptions and comments. I have not watched the Chippendales, as strip tease, male or female, is not my cup of tea - with one notable exception, however; the few topless

crewmembers of the Enterprise, namely the Captain whose uniform is decidedly of the poorest quality, the Chief Helmsman who strips when not in his right mind, and last, but not least, the First Officer who appears in all his glory only once, but long enough for us to appreciate. You won't be surprised, Linda, when I say how much I share your opinion and find Spock's physique much more appealing than that of his Captain. Question of taste. I prefer the straight, slim lines of our Vulcan to the curved, plumpish figure of the Human. Seen in profile, the difference is striking. But The Chippendale Theory by Lee Sansome has opened new perspectives to me. Her comments, drawn from close observation and from various angles, of Spock's physique have prompted me to watch him carefully and indeed I quite agree; in Spock, the rear view is as fascinating as the front view.

Now a short comment on the subject of conventions and some TNG fans' misbehaviour. With the release of the new series DS9, I wonder how the committees will cope with the demands of the TNG fans and the DS9 fans who will be in fierce competition for the use of the video rooms, as now so many new fans seem to attend the conventions only to watch videos. And what about the survivors, what about us, original ST fans? Although we paid the same fee at conventions, we have had to satisfy ourselves with a simple TV set in a small room; and now will there be any room left for us at all? Perhaps the broom closet?

Jennifer Blanchard - Guildford

Immeasurable gratitude to all at IDIC. What pleasure my first two N/Ls and some back issues I acquired have given me!

What a wonderful age range there is in the membership, and a perfect format for the newsletter. As the membership (and N/L?) continues to grow, would it be an idea to offer six months terms of membership? We know it is incredible value for money, but if you have to increase the subs some people may be put off investigating the club. I intended to join several ST fan clubs, but IDIC is offering me more than I imagined several would do! [Janet: we'll accept variable memberships at £1.50

per newsletter U.K. Overseas: one sixth of annual sub per newsletter.]

To Dave Lee/ Ann Peters - Fazo definitely 'had designs' on Data in The Most Toys (fantastic episode), although I didn't pick up on that on first viewing.

Does anyone else have different favourites for the films and series? Spock has been my favourite for over 20 years (yipes!) but in the films I most enjoy Scotty, Sulu and Uhura - although I love them as old friends in the series, they are totally enchanting in the films.

On TNG costumes - Yuck! I like the jumpsuits in the first two seasons. The two piece costumes are unexciting and unflattering. What a waste. My vote goes to Kirk & Co in their first season, especially the trousers.

William March - Atherstone, Warwickshire

To Michael Sadler - I agree with you, 'where does the water come from for that waterfall' in the cave scene in ST II; but even more than that, how can you have a sun inside a cave? The Genesis Device creates life on a dead planet, not a whole new star!

To Peter Bayliss - About Kirk handing the Enterprise over to Picard. When it says about this, it doesn't mean about him legally transferring command to Picard, it is really more of a story of Kirk accepting that Picard is a good successor for him and that he accepts that Picard is worthy of carrying on the captaincy of the Enterprise. Even if this story was written, I don't think William Shatner would do this as he doesn't think he should be involved with or crossed over with TNG. If there *was* a crossover story I definitely think it would not be in TNG's time; it would have to be a time travel story. I agree with you that there should be more Classic Trek movies.

To all Trekkers - I've found out about a Star Trek shop in Blackpool. *[Ed - You said you'd include the address, William, but you forgot.]*

Karen Davies & Rebekah Owens - Birmingham

After watching the episode Silicon Avatar, we have been wondering why it is called that, as according to the dictionaries we've checked, 'avatar' means 'descent of deity (godlike figure) to Earth in incarnate form'. We assume the 'avatar' refers to the crystal entity, and as far as we can tell, nowhere in the episode is the crystal entity referred to as 'godlike', only as a life form in its own right. We reckon the title would be more likely to be associated with someone like Khan who does consider himself to be godlike. So does the word 'avatar' have a different meaning in America or have we got the wrong end of the stick?

We also disagree that there is a lack of strong women in TNG - as far as we're concerned there have been plenty. Dr Pulaski, Keyhlar, Sela, Lursa and B'tor all spring to mind, not to mention quite a few female Captains and Admirals. At least the women in TNG aren't shown in soft focus like in Classic Trek (yuk!) - so far only Devil in the Dark, a brilliant episode, has been without a bimbo in lingering soft focus.

Keren Breen - Neath, W Glamorgan

Thank you for N/L 26. I want to congratulate Janet on her driving test; it took me five attempts spread out over nearly ten years before I got my licence, and my admiration for first-time passers is sincere, believe me. *[Janet - Thanks, Keren. But to be honest I still don't like driving.]*

To everyone - I fully expect this N/L to contain an apology from Lloyd Lewis re his remarks about clever women. Lloyd has a somewhat unfortunate sense of humour, and I'm sure he'll reassure us all that he was only joking, honest! Otherwise, I would like to point out that I Know Where He Lives. I'm sure you take my meaning. (P.S. I AM joking; I think!)

To Edwin Yau - chatting to some of the 8 and 9 year olds in my class reveals that Deanna Troi is a favourite character among them. They see her as clever, kind and brave as well as pretty, and would like to be like her. Beverly is too motherly; Tasha was a bit

too military. I must say that I was surprised at the answers I got when I asked the questions because I expected them to like Wesley, or Riker, or Data. I also wonder if we're confusing sexism with honest, wholesome interest in the opposite sex. I agree that Marina Sirtis probably got the part of Deanna partly because of the way she looks, but why not? It probably didn't hurt Jonathan Frakes' chances of playing Riker that he is, to quote a friend, 'ever so dishy'! If the women in the show were brainless bimbos or there to scream, faint and be rescued by the menfolk, or get the ship into danger by doing something cute, feminine and completely daft, *that* would be sexist. By the way, has anyone actually said that the turquoise dress and leggings Troi wears isn't a special Counselor's uniform?

Talking about Bev, and returning to the 'which doctor (no pun!) do you like best' debate, I think whoever it was who made the comment about 'being nursed back to health' by Bev was being quite revealing. It is not a Doctor's job to nurse anybody; that is a Nurse's task. A nurse is not a doctor who didn't get the right A-levels but a professional with very different skills and a different job description. Most nurses I know have no wish to be doctors. And I would rather have Pulaski supervising my treatment, please.

To Elaine Webb - the song in question is "Aupres de ma Blonde, il fait bon, fait bon, fait bon, Aupres de ma Blonde, qu'il fait bon dormir", which roughly - very roughly - translated is all about how nice it is to sleep in the vicinity of the singer's fair-haired girl friend. Sorry, I don't know the verses, but Dorothy L Sayers quotes from it in *Busman's Holiday*, and I seem to remember one was about birds.

About a campaign to get Sky TV and the BBC to show seasons 4 & 5 of TNG; I can't see Sky giving up an advantage just because we want to see TNG on broadcast TV. You want to see TNG? You get a dish or buy the videos. Sky bought the rights because they believe it will be an incentive to potential viewers, and they aren't about to throw that away.

To Gloria Fry - While ST was in the forefront when it came to women being treated on an equal footing with men, I am compelled to point out that a female political head of state was not unprecedented; Mrs Bandaranaike was President of Sri Lanka in 1960.

To Amiga owners - I don't have any clip art as such, but I do have a portrait of Picard I'm rather pleased with, plus the 'outline' (the first stage of the drawing) that I began with. I'll happily send you a copy if you send me a disc (49 King St, Neath, SA11 1PF). I'm no Tobias Richter, though.

To Robin Day - Concerning the likelihood of Riker's being given command of the Enterprise - on the face of it, it would seem unlikely he would be given the Enterprise as his first command. However, I can't believe that Kirk could have had another command before the Enterprise, either, if he's 34 at the time of *The Deadly Years*. And the original Enterprise wasn't exactly a tugboat, was she?

K'tan Vestai Kuragan - KAG Scotland

To Gaile Wood - Any knobbly bit you want to run your fingers through! You may even find out what a Scottish Klingon wears under his kilt if you are lucky (a few people at Starbase 93 found out!) I'll try to make Warp One - you bring the lettuce leaves!

To David J Raper - A Klingon finds funny - 1) playing football with tribbles, 2) cutting the ear tips off Vulcans, Romulans and Ferengi, and 3) falling over the set at the STV studios in Glasgow at Telethon. (I was that Klingon.)

To Frances Abernethy - Hope you're wearing that badge I saw you buy at Final Frontier. Naughty, naughty!

To Shirley Shatner - The address for Second Skin is High Croft, 63 Town St, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 9DT.

To Edward Woo - Remember, Edward, a Klingon NEVER forgets. Remember your kilt for Contagion! (Anyone who would like to see Edward Woo in a kilt at Contagion

please write in to the newsletter.)

Chris Bailey - Didcot, Oxon

O.K., hands up who else has read the recent full-page colour display advertisement in The News of the World Sunday Supplement Magazine, which shows the absolutely stunning gold and silver plated Classic Trek chess set. Each piece is made from pewter and plated with either 22 carat gold or sterling silver, and this on a lead crystal base! Phew! All very nice, really, apart from the cost. Each piece will set you back a 'mere' £29.50, which works out at a total cost of £944! I wonder if the price includes a board to play it on... [Ed: Yes it does.]

To Barbara Ellams - Re my article Beam Me Up, Scotty (N/L 25) which was in response to your earlier request for specific information on this subject (N/L 24); having recently watched ST IV (The Voyage Home) on TV, I was rather amused to hear Captain Kirk utter those very four words, albeit as follows "Scotty, beam me up". Of course, in my original episode search for those 'immortalised' four words, I had not taken into account the six feature films, even though they could be considered as 'Classic' Trek due to them consisting of Classic Trek actors/actresses etc. But there you are, I stand corrected in this respect.

To B Proctor - I agree with you that Kirk cannot possibly hand over the reins of command to Picard; this is blatantly ridiculous and would be a bad mistake, but knowing Paramount, one cannot be sure which way they'll go.

To Gratienne Vandekerkhove and others on this subject - Re children on board Galaxy Class starships. The whole point which you and everyone else seems to be skirting around is the 'real' reason for having youngsters aboard. Put simply, it is a form of 'guaranteed' insurance in the event of a partial/full ship systems failure whilst out on a far mission, which allows the survivors the very real chance to survive and grow into a viable colony, providing an inhabitable planet is at hand. It's as simple as that.

Dee Lee - Hounslow, Middlesex

To Neil J Barratt - there may be an awful lot of 20th Century women who can't tell the difference between 'assertive' and 'aggressive' but may I most respectfully point out that there are some 20th century men who also have some difficulty in distinguishing between a woman being 'assertive' rather than 'aggressive' as well.

To Taruka Q - I think Ensign Ro would probably frighten Wesley Crusher to death. But you write it...and I'll read it. And no more strong female ALIEN characters? It seems like Bajoran females are overrunning the Universe at present, what with Ro AND Kira (DS9)...Okay, so two. But this is Star Trek.

To Gloria Fry - I recently completed a writing course, and I think can quite honestly say that one of the most useful things I gleaned from it was that women seem to have a greater ability to empathise with male characters than men with female characters. Don't all shout at once, I know this is not true for ALL men (I would not dare say such a thing without qualifying it, having read 'Question of Judgement' by Mr P J Poole, knowing he may well read this!) but I think it may in some way explain the way heroic male figures still predominate on TV, and in books, even today.

George Haggarty, Rutherglen

To Katrina Heintz - With regard to an enforceable Governing Body for all conventions; how would this work? I know what my reaction would be to someone telling us not to hold Contagion because there were too many cons happening in the North that particular year. In a bidding system there will always have to be losers.

To Janet Quarton - I think a Business Meeting rule about the location of the Official Conventions is an excellent idea for us fans in the North! If you were to put the motion forward at Warp One, I'd certainly vote for it.

Thanks also for explaining so clearly just why conventions like Contagion don't bid to hold an official con. Quite simply, we have nothing to gain and everything to lose by bidding at a business meeting, under the current rules. At Sol III last year, a bid was

put in for a British Convention to be held at the Hospitality Inn in Glasgow. As we all know, the vote went to London. Had this been Contagion bidding, the Business Meeting rules would have prevented us from organising a Summer Convention for that year and many Scottish fans would have been deprived of a convention to attend.

To Lee Sansome - Regarding your comments in n/l 24 about the abundance of Star Trek cons. I don't think that Contagion's closeness in timing to both of the official conventions is a problem or is likely to undermine their continuing.

Silvercon in 91 was attended by 750 fans. Of that figure almost 85% of the attendees were Scottish, and for 70% of them it was their first Star Trek convention. Contagion '92 attracted approximately 800 fans (just over half of whom were Scots). We also had to turn away almost 200 local Glasgow people who tried to register on the door because we had reached our capacity. Contagion '93 is being held in a bigger hotel which can accommodate around 1,000 attendees.

I feel that on the whole, Contagion is aimed a different group of fans from the official cons. The Contagion Committee also organise The Away Team - the Glasgow local group. The Away Team attracts approximately 450 people from all over Scotland and the north of England to its Sunday meetings every 6 weeks or so. This group tends to form the core of people who attend Contagion each year.

To Shirley Shatner - I don't think British Cons will ever turn into the type the Americans have to endure. The fan network in the UK is too active and with it for Creation or any of their counterparts to succeed over here.

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

To Lee Sansome - Thank you for the delightful response 'The Chippendale Theory' (NL26) to my 'Naked Times' article (NL25). You really made me laugh and I am delighted that I helped you resolve why Kirk had no chest hair when he got out of the swimming

pool in your story. The theory of the poor farm boy earning his way through the Academy as an exotic dancer is a true American rags to riches tale. It just makes you feel good all over, but I still prefer your other idea about the tribble.

To Kay Staggs - I was interested in what you said about the cliqueness at conventions. At my first Con two years ago, I was glad I had the company of my daughter for I knew very few there. Many people do seem to go on their own and it must be difficult if no-one talks to them.

To Stephen Shaw - Your article 'Homophobia' (NL26) was most interesting. I personally feel that in the 23rd and 24th century, homosexuality would be completely accepted, and no big issue. Lets face it, with all the multi-species marriages or bondings or whatever shown in Original Trek like Sarek and Amanda, Zephram Cochrane and the Companion, Decker and V'Ger, any relationships between members of the same species would be quite normal.

Edwin Yau - HOVE, Sussex

To Gaile Wood (and everyone else) - all I'm saying is that for myself, the best TNG episodes always seem to be the very dramatic ones with an underlying moral, like many of the TOS episodes were. The TNG season 3 episode "The High Ground" rates as THE greatest TNG episode ever to date IMHO. No other TNG episode can touch it for its content. The characters on Rutia 4 were fighting for something they strongly believed in. The story had passion, beliefs and drama of a magnitude not seen in other TNG stories. It bought TNG down to Earth with a thump and made me really feel for both sides - this would have made a great 2 part episode.

What TNG is missing more than anything else is the passion. The problem lies in the fact that TNG is reflecting Gene Roddenberry's view of the universe more so than TOS did. Now, there is nothing wrong with this idea, but what is wrong is that by the 24th century the universe isn't so exciting. It's too peaceful and loving - the adventures and frontiers paved by the Starfleet of the 23rd century has gone.

Think of TOS like man landing on the moon. My mother was still 4-5 months pregnant with me when man landed on the the moon. Watching the historic occasion now, I am still moved, as I am watching TOS or the Trek movies. Watching a shuttle mission doesn't bring the same passion, like watching TNG.

The TOS cast had "Human" feelings. They acted like many people today would do in various situations and so I can identify with the characters. In TNG, this "Human" factor is missing a lot of the time. The only decent characters on the show are Picard, Worf and Data, though I was shocked to hear Picard being mean to their 22nd century guest in "A Matter Of Time". Even the Klingons/Romulans are more interesting than Starfleet. They still show signs of the 23rd century passions. It's these sort of passions and feelings which drive us forward now, and will always do so.

Finally, I've recently seen the TNG episode "Face Of The Enemy", and I'll take back some of what I said about Troi in my letter in the last issue. The episode was a brilliant piece of SF; the first decent Troi story I've ever seen, and I'll put it up there as one of my favourite TNG episodes.

Helen White - Bracknell, Berks

To Sheila Clark - I agree with you about McCoy's father; euthanasia is actively killing someone/some animal for humane reasons, which is not what McCoy was doing.

To Martin Helsdon - Thank you, thank you, thank you! "The events in (STV) are almost entirely an hallucination...." At last, an explanation....

To Gratiennne Vandekerkhove - Plan D = panic!... Actually, there now is a plan D, which will come into play for my Warp One con report (providing I remember to use it, of course; May is a way off yet!) and I'm not giving any more away....

To Lt Comm Katan Vestai Kuragan - is there a Klingon-Japanese-English phrasebook yet?

To Russell Witheyman - SPOILER ALERT (although there's not much to 'spoil' in my opinion) Hooray! Somebody else who thought that True Q was dire. I, too, found it terribly disappointing and contradictory; it's a great shame, as I love Q episodes generally.

To Jason Wells - Conventions are actually extremely good value for money. I've just been on a three-day course (for work) at a hotel; it cost £90 per night! (And no, I didn't have to pay, thank goodness.) As for the con registration fee, well, I think it's cheap for what you get (note to con committees: this doesn't mean I want to pay more, mind you!) Anyway, there are an increasing number of one-day cons, which obviously cut the costs considerably; try going to one, then you'll be in a better position to comment.

To Shirley Shatner - Hightower Crafts 'do' Vulcan ears, but I'm afraid that I can't find their address.

To Sue Jones - I can do you an embroidery chart if you like; drop me a line and tell me what you'd like (my address is on the back of the n/l).

Other stuff: re original Trek - rewatching the episodes I quite often find myself thinking, 'what a dreadfully obvious set', but I still always see the Enterprise crew, not a bunch of actors. THAT is the magic of Star Trek.

How to get 'into' groups of fans at a con; go up, look nervous, shuffle about a bit and then ask where something is, eg a video room. This often starts up a conversation. Failing that, ask someone if it's their first con; whether it is or not, you'll probably get chatting.

Janet Quarton - Lochgilphead, Argyll

I am a bit concerned about the way TNG seems to be going. Of the latest episodes, Face of the Enemy is 90% about Troi, Tapestry is 95% Picard/Q and the next two-parter seems to be about Data and Worf and a crossover with DS9. I fear that the producers are more concerned with their baby, DS9, and that TNG may become a poor relation.

Now that Sky One has bought TNG & DS9 I expect there will be an out-cry from a lot of fans but while I sympathise with them I feel I should say something on Sky's behalf. Sky have done far more for Star Trek fans than the BBC ever did. They have screened original Trek and TNG twice a night, five nights a week. They showed the full version of the 25th Anniversary Special, first on the pay Movie Channel and then on Sky One whereas the BBC have still only shown a cut version. They showed the TNG episode High Ground which the BBC have banned. And as far as I know the ST movies they have shown have been uncut. They have also just shown Unification on the movie channel. If Sky had not bought DS9 there is no guarantee that either BBC or ITV would have bought it. If Sky strip TNG 5 nights a week then they could show seasons 4, 5 & 6 in approximately 15 weeks whereas the BBC would take 75 weeks.

Yes, you have to pay for a satellite system. I rent my system for £14.99 a month - so for the price of 3 episodes of TNG from CIC I can see 20 episodes on Sky plus everything else on Astra. There is talk about Sky One becoming a pay channel and TV Zone says the charge will be about £4 a month for a package containing 6 channels (Sky News, The Childrens Channel, Bravo, Discovery and UK Nickelodeon) Adverts are a nuisance on Sky One but after seeing DS9 as syndicated in the States I think I much prefer Sky. Actually I hardly ever watch Sky but UK Gold is great if you enjoy repeats of old shows.

Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford

There's a scene in the opening of the 25th Anniversary Special that has had me confused ever since I first saw it. Perhaps someone can provide the answer: we see a brief clip of the Enterprise-D apparently entering atmosphere over an Earth-like world, with a contrail starting to form. In which episode does this occur? Is it perhaps an out-take?

The article about the Borg was interesting but the metaphor of the hive mind might be misleading. Each of the Borg 'units' is an individual - if only because they are

fitted with different equipment and are based on a genetic individual. Each Borg must have some individuality - at least at a subconscious level to maintain the basic bodily needs and maybe some conscious awareness so that they can walk around. The hive mind can hardly supervise every single basic action, but the local consciousness is enough to stop a unit from walking into things but not sophisticated enough to note that the object is actually an invading Starfleet officer.

The 'unit' consciousness is organised into 'collectives', supported by artificial intelligence and memory. The collectives are overminds with specific responsibilities. These are collected in a hierarchy to the rest of the Borg mind. Individual 'units' are probably interchangeable between the collectives. The capability of the lone Borg in I Borg was simply the unit adopting a degraded operating mode, effectively becoming a collective of one. It became an individual again - perhaps an emergency operating mode, and perhaps utilising capabilities dating from an earlier less sophisticated Borg hive mind. Another metaphor for the Borg is that each 'unit' is a cell in a body, and like other living things that body lives to continue itself, to grow. In the case of the Borg this means assimilating other individuals and cultures. To the great body of the Borg, the concerns of individuals are chillingly irrelevant.

Locutus was a construct of the Borg mind, an interface, perhaps the expression of a special Borg collective. It appeared as an individual as an attempt to interact with individuals. However it definitely was not an individual.

It is difficult to assess quite how the Borg function and how they are organised. This does make them one of the most alien creations of Star Trek.

Does anyone know of a source of pewter starship miniatures in addition to Rawcliffe, please?

Lee Sansome - Tamworth

To everyone who read Jean Barron's comments on the lack of participation at cons

and felt as sad as I did - come on, you guys! What's happening out there? Aren't Trek fans as enthusiastic and imaginative and brazen as ever? Get off your butts and enter the Fancy Dress; demand debates and panels and the like at cons, not just videos. Let's stop watching and start *doing* again before the con committees become so disillusioned that even the guest appearances are pre-recorded! And for the record, yes, I'll participate and help organise - whatever's needed!

To everyone who responded on the subject of conventions: well, it seems the main problem is location. So how about three 'official' conventions per year, with rules which state one must be in the south (say south of Birmingham), one in the north (say between Brum and Leeds/Blackpool) and one in Scotland, the three events to be spaced evenly throughout the more clement months of the year (say April/May, July/August, October/November?) and on a rotational basis, so that one year the April/May con is in the south, the next in the north, the next in Scotland and so forth. And to make the voting system fairer, all convention attendees and all members of clubs to be allowed to vote? Hopefully having three major cons would ease the over-subscription problems of the May con, while keeping attendance figures at all three high enough to allow budgeting for a varied programme, including foreign guests if available. If anyone of legal persuasion agrees with me and would care to assist in couching the suggestions in legal terms for submission as a change to the Business Meeting rules, please contact me (15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4NY). No hate mail, please - I prefer open abuse in the N/L!

To Janet Quarton - In an ideal world, one 'official' con and everyone doing as they please the rest of the time might work - but only if all would-be committees had the sense and sensibility not to run in opposition to one another. We already know this is not always the case, even with two 'official' cons per year. If the field is opened up still further by reducing that to one 'official' con, I think the problems are going to get worse. And while I agree that guests are not the most important factor in a good convention, I think

most attendees would agree that they are the icing on the cake that can make a good con great. I honestly cannot agree that the more cons we have, the more guests we'll see. Yes, factors other than money play their part, but foreign guests are expensive and before you begin to worry about dates, availability and the like, you have to be able to count on a minimal number of registrations to afford the guest's fees before issuing an invitation. The more cons we have in a single year, the more divided among them the attendance figures will become. If the spread becomes even enough, few events, if any, will be able to budget for a major guest.

To Gary Heron - I agree with most of what you say but your comment that many fans don't attend BMs because they overrun astounded me. Most of us have sat through mega-sessions and thought 'Omigod' but recognised that we have had our say and everyone else in the room has the same right, no matter how trivial their point might seem to us. I only hope that these people who don't attend because they find the BMs boring are not the ones complaining so vociferously about where a con is being held or how it's being run. If so, they have no right whatsoever to criticise, since they opted not to exercise their voting rights!

Ricky Elston - Cheadle

Please stop this constant bickering over which Saavik was the best. The fact is, it was Kirstie Alley's truly Vulcan performance (and her nice bottom) that leads me to the logical conclusion that it was better than Robin Curtis's (though excellent) performance.

To Katrina Heintz - Re pressuring the Beeb into showing TNG 4/5th seasons - have you written your letter to the BBC yet? I have - no reply so far. I'll tell you if anything happens.

Dawn Tittley - Birmingham

Having only recently seen ST VI on video, I must say I found it the most exciting of the movies so far. The story was excellent, even with the few flaws (ie the universal translator packing up and Uhura struggling with her Klingon/Standard Dictionary, but

we won't go into that!) Christopher Plummer's performance as Chang was wonderful, and I didn't even recognise the man until I read the credits! What a surprise that was.

As for William Shatner's performance, I found it just as slightly OTT as usual. Spock was ace as always, as was the wonderful Captain Sulu. What a cheer went up from the three of us when he came to the Enterprise's rescue.

To Margaret Gibb - I agree that Robin Curtis's performance as Saavik is far superior to Kirstie Alley's. For me, although Kirstie Alley had the emotionlessness right, she was ~~too~~ emotionless. (I know that probably doesn't make sense, but hey, I've never made much sense even to myself!

Margaret Gibb - Renfrew

Shirley A Shatner's letter in N/L 25 about going to a convention alone struck a chord with me. I don't think I could pluck up the courage to do that. The best I have managed to far has been attending Away Team meetings in Glasgow. Most people seem to be in established groups of friends or family groups so it's difficult to join in. So, if anyone would like to go along to a meeting but is wary of going alone, give me a phone on 041 886 3044 and we could meet and go in together. I'm sure it would be lots more fun.

Laura Kempton - Chelmsford

I have been a member of IDIC for nearly a year now and I would like to thank everyone who helps run the club. I look forward to the newsletters arriving; N/L 23 was particularly welcome, it's the best thing to read when you've just come round from an appendectomy!

I've been following the 'dispute' between Barry O'Doherty and Neil J Barrett about Troi's rank with some interest, and thanks to William Marsh's encouragement (Hi, Will!) have decided to throw my view in for debate. I reckon Troi did a 3 or 4 year course for a degree in psychology on Betazed, and then did a 1 or 2 year postgraduate course (for entry into Starfleet at the Academy. Therefore her rank is not honorary

and she does know something about command, though her speciality is still psychology. As for her not knowing what was going on in Disaster, I can only put it down to either her being overwhelmed by fear, so unable to think straight, or, more likely, a case of 'let's add to the dramatic impact'. Incidentally, still on Disaster, does anyone know why Geordi can't see the plasma fire but Beverly spots it? He's got a VISOR, hasn't he?

To Lee Sansome - I've asked several of my male friends and all but one say that Troi's style of dress is no incentive to watch ST:TNG and they prefer Tasha Yar (sorry, Marina Sirtis!)

David Houston - Preston

Many thanks for an interesting N/L every time. The trouble is, there's so much in them that I'm still reading the December one when the next one arrives! And on top of that, the Bolivian Terrorist (Taruka Quauhtezcatl) usually gets to the crosswords before I do! That is, unless she's compiled it herself.

I've found your con reports enlightening, informative and humorous - I can't wait to see what Helen White will make of Warp One.

To the Terrorist - didn't you mean Admiral Rossa in Suddenly Human when you put DeSoto? (O.K., escocesito, yes, I did - TQ).

Re names for animals. Tribble the cat should be obvious, but one of the fish in my aquarium has the name Leonard - because he's my Koi (think about it).

To William Marsh - thirty second joke or not, it doesn't work. Believe me, I know. When the Terrorist starts shouting at me in Spanish I have a chance but in Quechua, not a hope! It sounds like Klingon and is just as impossible, and even if I try she just giggles and says something even more unpronounceable...

To Edward Woo - No doubt we've collided at comic marts in the past. Say Hi if

you see me or the Terrorist - she's usually in TNG or DS9 uniform so I can find her in the crowd.

Taruka Quauhtezcatl (The Bolivian Terrorist) - Preston

Re Deanna Troi's lack of uniform. In Encounter at Farpoint she is wearing Lieutenant-commander's pips of her collar so there's no argument about her rank.

The following might be of interest - "Why don't I wear a proper uniform? There's two reasons, the real reason and the official reason. The official reason is that because I'm Ship's Counselor and have to deal with lesser ranks I don't make them feel uncomfortable. The real reason is that after the 'Cosmic Cheerleader' outfit (in Encounter at Farpoint) when I was carrying a few extra pounds, they decided I looked too lumpy in normal uniform so they designed the black one." - Marina Sirtis, TNG 5th Anniversary Con, Los Angeles 1992.

To Michael Sadler - AARRRRRRRGH! I thought the Ten-Forward joke bad enough, but your 'unbalanced engines'? That qualifies for a tribble, if you'd like one!

To Linda Wood - Having seen David McCallum on stage in London some years back (phew!) he's even nicer in the flesh. Re his wonderful line in 'dies', a classic one must be in the episode The Project Strigas Affair, which can still crack me up. The look of horror on William Shatner's face as Kuryakin collapses in a heap on the carpet has to be seen to be believed.

To Edward Woo - I think we met at the November comic mart in Liverpool. I'm the auburn-haired idiot in TNG uniform. I agree re bargains, especially if you're friendly with half the dealers and can get 50% knocked off the price of a comic!

To Helen White - I thought ensigns had one pip. In The Drumhead a crew member who is without pips is just called 'Crewman' and he states that he hasn't been to Starfleet Academy.

Having simmered over Lloyd Lewis's

'clever woman' line for two months, I have to feel insulted. Can you specify what you mean, or was it a misprint? Now I'll be fuming at hyd y nos.

Kirstie Jordan - Chesterfield

Did anyone else see the opening of Noel's House Party (BBC Saturday 27th Feb)? Quite good, but I never realised that Uhura was actually Oriental!

What about young Welsey Crusher? I'm sure that Beverly would be interested to know that far from studying at the Academy, he is, in fact, disguising himself as a P.I.'s son. (Well, he was on 18th Feb on BBC1. Didn't he look young!!!!?) Of course it wasn't really Wes, but if any of you saw Long Time Gone on the 18th you must have noticed how clever Wil Wheaton's character was. Although I am a fan of Wes and I do think that Wil is a good actor, even I would sometimes like to see Wes do something a little less than perfect. I haven't seen First Duty yet so maybe I'm in for a pleasant surprise?

Having sorted Wes out, now I'd like to move on to Data. (I can sense the hackles rising already!) Don't worry - it's nothing personal! In The Big Goodbye there are various examples on the holodeck of Data talking with an 'accent' and saying things like 'He's on ice' and 'He's being grilled' instead of 'He is on ice' and 'He is being grilled'. I always thought that Data wasn't capable of speaking in this way especially after being told in Datalore that he had been programmed to speak as he does so that the people on his 'home' planet could tell he was an android. Surely if Data was capable of altering his programming so that he could say things like 'he's' and 'can't' he would and therefore be more Human as he desires. Having said that, I realise that when Data is being employed as an audio record of events, as in Encounter at Farpoint when he repeats part of Q's speech, he would be acting as any tape recording/playback device and repeat everything exactly as it was said.

Finally, on a more serious note, having read Karen Atherton and Taruka Quauhtezcatl's article 'Some People Take Pleasure in That?' I felt I had to write. It must

have taken a lot of guts - not to mention anger - for these two ladies to write that article; more so for one of them, who, quite justifiably, prefers not to admit to being the actual victim. I have never been in that situation, nor would I ever wish to be. But as a woman, I do understand the fear of knowing that walking down the street even in broad daylight is no longer safe. I send my best wishes to both these ladies.

Colin Mackay - Edinburgh

First, a *rumour* I have heard about ST VII. It is supposed to be about Scotty after Relics creating a time warp to get back to the time of Classic Trek and they all meet up with Captain Sulu and have to solve a massive puzzle before Picard and Co and go back to TNG land.

To Sheila Clark - Re speed of light and relativity. An accurate experiment using atomic clocks, one in America and the other flown around the world, proved that the speed an object was travelling does alter time. When the experiment was complete two synchronised atomic clocks were a few ticks out. Thus the faster an object moves the slower its time gets relative to the rest of the universe, or the faster the rest of the universe gets relative to the object. Or, as Einstein is rumoured to have asked, "What time does Oxford stop at this train?"

To B Proctor - In Encounter at Farpoint we learn that Picard is in his early fifties, so you are quite right, Kirk could not have handed over control of the Enterprise to Picard.

Your question about a model of the Excelsior - I am quite sure I saw one in Forbidden Planet last time I was in.

To Janet Quarton - As I have been unable, as yet, to attend any conventions (I don't count Away Team meetings as cons) would you please explain the difference between a Business Meeting con and the other sort (whatever that may be) as I am somewhat ignorant of these matters.

Mark Dwyer - Leeds

First, let me congratulate Carol and the

committee on an excellent convention (Starbase 93), also thanks to Jimmy for coming across. Hope you can make it back soon!

To Lt Cmdr K'Tan Vestai Kuragan - Were you the Klingon with the kilt at the convention? If so, I've seen the photo of what's up there NOT, but hopefully I might be able to get hold of it and send you a copy. Also, I agree official cons should be held in centralised areas - why not Manchester or Leeds?

To Sheila Clark - Maybe it takes time to take somebody's identity completely. Maybe Picard would have lost his if he remained with the Borg too long.

Gary Heron - Falkirk

The 'Star Trek' episode of Nurses on Channel 4 was very funny, with one of the characters doing a very good caricature of Kirk. One question - does anyone know why on all the Classic Trek uniforms that the con attendees were wearing, the insignias were upside down; was it to get around copyright restrictions?

Re Ro and Geordi La Forge falling out of the Enterprise; it is clear that while their matter is phased and thus able to pass through ordinary matter they are still affected by gravity, thus they would be expected to orbit the planet in the same way as the Enterprise. The only thing that should make them pass through the floor is the artificial gravity. On the surface of a planet where the gravity field is created by the mass of the planet, they would be pulled by that gravity field to the centre of the planet. On the Enterprise the artificial gravity (AG) fields are generated in the floor. I would suggest that it is impossible for their phased matter bodies to pass below the level at which the AG field is strongest so that while their feet might sink some way into the floor, they would go no further than that. This would explain how they are able to walk since they cannot push against the matter in the floor to propel themselves; rather, their feet are interacting with the AG field. Also on the subject of artificial gravity, the TNG manual states that when deprived of power, the AG generators

will continue to function for 240 minutes.

To Jackie Marshall - Having watched Galaxy's Child again, I agree that the extent to which Picard shows his reaction to the creature's death is due to the events in BOBW. I would add, however, that his depth of feeling would be the same before or after those events; the only difference in my opinion is that previously he would have hidden his reaction more effectively. The scene is very effective at showing how great is Picard's desire to explore; we see his obvious delight at finding a new life form and he is envious of its ability to live in space without any protection. In the scene, we see that Picard is not only committed to the ideals of Starfleet at the intellectual level but also at a deep emotional level.

Re ST VII - The idea of this being based on Scotty's attempting to go back in time is very worrying. The theory and practise of time travel by slingshot were well known in Kirk's time and it is difficult to see the process causing Scotty any problems with access to 24th century technology.

If he was to succeed, it would cause some severe problems, however.

1) Would he be able to stop himself telling people about the secrets of 24th century technology and thus change history (remember how he spilt the beans about transparent aluminium?)

2) If he arrived back before the accident, could he stand by and let all those people go to their deaths and if he didn't he would again change history and a paradox would be created since if the crash didn't happen he would not have ended up in the 24th century at all.

3) If he returned after the accident, would he try to save the engineer stuck in the transporter, and would he try to save himself at the same time? This again would cause a paradox. This option is the only one which would work but it would involve Scotty either leaving the other engineer to die or travel to the Dyson sphere, rescue the engineer, leave himself in the buffer knowing

that he would be saved and then plant a false and deliberately degraded pattern in the buffer, which would be found by Geordi and himself later.

Maria Nausch - Vienna

To Sheila Clark - Whereas I never had problems accepting the extreme age of McCoy's father (where was it ever said how old McCoy senior was at his son's birth? Or maybe his decrepit looks are one of the symptoms of his disease) I did have my problems with this young version of Sarek. As you pointed out, Sarek must have been in his sixties at Spock's birth according to the information on his and Amanda's age we gain from Journey to Babel; therefore I really could not understand why they did not use the real Sarek, ie Mark Lenard. It would not have been too difficult to make him look approximately the same age as Spock was during ST V - or would it?

To Martin Helsdon - Are you sure that ST VI refers to the Klingon homeworld as Chronos? I did not get this impression. I thought Kronos was the name of Gorkon's vessel.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - You complain about no strong female alien characters in Star Trek. I thought K'ehlyr was a very strong character, and in a different way so is Lwaxana Troi.

To Robin Day - I greatly enjoyed your idea of George Takei replacing Patrick Stewart as Captain of the Enterprise-D, playing 'son of Sulu'. I am convinced that George would be wonderful in this part and there would be lots of script possibilities, especially in the relationship with Worf you mentioned.

Re Sarek's death in Unification - Although I liked his death scenes, I found it unwise to let Sarek die. The two Vulcans are very popular, but Mark Lenard is certainly the cheaper guest star. So why kill off his character?

Re conventions - I can understand that it is a problem for Scottish fans to travel all the way down to the London area, but the

British conventions are not only frequented by British fans, but also by many Europeans. We do not have conventions in Austria, and there are not many in Germany, Italy, France, etc, so we must go abroad to attend a con. I would opt for the London area myself. We already have to pay a flight to reach London; taking the train to reach a destination in middle-England not only adds to the cost, it is also extremely time-consuming. If we do not get a few days' leave of absence we arrive too late for the opening ceremony and have to leave long before the end of the convention; and that may be our only chance of ever getting in touch with other fans.

To Edward Woo - You are right about general SF video rooms being almost always empty. I had the same experience, and therefore would vote for a reduction of this event in favour of more Trek videos, whether CT, TNG or DS9.

Amanda Spence - Dundee

To Russell Witheyman - You didn't like True Q? In it, Q is back to his malicious best, and let's keep him that way!

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Re DS9 - Watch it. After seeing some of the shows, I'm sure you'll love it. In one episode, Dr Bashir comes out with the famous line - "I'm a doctor, not a...."

To Martin Helsdon - I like the idea that ST V was all a hallucination. It would explain a lot about it!

To Lt Cmdr K'tan Vestai Kuragan - You said in N/L 26 that you enjoyed Starbase 93. As my newsletter arrived before the Starbase 93 weekend, I take it you Klingons have been time travelling?

Dejan Ladika - Slovenia

To Baerbel Schmidt - Thank you for your explanation about Denise and Tasha. I'm sorry that we don't see Troi and Yar in the same way. There is hope for Troi in the 6th season. I think Marina is a good actress (I like her in Death Wish III) and I don't see her as sex appeal. I suggest you write an article about Tasha or Sela; you know a lot.

To Gary Heron - Picard loved Enterprise too, you can see that from episodes like The Big Goodbye, Coming of Age... I think that he still has some relationship with Stargazer, but his heart is now with Enterprise; he proves that a lot of times.

Alan Stephen - Aberdeen

After the BBC preview of DS9 on their show Entertainment Express, I wrote then a letter asking if they had bought the show, and if they had bought seasons 4, 5 and 6 of TNG, and if they had, when they would be showing them. I enclose their sorry reply.

"Dear Mr Stephen,

Thank you for your letter of 10th February about "Star Trek: The Next Generation".

I am sorry you are disappointed that current transmissions of "The Next Generation" series have now ended. We have an agreement with BSKYB Television which allows them to transmit the first three seasons of these programmes whilst we repeat the original "Star Trek" series before its licence is due to expire next year. This sub-licence agreement implies that we will not be showing further episodes of "The Next Generation" whilst BSKYB are transmitting the first three series, but they, in turn, will not be able to show the subsequent seasons until we have broadcast them, in due course.

Regarding "Deep Space", I am afraid there are no plans to purchase this series although we are bearing it in mind for the future.

Thank you for taking the trouble to send us your suggestion.

Yours sincerely,

Sue McCoulough

Viewer and Listener Correspondence."

Margie Ferguson - South Shields

To Helen White - Ensigns do wear a gold pip - all the ones I've seen on NG have anyway. I did find a listing of ranks in a zine (typically just after I wrote my last letter to IDIC) which named the pipless rank but of course I can't find it now! Also when

someone leaves the Academy (s)he is an Ensign, so where does this other rank fit in? Possibly it's similar to being a civilian in the police force, you work alongside police officers but don't have to go through all the training they do.

Are you allowed to mention other clubs? I wrote off to 1701 A-D with an SAE months ago but haven't received a reply yet. I'm not trying to cause trouble for them or anything, but I wondered if anyone knows if they're still around? *[Ed - Try again. Your letter to them, or their reply, could have been lost in the post.]*

For some reason, on 6th February I looked up the gossip page on teletext (I don't know why, 'cos I've never read it before) and it had the following item - "Patrick Stewart, the follically-challenged star of Star Trek: The Next Generation has been voted the world's sexiest baldie." But I don't know who by or what his reaction to the honour is!

I'm not sure Riker will ever be Captain. He's turned down promotion at least 3 times. It'd serve him right if Picard moved on and someone else was given the Captaincy of the Enterprise! Like Shelby. That would be interesting, if Shelby ever returns, having Riker in the position of having to take orders from her and not being able to question them!

On the subject of where cons should be, living in the north of England I often get fed up travelling to London for cons and other stuff too. But at least London is fairly easy to get to. I can get there quicker and even sometimes cheaper than nearer cities like Liverpool or Manchester. For instance, when I go to Trek-Dwarf in March (Leicester) it'll take me almost 6 hours by train and cost £38 - £48 (depending on when I travel). It only takes about 3 hours to London by train and costs £36. Coach travel is similar - a coach journey to Manchester from Newcastle took 6 hours, the same time it takes to get to London by coach. Okay, the former wasn't direct and the latter is, but the reasons don't really matter - it still took us 6 hours to get to Manchester. So if you're travelling by public transport, nearest isn't always best.

James Brand - York

First may I say how much I have enjoyed my first year's membership of IDIC, and despite being a poor, hard-up student I have readily made Lloyd's Bank pay for my membership renewal via my overdraft (hee, hee). (If my bank manager's a member I'm sure he'll understand!)

To Stephen Shaw - I wholeheartedly agree with virtually all you wrote in your article (N/L 26) entitled Homophobia. It's a shame that due to deemed sponsor pressures the American studios 'feel' they have to be ultra-conservative. No-one wants to throw gratuitous sex or relationship storylines of *any* kind at anyone, yet the lack of tolerance to such minorities should surely be tackled. If such tolerance is highlighted in a TNG episode this could hardly make homosexuality 'an issue' in the Star Trek universe.

To John Stubbley - I also found Eddie Yau's letter (N/L 25) on the different definitions of 'Trek fact' very interesting. Under his categorisation, I suppose, I must admit that I'm of the 'believe what you want' category. Tying this it to my love of the novels, I find that many authors in the novels, far from distorting the other Trek facts (general, Paramount and Roddenberry) actually manage successfully to fuse a version which clears up many of the inconsistencies and contradictions that have developed from the other facts over the years.

Does anyone else find it irritating the way Riker keeps turning down every Captaincy that's offered to him because 'the ship's not a patch on the Enterprise'? Surely that's the point! The Enterprise is the now long-recognised Starfleet flagship, and this is now unlikely to be anyone's first Captaincy, but rather given to the best of Starfleet's tried and tested Captains. Just because Riker is First Officer, why the hell should he expect to be the Enterprise's next Captain (unless in battle circumstances such as The Best of Both Worlds)? Isn't this arrogance of the most extreme order? He should cut his teeth as Captain on a less illustrious Starship, just as Picard did on the Stargazer for many years. If he is ready for such a position (and I doubt it)

then Picard should give him the shove he needs and boot him off 'his' ship. If he's not, I wish the scriptwriters would stop writing the offers into the storylines to prove how wonderful Riker is even though he's not Captain'.

Ann Robertson - Blantyre, Glasgow

Something has been bugging me about Unification. How did Picard and Data manage to beam down to Romulus whilst the Klingon ship was cloaked? I thought that the cloaking system had to be disengaged before anyone could beam down (as with the weapons system). Can someone assist me with an explanation.

To Robin Day - Perhaps Sarek's katra would have been spoiled beyond worth because he had Bendii Syndrome. This would be a pity as he was bound to have amassed some amount of knowledge and experience.

To Dave Smith - Great idea for an IDIC badge of some sort to recognise fellow members at cons. It would certainly be helpful as a conversation starter.

To Katrina Heintz - I agree that for us Scots cons can be an expensive luxury when almost all of the cons are held south of the Border. I thought about going to Rec-Con in Manchester, as I have relatives there, but even with the hotel costs out of the way it was just too expensive (admittedly, so soon after Contagion). The travel and living expenses are a real hindrance, and that's before you've even set foot into the dealers' room. It's definitely a question of priorities; do you save up all year and have a great time with no money worries at the Scottish Con, or do you carve up your money and attend more than one con south of the Border. For me, 1993 is Contagion and the Away Team meetings.

Sue Jones - Wirral, Merseyside

I would like to thank Taruka Quauhtezcatl for her kind offer to help with designing a tapestry/sampler. I haven't had a chance to write to her yet to take her up on that, but I really appreciate it. I also want to say thanks to the person who took the trouble to photocopy the design and chart for a Trek

tapestry which they had obviously come across somewhere and sent it on to me. Unfortunately they didn't include a name or address so I have no other means to say thanks, but it was a lovely thought and just goes to prove what I have always reckoned - that Trek fans are pretty special people.

Stephen Daniels - Smailholm, Nr. Kelso

During the Classic Trek episode, "Where No Man Has Gone Before" there was a fight scene on the planet between Kirk and Gary Mitchell in which Mitchell makes a grave for Kirk, but on the headstone I'm sure it reads James R Kirk! Can this be right, or is it just my eyes? *[Janet - No your eyes aren't playing tricks but Gary's memory obviously was.]*

Does anyone know where I can buy cheap plastic video boxes?

Cheryl O'Connor - Richmond, Surrey

To people who think that TNG is not a part of the Star Trek universe, I would just like to add that the one thing that TNG has in common with classic Trek that makes it different from any other TV show is that Star Trek is somewhere where I want to be. I cannot say that about any other show on TV. I would love to be beamed up tomorrow.

A few questions I have about TNG are:

1) We have seen dogs on the Enterprise a few times and I would like to know how do you toilet train a dog on a starship?

2) Can just anyone use a holodeck whenever they want? Surely there must be some kind of a waiting list.

3) If one is walking or running in a holodeck - surely in reality one must be walking on the spot. When they end programmes the rooms do not look that big; do people sometimes walk into walls? What would happen if two people in a holodeck were to walk in opposite directions? How far would they get?

4) How do people dismiss the effects of synthalol that is served in Ten Forward?

5) If you were 'Q' what would you do?

Mala Laroia - Birmingham

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I was quite innocently reading through the postbag when I came to your letter referring to a place, somewhere, presumably in South America - Laroia. My surname is Laroia which is of Indian origin and I just thought it was quite interesting to know that there was a place named after me!

Graeme G. Lowe - Stonehaven

To Jason Wells - I've found out from a local bookshop that the ST:TNG Chronology won't be available in the UK until May.

John Marshall - Portsmouth

I was wondering if you saw ST: The Motion Picture on BBC 1 during the Christmas holidays. If you did, did you see the trailer before it came on. They showed the crew of NCC 1701A but showed the Enterprise NCC 1701D. I wondered if anyone else noticed it.

Watching the episode, The Squire of Gothos, on BBC 2 recently I wondered if Trelaine was a member of the Q entity or a race closely related to them.

Could anyone tell me - if it is known - who made first contact with alien life forms. Did they visit Earth first or did we (The Federation or whoever was in command of space exploration) visit their homeworld? Who were the Aliens?

Gaile Wood - Tamworth

On cats... has anyone else noticed how they reserve precisely the same expression for a large hairy moth as they would for an axe murderer?

To Elaine Webb - Beverly probably subscribes to the chuck-it-up-in-the-air-and-run-under-fast school with regard to make-up which would account for her not being able to handle the compact. Mind, saying that, I don't use one either so I'd probably be ham-fisted too. But you're so right, *everybody* who has pointed this out, they all have an enviable lack of zits. Even Jean-Luc didn't break out in a rash after they'd removed the Borg armour... And I know... oh... *dozens* of people whose skins play havoc at the mere

mention of glue, or solvent (God alone knows what replicated food does to you). However, if we're talking about the Cast then perhaps they've all got shares in Clearasil (Copyright)?

Perhaps the reason why TNG has been getting predictable (yes, I'm actually going to make the point) is that we have 141 programmes as opposed to the 73 of OT - nearly double - and there will be more. Bound to get a wee bit stale after so loooong.

To Martin Helsdon - Targ?! It was a pig in make-up and not very good make-up either, and if you're going to get picky it was a South American Peccary. Apart from that... nice Klingon thesis.

To Peter J. Poole - Hi! Agree wholeheartedly about the lack of feedback from zine readers. I need to know *how* the stuff I'm bunging out is received for God's sake!

Marina Sirtis would have played Security Chief the way she saw fit, and to say her height and physical build were the possible reasons for her ending up as Counselor are somewhat opinionated as well as being not a little insulting. I would agree that Troi is not a brilliant part - she isn't well defined - but Marina does the best she can and does it very well.

To Anne Peters - I did have a thought about them trying to sit with the unphased socks and came up with the ridiculous image of them hanging by said upside down. Well... it made me laugh. But... ah hah... having applied the old brain power to this burning question again, I also said they'd be wearing their boots which *were* phased. Also, what if they're POLARISED (impressed, eh?!). If you can do it with light, why not with matter? Having just rewatched a 1st Season Episode (instantly forgettable apart from this comment) and heard Picard say they've discovered matter and energy is interchangeable - I hold this up as evidence for my theory. Take your point about emotionalism re Riker.

True-Q... utter bilge. I agree with

everyone who has slammed it. One of the worst TNG episodes - a real turkey - though it's going to have to vie neck and neck with Man Of The People. Or, should I say, A Portrait Of Dorian Grey by any other name. Tut, tut, Paramount, run out of ideas have we?!

Nina Lynch - Hull

Before I begin, do people have a preference for which ST costume (uniform) they like best? Taking into account the practicality of it, colours and general appearance, I must admit to liking TWOK jackets, (but every time I try to put mine on quickly, as Kirk does, I end up tangled); then Classic Trek uniform (not the dress uniform, which looks as though they are made purely from starch!) I also like Picard's 'new' outfit in season 5: Anyone else's comments?

To Martin Helsdon - I think I would like to think of ST V as more of a nightmare than a dream (after all, 'life is but a dream!') Spock had a sehlat with six inch fangs as a pet, so the Klingon targ seems quite acceptable.

To Margaret Gibb - It is fun watching and listening to Classic Trek and taking only a secondary notice of the action. The music can be a real help to the story line, with its themes for comedy, love, danger etc. I like looking at the costumes that were done for the women characters; it is amazing how some of them stay on, eg Carolyn Palomas' in Who Mourns for Adonais. How on Earth did she stay in it? I reckon they must have had shares in sticky-sided tape, but imagine taking it off! (I was sorry to hear of the death of William Ware Theiss.)

To Lee Sansome - I am just going to get on my high horse here. Just because 'technically' TNG is superior to CT doesn't mean it is better! It depends on why you like Star Trek and what appeals to you. I got hooked totally to CT in '73 by Spock and especially the interaction between all the crew in various situations, etc. Even all the thousands of dollars spent on TNG (or even DS9) won't entice me to ever like it as much as CT. To me, it is only by 5th season that TNG is getting more into 'verbal sparring' (if

you can call it that). With CT, after only a few episodes you know Kirk liked women, Spock was logical, machine-like and proud of it, and McCoy was a country doctor who liked to get Spock's back up. With TNG it seems so book-like; for every situation there is a written solution, and Picard knows them all. Yes, I know Best of Both Worlds was unusual; it also happens to be an episode (two?) that I actually like. As a final comment to this tirade, just because DS9 is Star Trek doesn't mean I, as a Trek fan, have to like it! The trailer for it didn't grab my attention and make me want to watch it, and isn't that the job of a trailer? *[Sheila - I think you picked Lee up wrong. She was arguing in favour of CT.]*

Re Marshak/Culbreath novels - I like most of them, my favourite being Mind Sifter, which inspired me to write my first ever Star Trek story (although how it managed to twist itself into TNG is beyond me!) *[Sheila - Mind Sifter (New Voyages) was actually written by Shirley Maiewski. Marshak/Culbreath only edited it.]*

Are Star Trek 'tachyons' the same as Blake's 7's?

To Jackie Marshall - I don't think Picard will ever truly get over his encounter with the Borg in BOBW. There is a scene in I Borg between Picard and the Borg - I was left wondering at the end. Being 'assaulted' as he was would have left its mark, and maybe he will unconsciously do things he wouldn't normally have done because of it.

To David J Raper - Data probably called his cat Spot because it has stripes! If in his attempt to become Human-like he studied computer files on names, pet names and nicknames he would have discovered that it is often the case to call something the opposite of what it is, eg a tall person may be called Shorty, Titch, etc.

Re cons - Just to say Starbase 93 was brilliant and I hope they do Starbase 94 as I am already saving up for it!

Brenda Allen - Canada

I recently viewed an original ST

episode called Wink of an Eye. If Spock and McCoy had concocted a formula that brought Kirk and Spock out of the 'accelerated phase', why did they not provide this formula to the Scalosians? Weren't they being doomed to an eternity of accelerated living? Comments, anyone?

To Helen White - According to the ST:TNG trading cards, the rank pips are as follows:

UNIFORM PIPS



Captain



Commander



Lt. Commander



Lieutenant



Lt. J.G.



Ensign



Chief Warrant Officer

Note: The pips are gold & black.

Recall that Wesley Crusher, as full ensign, did have one pip.

To Edwin Yau - Paramount must have heard your comments on Deanna's low-cut clothing, because for the last three episodes (Chain of Command I & II and Aquiel) Deanna has been wearing standard uniform! I resent your comment that 'Troi isn't a bona fide Starfleet officer'. Where did you get that idea? Just because she is not in the chain of command? Are you telling me that every blue-suited science officer is not a 'bona fide' Starfleet officer? Come on!

To David Raper - Re pockets in the uniforms. The first and second season uniforms were a one-piece jumpsuit with no pockets, hence Riker kept the transmitter in his boot. But the redesigned uniform has pockets in the pants. Geordi hid a phaser in his pocket in the 4th season episode The Mind's Eye.

To Paul Hulford - Re NG predictability. If you want to see a NG episode with no predictability, be sure to catch Chain of

Command I & II. Here we have Worf, Beverly and Picard infiltrating a secret Cardassian base with Picard being captured and tortured. My predictability plan said that Worf would storm the Cardassians and save the Captain, but I was wrong. The show was dark and at times horrific, and it certainly did not fall into any NG formula.

Your saying that we were less well acquainted with the characters of S (and more acquainted with the NG characters) is only because we have had 6 years to get to know the crew of NCC 1701-D and a mere 3 years (and the movies) to befriend Kirk & Co. Of course we are going to see a pattern of behaviour in their actions! That's what makes us feel a camaraderie with the characters.

To Victoria Law - Re your Creation Con report. I, personally, have not attended a British Con, so I felt I could not offer an objective view of Creation Cons. And yet I felt that they were being sadly misjudged. After reading so many negative comments about Creation Cons from people who have not attended one, it was refreshing to read a report from someone who has experienced both British and Creation Cons. Bravo for a splendid report!

Finally, to all the women who ogle James T's chest - Maybe Edwin Yau isn't so wrong when he says that Troi is on NG for show. He is getting testimonials from the pages of IDIC that some women DO watch ST because of Kirk's bulging biceps and glistening chest (some even admit to watching the derriere view!) If women are admitting that they watch ST men, then why should they be so surprised if Edwin says that there are men watching ST women?

Zander Bruce - Thornton, Fife

Having just joined, N/L 26 was my first, and I was instantly hooked! At last - a fanzine that provides the kind of information I'm looking for. It's great to get the info in TNG and DS9, as well as many alternative articles, and a postbag that celebrates the different opinions of all who contribute. I have to commend the committee and all who write in to them for producing such a

wonderful publication.

One thing I have to say is that there are many people who have been shunning the 6th season of TNG and also DS9. Everyone has a right to their opinions, but isn't IDIC also about embracing new ideas? I've seen the majority of season 6 that has aired in the States, and was only disappointed by one, Aquiel. Personally, I've found that most stories that centre around Geordi just don't have enough depth to them; I don't know why.

As for Russell Witheyman's comments on True Q, I don't think episodes should be compared to previous stories but should be judged on their own merits. As for True Q, I loved it, although I was disappointed that Picard never questioned Q as to Vash's whereabouts. As for Q-Less (the DS9 episode), I felt it to be a fitting conclusion to the Q-Pid storyline while opening up more opportunities for Vash.

To Stephen Shaw - Really enjoyed your article on homophobia, but I can't find the issue of Cinefantastique. By the way, if you think the Trill issue is confused now, just wait until everyone sees the DS9 episode Dax. There are some very mixed messages between that and The Host. Also, with your point about Beverly's reaction in the DS9 episode, this is explored in DS9 by Sisko's reaction to Dax's female body, as opposed to the 'man' who was his friend.

To anyone - Can you explain why there have been two different cats to play Spot? The two that appear (one in In Theory, the other in A Fistful of Datas) are different types and don't even look alike! [*Janet: I read somewhere that the firstcat had died.*]

Also - what does everyone think of Worf's sixth season hairstyle? I mean, a Klingon with a ponytail! C'mon!

Carol Kean - Dundee

To K'tan Vestai Kuragan - Maybe I should forget about bidding for photos of Brent Spiner and try for a certain picture (from an incident mentioned in a Starbase 93 report) of a Scottish Klingon?

Simon Plumble, Birmingham

To Eddie Yau - What are you talking about? Of course Troi is a real Starfleet officer! If you remember, right back in "Encounter At Farpoint", she was referred to by rank (Lt. Commander) AND she was in uniform (and yes, if you look you can see the appropriate number of rank pips on the collar). If you go by your hypothesis that someone must be referred to by rank to be classed as a Starfleet officer, then I take it that you don't consider DOCTOR McCoy to be a fully-fledged member of Starfleet? He was very rarely (if ever) referred to in the series as Commander McCoy.

Also, while on the subject of wearing uniforms, I presume you don't think Scotty is in Starfleet either? If you look at all the movies, he hardly wears a Starfleet uniform, instead he's seen in his jumper and waistcoat for most of the time.

Barry O'Doherty - Maghera, Derry, Ireland

To Sheila Clark - Comet Swift-Tuttle is predicted to reach perihelion on 11th July 2126. If it arrives 15 days later its trajectory would intersect with Earth's position. However, I wouldn't get too worried. In 1967, students at MIT devised, as an academic exercise, Project Icarus. They proposed that five thermonuclear devices, each with a yield of 100 megatons, be lifted into high orbit aboard Heavy Lift Vehicles (such as Saturn Vs - or Ariane 5s in contemporary times). Only four would be needed to deflect such an object as Swift-Tuttle (probably fewer), with the fifth as a backup.

To Chris C Bailey - ST:TNG has returned to its Saturday evening slot on RTE (Editor, not TRE as stated in N/L 26). By the time you read this, RTE should be up to episode 11 in the 5th season (Hero Worship), and RTE have shown every episode in its entirety, and in the correct order! [*Sheila - sorry about the TRE. My fingers stuttered.*]

To Margaret Gibb - Sarek was first discovered to be suffering from Bendii Syndrome near the end of the third season. Considering that it was already advanced at that stage Sarek could not have been 'kept going' (your words) for much longer. And

I'm sure others will agree with me when I say it was an emotional moment when Picard announced Sarek's death.

To Lydia Bryant - Sheet music of the TNG Main Theme can be obtained from the Sheffield Space Centre.

To Edward Woo - Were the two Styles not meant to be the same character? At least according to the (brilliant) novel (yes, I know it's not canon) Prime Directive, they are.

To Pam Baddeley - You might be interested to know that it was the physicist Olexa-Myron Bilaniuk who invented the term 'tachyon', meaning a faster-than-light particle. There is now quite an extensive literature on faster-than-light phenomena. One book for a popular audience is the 1982 Ace book *Faster Than Light*, edited by Jack Dann and George Zebrowski. It contains articles and stories on the topic.

By the way, has anyone else noticed that Miles O'Brien seems to have suffered a demotion? In photographs from DS9, he appears with only one rank pip (ie as an ensign) while it has already been established that he was already a full lieutenant. (Among the evidence; being addressed as 'Lieutenant' by Riker in the season 2 episode *Where Silence Has Lease*; the fact that only commissioned officers can serve as bridge officers, O'Brien has been Tactical Officer under both Captains Maxwell and Picard. Can anyone explain this apparent reduction in rank?

Toni Cumming - Glasgow

Having just seen the sixth in the series of Star Trek films, I have taken the liberty of writing my opinion of each film.

In my mind Star Trek IV, *The Voyage Home*, is the best of the six films now out on video. It brings to life a side of Spock rarely seen in previous films and in the series. That is, that he has a sense of humour. This, combined with his logical mind, makes him very droll. Dr McCoy is a perfect foil for Spock's dry humour. The latest film - *The Undiscovered Country*, the sixth in the series - is good. I saw it for the first time on video

in February this year, and thought it well done. *Star Trek - The Motion Picture* rates very well, but comparing the aging process between the first and sixth films, it is quite a surprise. It really reminds everybody just how long *Star Trek* has been running. Time, it seems, really does fly.

My second favourite film is No. 3, *The Search for Spock*, where Kirk loses his son David. It shows just how long one person can nurse a grudge for a tragic personal loss. The latest film is my third favourite; the first film must come fourth. *The Final Frontier* is, to my mind, barely plausible, but 'logically speaking' I suppose it must come about at some stage that someone will go looking for his or her own personal God, and be totally disappointed in what they find.

My least favourite film is *The Wrath of Khan*. I can't give any logical explanation for not liking this particular film, but it seems to lack the charisma of the others. But taking it in context, the story line again brings out the feeling of revenge, in this instance Khan's. I suppose in a way Kirk and Khan are very much alike, though I doubt if Kirk would go to such extremes as Khan.

Suggestions

Joan M. Henderson: Is it practical to have a pen-pal list perhaps? *[Janet: we've considered this but it is a lot of work maintaining a pen-pal list and it tends to get out-of-date as those who are no longer looking for new penpals forget to take their name off the list. We felt letting members advertise in the newsletter would be more effective as it is always 'current' and those who don't wish to advertise can always reply to those who do.]*

John Mariani: I enjoy the letters pages, full of debate and counter comment, but it is difficult to follow from issue to issue. The only solution is, I guess, to include portions of the previous letters that are being replied to. But that is no solution as you are already hard pressed for space. *[Janet: I sympathise; when proofreading the Postbag I often find myself reaching for the previous newsletter. Unfortunately there are a lot of new members who don't have that newsletter to refer to. There just isn't room to include extracts from the last newsletter but with a bit of*

thought it should be possible for people include in their comments what they are talking about without increasing the length too much. When editing the Posibag for space, the unexplained comments are amongst the first to go.

Stewart J. McMillan: I would like special profiles of the people who create the alien costumes and make up as I sometimes think they are overlooked by fandom in general. *[Janet: If anyone would like to write profiles we would certainly print them. Unfortunately we don't have time to research them ourselves.]*

John Marshall: How about a quiz to find out who knows most about Star Trek in the club? Let's say just like a raffle - a pound to enter and all proceeds to the Guide Dogs. Four sections - classic, animation, TNG and the movies. The winner would be the IDIC Mastermind of 1993. You could do it every year and the questions could be set by the committee.

[Janet: Although this sounds like a good idea it would take a lot of time and research to set the questions and then to mark the answer sheets. To be honest we just don't have the time. If any of you want to offer to set the questions and run the whole thing then we'll consider it.]

Questions

G.A. Shaw: TNG Action figures by Playmate - does anyone know if Deanna Troi is going to be released? *[Sheila: It is available, but it is reported to be scarce.]*

Does anyone know when there is going to be another Star Trek convention in Manchester?

Are there any videos available of the guests' talks at Contagion? *[Janet: Videos of both Silvercon and Contagion are available. For details send an SAE to Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR, Scotland.]*

Diane Burch: In Mr. Scott's Guide to the Enterprise it stated that the slash and pip on the uniforms in STII denote 5 years and 1 years service + various combinations. But it seems to me that they have remained the same throughout all the films. Why do you think this is? *[Janet: I will let someone else try to give you a 'Star Trek' answer. All I will say is that the book is fan speculation, not ST 'fact'.]*

Michael Johnson: I think the limited edition of ST:TMP is longer than any I've seen before. I don't mean that it is a lot longer but some scenes in the film are longer than the TV version. *[Janet: I haven't had a chance to check whether it is longer or not but it is worth remembering that TV often cut the versions they show.]*

When will STVI be available on sell-through? *[Janet: We don't have news on this yet.]*

Vanessa Thomas: Can anyone please tell me where I can find books on the Making of Star Trek The Next Generation, like the one that is mentioned in N/L 26. *Janet: This book was one of the many 'unofficial' large format books which have been published. The best way to get books of this type is to write to one of the specialist SF bookshops which have a mail order service. Three which come to mind - mainly because we deal with them - are:*

ANDROMEDA BOOKSHOP, 84 Suffolk St. Birmingham B1 1TA.

AT THE SIGN OF THE DRAGON, 131 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London SW14 8AE.

THE SHEFFIELD SPACE CENTRE 33 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HS.

Jeremy Briggs: Did Gene actually novelise The Motion Picture? After all, the novelisations of Star Wars and Close Encounters are credited to George Lucas and Steven Spielberg respectively and while they scripted the films they didn't novelise the books. If he didn't, who did? Alan Dean Foster perhaps?

Janet: To my best knowledge Gene did write the novelisation himself, although I would have to ask Susan Sackett or Richard Arnold for confirmation. The fact that there is a character called Assistant Engineer Quarten has to say something.

Michael Sadler: Is the character of Stiles (Styles) in the original series (Balance of Terror) the same Styles who is the Captain of the Excelsior in STIII: The search for Spock?

I know the Excelsior Styles is the same one as in the novel Prime Directive by J&G Reeves-Stevens, because they both have the swagger stick.

Matthew Ingrouille: I am interested in the wormhole way of travelling through space. Does anyone know the name of the TNG

episode in which Data and Wesley took a shuttlecraft through a wormhole? [Sheila - *This is the third season episode The Price; bids are being invited for control of what is thought to be a stable wormhole. It's actually Data and Geordi who take a shuttlecraft through to check it, only to discover that it is not stable and they have to get back fast.*]

Does anyone know how stardates are worked out?

Can You Help

Roger Ball: Does anyone have the dates for the Premiere Broadcasts and the second Broadcast of both ST:The Motion Picture and ST:The Wrath of Khan in UK and US. Inc. the days/times and channels.

Also does anyone have the viewing figures for Star Trek on the dates of 2/12/92, 09/12/92, 16/12/92, 23/12/92?

☆☆☆☆☆

STARBASE 93

Reported by Mark Dwyer

The only problem with this being my first con, I didn't realise how addictive it could be, or just how much fun they are!

Fri 29 - Arriving at 3 o'clock, I picked up my con package. This included a very handy first timers' guide to conventions. Also included were the programme guides. Nine days of video viewing pushed into three days - quite remarkable! The other piece of good news was that James was giving two talks. This was excellent because duty called and I would miss the first one. Finding a seat, I sat for a couple of hours talking to old and new friends. It's amazing how quickly you can meet people at one of these things.

1700 hours, steward's duty. A quick run up to the video room - to find out it was only 1650. I need a new watch. Today I got to see The Paradise Syndrome for the first time - yes, there are some fans out there who haven't seen all there is to do with Star Trek. Leaving the video room quite impressed, I went in search of food (there had to be some somewhere!) I found some outside the other video room. There I saw my trading card companion from Leeds Starfleet, Anne, and sat talking for a good two hours - more than I have ever done in my life! Then it was down to the main hall for the opening ceremony.

Managing to get a table near the front, I sat patiently, camera in hand, waiting for

the first appearance of Jimmy. To rapturous applause, he made his entrance. How anyone can stand in front of so many camera flashes and not even twitch I'll never know. After that it was down to the autograph session to join the already ginormous queue. There were another two autograph sessions so I wasn't that upset that I hadn't brought my copy of Relics to be signed. Getting two signed photos and taking another one, it was on to the disco. I didn't stay there too long - there was just so much more on. I went to the TNG video room at 10 but didn't get in till 11.15 - there were just so many people to meet and talk to. I did catch the end of Cause and Effect (one of the best of season 5 in my opinion); after this it was home and some rest.

I arrived early on Saturday (the dealer's room was my target). I had made the vow to spend no money; this was soon broken when I bought two TV Zones to add to my collection. Just to make matters worse there were two dealers' rooms, so I had to resist spending again. This time I managed it successfully, but I knew tomorrow would be very different.

Next I made my way to Anne Page's guest talk. I found this to be worth the convention money on its own. Especially when she went through the fancy dress section of conventions gone by. Taking a break from the con I made my way to the comic fair, where I succeeded in spending a

large amount of money. I managed to make it back to the con in time to catch the episode Relics. Even though I had read the book first it was still magnificent, with Jimmy stealing the show. Even though it was Jimmy's guest talk next I had to leave - duty called. Relieving the current steward, I sat through an episode of Beauty and the Beast on my own. It makes you wonder if the video rooms should be open during the main guest talks. Still, I had volunteered, and there was always the chance to see him.

It did seem to be an advantage though. I managed to get to the queue to have my photo taken with Jimmy quite early, so avoiding the rush. Then it was upstairs to watch Rascals and A Fistful of Datas (I had seen them before but they were well worth watching again).

The steward's party was next and at last I found the reason I volunteered. It was most enjoyable, and Jimmy could be seen mingling. The one advantage was, it was the first time I had eaten properly since the convention started. I then waited for Emissary - the one thing I had really come to see. The only problem was that it started at 2.15 am, but I found it was well worth staying up for. The programme was well put together and the battle sequence with the Borg was excellent. It did not finish there; there was still an episode of War of the Worlds to see but after 10 minutes, sleep got the better of me. It was time to go home and to bed.

After two hours sleep I returned to the con (I wish I had taken Monday off. Next time I'll know better.) There were a few hours to spare then due to Chas Evans from CIC video not turning up. This was a shame because I had a few questions to ask him; I spent this time well, though, talking to people. There's never a wasted moment at a convention. I managed to catch the end of the auction. There were some impressive items up for grabs, but unfortunately I had no money for any of these. I remained in the main hall for Chains of Command and James Doohan's guest talk. After all I had a good seat and I wasn't leaving it for anything.

James was magnificent and worth the admission money on his own. I can't wait until he visits our shores again. The saddest moment came next - the closing ceremony and raffle. How is it I managed to buy a strip of tickets which came in between two winning strips? There were some impressive prizes on offer, including a limited edition satin jacket. (Maybe next time.) I remained in the main hall to watch three final videos all of which I had never seen before - DS9 (A Man Alone and Babel) and also TNG (Ship in a Bottle). Beats me how they got this one so quick - after all it had only been shown in America seven days before. All these episodes were excellent and should be watched by all, even the doubters of DS9.

There is only one more thing to say - roll on Starbase 94.

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Reported by Jean Sloan

It was the best weekend I've had for a long time. It's just over a week and I am still suffering from post-con depression. It is a really good time to have a con. January/February is such a dark and depressing time of the year. Well, not any more, folks, because they're doing it again next year.

There were talks by Dr. Jack Cohen and James Doohan. I didn't hear Jack Cohen because I was doing security duty; but I've heard his Alien Biology talk before, and it's very entertaining. I very much enjoyed James Doohan's contributions. He talked about his life and about a book he is sort of getting around to writing about it. I discovered that his aunts used to live in Liverpool, in Mossley Hill, the suburb where I live. Now if only I could claim kinship! Fame at last...

Ann Page also gave a talk (which I also missed because I was securitying again.) I just caught the end and was sorry I'd not been there because the slides of past con fancy dress competitions which I did see made me think that I might have missed quite a bit of scandal!

There was a 24-hour video room

showing Next Gen, and all the latest episode were shown in the main hall on a big screen. The video programme was exceedingly well put together; if you missed one showing of an episode, it was repeated. And then there was Deep Space Nine. I saw the pilot, Emissary, and two others. I like it. It has possibilities... there are some interesting relationships already. I like Odo and Sisko; Miles O'Brien has a bigger part than he had in Next Gen. I do however have problems with the idea of Dax - Trill + Host. I had problems accepting the concept in The Host, and I still find the idea repugnant. I hope the issue of the relationship between Host and Trill will be explored in a future episode. The show is action-based; I think the idea is sort of the Wild West in space.

The weekend was really jolly, very relaxed, and the Hilton, Leeds, was a good venue for facilities. Thank you to the con committee for a great weekend.

See you at Warp One!

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Reported by Edward Woo

We missed you, Helen, or was it 'we needed someone to write up the guest talks, perhaps Simon you could do it as you got it taped!'

Friday - after a 2-hour drive I found my way through the Leeds one-way system to the hotel with the aid of a passer-by - thanks! With Jean's help I got my car tucked safely in the car park. Up onto the escalator with baggage in hand (reception was on the 3rd floor!) Chatted with friends. Jean had arrived yesterday and mentioned she was so busy doing work, work, she failed to notice this Canadian accent next to her till the penny dropped. Most of Friday's video schedule I had seen, so I found my way to ops with some auction items.

I introduced Baggy to Carol as he wanted to see if Jimmy would give a hand print (like George did at Contagion) - but he declined. Marina Sirtis will be his next target at Warp One.

We caught Realm of fear and Man of the People (before heading for Macs and pizzas. Does every ST fan go for pizzas at cons?) We avoided the hotel ST food which included Spock Surprise, McCoy Magic and Ferengi Feast in view of the Vulcan surprise in Nurses - which most had seen.

Into the main hall with cameras ready. The opening ceremony began with a Starbase 93 video - a compilation of the ST universe. Guests were Anne Page, Dr Jack Cohen (he specialises in biology (was it hedgehog or porcupine?)) and the man himself, James Doohan. (Chas Evans our CIC guest failed to make it - he was stuck in Africa.)

The con was formally open and we queued up for our GoH's autograph - quicker than waiting for tomorrow's party. Midnight came; I must have drawn the short straw for steward's duty as there were only 6 of us in the alt. video room - some mindless programme. 1.15 am came before I found a pillow. It was a sleep ON/OFF night as the rooms were hot.

Saturday - we didn't need the wake-up call but it rang anyway. Down to breakfast - a feast of cereal, fruit juice, bacon, eggs etc despite the burning toast behind us. As stewards we got into the dealers' room first, before the crowd. The rooms weren't big but there was still plenty to choose from. The stuff I wanted hadn't arrived in the UK yet, but I got myself another A4 big format book and a mag. All three of us felt it was the first con where we'd spent so little. (This meant we could save for the next one!) The art room had some excellent portraits of Picard, Spock, Troi and Riker and Sela, not forgetting Scotty; and non-Trek items including Star Wars, Tarzan and the space shuttle. By the way, which one won? There were few models but plenty of zines which I admit I don't need.

Stewarding the dealers' room, I missed Dr Jack's talk - was it good, and what was it about? (Biology, I think.)

I was ready for Ann Page's talk and slide show about past cons. She entered the world of fandom as a BBC researcher 'who

volunteered to talk to these 'loonies' holding a ST convention. Here she met Dot Owens and was hooked. Her slides were very descriptive, devoted to fancy dress costumes - eg a costume operated by an umbrella mechanism for fold-out wings; some hairy bears from Fantasia; plastic bin costumes; a horta made from a hotel blanket and a tin of baked beans. Anne mentioned she teaches, and there is always one child who likes ST (including the parents). Finally, she said ST is about friendship, and if two cons clash, she would always choose a ST one.

The main hall was full when James Doohan was introduced to us by Anne. He came on stage in a red shirt and black trousers to tremendous applause and the blinking of camera flashes. With him was the usual light brown drink, which he didn't touch till the end. Untypical of other guests, he began answering the usual fan questions first, and what would he do if Scotty was Captain? Kirk would be an ensign; Uhura would have more lines; Chekov wouldn't scream; McCoy wouldn't say 'He's dead Jim'; Spock would not be allowed into engineering to save the ship. I can't remember Sulu's line.

He described how he became an actor on radio and TV and before it, his military service in the Royal Canadian Artillery and Air Force. He was wounded by several bullets in the arm/hand and leg. His ancestry is Scottish and the Montgomery name from Aberdeen. He enjoyed Relics as it was a superb script. He said as an actor he would never turn down a part as he's paid to act. He didn't just stay on the main hall stage but moved all around the hall, down the aisles for everyone to hear and see him. This meant the ones at the front (us) got neckache looking back. His talk over-ran a touch and ended with a couple of Welsh songs.

Straight after was a photo session. John joined the queue while many of us stayed for the pilot of DS9. The opening battle scenes are superb and the rest is just great. There's plenty of action and characterisation. I won't say any more. Everyone we talked to found DS9 enjoyable and none were disappointed. It seems to have gone very well in the US, with more

people watching the pilot than in history, beating all other SF opposition (6 other new SF shows, I hear). (Apparently it's very popular in Korea!) The DS9 cast seems to have jelled in a short space of time, and the theme music grows on me every time I hear it. Simon pointed out there's still a discrepancy over O'Brien's rank - we'll have to ask Richard.

Back to the same place for food and ice cream as yesterday. Just enough time for the fancy dress. Despite the small number of entries there were some excellent first time entries. One who didn't enter was a kilted Klingon. The fancy dress parade included a Klingon and a green lady; 'No accidents' John as Dr Who No 4; a DS9 costume; a group from Beauty and the Beast; Elizabethan NG; a big Romulan and a black and white net curtain being. This final costume well deserved and won first prize.

A better attended disco carried on Saturday's events but a few fruit juices later it was Stewards' party time. Food instead of drink - nice idea. Jean said it would have saved her buying a meal if she'd known.

Sunday - slept better but woke slower and later. Down for another energy fill to find Jean missing breakfast doing security walks. She got a cup of coffee later.

The auction is one of the fun items on the schedule. Items sold included a Spock teddy bear, a set of 1 - 21 TNG Starlogs (a bargain at £25), 6th season TNG press kit (£130) Many autographed photos (DS9 & TNG) went for about £40. The picture/print of Scotty and the space shuttle was impressive but dear. One surprise was the cost of ST jigsaws - sought after.

An aside - we should have asked Scotty to repair the lifts - they were a little jumpy.

James Doohan's second guest appearance began. A number of questions were repeated from yesterday for one-day attendees. In Relics, he found his costume comfortable, but as in the TV series the boots were bad. The Doomsday Machine is his personal favourite because of its scientific

basis, with ST VI the best film to date. He believes ST VII will come, but don't believe in rumours until they are fact. (No doubt some rumours have already been started at this con!) He was very frank about his comments re directorial skills of Bull and Leonard. He sees Relics as open-ended for Scotty's return. He would love to do a pantomime, like George did at Brighton, and still enjoys stage work. To a question about the space programme, he felt its budget should be doubled - it's minute compared to the D o D. The green liquid in Relics was water - Scotch at 8 am is a bit early. He opened his talk with a multitude of accents to see how it would sound if the Chief Engineer wasn't Scottish - it was hilariously funny. To finish, he gave a quote from ST. We expected "Ye canna change the laws o' physics" or "NCC 1701. No bloody A, B, C or D." Instead, he quoted, "Captain, there be whales aboard". He left to a standing ovation.

The closing ceremony had come. Anne and Dr Jack had already left, but Jimmy was still there. He drew of the raffle tickets and gave out the the art, fiction and fancy dress prizes. The guests, the committee, the stewards/security and to the con attendees were thanked. James Doohan opened his gift

(a house from Lilliput Lane) and a bottle - a wee drink which he appreciated very much.

Went for a meal - it seemed like all the attendees had gone to Pizzaland when we arrived! Afterwards we trailed ourselves back as there was no hurry to watch videos. We found the bar and drinks, a table and chairs, and sat till the wee small hours talking Trek trivia. Baggy would be a handicap in a Trek quiz team!

Monday - breakfast, shower, sleep (in the reverse order!) It was later and slower again! I found hunger was the least of my problems. Saw people off. Left Leeds, got home, tried to read, fell asleep, awoke, had dinner and went to bed early!

This was an excellent convention, and can we have Starbase 94, please? The con's schedule ran up to time; its success was assured as there were no door registrations (I heard two people from France tried). The size was just right for it to be informal. When I spoke to Jean a week later, she agreed that many regular con goers were there, with fewer new attendees. I heard James Doohan said he enjoyed it very much, and might return soon. I hope so!

☆☆☆☆

URS DISCOVERY

Imperial date 920207

A group of us in Dundee had decided to hold a get-together of local Trek fans; the day after the Troon minicon, we held our first meeting in the Angus Hotel at 2pm. We planned to show a couple of ST:TNG episodes and the pilot of DS9. We expected only about 40 people to turn up; we were very surprised to find 191 Trekkers appearing at the meeting. The local newspaper sent down a photographer and I was asked to go and put my uniform on. Going home and back took about 15 minutes; I got dressed and we headed outside the hotel and had a few photographs taken. These appeared in the

next morning's paper and in the evening one as well. (A Klingon will do anything to get his photo in the paper!) After the videos, we asked if anyone would be interested in forming a club with the view of having meetings every month, with the longer-term aim of having a Star Trek convention in Dundee next year. Quite a lot of interest was shown; we'll wait and see how many turn up to the meeting on March 7th.

Qapla. Commander K'tan Vestai
Kuragan (KAG Scotland)

☆☆☆☆

TROON

In November 1992 the Klingon Assault group (Scotland) were approached and were asked to help the Girls' Brigade celebrate their centenary and to help raise funds for the Craigalbert Trust (set up to help children under 7 years old who suffer from cerebral palsy - based on the Peto Institute in Hungary). They had hoped to stage a Star Trek mini convention and asked if KAG Scotland would be their Guests of Honour, and in return we would be presented with 100 home made chocolates (as part of the Girls' Brigade Centenary they must give the chocolates to someone different, and how different can you get than four Klingon Warriors from Scotland?)

Imperial date 920206.

Having travelled to Kolorth's house, as the minicon was to be held in a small town called Troon (yes, more famous for golf) the night before, I went out with him for a couple of Romulan Ales and a game of Caverns of Doom (a game where you are shooting at each other with a laser gun).

We were asked to arrive at the St Meddan's Church Hall at about 11.30 so we could run through the opening ceremony (which was to take place at 1300). We got changed and entered the main hall where the command crew of the convention had set up some great props, ie transporter room doors on the stage. We went through the opening ceremony a few times and were filmed for Scottish TV News and were shown on the Scottish News at 5.45 pm that night.

1.00 pm was on us very quickly and we were smuggled into the main hall for the opening ceremony. It went like this.

1. Vangelis themes started, slowly fading out after 95 seconds
2. Voice over - "Starfleet Command, this is Earth Station Troon. Sensors have picked up unusual activities within the proximity of St Meddan's Church Hall. Request an away team beam down immediately. Priority one."
3. "Earth Station Troon - this is Starfleet

Command. Message acknowledged. Away team preparing to beam down. Stand by."

4. Star Trek materialisation sound effect.
5. Star Trek opening doors sound effect.
6. Away team walk through and take up position on stage; doors close.
7. Klingon theme tune from ST:TMP.
8. Klingon voice over - "Federation away team, this is Klingon cruiser Kronus. We intercepted your subspace transmission and offer assistance."
9. Federation voice over - "Acknowledged, Klingon cruiser Kronus. Assistance approved, sending co-ordinates. Beam down immediately. Starfleet out."
10. Star Trek materialisation sound effect.
11. Star Trek opening doors sound effect.
12. Klingons walked through doors and took up positions on stage. The audience were cheering (they loved the Klingons)
13. Anne McIlwaine tapped her communicator badge and said, "Away team to Starfleet Command. We have arrived at co-ordinates and report that your sensors have picked up a Star Trek convention, which is now declared open. Taking up duty positions now until 21.00 hours. Away team out." Taps communicator.
14. ST:TNG theme tune starts; command crew and Klingons walk off stage into the audience.

Well done! A brilliant start to the convention. There were two video rooms and a Ten Forward snack bar, competitions, and a Star Trek quiz. They showed Deep Space Nine in one video room.

At the end of the convention the four members of the Klingon Assault Group were presented with the home made chocolates from the Girls' Brigade, and as a good-will gesture we in return gave them to a nearby OAP's home (who says Klingons aren't nice?) I hope they enjoyed them.

The convention finished at about 8.00pm and after we all got cleaned up we headed back to Anne's house to have a party and watch a video of the day's events. About £250 was raised for the Guides and the Trust.

I left Anne's house at about 11.15pm and headed home at about 1.30 am on the Sunday morning.

The following members of KAG - Lt TOQDJ Tai JONWI, Lt ZENKURA Tai KARASTAI, Kolorth and I would like to thank everyone who helped put on a great minicon.

P.S. - Anyone needing Klingons for anything (apart from that Gaile Wood) get in touch and we will see if we can help out (cons, charity events, etc.)

Qapla. Commander K'tan Vestai Kuragan (KAG Scotland).

☆☆☆☆

Patrick Stewart

A Christmas Carol" Broadhurst Theatre New York City

Dec 15th 1992 - January 3rd 1993

By Margaret Rainey

In December 1991, Patrick Stewart won a "Drama Desk" award from the New York Critics Association, for the best solo performance on Broadway, doing his one-man interpretation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol". This past December of 1992, he again took a three-week hiatus from TNG (with the Producers' blessing) to return to Broadway for an encore engagement, which again played this award-winning adaptation to capacity audiences, standing ovations, and excellent reviews.

This year, there was a difference this year, we had some British fans in the audience! Seven members from the British end of Patrick's official (and international) fan club, IAAPS, made the trip to New York City to witness what the critics had raved about the year before. I was one of them, and can tell you it was worth the trip.

The show has its origins in 1984, when Patrick was asked by his brother to help his home-town local church raise funds for its restoration project. He had recently read "Christmas Carol" while on location making "Lady Jane", and thought it would make an ideal reading to perform. As indeed, it turned out to be. It then remained on the back burner for some years, till Patrick was looking for a project that would enable him to do some stage work in between working on TNG. He decided to revive "Christmas

Carol", and performed it as a reading a couple of times in California one December. Then gradually, it became less of a reading and more of a performance, till in December 1991, he returned to Broadway for the first time in 28 years, with a full-blown one-man performance, in which he gives voice to, and acts out, more than 40 characters from the book.

The adaptation from the original text is done by Patrick himself, with Kate Elliot, the Producer, and Fred Allen, Lighting Effects, being the only other members of the small team responsible for the show. The setting is a stage that is stark and comparatively bare, with a totally black backdrop. The only thing onstage at the start, is a small pile of wooden furniture, heaped on a table. Propped at the front of this pile, clearly visible to the audience, is a manuscript of "Christmas Carol" in a red binder with gold lettering.

The lights dim, and Patrick Stewart strides on with no fanfare. Simply dressed in a dark suit, with shirt but no tie. He takes the binder from the pile, holds the text aloft, to make sure the "script" for the evening is duly acknowledged, then fishes a lectern from the conglomeration of wood, centre stage, and places it extreme stage right. Placing the open binder on the lectern he begins to read; "Marley was dead. To begin with, there was no doubt about it." Within a

few sentences, the binder is left behind, he moves away from the lectern, and we are into the realms of performance & memory. He gradually places the rest of the furniture; a writing desk and stool, stage left; a table and chair, stage right. That's it... the sum total of the scenery and the help. The rest is up to the actor, the lighting, and the audience's imagination. The result is no less than spellbinding.

You may have heard the cassette version, but that gives you less than half the full effect; what's missing from that is the sheer physicality of the performance, the droll timing, the audience laughter, the actor's expressions, the lighting effects (wonderful), the experience of being totally drawn into this performance, having little worlds and scenes created in your imagination, having the characters come to life before you, the humour, the pathos, the power of a master craftsman at work in his art.

With just the power of the spoken word, Patrick weaves a spell to dazzle even those of us who are usually hard to convince in the "suspension of disbelief" department. Of course, it helps mightily that the words spoken are those of another master craftsman - Dickens - who has a turn of phrase which both surprises and delights, certainly for those of us who found him dull while being force-fed "Oliver Twist" at school. His description of Scrooge's house, up a dark alley where it had "so little business being, that one could only suppose that it had run there as a young house, while playing hide-and-seek with other houses, and had forgotten the way out", is charming and funny, as well as being one of those phrases you remember for its sheer unexpectedness. Patrick takes the words of Dickens and relishes them, extracting their full effect. This effect is (again surprisingly) one of great humour in the most unexpected places, as well as one of the sheer power of Dickens' prose in the serious passages.

The show's "crowd" scenes are the highlights. There is the Fezziwig's ball, in which Patrick creates a multitude of people dancing and having fun; Mrs Fezziwig is

"one vast substantial smile", which Patrick demonstrates by his whole body becoming part of a beaming smile that seems to fill the entire stage. He makes the music of the fiddler himself, and dances enough to convey an entire room full of people doing the "Sir Roger de Coverley" at full tilt. He then mimes drinking a glass of water, to recover from the exertion!

Then there is the Cratchit family dinner, in which every Cratchit (about 10 of them, from the youngest children upwards) has a distinct personality. Mrs Cratchit is no less than a star of the entire show. And Tiny Tim gets to sing a little song, which in lesser hands might be ridiculous, but in Patrick's sure-footed charge is both believable and touching. We see the joy of the Cratchit family, despite their poverty.

Scrooge evolves throughout the length of the story, from the early "Bah, Humbug!" miser, who hasn't a good word for anyone, and believes the poor should die and "decrease the surplus population", to a man who sees the error of his ways, and vows to redeem himself before it's too late. He is shown the future, his own miserable death, and the results on the Cratchits of the death of Tiny Tim. In the show's most poignant moment, Patrick sits as Bob Cratchit, after the death of his son, surrounded by the rest of his weeping family, and counting what blessings are left to him, trying to convince himself that "I'm so happy. So very happy". Delivered in tones close to tears, and touching enough to bring a lump to the throat of even the hardest cynic.

All in all, it's a remarkable experience to sit through. Patrick sings, dances, makes us laugh, brings a lump to our throats, and shows us the redemption of a miserable old miser, without falling over the edge into mawkish sentiment. The performance ranges from quiet pathos to powerful anger, from joy to fear, from knowing humour - shared with a twinkle in the eye - to the reformed Scrooge's first laugh, coming up chokingly, hesitantly from his bootstraps, sounding at first like a heart attack, but blossoming into a full-blown belly laugh .. Patrick controls the cut off precisely, for the wry punch-line

"Really, for a man who had been out of practice for so long, it was a splendid laugh."

As the story draws to its close, he moves back to the lectern, drawing our attention back to the written word, flipping pages, and reading the final few paragraphs, before coming centre stage for the closing lines, with outstretched arms "God bless us, every one". During the applause, he holds aloft the text once more, acknowledging that without the writer, the actor has no place from which to start. For two hours, one actor has taken those written words, and turned them into a theatrical experience that not

only wins awards, but should be required viewing in the art of how to make "dull" authors come alive and communicate with the audience of today.

Patrick Stewart hopes to be able to perform this one-man show of "Christmas Carol" in London one future December, possibly December 1993, although this is far from being confirmed as certain. If and when it does come to pass, don't miss out on it, or you'll be missing a great actor in one of his great performances, as well as one heck of a story!

☆☆☆☆☆

THE EMISSARY - ST:DS9 PILOT

Reviewed by Alan Stephen

ST:DS9 was broadcast in America on January 4th and not the 11th as reported in Starburst and TV Zone.

The show opens with the battle at Wolf 359, which is truly spectacular, and which would not have shamed a cinema release. It is here that Ben Sisko's wife is killed, creating the animosity that Ben feels for Picard.

When we meet Sisko next, he and his son Jake are on board Deep Space 9, a space station orbiting Bajor. Again the effects for the space station are tremendous, especially when the USS Enterprise docks and the station shuttle takes off, where Ben meets some of his staff, Odo the shapeshifter (the effects here are similar to the effects on Terminator 2) and Major Kira Nerys, a Bajoran who is busy getting the station repaired after the Cardassians have wrecked it and put a lot of the businesses on the Promenade out of business. Quark, the Ferengi barkeeper, has decided to leave but is convinced by Ben to stay.

Shortly after comes a visit to Bajor (again the SFX crew have come up trumps with a panorama of Bajor that is breathtaking) where Ben is asked by the Bajorans to get back some religious orbs taken by the Cardassians.

Dr Julian Bashir and the Trill Dax arrive. Ben knew Dax when she had a male host body. Ben instructs Dax to find out where the orbs came from; she discovers an area of space where there have been many reports of strange disturbances, and where several of the orbs were found, but before Ben and Dax can go off to investigate a Cardassian warship arrives at Deep Space 9.

After some shenanigans, Ben and Dax take off to survey the area. They discover an artificially made, stable wormhole. Ben is held by the beings who made the wormhole and Dax is returned to the station.

The Cardassians by this time have also fallen into the wormhole, but not before calling for reinforcements. Chief O'Brien has worked out a method to move the space station in front of the wormhole so they can claim it on behalf of the Federation, but not before the arrival of the Cardassian fleet who cause some damage to the space station, which is unarmed.

Needless to say, everything is resolved.

I don't want to give too much away, and the teaser for the next episode shows a Bajoran freedom fighter being pursued by the Cardassians. Major Kira Nerys, with a new

hairstyle, does her best to defend the freedom fighter.

I hope I've given a taster to this new series and haven't spoiled it for anyone. I

give it my highest recommendation; the performances of the principals are good, the story kept my attention and the effects are superb.

☆☆☆☆

ERR... IT'S OK, BUT WHERE'S THE PLOT?

A brief review of the DS9 pilot episode by David Houston & Taruka Quauhtezcatl

After watching the DS9 pilot episode *The Emissary*, both of us thought, "was that it???"

Dave said that it seemed to be as immobile as the space station itself, and for the most part Taruka was trying to spot recycled bits from TNG episodes - eg the spaceship Tsiolkovsky from *The Naked Now* (recycled quite a few times since its original appearance in TSFS as the USS Grissom) or the painfully obvious bits from BOBW, even though Patrick Stewart appears to have donned his Borg make-up (minus minilaser) and recorded a little extra footage. There seemed to be more bits in this episode than on DS9's promenade deck.

Major Kira Nerys is rather obviously a last-minute replacement for Ensign Ro - her lines were so obviously Ro-ish near the beginning, though she shows signs of being one of the stronger characters. We suspect that only a Bajoran could even consider that way of getting aboard a Cardassian ship - and only Odo, with whom she has had a long acquaintance, would be crazy enough to actually do it!

Miles O'Brien and the computer, which appears to have inherited the mannerisms of Lwaxana Troi (as well as her voice) make good sparring partners but his complaint of having a system go down "just as I'd got the damn thing working" makes him begin to sound like a Scotty clone - which we all know he isn't!

How can you move a STATIONARY (please note) space station out of Bajoran orbit on thrusters alone? Even with the help of the La Forge Principle of Subspace

Distortion (first mooted in *Deja Q* - ie you can make an object easier to move by wrapping a low-level warp field around it.) No, this is stretching even our imaginations just a little too far!

Sisko, the commanding officer of DS9, won a house point by arguing down a Ferengi by using Ferengi custom - and promptly lost it again by the interminably long sequence inside the wormhole, all too reminiscent in several ways of ST:TNG. For one thing, how can a shuttlecraft LAND inside a wormhole? (The recycled location from *Menage a Troi* didn't help.)

His attempts to explain linear time to a race of creatures who live outside time 'everywhere and nowhere, yesterday and tomorrow' are laboured and to some extent repetitive. It took a while to get to the idea of a ball game, and by that time Taruka had picked up her knitting again.

The interior of the Enterprise Observation Lounge didn't look right - shame on you, Harvin Rush; the lighting was far too harsh. We both found it difficult to accept that this was Star Trek at all!

The Bajorans' choice of Sisko as emissary to the Prophets was all too reminiscent of the choices made by certain groups of native Americans when choosing a leader or shaman. They must be 'born again from their own suffering' or suffer a symbolic death and resurrection, and Sisko's adventure (or is it a dream) inside the wormhole certainly qualifies as this! Taruka commented on this after reading the novelisation and again after the episode. As

she's part Aztec, part Inca and the rest anyone's guess, she actually understood it - David didn't. (Explanations welcome - DH)

Kai Opaka was a disappointment. We had hoped for someone with the presence of T'Lar, at least, if not T'Pol, but we got nowhere near that.

All in all, the whole episode was characterised by its lack of movement - even

the action scenes were somewhat wooden - and we can only hope that as a whole the series will get better. As pilots go this was the worst we've seen, and how Paramount managed to sell the series on the strength of this we cannot begin to imagine. However, open minds prevailing, we can but think that it must get better. Even TNG had a rough ride at first.

Marks out of 10 - 4.5

☆☆☆☆

SOME COMMENTS ON STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

Steve Davies - Re DS9. I haven't seen it yet, not even clips from it, but I have read everything that's been printed in IDIC, Starburst and Starlog about it. It sounds to me an interesting project; I can't say whether or not it'll be a success (I admit that when TNG began I for one thought it would be a dismal failure) but with the production values of TNG and the sort of inter-character tensions we had in CT it'll certainly be worth a look!

One thing that has disappointed me is the design of the space station itself. Yes, I *know* it's supposed to be alien but I did expect something a little more like the space dock in STIII:TSFS; seeing the piccies in IDIC 26 I thought YEEUCH!! It's nice having a black lead character for a change - Gene would certainly be pleased. I've never seen Avery Brooks in anything else (I think!) but in uniform he certainly looks as if he could fill Picard's chair!

Liz Caldwell - Since they showed the pilot and first three episodes of DS9 at the con, I thought I'd write and give my opinion of the new series so far. It is very well made, with excellent effects, interesting new characters and good stories (although the pilot did go on a bit!) But I have a problem with it which is quite different from the doubts and apprehension I had when I first saw ST:TNG.

My problem is, it's too much like TNG, which may sound a bit odd, but the fact that it takes place in the same time line as TNG, with the same alien races (Cardassians,

Bajorans, Trill, etc) and the same technology and even familiar faces, eg the O'Brien family, makes it feel like TNG but without the TNG crew... and I miss them. I keep wishing the Commander of the Base was Picard, or you'd go to sickbay and Bev would be there instead of the new doctor. I never had this problem when I started watching TNG because it was SO different from Classic Trek it was almost like watching a new series.

I suppose the DS9 characters will grow on me, but at the moment I'm missing the TNG faces too much to feel any particular fondness for the new lot. I know it's early days and by this time next year I'll probably be raving about Odo and Dax and the rest of them... but I can't help wishing they'd all suddenly disappear and the crew of Enterprise-D get a transfer to DS9!

One last point. I too have a problem with the Trill. I find the whole idea rather unrealistic and hope that we get some insight and explanations about them in future DS9 episodes.

Russell Witheyman - I've just watched the first episode of DS9 and I'm pleasantly surprised by this new series. The cast are excellent. Avery Brooks as Commander Ben Sisko is brilliant as a man who is angry at Picard over his wife's death; Siddig El Faddil is also great as Dr Julian Bashir - I think this character will be highly amusing in future episodes. Dr Bashir's desperate to get into a phaser fight or battle, even when there is no real threat to himself or anyone else. Rene

Auborjonois is also another great actor who plays Odo the alien shape-shifter. I have a feeling that this character will come to be as fondly remembered by fans as Spock and Data have been. Over all I was impressed by Emissary, it's definitely a better pilot than Encounter at Farpoint, but it is badly paced.

The theme music isn't all that great; it's probably the least memorable of all the Trek themes (including the movies); the opening sequence is very similar to TNG and as for the SFX in the pilot, they're quite stunning.

The only other episode of DS9 I have seen so far is Past Prologue, which I thought was quite good. It was written by Kathryn Powers, who wrote Code of Honor, but fortunately Past Prologue is a better story than that dreadful effort. I won't make my final judgement on the series until I have seen all of the first season, but from what I've seen so far DS9 looks promising. The conflict in the show is much more than in TNG. At the moment I still prefer TNG, but things could change!

George Haggarty - To Anyone - Am I the only one who enjoyed the DS9 pilot, but was disappointed by it as well? It was definitely Star Trek in essence, the characters were interesting, the SFX wonderful, but it felt too much like an episode of TNG for my liking.

I guess I was hoping that DS9 wasn't going to be just as sanitized as the current TNG is. Where was the passion and gritty realism? Nevertheless, I look forward to seeing more episodes.

Gloria Fry - 'Deep Space 9' - I have seen a copy of the pilot and I am extremely impressed. When I first read about the concept, I was dubious, but if they continue in this way, it certainly will be a must for me. It is full of action, conflict and drama, without losing the people aspect so important to Star Trek. I particularly liked Avery Brooks as Commander Sisko. The actor has presence, style, dignity and the ability to show emotions. He made the character real for me and it was easy to empathise with Sisko. The whole show rested on Avery Brooks's shoulders and he was more than capable.

The other characters were not so well realised, but the seeds are there.

The First Officer Major Kira at first appeared to be the usual TNG type female, but as the story unfolded we saw a softer, sympathetic side. Lt. Dax - she who has the symbiote within - is an interesting character. The doctor is certainly there as the token 'pretty boy', and he is very handsome, has a lovely speaking voice, but already in the few short scenes, his character as the young idealist looking for adventure was established.

The shapeshifter Odo is the outsider character, (Spock /Data) the only one of his kind. The make-up is not particularly realistic, but the shapechanging effects are excellent. The Ferengi Quark might be one who could give a touch of humour to the show. The young boy Jake Sisko doesn't seem to be the all-American brat, and finally O'Brien, whom I have never liked before, finally gets something meaty to do and is excellent in this with a little of the endearing idiosyncracies of Scotty.

To conclude - I hope DS9 will maintain the standard of this first episode and I look forward to seeing the others.

Edwin Yau - I've seen DS9 and while it isn't Trek either, it is, however, a very good SF series and deserves to succeed. It has recaptured the passion of TOS and I love it. The soundtrack has a "heroic" feeling to it and the characters are all well played. The only 2 points I wasn't too impressed about were-

a) Odo - the character needs better development - he's too "stale".

b) The SFX and sets. According to reports, it's said that \$12 million was spent on the budget - well it sure didn't look like it!

Helen White - Reviews (sort of) of the DS9 pilot episode:

a) from Debra, my landlady and not a Trekker at all, although she says that she likes TNG: she said that she very much enjoyed DS9, even though I had to explain some of the middle to her (she isn't a sci-fi fan and got

thoroughly confused)

b) from me: I deliberately kept an open mind about DS9, although I was hoping that I'd like it. Here's what I wrote in my diary after the first time that I saw it (exactly as I wrote it): "First impressions of DS9: Love it. I like the station uniforms (that Odo and Major wotsit wear) and I like Mrs Bajoran priest's outfit (can't remember many names). Like Sisko a lot a lot (bit wooden tho') also Jake, Odo, Major, Quark, Doctor Erm. Not sure about Jadzia Dax yet. Nice to see O'Brien - familiar face - and nice to see J-L [Jean-Luc, in case you hadn't guessed] in pilot but why rest of friends not say goodbye? Where Keiko? Not explained v. well! Space station looks like fun, and I like the promenade. Like the fact that things don't work. The much-hyped 'grittiness' is nice grittiness. Liked the story - fairly standard and 'safe Trek stuff' - be interesting to see how things go on. Show definitely has great potential. They're v.much bound to start off v. safe. I hope I continue to enjoy it"

Janet Quarton - I have been lucky enough to see the pilot and first few episodes of DS9 and while I enjoyed it I haven't developed any empathy with any of the characters yet. I find them interesting and likeable but that's all - I probably like O'Brien best. What I don't like is the music or the opening titles - while I could sit and watch different views of the Enterprise all night, I find the space station rather boring.

Lee Sansome - Re Deep Space Nine - well, I've seen it. First reactions are mainly favourable - it was good science fiction and I liked the central theme of Sisko coming to terms with his past. The SFX are excellent, as we have come to expect with TNG. As for

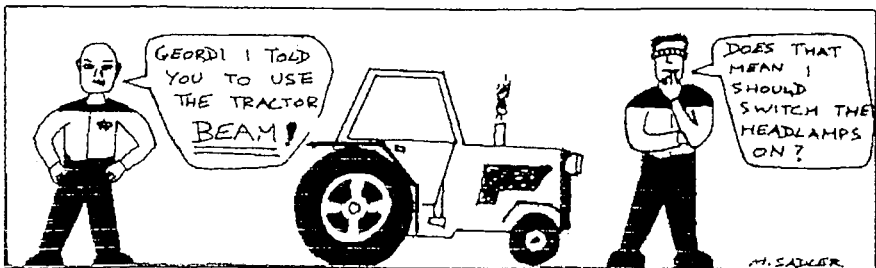
the characters, I suspect it will take time for most of them to 'grow' on me, as it did with TNG. The exceptions are Sisko, who I think I like already - he's strong and fair but with a vulnerability about him that's reminiscent of a certain Captain of old... And Kira promises to be as sassy and awkward as Ro, so I definitely like her! It's high time we had a black actor and a woman as the two leads in a series, so full marks there. The other character who stood out was Quark (oh, how I still hate that stupid name!) who reminded me of the Ferengi in Captain's Holiday. His leeching after Kira provided a much-needed note of humour in what was otherwise a very serious tale.

Denise Colucci - I've only seen the first episode of DS9 but very much enjoyed it. I did think the music lacked something of the life and excitement of other ST music, though.

Brenda Allen - If anyone has seen any of the DS9 episodes, you'll notice that they have changed the makeup for the Trill, Jadzia Dax, from the prosthetic established in the NG episode The Host; but has anyone noticed how similar these 'water spots' are to the ones on the metamorph in the 5th season episode The Perfect Mate? I wish the creature creators would make up their minds.

Simon Plumbe - Finally, DS9. I love it! I've only seen the first 4 episodes so far, but the characters are superb, the stories are excellent, the effects are stunning and if it continues at it's current rate of development, it could quite easily overshadow TNG in a year or so. Congratulations are in order to Rick Berman and Michael Piller for keeping the Trek legend alive and kicking.

☆☆☆☆



BUSINESS MEETING CONS

by Sheila Clark

There has been some discussion in recent newsletters about 'Business Meeting' cons and 'non-Business Meeting' cons, and Colin Mackay's question to Janet on that subject (see Postbag) reminds us that a lot of fans have come into fandom since the Business Meeting system was started; they may hear about the Business Meetings, but they don't know anything about how they are organised or why.

Back in 1974 there was one convention, in Leicester, run by Jenny and Terry Elson. The following year they ran another. Both were in September. There was no competition; nobody else seems even to have thought about running a con anywhere else in Britain. By 1976, however, a few other people had begun to think about running a con (especially since the Elsons had dropped out of fandom because of Jenny's poor health). The main con in 1976 was run by Dot Owens but minicons had begun to appear - by 1979 the main con had moved to May, and the autumn con had become a minicon. (Minicons were initially little more than glorified one-day get-togethers, but they were a lot of fun, and the autumn one was a two-day affair.) The major difference between a main con and a minicon (initially) was the presence or absence of a major guest; the other programming was much the same, with films (usually SF), a showing of *The Empath* on 16mm film (a copy came into Britain in 1975 and was shown regularly at cons for the next 10 years), panels, quizzes, an 'Intergalactic Fashion Show' and the fancy dress competition, which in some cases became a scripted sketch, episodes on 8mm film, and of course the sales room. Eventually videos became easily available and a video programme was added as a secondary programme (prior to that there was no alternative programming).

For three or four years there was no clash of dates; each group planning a con went ahead with their plans, announcing their venue and date when it became

convenient to do so, and there were no problems. Around 1980, however, it was discovered that with an increasing number of groups wanting to hold a con, some groups were planning big cons and choosing dates that did clash, and this danger intensified in 1981, when groups started to choose English Bank Holiday weekends for their dates. The first Bank Holiday in May (May Day weekend) was chosen rather than the second (at the end of the month) because a lot of Scots had May Day off but were not on holiday the last weekend of the month.

Even if two planned cons whose dates clashed were in different parts of the country it was obvious that both would suffer because a lot of people, especially those who had to travel any distance, could go to one or the other, but could not manage to both. For one group to change its announced dates was not an easy option, because the hotels couldn't always give an alternative weekend - and in any case, which group should be the one to change?

A group of active fans therefore got together to discuss the problem, and it was suggested that Trek fandom should follow the system used by SF fandom for the choice of venue for the biggest cons in its calendar - Eastercon (in Britain) and also Worldcon. A suggested set of rules was drawn up (there have been a few changes to the rules over the years) and the first Business Meeting was held at Stagcon '81. The idea was that there should be two main cons, in spring and autumn, voted on by con-attending fans; groups proposing to run a con had to put forward a bid, saying what their registration fee would be, what their negotiated hotel rates were, what sort of facilities the hotel had, etc, and the attendees then voted on which con sounded best to them. (Early on it was ruled that guests should not be mentioned as part of a bid; nobody can say eighteen months ahead of the time if any actor, for example, will be available to attend.) Sometimes there was only one bid,

but since there was provision for a no-con vote, that didn't automatically mean that the sole bidder got the bid. Bids were for cons 18 months in the future. If there was no acceptable con put forward, a bid could be made for the vacant slot at the next con. The losers agreed that their con should be dropped - ie not run in opposition.

There was also no bar on minicons, which were expected to be either low-number affairs, no-main-guest affairs, or aimed at a purely local market.

It was, of course, only a gentleman's agreement. Most of con-going fandom went along with it, but a handful of fans did not, and would have preferred the original system to continue. Nor was it a perfect system, because it could happen that of two equally good bids the vote went to whichever one was nearer where most of the people attending the Meeting lived, and there has always been a complaint from a percentage of fandom that the main cons 'are always in the north'. On the other hand, both major cons for 1994 will be in London, which should satisfy the people living in the southern third of England, but many Scots who normally go to these cons know already that it will probably be impossible for them to get to either because of the distance, without taking part of their annual holiday (if they can).

'Always in the north', of course, is a

matter of perspective (if you live in London of course all the cons are likely to be north of you) but of 34 major cons held so far, 14 have been in or south of Birmingham, 9 have been in Liverpool or Manchester, 10 in Leeds, Blackpool or Newcastle and only 1 in Scotland (and that was only because the original hotel near Manchester broke the contract and the con had to find another venue in a hurry), so for anyone living in higher latitudes than Manchester most of the cons have been in the south.

That, of course, is where the local-interest 'minicon' comes into its own. Scotland, much of Wales and Cornwall/Devon are very much out on a limb when it comes to ease of getting to the main cons. Armadacon in Plymouth aims to serve the south-western peninsula; Contagion in Glasgow serves Scotland (and a still-in-the-pipeline plan for a con in Dundee would also serve Scotland).

There was a tentative suggestion a few years ago that a register of where and when cons were to be held should be maintained, and that anyone planning a con should contact it before deciding on their dates, to make sure there would be no clash, but it didn't come to anything. The simplest method does seem to be for cons (other than the BM ones) to announce their dates as soon as possible and as widely as possible so that other groups in the planning stages know when to avoid.

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ZINES AND PARAMOUNT

by Jenny Turner

I read in a newsletter recently that Paramount were not going to allow people to do zines on Deep Space Nine. How the hell are they going to stop them? There must be thousands of zines on the old Star Trek series - I don't know if they tried to stop those. Paramount is beginning to get a bit too much to take; I recently went into a shop in Brum and found they were selling tribbles that squeaked, in a box with Paramount CIC on it, at £14.50. I couldn't believe it! We were once

told at a con that we shouldn't be selling 'home made' tribbles as it was only Paramount that was allowed to market them. I've also noticed that some of the writers of the TNG books seem to have gone - why? Since Gene died things seem to be going from bad to worse. Why shouldn't we enjoy the zines (I love 'em!) Paramount will cut its own throat if it's not careful, as prices get dearer and dearer. The wait for stuff from the States seems to get longer and longer as well. I

have waited up to 8 months for some stuff!

Going back to the DS9 zines, I can just imagine an army of men in mags going round looking for people who are writing DS9 zines, visiting thousands of homes and suddenly finding someone doing one. "Bingo, we have found a DS9 zine writer!" and off to the courts with him/her. Tee Hee. It would be hilarious if it wasn't so serious for fans of ST/TNG/DS9. I don't know anything about US laws - could they really stop the zines?

[Sheila - This is only one of many comments we have been sent on this subject.]

Gene loved the idea of fan fiction; he loved the idea that his series started people writing. In that, however, he was probably unique, Hollywood-wise.

As far as DS9 zines were concerned, we reported what we'd heard might be a possibility; the response was inate, to say the least! We've now heard that a group in Canada have put out a short DS9 zine. A newsletter advertising it was sent to Paramount, and 30 days later Paramount had still made no moves to prevent it from being sold - apparently if a group like Paramount knows that

something like that is being done, they have 30 days in which to send a 'cease and desist' letter or they lose their automatic right to do so. It therefore appears that if the first rumour was correct, the powers that be have re-thought the situation - remember, that's all it was - a rumour, which we reported as 'We've heard there is a possibility'. Over here the situation is probably academic, at least for the moment; some of us have seen the DS9 pilot and one or two episodes, but I would expect it to be a while before enough stories were written for anyone here to have enough material to consider a zine.

However, if Paramount really did want to stop a zine, they could easily do so. All Paramount has to do is write to a zine editor threatening to sue. The editor would have no alternative but to give in and stop publishing, because no amateur editor has the money to fight an organisation the size of Paramount. I understand this did happen to one Classic Trek zine, back in the early days of zines - a Canadian zine, Dreadnaught, which to the best of my knowledge only ran to two issues. Paramount's reason apparently was that it was too professional-looking a publication, -therefore it had to be a professional publication! Back then, of course, most zines were blotchy stencilled ones, so one that was properly printed would look 'professional'. Dreadnaught was eventually reprinted a few years ago by the people who put out Enter-Comm.]

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STARLIGHT UNION, HANNOVER

There will be a big Star Trek convention in Hannover/Germany from August 20 - 22, 1993, with Majel Barrett Roddenberry and Richard Arnold. For info send SAE and 2 IRCs to Angela Dargel, Am Graswege 38, 3000 Hannover 3, Germany.

The following interview with Majel Barrett is presented by Starlight Union/Germany (Antonia Lohnes): the questioner is Ernie (Over), Majel's assistant.

- Q: Hello, we are talking with Majel Barrett Roddenberry. Majel, first of all, how are you?
- Majel: Hi, there, how are you doing this day or this morning or whenever it is?
- Q: This interview is being recorded for

the Star Trek fans for the convention in Hannover, Germany. Anything special you want to say for the fans?

Majel: ...I'm just looking forward to coming over!

Q: The Star Trek TNG is now in its 6th season, but there is a new show also, called Deep Space Nine. Could you tell us about your involvement in both of the shows at the present time?

Majel: I'm going to be playing Lwaxana Troi in both of them. This is the same character; the Auntie Mame of the Galaxy, and hopefully the part should be coming up soon. Probably it'll be by the time I've gotten over there. I certainly hope so. So it's going to be a lot of fun. I just got from place to

place. In this particular place on DS9 Lwaxana falls in love with the shape shifter who tries to discourage her tremendously, and his problem is, once a day he has to turn back into his own natural shape which is liquid. So he's a man you can't even understand. Lwaxana would have to turn into liquid and she says, "I can swim!"

Q: That sounds like Lwaxana to me.

Majel: It is.

Q: So you had an interesting scene in the last episode that you filmed prior to this season, in *Cost of Living*. Tell us about the mudbath.

Majel: Ah, about the mudbath. Was a lot of fun, a lot of fun till about 11 o'clock at night. When everyone else's gone home and taken most of the mud with them was my closeup. And I'm tall and we had an awful time trying to keep me enough submerged so we could get it past television.

Q: Now this was an episode where you reluctantly are getting married (in a white wedding gown).

Majel: Well, Betazoids get married in nude. So we did a Betazoid ceremony. I can't tell you any more.

Q: All right, something for the fans to look forward to. Your involvement in *Star Trek* goes all the way back to the beginning.

Majel: We're talking about the sixties. It was as a matter of fact before the beginning in 1963, when Gene was working out, when he was still over at MGM.

Q: Do you consider yourself a Trekkie, Majel?

Majel: I don't know. I love *Trek*, I like *Trekdom*, because it gets so many people together and as I like to be with people you could say I like *Trekdom*. Because I like most people I don't know whether I could call myself a Trekkie.

Q: You've already established a record of sorts in the *Star Trek* world. You are the only actor who has had a role in every incarnation of *Star Trek*, from the first pilot to the original series, the movies - you've appeared in the movies, in *Next Generation* and now *Deep Space Nine*. That's a pretty good

string.

Majel: (laughing)... It took a lot of years to get there, unfortunately.

Q: You also play the voice of the computer in *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*, don't you?

Majel: Yes, I do. Everything that has to do with the Federation is my voice. I am the Federation's voice. So if you hear anything that sounds like me but it's not the Federation then it's not me.

Q: You also have had other roles outside of *Star Trek*. Tell us a little bit about *Westworld*. (MGM 1973)

Majel: Oh God, *Westworld* was great. Michael Crichton you know is a fantastic writer, of course. I walked into his office - this was a very strange interview - and there I sat at the desk and saw his great big smile from ear to ear, you know his honest face. I don't know, maybe I said one or two words. He just stared, stared for a minute and he said, "You are perfect for the part", and I said, "Oh, thank you" - and that was the end of the interview. Strange interview. I loved it.

Q: Can you tell anything about *Star Trek VII*? Will there be a *Star Trek VII*?

Majel: To my way of thinking there's always going to be one. As long as Paramount can make some money there'll be a VII. I'm beginning to think it'll be with the TNG cast. I don't know if I'll be with them. But they'll think of something, believe me. If there is a nickel to be made, Paramount will be in there for the movie and I'm sure there will be a VII.

Q: Majel, thank you for taking some time with us. Have you ever been to Germany before?

Majel: Yes (several times). Gene and I went through there once. He was doing this bunch of talks for the U.S.O (United Service Organisation). Just thought that would be a nice thing to do. So he would go and talk to as little as five, six people, just sitting on the wall at that time. I love Frankfurt. I had a grand time there.

Q: Very good. The fans look forward to having you in Germany. We wish a happy new year to all the fans and

we'll be in Germany later this year. Majel: You're welcome.
Thank you, Majel.

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STAR TREK CROSSWORD

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

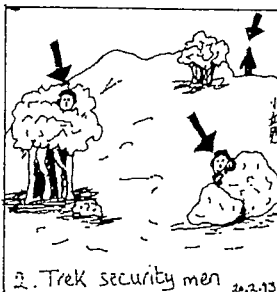
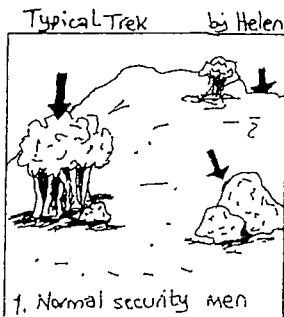
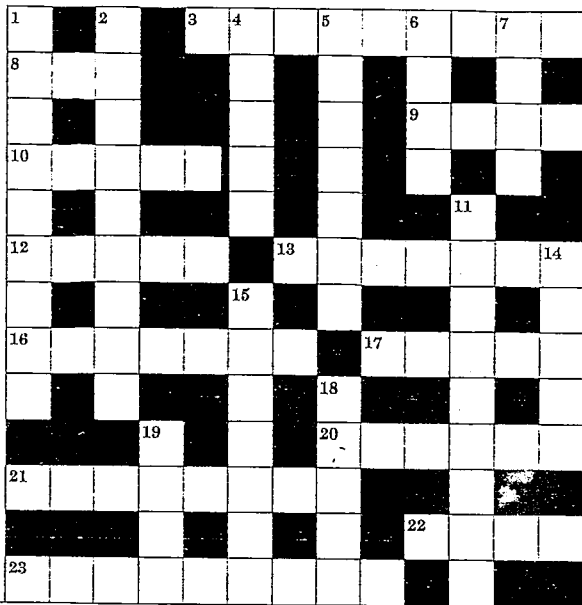
CLUES

ACROSS

3. Riker's slightly less than accurate future (9)
8. The Janus miners were searching for pergium---- (3)
9. Deanna suffered this in an encounter with a cosmic string fragment (4)
10. Data's is positronic (5)
12. Catlike communications officer (1'4)
13. This child 'adopted' the Enterprise (7)
16. Small, furry and eats a lot-like my cat! (7)
17. His stepchildren were highly unfriendly (5)
20. Wesley Crusher's rank (6)
21. Bud played a small part in What are Little Girls Made of? (8)
22. Harcourt Fenton, the bane of Kirk's life (4)
23. Name much associated with Star Trek: Worf's son, character played by Michael Dunn, director of The Way to Eden and composer of title music (9)

DOWN

1. Nonexistent device used against Balok (9)
2. Pike found himself here (9)
4. The Dauphin was a good one (5)
5. At war with Vendikar (7)
6. Beverly took one into a pit (4)
7. Another term for price (4)
11. Starship destroyed by the M-5 computer (9)
14. T'Pol's 'boyfriend' (5)
15. Warrior race that became allied with the Federation (7)
18. Female inmate of Tantalus V (5)
19. He's got three arms and three legs (4)



THE KLINGON HOMEWORLD

by Martin Stahl

What is the homeworld of the Federation? Earth? Although we have Starfleet HQ in San Francisco and the President of the Federation has his office in Paris, I don't think that the Federation has Earth as its centre. Surely Earth is an important planet and one of the founding members, but I don't think that any one planet is the centre of the Federation.

It is different in the Klingon Empire. Although there are surely many non-Klingons in this Empire (see all the unknown aliens on Rura Penthe) the Empire is ruled by Klingons and they are the absolute dominating race there. There is one planet where the Klingon race originated and it is (or was) the Klingon homeworld. Which planet is it? In her article about Klingons in *The Best of Trek I*, Leslie Thompson calls the planet 'Kazh'. I liked this name, and accepted it when I read it. Other sources and even one of the earlier drafts of the script of TUC call the planet 'Kling', which sounds awful in my opinion. We Humans don't come from the planet 'Hum', do we? Since TUC there's now an official name for this planet - Kronos. Well, it sounds better than Kling, but for me this name sounds much too Human. Kronos was one of the gods of antique mythology.

According to the Medical Reference Manual, the Klingon homeworld is a planet of the star Epsilon Sagittarii B. We do not know very much of Kronos, we only saw the remains of its moon Praxis and the courtroom on the planet.

In several TNG episodes, beginning with *Sins of the Father*, we see more of the Klingon homeworld. As Martin Helsdon writes (postbag, N/L 26) from orbit the planet looks uniformly green and has a warm and wet (= tropical) surface and Martin uses the given facts to explore why the Klingons evolved the way they did. But Martin forgot one thing - the planet we see in TNG is not the original Klingon homeworld. Kronos was evacuated within 50 years of the

explosion of Praxis (at least according to the speech of the Federation President) and if we assume that TNG plays about 75 years after TUC this means that the Klingons have lived on their new homeworld not longer than 25 to 70 years; but it would be logical to assume that Kronos was similar to the new homeworld (or would you like to be evacuated to a planet like Vulcan or Rura Penthe?) and therefore the Klingons evolved that way. I have the impression that many fans forget that in the two generations there are two different Klingon homeworlds. Until now the new planet was never mentioned by name in any episode, only with the term 'Klingon home world/planet'. Perhaps the Klingons didn't agree on the name of their new world until now.

We also cannot assume that there are monster animals living on the Klingon planet(s). Okay, Targ don't look like my cats and Kruge's 'dog' looks rather atrocious, but maybe the violent Klingons took those animals as pets *because* they look that way. Perhaps the rest of the Klingon fauna looks just too nice for them. I regret that the directors always give the 'bad guys' monster-like pets and give us the impression that all animals on the planet look that way. We consider ourselves to be a gentle and 'clean' race and the whole Terran fauna is like us - cats, dogs, rabbits, birds, white mice... alligators, poisonous spiders and snakes, sharks, bacteria living in hot sulphuric acid...

One last word about the differences in the Klingons' appearance since TMP. The official explanation (Richard Arnold) is that in the time of the original series the Human-like Klingons from the southern part of the planet controlled the Empire and then the bony-headed Klingons from the northern part took control. I don't like this explanation as it doesn't explain why we never again saw the Human-like Klingons after this change. For example, when Picard walks through the city in *Sins of the Father*, all Klingons are bony-headed. Therefore I agree with an

explanation of Leslie Thompson's I've read in another issue of Best of Trek; the Klingons we see in the original series are a genetically constructed Klingon/Human fusion for those spaceships that get in contact with the Federation and to make it possible to send Klingon spies into the Federation (see The Trouble with Tribbles). In the original series we never went into the Klingon Empire and met only Klingons sent into Federation space or at least to the boundary of both territories. Federation scientists believed that those were the real Klingons until they intercepted the Klingon transmission from the cruiser Amar at its encounter with V'ger. Perhaps those transmissions were intercepted even before that incident, since the installation of Epsilon 9 (at least after the end of the five year mission) because the officers on Epsilon 9

were not surprised at all when they saw the 'new' Klingons. At least the Klingons found out that the Federation knew about their true nature and decided that it was no longer necessary to hide behind the 'Human' versions of their race. The next encounter was ten years later with Krige and his crew, and since that time the bony-headed Klingons have also been sent into Federation space.

There are not more than about a thousand Human-like Klingons and they are spread over the whole Empire now so that the chance of meeting one of them in the movies is near zero. By the time of TNG all those Klingons have died.

This sounds much more logical to me.

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TO BOLDLY GO - WHERE?

by Gratienné Vandekerckhove

Leafing through a number of past newsletters I stumbled upon a question by Karen Sparks in N/L 24 which, at some point in time, had crossed my mind too.

This prompted me at last to put a certain grey mass conveniently called a brain to work and hopefully came up with some logical answers.

The vastness of the territory occupied by the Federation, coupled with the limited number of Starships (in Kirk's time) would force Starfleet to issue standing orders such as -

To explore uncharted regions of space

To seek out new life and new civilisations

To investigate scientific or natural anomalies

To answer distress calls

as well as the normal duties of a Starship, as patrolling the Neutral Zone, star mapping... to give but a few.

Requests for R & R, replacement of crew, docking for major repairs to the ship, should logically come from the Captain as he or she is best placed to decide upon its necessity.

The distance between a Starship and Starfleet headquarters on Earth would in itself severely hamper communications, not counting any possible natural or unnatural interference in space; that's why, in my point of view, a Starship Captain is given much leeway to make decisions without having to wait for orders from Starfleet. That Captain is trusted to act according to Federation law, to the best of his or her abilities, and in the best interests of the Federation.

I don't think I've come up with a complete answer but I feel I've given it a fair try.

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DID SOONG CREATE LIFE (1)

by Ann Peters

According to his Starfleet medical record, Data is alive. But should we accept this? Can a collection of circuits, no matter how convincingly packaged, ever be considered as truly alive? Did Soong create life when he created Data, or is that something only God can do?

Much of the debate I have seen on this subject has failed to address the basic issue. The arguments have centred on concepts like soul, flesh and blood, intelligence and consciousness, but none of these is relevant to Data's life status, because none of them can be equated to life itself. A tree is not made of flesh and blood; it is doubtful that a single-celled amoeba is either conscious or intelligent; and few people, no matter how religiously inclined, would wish to ascribe a soul to a virus. Yet they are all generally considered to be life forms and their study is included in the science of biology. In order to qualify as 'alive' Data does not need to be conscious or to be made out of flesh and blood; he simply needs to possess whatever it is that makes a tree, an amoeba or a virus alive. And if he does possess that quality, then Soong did indeed create life when he created his androids.

So what exactly is life? Unfortunately biologists themselves are not in agreement about this. Many take the chauvinistic view that life must be carbon-based, like us, but this approach is more descriptive than definitive. To define life, we need to consider the fundamental distinction between what is living and what is not living, without resorting to religion, metaphysics or chauvinism, and happily, there are some biologists who are prepared to do this. According to them -

A living entity is an improbable system of molecules which ensures its persistence in time by obtaining negentropy from its surroundings (from *Animal Biology* by A J Grove and G E Newell).

At last! A definition which really gets down to basics! But what does it mean? And what does it tell us about the possibility that a machine like Data really is a form of life?

'An improbable system of molecules' means a highly organised structure which is extremely unlikely to have occurred by chance. A rock may be complex, but it is not improbably complex; its structure is the result of elementary forces like heat and pressure. The molecules of a diamond are highly organised, but not improbably organised; they have exactly the form you would expect them to take when squeezed together very tightly. But a living bird cannot be made by simply mixing together a few feathers, a beak and some flesh and blood. Even with the help of heat, pressure and a couple of bolts of electricity, it just can't be done! Living organisms are highly complex, highly organised and highly improbable structures, and they cannot be made by the same simple processes that form non-living material like rock.

All man-made artifacts, including Data, are 'improbable systems of molecules' because they would not have occurred by chance, and in this respect they resemble living organisms. Rocks, stars and galaxies can be declared non-living on the basis of structure alone, but anything assembled by Humans cannot. To discuss the life status of man-made devices, we need to look at the rest of the definition, and to do that we need to involve thermodynamics.

The improbable organisation of living things is an apparent breach of thermodynamic principles. 'Entropy' is a concept used to quantify disorder, and it is fundamental to thermodynamics that entropy can never decrease. This means that order can never increase, yet within living organisms, order does increase. The growth of an individual and the evolution of higher life forms is a path towards ever greater complexity, organisation and order. Entropy

and disorder appear to be decreasing.

The thermodynamic law is not actually broken, however. Living organisms are able to create order within themselves because they exploit their environment. When a cat eats a mouse, it utilises energy and material from the mouse's body to build up its own tissues. But the disorder the cat creates by destroying the order within the mouse is greater than the order it creates within itself. The overall effect, then, is a net increase in disorder, exactly as thermodynamics requires.

When animals feed, or plants photosynthesise, or viruses destroy the cells they invade, they cause an increase in the entropy of their surroundings. Putting this the other way round, they decrease the negative entropy, or 'negentropy', of their environment. Effectively, they are absorbing negentropy, and this brings us to another phrase in the definition. A living entity 'obtains negentropy from its surroundings', which means that a living organism is able to utilise the resources of its environment. This is something that a rock or a simple man-made artifact like a chair is not able to do.

All power-driven machines, though, and that includes Data, do 'obtain negentropy from their surroundings'. Resources are destroyed to supply the electricity that drives a computer and the petrol that fuels a car, and whatever Data's power source is, it too must ultimately come from the environment, otherwise he would contradict the energy conservation law of physics. Cars, computers and Dr Soong's androids are designed to exploit their surroundings, just as living organisms do, but this does not mean that all powered machines are alive. To qualify as living, a machine must satisfy all three parts of the definition, and so far we have only dealt with two of them.

The remaining phrase in the definition tells us that a living entity 'ensures its persistence in time', and this is really what life is all about. The improbable structure of a living organism is arranged in such a way that it actively takes steps to maintain that structure; its sole function is to continue

functioning. This is the very essence of life, because non-living things do not maintain themselves. A rock will erode in the weather and is unable to regenerate itself; a computer left in the rain will corrode and not attempt to move to a drier location; but a living organism will utilise resources from its environment to avoid its own destruction. It will repair damaged tissues, move away from anything perceived as a threat and seek out new sources of energy to replenish its vital supplies. It may even succeed in continuing beyond its own life span by reproducing itself. A living organism is a system which preserves its own existence; it seeks to survive. And that is what separates the living from the non-living.

It also separates the living from the dead. An organism dies when its self-preservation system ceases to function. What constitutes life is the ability to combat decay and destruction, and death is the loss of that ability. Life could be considered as a relentless struggle against an increase in entropy; once an organism is dead, it cannot maintain the order within itself. Disorder increases as its tissues and organs disintegrate and its molecules begin to obey the second law of thermodynamics, just as the molecules of non-living materials do. Although a tree may grow new branches to replace any that have been lost, a chair made out of dead wood is not able to grow a new leg to replace a broken one, just as a rock is unable to combat its own erosion. What the dead and the non-living have in common is an inability to oppose the destructive forces of nature. That is why they are not alive.

Data's claim to life, then, hinges on whether or not he 'ensures his persistence in time'. Does he strive to continue existing as a living organism does, or is he completely at the mercy of his environment like a rock, a piece of wood or a lawnmower? The answer is obvious. Data has self-repair circuits to maintain his internal functions, and he always tries to avoid anything which threatens his existence, such as phaser fire or Maddox's attempts to dismantle him. He has clearly been endowed with both the urge and the ability to survive, and that qualifies him as 'living' for as long as his systems are

capable of functioning. The Starfleet medical record is quite correct. Data is alive, and Dr Soong did create a form of life when he constructed him.

the particular definition of life that I have chosen to use. The validity of that definition certainly needs to be discussed, but that will have to wait for a future issue of the newsletter.

This conclusion depends, of course, on

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THE BORG

by Kevin Thomas

A reply to Sheila Clark

I disagree that the Borg were defeated easily. The Borg were defeated by an attack whose virtue was that it had never been tried before and therefore the Borg had no defence for it.

I've only seen 16 episodes after season 3 so I'm relying on the STING Companion. In the episode The Drumhead, Admiral Satie mentioned that 39 ships and nearly 11000 lives were lost at Wolf 359. Mention was also made of the depleted post-Borg fleet in the episode The Wounded. In The Best of Both Worlds II Commander Shelby estimates it should take less than a year to get the Fleet back up to strength.

The vessels at Wolf 359 look as if they could be made spaceworthy again by a refit concentrating on the nacelles and structural damage in engineering. The damaged saucer section could be ejected and replaced with another, and there you have it, a Starship with one not-so-careful owner. Commander Shelby's statement of getting the Fleet back up to strength is borne out by the USS Melbourne as it is back in service in less than six months (The Wounded). The Melbourne was crippled on SD 44001.4 (BOBW) and was seen in service on SD 44429.6 (The Wounded). The intervening period was 428.2 units and since 1000 units is a year the Melbourne was up and running in less than six months.

To me this means that Starfleet was shorthanded for only a short while as ships in deep space exploration could be recalled to take over while crippled ships were repaired.

There really can't be a problem with equipment shortage as replicators can create what is required, but with a high energy cost.

The Borg as a race... The dictionary definition of 'race' is 'Group of persons of common stock, kindred, distinct ethnical stock'. Yes, the Borg are a race in that they are of distinct ethnical stock, ie the flesh might be from different star systems but the machine component is the same. I would much prefer to describe them as a nation rather than a race. There is a hard core of Borg, as seen in the nursery, and those recruited into the Borg race.

No survival instinct in Borg individuals? This is a bit of a contradiction in that there is no such thing as a Borg individual. A single Borg has no survival instinct, in much the same way as a foot has no choice of where to go but just follows orders blindly from the brain.

I disagree that there is no personality; I think it is more a case of the personality of a single Borg being suppressed into a passive role in favour of the more powerful Borg consciousness. The machine (Borg implants) has control of the flesh (the individual). This, I think, is true of the races the Borg encounter and absorb, but those Borg who are reared from babies (as in the nursery in Q Who) have no chance to develop a personality as they are subjected to the powerful Borg personality from birth. To sum up - some Borg have already established personalities, while others have the potential to develop a personality - eg Hugh (I, Borg).

I would agree that female Borg are a bit thin on the ground, but I can state with some degree of accuracy (and quite a lot of eyestrain) that I have spotted at least 3 of them. The female Borg mainly had bare arms and something covering their mouth (not always); a major clue to their sex was the shape of the hips, which led to trying to find other signs of the gender of the individual.

The Borg who abducted Picard from the bridge of the Enterprise seems to fit the above criteria and is therefore (hopefully) female. The Borg implants that Picard had were rewriting his DNA; since sex is influenced by DNA doesn't this suggest an androgynous, muscle-bound race, each individual taken to their physical peak? I'll leave the last word to Q, as he says, "They're not a he, not a she."

On the suggestion that there is one big ship or little or no interaction between the ships - the problem with one giant Borg ship are twofold: i) all the eggs are in one basket, ie not conducive to survival. A successful assault would wipe out their race and ii) if you have one giant ship which constantly expands, it will soon reach a size where to go any larger would be impossible as the strain on the structure would be too great. Also there must be some limit as to how large a warp bubble can be, so this would limit the size of the ship as well.

I personally think of the Borg as many ships in constant contact with each other (no matter how far apart they are) swapping information and pooling their resources. I think it is the same sort of signal the Borg were using with Locutus - by this I mean an interactive signal, each checking that the other is O.K.; sort of computer handshaking.

As for the origins and production of new Borg ships; in Q Who, Guinan says, "They are mixture of organic and artificial life which has been developing for thousands of centuries." Where they originated I don't know, but I know that they lived a fair distance from Guinan's home system as they only found it quite recently (100 years ago). As to their home planet, we can assume it is a lifeless husk by what Q said in Q Who; "They

are the ultimate users". The Borg use planets and any civilisations they encounter, so it is logical to assume that they treated their home planet in much the same way, and when it was exhausted moved on to other resources, ie other people's planets.

Are the Borg heading towards Federation space (and other puzzling things)? In the episode The Neutral Zone, Federation and Romulan outposts were scooped from the planet's surface by the Borg. Since the Federation is pretty open with information, surely the Borg would have learned about the juicy pickings in the Federation and come to collect.

Why didn't the Borg strip the Federation of resources before the Federation even knew about the Borg? Can someone come up with a better reason than budget restrictions? It is very easy to assume that the Borg ship that the Enterprise encountered in Q Who was the same ship as that which attacked the Federation. But is it? As Data said in Best of Both Worlds I, he is uncertain that it is the same ship as the one encountered earlier, but it is precisely the same dimensions. This to me reinforces the doubt that there are two different Borg ships.

What happened to the Outpost eater in The Neutral Zone? Could this be the one that attacked the Federation?

How did Guinan know of the Borg? They destroyed her world 100 years ago, and she's been around this quadrant for about 500 years; this means that another of her race told her about the attack. This is supported by what she says in Q Who; "I wasn't there personally, but from what I'm told they swarmed through our system... little or nothing left of my people."

We know that Guinan is at least 500 years old thanks to her appearance in the 19th century in Time's Arrow. In the episode Evolution, we learn that Guinan was married at least twice and has a lot of children, one of whom is several hundred years old. How did she get here? In BOBW I, she says "(My people) scattered throughout the universe." This implies a powerful propulsion system,

so perhaps this means her trip to Earth was just a short hop from her home planet.

☆☆☆☆

UNSPOKEN TRUTHS FINALLY SPOKEN IN THE FINAL FRONTIER

by Lorna Elliott

Since joining IDIC I have been intrigued at the number of ideas and views that are put forward, especially in the postbag section of each newsletter. I would now like to take the opportunity to say a few things on the subject of Star Trek V:TFF.

The majority of letters that I have read seem to feel that this wasn't the best of the films so far released. While I agree with this view when TFF is compared with the other five films, I did enjoy it. Although the story may not have been as strong as, say, TWOK or TSFS, in my view it will stand on its own because TFF is the only film in which we see the true feelings of Kirk, Spock and McCoy expressed in words. (At this point I would like to emphasise the fact that this is only my personal opinion and I would welcome any opposing or supportive views.)

One of the major attractions of the Classic TV series was the 'unspoken' relationship that developed between Kirk, Spock and McCoy. Although TWOK, TSFS and TVH emphasised the loyalty that the three shared for each other, very little was ever expressed in words about their true friendship. ST V:TFF gives us this.

Kirk's admission at the beginning of the film shows how strongly he feels about the bond that has developed between the three of them. He openly states that while Spock and McCoy are with him he has no fear of death. He has accepted the fact that he will 'die alone' without the protection of his friends.

When the Enterprise was captured, Spock faced a dilemma when he was asked to make a choice. Where should his loyalties lie? With his Vulcan half brother Sybok, or his long time friend and Captain, Kirk? When confronted by Kirk on the subject of

his loyalty Spock pledges his support to the Captain, having made his choice with little or no fuss.

Later, when Sybok forces Spock to reveal his pain, the Vulcan again shows his 'feelings' towards his friends by stating that he is no longer the outcast boy left on Vulcan. He has now found himself and his place, implying that the Enterprise is his home and her crew his family.

Being a hopeless romantic, I find one of my favourite scenes in the film is when Kirk tries to embrace Spock after being assured that he wouldn't die because he was never alone. Kirk's genuine show of emotion at Spock's statement makes me think that he suddenly realised that Spock shared his philosophy concerning death - this philosophy being that while they were together, if one was in danger the other two would save him. This could be borne out by the events that took place in TWOK and TSFS.

The most revealing scene for me was towards the end of the film at the reception on the Enterprise. Kirk turns to Spock, saying, "... I lost a brother once. But I was lucky, I got him back..." My initial thoughts were that Kirk was referring to his brother Sam, who died, and that he had come to accept Spock as a second brother. Having seen the film several more times, I now believe that Kirk was trying to tell Spock that he thought of *him* as his brother. After Spock's death in TWOK Kirk was lucky to have had him returned. As a finishing touch both to the scene and the film, he then freely admits that he was wrong to have said that Starship Officers didn't have families, by proclaiming that the three of them belonged to the same family - the Enterprise.

For me, ST:TFF was good; if not for the story - which wasn't bad - then for the way in which all the unspoken feelings of loyalty

and deep friendship were finally put into words.

☆☆☆☆

THE UNIVERSAL ADVENTURE

by Sherry Golding

Only one thought passed through my mind as I walked through the barriers leading to the 'Florida' Universal studios. Star Trek! And the Star Trek adventure. Excitement was high, everyone was keen to try out the new ride "Back to the Future" a fast simulated ride into time, with the Doc. But that could wait. Star Trek was more important!

It was hot, and already the sweat was pouring off me like buckets of water. The Star Trek adventure was situated near the King Kong ride, a few minutes' walk from the main gate. It was a huge studio which sold Star Trek uniforms, T shirts etc. in one section, and showed a huge screen in the middle, where everyone watches your screen test.

We paid twenty-nine dollars (Sorry, we? My brother, Peter, was with me) and an extra six for a spare video. Luckily they, the cashiers, guessed (by our accent?) we were British, otherwise we would have ended up with an American tape, which doesn't fit the British VCR, or what have you.

We were led to a chilly area closed off by barriers. On opposite sides of us were Klingon and Federation uniforms. An assistant fed our names into the computers (for credits on the tape) ie Vulcan played by Sherry Golding, Captain by Peter, etc.. We waited a frustrating twenty minutes until we were suited into Federation uniform, which was too tight for us anyhow, but we survived, and were then led into a blue shaded room, forgetting the technical names of course. The director, not too friendly (prejudiced because we were British,

perhaps?) sat us down and explained in very fast 'American' that we were to listen to him at all times, and watch his hand moves, which would point now and again to a card on the wall (our lines).

I was looking around me, which didn't please the director, for signs of the actors. I believed at first we were going to co-star with them but realised then how stupid I had been. I was disappointed of course but pleased with the final video. Pretty clever stuff. It lasted ten minutes and the video was ready by noon. We dashed to the 'Back to the Future' ride and had to wait in the boiling heat for almost two hours. The ride was in fact better than the Star Trek adventure. Fast, dynamic, fun. The Earthquake was next, which gave no thrill, and was not at all frightening as advertised.

We saw no known actors but had a fun day. What was impressive was the Star Trek craze, the feeling that no matter what corner you turned, where ever you went, Star Trek and Gene's concept (philosophy) existed. Every moral, told after a show, every story, every person (almost) gave the impression that Gene had somehow changed their lives, that these people who told their stories (or who walked around wearing Star Trek T shirts, or Greenpeace) really believed in Gene's work, and had been influenced in one way or another.

The Americans were great! Well mannered, sometimes helpful, patient (Hmm) and not at all like how petty films describe them. We had great fun and I would do it all again.

☆☆☆☆

GENERATION GAP

by Carol Sterenberg

I read 'A Unified View' (N/L 25) with great interest. I agree with Michael Sadler that some elements of the plot of Unification are a bit weak, but I found it very satisfying on the whole. I'd have liked to see more exploration by Spock and Data of their natures, so diametrically opposed and yet seen as being so similar by many fans.

Michael asks why the Romulans have suddenly sprouted brow ridges. A good question. Perhaps for the same reason the Klingons did (whatever that was)? If the Romulans are indeed an offshoot of the Vulcan race, they should be indistinguishable from them; even genetic mutation could hardly explain such a comprehensive and consistent change of appearance throughout the population in the comparatively short time since the Romulans broke with their Vulcan forbears. Sela doesn't have brow ridges. Perhaps 'Human' genes for flat foreheads are dominant over recessive 'Romulans' ones for ridges.

Michael also asks what had happened to estrange Spock and Sarek by the time of Unification, as they'd been getting along so well.

Well, it's a long time since the events at Khitomer, where Spock met Pardek and discussed with him the possibility of reunification - at least sixty years. During that time Sarek was gradually succumbing to Bendii's Syndrome and I would guess that his increasing illogic had made his company too uncomfortable and disturbing for Spock, lacking the dispassion of a 'pure' Vulcan to rationalise his father's behaviour. Sarek gradually became dogmatic, impossible to reason with, his disease intensifying a nature already inflexible (as expressed in his opposition of Spock's career in Starfleet and in his treatment of Spock as a child).

I wonder what Sarek's reaction was when he discovered that one of the principal conspirators against the Klingon alliance was

Spock's protege Valeris?

And what of 'the marriage of (Sarek's) son' recalled by Picard in Sarek? If this son was not a later child by Perrin, Picard must be referring to Spock's marriage, of which we are left ignorant. Maybe the marriage failed. His wife is plainly not with Spock or Perrin (perhaps she was tending Spock's estates in his absence) - not part of the 'family picture'. This might have affronted Sarek's Vulcan susceptibilities, leading to further confrontation.

And finally, but to my mind the greatest aggravant; Sarek's marriage to Perrin. She is so much on Sarek's side, so quick to defend him against any perceived threat or slight, that she must have made life very unpleasant for Spock. She insists that the rift is not between her and Spock, but between Spock and his father. But her position is made uncompromisingly clear; "He showed no loyalty to his father... I was offended. And I made sure Spock knew it." Hardly a comfortable person for Spock to be around, not a welcoming attitude from his stepmother. So what was there to come home for? Arguments and hostility. It would be better for all if he stayed away - his absence perhaps ever a gesture of consideration towards Sarek; to avoid provoking him, to avoid forcing him to be seen in the condition of sad illogic he had fallen into.

The relationship between father and son was never to be a comfortable one; it had its zenith in the frank admission to T'Lar during the Fal Tor Pan; "My logics uncertain where my son is concerned", and in the rather stiff, but genuine, acceptance by Sarek of Spock's 'friends' at the end of ST IV.

It is small consolation to know that Spock finally shared the glimpse we had of Sarek's true feelings during the final mind meld with Picard.

STRIVING, JUST STRIVING

by Chris Blenkarn

Watching This Side of Paradise last week, I was struck again by one of the original series' less endearing anachronisms. Leaving aside the spores, together with almost all the plot, let's just consider how the colonists are treating their planet. They grow only enough food to sustain themselves, are vegetarian, leave the rest of the land alone and have no use for the technology they originally carried there. Admirable, isn't it? Self-sufficiency, sustainable development, environmental harmony et al.

But does Kirk approve? Emphatically not, and gives the colonists the usual male-centric spiel (nothing personal, Captain, I know you have to say what the scriptwriters write) about man needing to face challenges, conquer, strive, thrust forward, control his destiny, etc, etc. Much the same argument, as far as I remember, as in The Apple, The Return of the Archons and a few other episodes.

A man's gotta terraform what a man's gotta terraform; this unquestioning stuff about man - and it's never woman - having to dominate the universe, looks absurd now.

☆☆☆☆

FAMILIES ON STARSHIPS

by Kathleen Glancy

In N/L 25 Sheila produced a most interesting piece on the question of the other end of the family, the elderly, and how they might be affected by family Starships. I can't see there being a place for them, and unless they too had been spacefarers in their youth I can't see them wanting a place anyway. It must be borne in mind, however, that not all old people are dependent on others. My paternal grandmother died in her late 80s and was unable to care for herself for the last 2 weeks of her life.

Also not all of those with itchy feet

It's difficult to remember that when the original series was made, 'ecology' was a largely unknown word except to biologists and the phrase 'environmentally friendly' incomprehensible. We know about Gaia and environmental balance now - or do we?

That same week, Horizon was about a NASA scientist who wants to terraform Mars. He said, "Going to a barren planet and bringing life there, that's a creative act and it's part of what I think it means to be Human." Sound familiar? So men in positions of power, having messed up Earth, are thinking of starting meddling all over again instead of trying to put our world right; Earth not challenging enough, eh, fellas? Want to play with your new technology? Someone should tell them what happened to David Marcus.

In This Side of Paradise the colonists set off for a new planet, and this time they were going to develop it or else. Intensive agriculture rules, OK. I imagine Dr McCoy going to visit this planet years later, only to report, "It's dead, Jim."

necessarily have no family. You'll often find one of a large family is the restless one - that same grandmother had 8 children, and none of her four daughters moved far away. Three of her sons were sailors, but two of them left the sea and returned to live in Leith and Edinburgh and the remaining son worked for the Council. Only the third sailor son would end up living far away, in Australia, and he still has itchy feet, spending about five months a year going anywhere he thinks he might like to see.

Finally, while I don't suppose the

science of the future will find a cure for the effects of old age I don't think it unreasonable to suppose that people would remain active far longer - say into the 90s. I also believe that Starfleet would require a very high degree of mental and physical health and would have a mandatory retirement system as soon as anyone fell below 100%, which even with the help of science would be likely to happen for Humans in the 60s. Any Starfleet personnel who were the sole relations of aged parents would be quite likely to be retired from active service before their parents became dependent.

Given these factors, and my hope that social services would have improved immensely so that dependent old people were not ignored for as long as they had offspring, usually daughters, prepared to care for them but given help as a right, automatically, I doubt if elderly parents

would be much of a problem to Starfleet.

I liked Sheila's point about children reared on a ship becoming agoraphobic - though perhaps the holodeck and shore leave on safe planets could be used to accustom them to the illusion or the reality of open air.

What I might have added on the presence of children in Starships has been most ably said by Sara Lyford-Smith. My only remaining point is that I believe the change in attitude between the original series and TNG could be explained by Starfleet's becoming alarmed at the loss of trained personnel at their peak capacity who had decided to start families. If, say, a brilliant navigator and an equally brilliant scientist fell in love and wanted to marry and have children, Starfleet might well deplore the loss of certainly the female and quite possibly both of them to a shore posting.

☆☆☆☆



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



THE EMISSARY (ST:DS9 PILOT) BY J M Dillard (based on teleplay by Michael Piller) Pocket Books DS91 \$5.50 (£4.70) reviewed by Sheila Clark

The book begins with the battle at Wolf 359 then moves to the arrival at Deep Space 9 of the crew. The space station, built to Cardassian specifications, was wrecked by them before they left, so nothing is working properly.

As the crew meets, it soon becomes obvious that there is going to be some... if not friction, certainly lack of empathy, between them. Dr Bashir is over self-confident. Major Kira trusts nobody. Young Jake Sisko wants to go back to Earth where his father will be safe and he can meet friends. Sisko feels guilty for taking Jake to the space station. Although Keiko encouraged O'Brien to take the promotion, she isn't happy when she gets to the station. Quark wants to leave and is quietly blackmailed into staying. Sisko knew Dax when the Trill had a male host and is uncomfortable with the new female host...

and all that's just for starters.

Sisko goes down to Bajor where Kai Opaka meets him, gives him an orb and sends him in search of the Bajoran Prophets; he is the emissary of the title. This takes him into the wormhole; a Cardassian ship also enters the wormhole, and when the wormhole disappears, three other Cardassian ships attack the space station, accusing the Federation of having destroyed their fellow ship...

I'm writing this before seeing the episode, and can only guess at what has been included that was not filmed. The book includes a lot of mental flashbacks (Sisko and O'Brien, in particular, remembering events from the past they would rather forget) which probably are not in the episode but do give insight into the background of the characters.

The attitude of the characters towards each other on their first meeting is probably a little more realistic than the 'hail fellow well

met' attitude of the crew of 1701-D, all of whom seemed to like each other on sight, but I would hope that they quickly develop a 'live and let live' attitude - in the confined area of a spaceship or space station, personality clashes or a positively abrasive attitude on the part of one person could, I think, quickly result in murder being done.

Basically, I read the book as science fiction, and all in all I enjoyed it - but then most of Dillard's work is good. The story moves well, the characters are well rounded - I have certain doubts about the Trill as a life form, but she works all right in the book. Unfortunately, in a TV episode Jadzia's thoughts/reactions to hosting Dax won't come over the same. I think I'll enjoy the series, though whether I come to regard it as being in 'my' Star Trek universe, remains to be seen. 9 out of 10.

SHELL GAME by Melissa Crandall Pocket 63 \$5.50 (£4.70) reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Enterprise finds a Romulan space station drifting derelict in Federation space and investigates it. Spock insists that Kirk adhere to a recent Starfleet directive which advises that the Captain should not accompany a landing party; the landing party therefore consists of Spock, McCoy, Chekov (as Security Chief) and three Security guards, leaving a most unhappy Kirk, most fortuitously, on the Enterprise.

Almost immediately, the ship loses contact with the landing party and small, inexplicable malfunctions begin to show up; before long the ship is showing an appreciable power loss. Kirk might be missing the excitement of the landing party, but he's certainly got his own problems to solve on his own ship.

Meanwhile, the landing party has found power levels on the space station are very low; their equipment is suffering from an inexplicable power drain, and they are beginning to feel increasingly cold. Eventually they find most of the crew of the station, dead from hypothermia.

Into this scenario comes a Romulan

ship, its Captain accusing the Federation of hi-jacking the space station...

Ms Crandall has a nice style and some very effective turns of phrase and tells her story rather well. The established characters are nicely in character (as I see them) and her own characters are well thought out and believable. I'm a little dubious about the ease with which both Kirk and Chekov handled an injury that was painful, albeit not life-threatening, but that's a personal feeling, almost something of a nit-pick; Ms Crandall was probably trying to indicate that a flood of adrenalin was carrying them both through.

I can't help feeling that the beginning, which has Scotty telling the crew a story about a pirate ship that was found with nobody on board but a dead Captain, followed by Kirk telling the story of the Mary Celeste, was rather too obvious a lead-in to the situation on the space station, especially when one of the security guards assigned to the landing party had grown up on a planet where belief in ghosts was part of everyday life, but I'm prepared to admit that that's a quibble. Linked to the blurb on the cover, however, it did rather give away something of what was to come.

Despite two fairly obvious continuity errors (both consisting of single words) and an ending that was possibly just a wee bit of a cop-out (it reminded me of a bit half way through Arthur C Clarke's *The City and The Stars*) I didn't find myself reaching for an editorial red pen, as has been the case with several of the more recent novels. All in all, an enjoyable read. 8 out of 10.

NIGHTSHADE by Laurell K Hamilton Pocket TNG 24 £4.50 (Available from At the Sign of the Dragon)
Reviewed by Christine Hornby

Having read Sheila's review of this novel when I was still working my way through it, I thought I'd now add my comments to hers. I use the word 'working' purposely as it was the kind of novel that proved difficult to finish; as Sheila pointed out, having Picard imprisoned *did* remove some of the suspense!

The over all picture of Oriana *did* seem to be one that we'd seen before; a dying, polluted world complete with harmful radiation, acid rain, birth defects... Is this meant to represent a somewhat heavy-handed warning to us all? I, too, found the idea of the continued short-sightedness of both warring factions a little hard to take, and the plot itself seemed littered with half finished ideas.

I *did* find the use of Deanna Troi and Worf together quite interesting, and the author did make attempts to portray aspects of their respective characters quite vividly - Worf tells Troi, for example, of the Klingon equivalent of Sherlock Holmes. Several of the Next Generation novels, now, have linked these two characters, perhaps to attempt a study in contrasts?

Many of the descriptions were over-dramatic and I felt that if I read one more time Worf's thoughts that the 'peace mission was in disarray' I'd give up on the novel completely! Like Sheila, I found the few chapters concerning the rest of the Enterprise crew quite refreshing and would have liked to know more about the interesting aliens, the Milgians. In the end, however, the dovetailing of the two stories seemed rushed in the extreme, and predictable as well. I'd guessed who the murderer was on Oriana, but would have liked to see what happened to Breck, the newly-awakened 'mind healer' and to have seen Troi's concern for him. All in all, I could give this one no more than 5 out of 10.

GROUNDING by David Bischoff TNG25
Pocket Books \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

While answering a distress call from a scientific station, the Enterprise is contaminated by something that begins to convert the metal of the hull into its own substance. With no way of stopping it obvious, the senior Starfleet officer in the sector has no alternative but to order the destruction of the Enterprise, the crew to be reassigned to other vessels - except for Data, who is to remain in quarantine until it is certain that he has not also been

contaminated.

Two of the scientific team have been rescued alive; the team leader (in a coma) and her son (suffering from amnesia).

When all attempts by Picard to prevent the destruction of his ship fail, he takes the desperate step of beaming aboard, with a handful of his senior officers, in a last-ditch attempt to control the contamination and save his ship.

In some ways the plot reminds me of the episodes *Skin of Evil*, *Home Soil* and *A Matter of Honor*. Not to say that's necessarily bad; a lot of writers have ideas sparked off by something else they've read. However, in this case, I felt that the plot was in some ways too feeble to support a full length, 273-page novel. The 'meat' of the story during the first two thirds of the book could have been put into fifty pages - most of those dealing with the away team's visit to the planet and space station.

Although nothing much happened during roughly 130 of those first 180 or so pages to advance the plot there was plenty going on - I'd say this writer has a great future in writing for soaps. A teenager who was autistic as a child and still has periods of 'withdrawal'; a dance and the reactions of that teenager to it; a sort of romantic triangle; practice for a volleyball competition; a young man with amnesia; an older woman lying in a coma and the concern for her shown by an 'old flame'... All great character interaction stuff, but also all the stuff of soap operas, with only a little of it, I felt, apropos to the plot.

Once the action actually began (after the ship reached Starbase 210) things moved fast enough though I felt the actual ending was a bit rushed. It was as if, having wasted half the book, Mr Bischoff suddenly realised he had a story to tell, a 'villain' to overcome and a ship to save, and he was running out of space to do it.

One great pro throughout was the characterisation given to that 'villain'. In a way I felt quite sympathetic towards it. To

be realistic, the antagonist has to have a valid point of view; sheer evil is not a valid point of view. (Query - would a being of sheer evil *know* that it was evil?)

Anyone interested in the social interaction of other people's lives should thoroughly enjoy this book. I, alas, would only give it 7 out of 10.

GROUNDLED by David Bischoff TNG25
Pocket Books \$5.50 Titan £3.99
Reviewed by Chris C Bailey

Having read thousands of SF/F novels over the last 25 years or so, I thought that I had become familiar with the majority of wacky, way-out themes, both major and minor, used by various authors. Until now, that is. Here we have David Bischoff, a competent and consistent writer, bravely trying to convince us that there is such a thing as 'sentient, mobile, inorganic clay', with a bit of a twist in its metaphorical tail! I kid you not. As with most Next Generation Trek novels I have read, this one meanders strategically between the Federation planet in question, Pheadra, where the inimically orientated and seemingly indestructible sentient clay resides, bent on universal armageddon if it can only take over Picard's ship, and the the USS Enterprise and crew, who battle against the foe in their usual, heroically stoic way, thereby attempting to save their skins in the nick of time before all is lost.

So what else is new? David Bischoff's Groundled is a much more aggressively penned Trek novel as compared to others, giving this reviewer more of that needed seat-of-the-pants, cliff-hanger suspense, as the ultimate fate of the Enterprise slowly but surely reaches its undeniable, ultimate conclusion...

UHURA'S SONG by Janet Kagen Titan
Reviewed by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

This was recommended to me twice. I know why, now. A race of felinoids is in the grip of an epidemic of an unknown disease and it seems that the only key is in a song that Sunfall of Ennien taught to Uhura. She

traces details in the song, and they take her to another planet of felines where things are eventually resolved.

The felines are excellently described - I have a fondness for Brightspot, which may be because I have a tortoiseshell cat, and with a humour which is warm and affectionate. Scotty's reaction to meeting Rushlight-to-Vensre is absolutely hilarious, as is Evan's fight with Fetchstorm. An excellently written book, and one for all felinophiles out there. I hunted through the bookshops for this one - I've read it five times so far. One bit of advice - it's far better if you read it with a large cat curled up on your lap!

Q IN LAW by Peter David Titan
Reviewed by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

Q in love with Lwaxana Troi??? The thought is unsettling, to say the very least. While arranging wedding party aboard the Enterprise, Picard has this very problem to contend with. Q doesn't help by trying to put the couple off each other (as only he can), but he makes a fatal mistake by going along with the still-in-phase Lwaxana when she decides that he is her ideal man.

Firstly he gives her a Q's eye view of the universe, then he gives her some of his powers - which she promptly uses against him, with a little help from another Q (presumably the one played by Corbin Bernstein in Deja Q). Playing rocketball with a minuscule Q is undoubtedly Lwaxana's high point. Very, very funny, and with one or two slight exceptions, the characterisation is perfect. Well worth reading.

EXPLORING DEEP SPACE AND BEYOND
by Mark A Altman & David Ian Solter
Cinemaker Press \$12.95 (£9.95)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The title page of this book makes it clear that neither the book nor the publisher is licensed by Paramount or the makers of any other TV SF.

Most of the book is devoted to Deep Space Nine, and involves quotes from many of the people involved in the development

and production of the series. There is also a short chapter about Babylon 5 and a shorter one on Space Rangers. Neither gives much information; but since between them they only occupy 13 of the 126 pages in the book, no-one is likely to buy it for info on either series.

At first sight it looks as if it ought to be one of the A4 large format books that have been proliferating in the last year or so; instead, it's more of a size with trade paperbacks. It claims to be "a scholarly work intended to explore the evolution of space stations from reality to their depiction in Science Fiction" and it certainly has the feel of a book where the writers really *know* what they're talking about instead of making up half their 'facts' as they go along.

One point that is made a number of times is that although DS9 is 'grittier' than Trek, they have tried to work within Gene Roddenberry's ethos, keeping the Starfleet characters true to Gene's vision of Trek and using the non-Starfleet characters to provide conflict.

There are 16 pages of colour photos; 4 are of Babylon 5, 1 is Space Rangers and the other 10 are DS9. None of these photos are copyrighted to Paramount.

I found the book very readable, and although for anyone interested in details of how a TV show is put together I would recommend the original *Making of Star Trek*, this one gives a fair amount of detail too. Mark you, my favourite sentence in the book comes from the introduction; "Television producers and writers... are usually virtually illiterate when it comes to technical matters, rendering them capable of errors which would make FLASH GORDON look like a documentary."

THE STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION COMPANION by Larry Nemecek. Reviewed by Karen Sparks

Published by Pocket books at £9.99, this includes over 150 black and white photos. Maybe not a book to read from cover to cover. but delightfully entertaining and

informative to browse through, and invaluable as a source of reference. It begins with 22 pages recounting how TNG was created and developed, and includes pre-TNG publicity photos of all the cast.

Each episode, up to the end of season 5, is given a reasonably detailed plot synopsis and includes at least one photo from each, along with cast and brief production credits. The most interesting feature of this book is the extra information given about each episode. This may include script re-writes and plot changes, music and costume, SFX, Richard Arnold-type anecdotes about the actors (like Patrick and Gates enduring flea-infested sand in the pit in "Arsenal of Freedom"), any references made to classic Trek, and production trivia which you feel you should have noticed and have to watch the episode again to look out for if you missed it (like the Academy flag flying at half-mast during "First Duty")!

I consider this book to have been an excellent use of a Christmas book token, and it will be kept beside the video for instant access, rather than filed neatly away on the bookshelf.

OLD YELLOW EYES IS BACK by Brent Spiner CD £17 from John Fitton Books and Magazines, 1 Orchard Way, Hensall, Mr Goole, North Humberside DN14 0RT (Useful catalogue - ST/TNG/Dr Who/Blake's Seven) Reviewed by Jennifer Blanchard

As a Data fan, I desperately wanted to like this. I need not have worried. Mr Spiner has chosen some great songs and handles them very capably.

He has a very Broadway type of voice, good range and phrasing, at its best when given full rein. It is shown to its best advantage, I think, on 'Marie' (Randy Newman), a beautiful ballad beautifully sung; also 'The Very Thought of You'.

The backing vocals on 'It's a Sin' are by Stewart/Frakes/Burton/Dorn, with Patrick Stewart speaking the lyrics in the middle. I had never noticed before, his voice resembles Sean Connery's!

Most of the arrangements, consistently good throughout, are done by Dennis McCarthy, well known for his work on TNG. His arrangement on 'Toot Toot Tootsie' is terrific - 1 minute and 33 seconds of everyone obviously having a good time. The clarinets are delightful on this track!

To sum up: if you like Spiner/Tin Pan Alley/jazz to any degree, you will enjoy this offering. (Also available on cassette).

STAR TREK - THE MODALA IMPERATIVE Reviewed by Karen Sparks

This graphic novel is published by Titan at £8.99 and is actually a 200 page compilation of 8 comics which were first published in 1991. The first half of the story is based in the time of classic Trek and the second half set in TNG.

This was an impulse buy - comics are not my usual choice of reading - but I was tempted by the excellent presentation and the fact that it's written by experienced Trek authors Michael Jan Friedman and Peter David. There is an interesting and amusing introduction by Walter Koenig. The illustrations by Pablo Marcos are much better for the classic characters than for TNG.

Kirk, accompanied by a very junior Chekov, is making his second visit to the planet Modala whose natives to join the Federation. They discover tyranny and weapons too advanced for their development, and its people are oppressed and scared. In prison, Kirk and Chekov meet up with a group of revolutionaries. The plot may not be overly original (how many truly original plots can there be left?) but this is more than made up for by good characterisation. Touches which I particularly enjoyed include a bit of hero-worship for the captain by a young Chekov who is very unsure of himself, familiar and humorous arguments between Spock and McCoy, and early foundations laid for the friendship between Chekov and Sulu. Scott, Uhura and Sulu all get some original lines and individual scenes.

Part 2 of the novel is set 100 years later,

4 years into Enterprise 1701-D's mission. An ancient Ambassador Spock and Admiral McCoy are honoured guests invited to join Picard and crew for Modala's celebrations for their 100th anniversary of freedom. Of course, all does not go according to plan, and Spock and McCoy help to solve the problems, in between touching (not mawkish) scenes of sharing reminiscences of their Enterprise years.

I did enjoy THE MODALA IMPERATIVE, particularly the original series characterisation which I felt was much stronger than for their TNG counterparts.

STAR TREK - THE SCREEN SAVER - A Review by Margaret Rainey

At last - a software package specifically for Trekkers! From those nice people who brought you "After Dark", the screen saver with the legendary flying toasters, comes a new set of modules devoted to Star Trek (original series version).

What is a Screen Saver, you cry? Well, in theory, if you let your computer sit idle displaying the same screen for long periods, the image will eventually "burn-in" to the phosphor coating the inside of the screen, and produce permanent "ghost" images. Screen savers are programs which kick in when your machine is left idle, and provide moving graphics to prevent this happening. Whether they're actually necessary is another point altogether; they're fun, and can be much more interesting than the actual programs you're supposed to be running! Now users of Windows, and users of the Mac, can get a screen saver with lots of "fascinating" modules to play with.

"Star Trek - The Screen Saver" comes from Berkeley Systems in California, and is an add-on product to their previous screen saver "After Dark". The ST version provides about 15 new modules, based on various aspects/episodes of the Original Series. "Brain Cells" provides the flying organisms from "Operation Annihilate", which stick to the edges and inside of your screen, then at a burst of white light, shrivel up and drop to the bottom of the screen. "Communications"

allows you to type in your own message, which is then displayed in several ways .. beamed in, Starfleet Communique, etc."Final Frontier" provides an animated display in the fashion of the series main title sequence, with Enterprise fly-bys.

"Horta" has tunnelling hortas chasing fleeing Redshirts (Security men); "Sickbay" gives you the sickbay medical monitors, with diagnosis of diseases; "Planetary Atlas" is a catalogue of planets visited during the series, complete with view and relevant information about the inhabitants. There are also falling Tribbles, blueprints of ST equipment/ships, a Space scene with up to 10 types of spaceships crossing through, and my personal favourite - "Spock", in which an inch-high Mr Spock beams onto your screen, walks around examining things with his tricorder, and proclaims them "Fascinating".

The detail of these modules tells us that they have been constructed by fans, or people who have been guided by fans. Spaceships to be found include the Botany Bay, a First Federation cube vessel, Nomad, and Space station K-7. The Spock module is particularly interesting - sometimes a spore plant (This Side of Paradise) will appear, Spock will study it, get "shot", and end up with a silly grin on his tiny face. Sometimes Nomad will appear with him; sometimes a horta; sometimes the "Mirror Universe" Spock will beam in instead, salute, and disappear.

The use of genuine sound clips is also good. We get Spock's "fascinating", McCoy's quotes over the sickbay monitors "I'm a Doctor, not a mechanic", "This is medically impossible", and of course "He's dead, Jim" .. as the monitor indicators drop to zero! Kirk

tells us "Scotty, get us out of here" and "I need more power", and there are sound effects for beaming in/out, and snatches of original series music.

You have the facility to combine modules, and to randomise their sequence, so that a different one comes up each time the program kicks in. You can also set how long each module runs for before changing to the next one. There's also the facility to "zap" any display you particularly like, into a bitmap file for use as wallpaper, (I know that conjures up weird images for the non-technophiles among you, but bear with me here ..!) to set your own sleep-time, hot-key, and password for the system.

Despite the fact that the box proclaims it to be a stand-alone product, from what the documentation inside says, this would appear not to be the case; and the engine to run the whole thing would appear to be part of the original "After Dark" program. The combined set-up runs somewhat on the slow side on my 386/40 PC system, so perhaps a more powerful system is needed to get the best from it. The copy I have was purchased in the USA, hence I've no idea of the UK price (except that it will be more .. sigh) and the box is clearly stamped "Not for Export", but I understand there is now at least one distributor in the UK who has access to this program. If you can't live without Mr Spock inspecting your "Fascinating" documents, I'd recommend you contact

Softline, 123 West Mead Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4JH (081-642-2255) and enquire about "Star Trek - The Screen Saver", from Berkeley Systems ..it's really no more than an Executive Toy, but by golly, it's fun!



☆☆☆☆

ZINE REVIEW

IT NEVER HAPPENED... or did it by Sue Embury. Reviewed by Jean Sloan

THE BETTER MAN by Sue Embury is an alternative Turnabout Intruder story; Kirk is trapped in Janice Lester's body and no-one except Spock believes him. He is sent, as

Janice Lester, to a rehabilitation hospital to be 'cured'. Spock goes with him, determined to reveal the truth. In The Better Man, Spock and the female Kirk grow very close, but, keeping Spock in character (as is right), Sue does not let them *indulge*. When one is reading that zine, one feels very frustrated

that the relationship is not consummated, even while recognising that it is right for it not to be.

However, Sue must have felt that frustration too, because she has written that missing sex scene. She describes it herself as 'a brief indulgence' and it is that, both for author and protagonists. I really enjoyed rereading A Better Man and inserting It Never Happened... in the 'right' place.

You really need to have The Better Man to appreciate It Never Happened. I reviewed The Better Man some time ago; but I will reiterate that it is a good story, enjoyable, well written and value for money.

Right, Sue, you've done that one; what's next?

Available from Sue Embury, price £2.00 inc. p&p. Age Statement required.
(See zine ads for purchase details)



☆☆☆☆

NEW ZINES

ScoTpress

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 89. This features a slightly alternate universe story, Alea Jacta Est by Jeremy Broadribb, at 65 pages not *quite* long enough to be printed on its own. Set after the events in Bread and Circuses, in this universe Merik did not die but was beamed back to the Enterprise with Kirk, Spock and McCoy and taken back to Starfleet to be courtmartialled. His defence lawyer is one Sam Cogley... Mainly the story of the courtmartial, this story is very cleverly handled. There are also some short stories. £4

MAKE IT SO 14 - Worf hosts a social meeting of the command crew; the Enterprise is called to bear witness to the inheritance of a new planetary leader; Dr Crusher is You

accidentally left behind on an evacuated planet that is suffering radiation poisoning. 99 pages £4

IDIC

IDIC LOG 14 - this is a special NEXT GENERATION issue, with two long stories by J Schmidt. A crew woman with a marriage planned for her seeks Barclay's help; and a follow-up mission to the planet of Travai has problems (this is a sequel to a story that appeared in an earlier IDIC Log); and others. 98 pages U.K. £4 (Due May)

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom Labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others, including a sequel to a story by Phillips A. Timms that was in IDIC Log 4. 100 pages U.K. £4 (Due May)



☆☆☆☆

ZINE ADS



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 14 - a special NEXT GENERATION issue. A crew woman with a marriage planned for her seeks Barclay's

help; a follow-up mission to Travai has problems; and others. U.K. £4 due May

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom Labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others. U.K. £4 due May

IDIC LOG 12 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 1 (stories 1 & 2) £3.80

IDIC LOG 13 - THE TVARON CHRONICLES VOL 2 (stories 3 & 4) £4

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 T'Varon in an attempt to see if Humans can work successfully with Vulcans. **ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 89** - features Alea Jacta Est - the Enterprise has brought Merik back from the Roman planet to be courtmartialled; and others. U.K. £4.00

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

MAKE IT SO 14 Dr Crusher is accidentally left behind on an evacuated planet that is suffering radiation poisoning; and others. U.K. £4 due April

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 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 11 - A novel, **POPPIES**, by Gaille Wood. U.K. £3.90

Accepting submissions for issue 19 on.

Still available many other titles. Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted.

Foreign prices: Europe, add £1 per zine; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC.

We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

We are soliciting submissions for IDIC and Scotpress zines - stories, poems, artwork - of both original Trek and TNG material, either short stories for IDIC LOG, ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES or MAKE IT SO, or long ones suitable for printing on their own. No stories about death of main characters (except Yari!) or explicit sex; stories should include at least one character who has appeared in aired Trek. These are, after all, the voyages of the Starship Enterprise... (in either incarnation).

Send submissions of TNG material to Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee, Scotland, and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage table.

Weight	Air	Surface
Up to 2 lbs	\$16.35	\$8.60
Up to 3 lbs	\$22.40	\$11.40
Up to 4 lbs	\$27.40	\$13.90
Up to 5 lbs	\$33.75	\$17.25

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HAILING FREQUENCIES 4 - Dreams and reality are inseparably intertwined in a Data and Beverly story; a light-hearted romp with Worf out of his element; a romantic interpretation of the relationship between Riker and Troi, set against a background of intrigue; and lots more. \$9 + postage (10 oz)

BEYOND FARPOINT 1 & 2 - Mostly ST/TNG zines, with a little Classic Trek; 1 - Picard comes face to face with a vampire and wrestles with the possibilities of immortality; then journey aboard the Enterprise-C as Castillo and Yar make a valiant, last-ditch effort to stop the Romulans from destroying Narinda II; and more. \$18 + postage (1 lb 5oz) 2 - Picard struggles with both physical frailties and a past nemesis, a man who will stop at nothing to triumph over him; how far Picard will go to keep Bev Crusher aboard the Enterprise; and many more. Full colour cover painting. \$18 + postage (1 lb 5oz)

DATA ENTRIES - The Brent Spiner/Data newsletter, although later issues tend to feature more stories involving Data and/or Lore. Nos 1 - 4 \$1 each, 5 - 12 & 15 - 18 \$1.50 each, all + postage 4 oz each, 13/14 \$3 + 8oz

READY AND WILL-ING - The Jonathon Frakes newsletter. Issues 2 - 8 available, \$4 + postage (4oz)

TREXINDEX SUPPLEMENT 7 - The latest tome in this ST/TNG/DS9 fan fiction/fanzine guide weighs in at 3.5 pounds; over 500 pages of entries indexing over 400 fanzines from all over the world by author, title, poet, artist, and all stories and articles cross-referenced by subject. Looking for every Picard-Crusher story? How about Spock as Sherlock Holmes? Or every story

by Sheila Clark? Trexindex will help you find them. All back volumes available. \$30 + postage.

STAR TREK MASCOT/DR WHO ARMCHAIR EDITOR: PAL-VHS \$9.50 + 12 oz postage. A special video by Paul Gadzikowski. Star Trek computer animation forms an original Star Trek episode - furry critters invade the Enterprise. 80 minute tape with music. The first video fanzine!

We are authorised to reprint the following fanzines - out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5, R & R, Archives, Showcase, Masiform D, Grup, Quartet + 2, all T'Kuition 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. Authorised US agent for ScoTpress, IDIC, BSFR, Kay Stagg & 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.

AHMAD - 200 pages of historical fiction on the turbulent life of Ahmat Fanakati, Leonard Nimoy's character from the TV miniseries Marco Polo. Adult statement required. Artwork by Sue Toher. UK £8, Europe £11.50, Australia/Japan £20 air, £11 surface, USA \$35 air, \$22 surface. Please state type of postage.

Zines copyright Tsaela Press. All available from Linda C Wood, 200 Arisaig Drive, Glasgow G52 1PX, Scotland.

ZINES by Kay Stagg

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class).

SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/ JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (ScoTpress)) 95 pages, £3.60. **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £4.80. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £4.80. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £4.80. For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE. **FORTHCOMING ZINE** - APRIL 1993. Approximately 130 pages... please send S.A.E. for information.

Merry Men Press

FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required. **FIRST TIME** is always on time. All inquiries and orders are promptly filled, no-one's left to hang on the line. SAE (addressed envelope and 2 IRCs) for more info. **FIRST TIME** 1 - 34 available.

HEARTS OF FIRE a K/S novel by Elizabeth Scott - an intriguing mystery, and lots and lots of love. **SHARING THE SUNLIGHT** - K/S novel by Jenna Sinclair. 200 pages fully illustrated by Chris Soto. Plot, love and Trek. What else can you ask for? **GAMBIT**, a

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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.

Kathleen Resch

K/S zines - age statement required

T'HY'LA 12 new, \$26.00 air, \$20.00 surface. **T'HY'LA 1, 3-5, 7-9** (short stories) \$24.00 each, air, \$20.00 each surface; **T'HY'LA 10 & 11** \$26.00 each, air, \$20.00 surface. No. 2, novel *The Things I Cannot Change* \$24.00 air, \$20.00 surface; No. 6, \$18.00 air, \$15.00 surface. No. 13 is open for submissions. **BEFORE THE GLORY** (short stories) \$24.00 air; **DAY OF VENGEANCE**, novel by Jean Lightfoot and C. Del Rio, \$19.00 air; **THE PRICE OF FREEDOM** - novel by Jean Lightfoot. Spock has disappeared; Kirk risks both life and career to find him - but when he does, he finds a drug-addicted stranger... \$26.00 air, \$20.00 surface. Zines from other fandoms also available. Kathleen Resch, PO Box 1766, Temple City, CA 91780, USA.

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EDGE OF FOREVER III - includes a 60,000

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THE SMALL PRINTERS

New! **NO ALTERNATIVE** by Glen David, a Star Trek - Blake's Seven crossover story. £4.75 inc p&p in UK. Available from L. R. Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT. Send SAE for full details of our Star Trek and Professionals zines, new and reprinted.

HIATUS PRESS

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

LONESTAR TREK No. 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. Still available - No. 1 \$20 OS Airmail, Nos. 2 & 3 each \$25 OS Airmail, No. 4 \$26 OS airmail. Classic Trek and TNG stories. **STING - SECOND GENERATION No. 1**. Now seeking art and story submissions (no slash) for this new Next Gen zine from the publishers of LoneStar Trek. High quality format, hurt-comfort, action adventure, and relationships. Must focus on

at least one of the main characters. Gloss colour cover by Patti Prevett. Send photocopy examples of your artwork. All submissions should be accompanied by an SASE. Send orders and submissions to LoneStar Trek, c/o Laurie Haynes/Jan Meek, 335 Smith Lake Road, Vidor, TX 77662, U.S.A.

VILLAGE PRESS

THE EXTREMISTS by Eva Stuart. The Klingon Peace hangs in the balance. All eyes are on the Enterprise, the Ahrax and fleet. Their scientific mission must not fail. Human honesty confronts Klingon honour. Can the fighting really stop? K/S and adult relationships; age statement please. Price to be announced; SAE for flyer (U.S. 2 IRCs or \$1).

VOICE 5 - Dangerous intrigue at Starfleet HQ. McCoy has a 'little list'. Plague on New Paris. Contains a prequel to The Extremists. UK £5.50, Europe £6.50, Canada £8.50, Australia £9.50, USA \$21.00.

IN THE WILDERNESS 1 - Stories by Frances Rowes, Vivian Gates, Kathleen Resch and others. Highly original writing from some of fandom's best talents. UK £6.50, Europe £8.00, Canada £10.00, Australia £11.50, USA \$23.00

IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Why didn't Spock say his father was the Vulcan Ambassador? How does Amanda put up with husband and son? Why must Kirk and Spock take to the desert? And much more! Prices as ITW1.

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 is next in line. I would like more stories, preferably established relationship; political, original, humour would be nice but please no S/Mc, menage or death. New writers, gentle, caring editor would like to see your work. (K/S only please).

Please note **VOICE 1 - 4** are out of print. Orders already in for No. 2 will be filled as soon as possible. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants. K/S and adult relationships. Age statement, please.

Sue Embury-

THE PARTING OF THE WAYS. Now reprinted. At the end of the five year mission Kirk is given a secret mission, McCoy is called upon to help out as a country doctor, while Spock returns to Vulcan in search of a

wife. UK price - £4.25.

THE BETTER MAN. Alternative "Turnabout Intruder" story, in which Kirk is trapped in the body of a woman and no-one except Spock recognises his plight. UK price - £5.00. **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. All available from: Sue Embury, Lower Baileia, Tregare, Monmouth. Gwent NP5 4JL

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 Lorrain! 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.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER 1 - a new Star Trek zine from Criterion Press. Contains both Classic and Next Gen stories (no cross-overs, short, medium and novella length. 192 pages, spiral bound with card covers. \$21 USA, \$25 Canada, \$28 UK. To order or for more information contact Criterion Press, c/o Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510 USA or UK agent Chris Smithson, 17 Osier Close, Ely, Cambs, CB7 4AY.

Criterion Press is looking for contributions for issues 2 & 3 - stories (any length, any series), artwork, cartoons, filksongs etc. Issue 2 will be Classic Trek and film based material; issue 3 will be Next Generation

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 four issues are currently available 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. 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.

To all writers of *original* Star Trek stories and poems, both Gen and K/S!! and artists!! "OUTPOST" publishes both Gen (The Preserver's Chronicles) and K/S (The Preservers Secret Chronicles) 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. SAE+IRC to: "OUTPOST", Karen Hayden and Bettina Rackel, Rheinstrasse 23, 4150 Krefeld, West Germany for ordering details. Please note address correction.

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 415 (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 - 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. Approx 20 pages. £2.00 U.K. includes p&p. Please enquire for overseas rates.

New: **CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS THREE.**

The Enterprise visits Tellus Four; Kirk is missing, can Spock find him in time?; Kirk acquires a mystic painting that can show the future; Logic puzzle; word search. Approx 26 pages. £2.00 including postage. £1.50 for those who bought issue 2 due to story overlap. Cheques to be made payable to P.C. Timms. Philippa Timms, 9 Grangeside, Shore Road, Bonchurch, I.O.W PO38 1R.

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, a bi-monthly Visual Media newsletter edited by Bjo Trimble. Subscription Rates for 6 issues: USA \$8 Bulk mail, \$10 First Class, Canada \$12.5 Air Printed Matter, Overseas \$18 GB/Europe Air Printed Matter, \$20 Pacific Rim 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 is an A5, 32 page fanzine produced on a Archimedes Acorn and each copy is laser printed to 600dpi. It covers all British and American television fantasy and science fiction and from issue four, radio as well, illustrating them with artwork and B&W

photos. Regular columns include MERCHANDISE (photos and info on old and rare items), TECH (technical information on TV and video in English!), OPINION (a discussion topic in each issue) and WAFFLE! which is ... well read it and find out!

M3 : ISSUE FOUR - NEXT GEN'S Ensign Ro Laren, SURVIVORS, The Stranger - WHO?, Telefantasy Reference Books, Non-English Language MERCHANDISE, plus much more and ...(not forgetting) WAFFLE! Available May 1993.

Back issues available. Each issue costs £1.75 including postage, cheques/POs payable to Stuart Halliday, M3(IDIC), 35 Pinewood Park, Deans, Livingston, EH54 8NN.

AIRWAVES: A multi-media fan-fiction zine, A4 size, computer printed, photocopied photo covers. 70 - 100 pages per issue -. 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); **FLIGHT 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 but no "/" fiction please. Amstrad users (Locoscript 1 or 2) with PCW's 8256 or 8512 (A-drive only) (3" disc) or PCW 9265 (3.5" - 720K) can submit their work on disc to save postage. Compatible computers (3.5" - 720K), 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

Blakes Seven column and more! Issue No. 2 (out April 1992) will see the start of an EXCLUSIVE! We will be publishing the first part of an ACTUAL SUBMITTED TNG SCRIPT called "The Ghosts of Yesteryear"! What are you waiting for??? Please send cheques/p.o. payable to Susan Parker, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ, or an 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.

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.

GENESIS II FICTION COMPETITION.

Categories are general and adult for both OT and TNG, and poetry, with classes for under 3000 words and under 10000 words. £2 entry fee. For details/entry forms send to Genesis II Fiction Competition, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



CONVENTIONS / GET-TOGETHERS

WARP ONE: The 35th British Star Trek Convention. 30th April - 3rd May, 1993. At the Middleton Tower Holiday Centre, Morecambe, Lancs.

Guests: Marina Sirtis, Michael Dorn, Ronald D. Moore and Richard Arnold (all subject to work commitments).

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. 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! represented 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: Nichelle Nichols, Jonathan Del Arco (Hugh from I Borg) and Richard Arnold (all subject to work commitments). Registration: 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. 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.

NE'A'DRIAR VI A Two-Day Midi Star Trek Convention. 7th-8th August, 1993.

Venue: The Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex.

Registration: £24 both days; £19 one day.

Room Rates £26 - £30.

For further details, please send a SAE to: Joan Foxley, 143 Northumberland Road, North Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7RB.

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 Janer 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.

Guests: Dennis Ashton, Diane Duane, Peter Morwood, Therese Eyre, Jenny Boyce and Jon Vincent-Rudski. 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. 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.

LATCON 2 The London Away Team second one-day Convention. Saturday 20th November, 1993. Video rooms featuring Trek both Classic and TNG, also hopefully DS9 latest. Featuring enlarged dealers' room, quiz, excellent bar and some food. Charity to be Sickie Cell Anaemia. Nearest tube Tottenham Court Road. Dealer enquiries welcome. For info send SAE to **LATCON 2**, 36 Evenwood Close, Carlton Drive, London SW15 2DA. Be there or be a Ferengi with a hat on!

T'KON 1994 - 1st - 4th April 1994 at Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford. Guest - John Carrigan. American guests to be confirmed. Registration £25; Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun £20, Sun/Mon £15; single day, Fri, Sun, Mon £10, Sat £15. Students, unemployed or OAPs (at the time of the con) deduct £5 from above rates. Children under 16 half price, children under 5 free. Room Rates: £28 twin/double PPPN, £33 single per night. Cheaper accommodation is available at Bradford University. Programme - DS9, TNG and OT video rooms, workshops, guest talks, disco, theme parties (horror night, great Federation Masked Ball, mediaeval adventure), drama show, fancy dress, photograph competition, quizzes, sales room and lots more! **T'Kon 1994**, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL

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.

STARBASE 93. The organisers would like to thank all those you attended and supported the Convention at the Leeds Hilton in January. The Convention has raised approximately £1200 for each of the two charities; St. Gemma's Hospice in Leeds and the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The final sum raised will be presented to the charities in April. Thanks to those people who have ordered the Convention Video - it should be available by early April. Look out for Starbase 94!!! The Convention contact address is; 152 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX. Please enclose a stamped SAE.

A Major Star Trek Convention, to be held in the West of Scotland, is being planned for 1994. Anyone who is interested in helping in the organisation please phone James on 0294 63381 as soon as possible.

NON BRITISH ST CONVENTIONS

STARLIGHT UNION presents: Majel Barrett-Roddenberry and Richard Arnold. August 20-22, 1993, in Hannover, Germany. For more information please contact Angela Dargel, Am Graswege 38, W-3000 Hannover 1, Germany. Please include 2 International Reply Coupons and a self-addressed envelope.

OTHER EVENTS

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.

GREENWOOD IV The 4th Official **ROBIN OF SHERWOOD** Convention to celebrate the Tenth Anniversary of the series. 28th-29th August. The Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex. Join us for a weekend of Guests, events indoor and out and perhaps a little Magic! Weekend Registration rate & One day rates

are available and may be paid by instalments. For Registration/Hotel booking forms please send a SASE to: GREENWOOD IV, c/o 16 Tonbridge Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0EL. (SAE and IRCs from outside UK please.

ARMADACON V The Friendly Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention. 12th-14th November, 1993. The Astor Hotel, Elliot Street, The Hoe, Plymouth, Devon.

Guests to include Danny John-Jules (Cat from Red Dwarf), Mike Jefferies & Adrian Cole. (All guests subject to work commitments.) Other guests to be announced.

Events: Writers Panel, Dealers' Room, Autograph Opportunities, Guest Panels, Competitions, Role-Playing, Charity Auction. Registration: Weekend £20 (including Friday night. One day and half day rates available on request.

For more details and registration form please write enclosing an SAE to ArmadaCon V, c/o 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL.

THE THIRTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 19th - 21st 1993. Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. Full film programme spanning his career. Registration forms and details from Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

PERSONAL COLUMN

HELP

Did you receive a copy of the Star Trek 6 Movie Magazine from the Starbase 93 convention in Leeds. The magazine had the autographs of both Jimmy Doohan and George Takei. If you were sent this please could you return it to it's rightful owner - James Williamson, 73 Caledonia Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5AN.

Can anyone help me to convert my Star Trek fonts from either Adobe Type One or True Type to Bitstream so that I can use them in Harvard Graphics V3.0. If you can help then please contact me: James Williamson, 73 Caledonia Road, Saltcoats, Ayrshire KA21 5AN.

My name is Tracey Saunders and I am 32 years old. I like both Classic and TNG. My hobbies include getting to know fellow fans, archeology, anthropology, reading and writing. I would like to write to anyone anywhere in the world; I find different cultures fascinating. 27 Glenwood Ave, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 9DJ.

I'm looking for penfriends from America, England, France, Germany... in fact, anywhere around the world. I like Original and TNG Trek; also Quantum Leap, Red Dwarf, Dr Who, Star Cops and V. I'm 15 years old and I'm looking for someone who can write on a quite regular basis. Please write to William Marsh, 61 Old Farm Rd, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 1QN, England.

****ATTENTION!!!**** Are you a Worf/Michael Dorn fan, and cheesed off with having no club? As you know, Michael is to be a guest at Warp One, so I want to get a 'kind-of' petition to show him just *how* much we Brits appreciate him. If you are and do, send a note with your name and address to the following: Gaile Wood, 1 Lintly, Wilnecote, Tamworth, Staffs. B77 4LN.

Please indicate if you'll be present at the con, and we'll arrange a get-together!

If anyone is interested in joining or helping start a European Jonathan Frakes Appreciation Society, could they contact me: Elizabeth Ward, 3 Longlands Ave., Kiveton Park, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S31 8PA.

Would any fans of Star Trek, the original series/movies, living in the Glasgow area, be interested in participating in informal, occasional get-togethers? We could talk Trek, watch videos, talk Trek, drink tea/coffee etc, in one another's homes. No age barrier would apply, all that would be required is a love of Star Trek; its philosophy, characters and actors. Please write to Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, Glasgow G41 3XG or call on 041 636 6022.

I would love to hear from any Brent Spiner fans, especially those local to me so we can arrange meetings etc. Donna Macey, 20

Mortlake Avenue, Redhill, Worcester WR5 1QP.

Wanted: Penpal to write to 26 year old female Star Trek fan. I like mainly Next Gen characters, especially Worf, Data and Geordi. If you're interested write to J Schmidt, 3 Smithfield Road, Scunthorpe, Sth Humberside DN16 2NJ.

Many thanks to all who responded to my survey about SF. There were too many of you to respond to each personally but the information was very useful. The video was won by P. Dale of Yorkshire. - Pam Crabtree.

Pen friend/companion to go to cons with is required; 14 - 16 years old, any sex, any species except Ferengi, Tomari and Migwin. Please write to Ricky Elston, 11 Wrenbury Drive, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 2BH.

THANK YOU: To all those people who were kind enough to take time to read my Trek stories and give me lots of brilliant feedback. Thank you again, its been enjoyable (?) & incredibly useful!! Dee Willcox.

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 - Star Trek zines (mostly Classic Trek) books and other media related merchandise. Send SAE for list to Moira Grant, 13 Temple Crescent, Hilton, Inverness, Scotland IV2 4UR.

FOR SALE - Star Trek zines, books, magazines, audio tapes etc. SAE to Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau,

Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

FOR SALE - Classic Trek and TNG books. Also Star Trek magazines and other SF related books and magazines in very good condition. For list send SAE to Gordon Smyth, 3 Rathmore Gardens, Finaghy, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT10 0FX

FOR SALE - Mustard TNG 4th season top and trousers for sale. It will fit a size 12 woman. Price £50 or will sell separately - top £30, trousers negotiable. Donna Macey, 20 Mortlake Avenue, Redhill, Worcester WR5 1QP.

FOR SALE: GIANT NOVELS (£2.50 each):- "Uhura's Song", "Dwellers In The Crucible", "Shadow Lord", "Pawns And Symbols", ST:TNG "Reunion" (£10 - hardback) / Star Trek "25 year anniversary" t-shirt showing Enterprise A & D + Starfleet logo (£8 - medium size, never worn) / keep warm outside with a Star Trek 25th anniversary flying jacket, has large 25th anniversary patch on it (£25 - medium size, never worn) / CD:- ST:TNG "Encounter At Farpoint" £10 / IDIC LOG 9 £3.50 / NON-FICTION BOOKS:- "The World Of Star Trek" £5.00, "The Star Trek Compendium" £5.00 / ST:TNG VIDEO "Time Squared" & "The Icarus Factor" £5.00. Phone Edwin on Hove (0273) 734860 at any time.

FOR SALE: Star Trek: The Role-Playing Game (2nd edition, 3 manuals) £5.00 / "Tricorder/ Starship Sensors Display" £5.00 / Klingon Ship Recognition Manual £5.00 / "The Klingons" supplement (1 manual + 1 adventure supplement) £7.00 / "The Romulans" supplement (1 Starfleet intelligence manual, 1 Game Operations manual) £7.00 / Starfield Hex Grids (5 * 33" by 22" sheets @ £1.00 each). Phone Edwin on Hove (0273) 734860 at any time.

FOR SALE - ST zines (gen and K/S) please send SAE to Linda Court, 24 Smithay Meadows, Christow, Exeter EX6 7LU.

FOR SALE - Cinefantastique Mag 9/90, 12/91, 10/91. Guide to TNG series 1-4 and 25th Anniversary ST issue. 80 pages on ST (total

180 pages). Mint condition £14.00 inc p&p. Anyone want a NTSC version of STV? Surround sound and close captioned, cardboard cover. Offers? Box still sealed. Stephen Shaw, 10 Alstone Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5AH or telephone 061 432 6097 AFTER 8pm.

FOR SALE - TV Zone issues 9,17,18,19,22. Also paperback novel 'Q In Law' by Peter David. All in good condition. No reasonable offer refused! Contact M Copple, 1 Denebank, All Hallows Road, Bispham, Blackpool FY2 0AS.

FOR SALE - Star Trek Chess Pieces, Kirk, Khan and Uhura. All come with free "Pawn" and in original boxes with documentation. Yours for £35 each ONO. Mail costs the same from BFPO Germany as it does internal U.K. Mick Arnold, 3(F) Sqn., RAF Laarbruch, BFPO 43.

FOR SALE - Dr Who paperbacks from 70p each. SAE for list. Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End. Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY.

FOR SALE - ST-TNG Officer's Manual (FASA) £12.00. Galaxy-Class Blueprints (5 sheets) £3.50. Hardback Novels: McCaffrey - The Rowan; J. Auel - Clan of the Cave Bear, Valley of Horses; M Moorcock - Fortress of the Pearl, Revenge of the Rose; Stephen Lawhead - The Paradise War; Terry Brooks - Sword / Elfstones / Wishsong / Scions of Shannara. £5 each. All items are in mint-condition; prices include p&p. Please contact Sara Jackson, 584 York Road, Killingbeck, Leeds LS14 6AD, West Yorkshire

WANTED - I am looking for the following items; tribbles, Spock dolls, also posters of Spock. If anyone is willing to sell these items, or know anyone who makes tribbles, please contact me, Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or phone 021-443-2995 after 6pm, please. I will pay any reasonable price for these items.

WANTED - K/S zine Gemini (put out by Janice McDonald); I would also like a copy of the American zine Candlelight and Flames

(put out by Anne Parrish). I also want Nightvisions, Broken Images, Icefire & Thy'la 2 - The Things I Cannot Change. (I sold these and regretted it.) I will pay any reasonable price. Contact J Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or phone 021-443-2995, after 6pm please.

WANTED - Does anyone have anything concerning Trek for an Apple Mac? Especially Classic Trek font. Stephen Daniels, Braenaloin, Smailholm, Nr. Kelso, Roxburghshire TD5 7PJ.

WANTED - STV - The Final Frontier, broadcast on BBC 1, 9/92, to borrow only. Also wanted: Star Trek cartoon series - I would like to buy as many episodes as possible (VHS only). I will pay a very good price. If anyone can help please ring 0232-622621 and ask for Gordon Smyth. Gordon Smyth, 3 Rathmore Gardens, Finaghy, Belfast, Co. Antrim BT10 0FX

WANTED - IDIC Newsletters nos 17 to 22. Will return them or will pay for them. Will also pay postage. Linda Dupont, 156 5th Avenue, St-Pierre, Quebec, Canada H8R 1P2.

WANTED - Does anyone have any information/videos of Patrick McGoochan (excluding The Prisoner) and Timothy Dalton they would be willing to part with or lend me? Reasonable costs paid. Please contact Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics LE12 9HQ.

WANTED - Next Generation videos, K/S zines, slash fiction, Anti-zine 1 and 2. Also any Star Trek/TNG match box labels or match booklets. Steve Lynch, Eleven Wyton Grove, Preston Road, Hull, North Humberside HU9 3QL.

WANTED - copies of Stargate I, II, III by Kay Stagg and other writers. Will pay any reasonable price. Please contact Karen McLauchlan, 32 Newtyle Road, Ralston, Paisley PA1 3JX.

WANTED - Any TNG Titan novels and any Star Trek large format books (especially the TNG Technical Manual, Starfleet Dynamics, Ships of Starfleet, Starfleet Prototypes); also a

movie era uniform. Will pay any price within reason. P Morley, 407 Fleetwood Rd. Fleetwood, Lancs, FY7 8HN.

WANTED: K/S zines (not Merryman Press or Thy'la) - Pon Farr Press, As I Do Thee or others. Will pay reasonable price. Please send your list of zines and prices to - Miss E D Davies, 32 Manor farm Rd, Enfield, Middx EN1 4SM.

WANTED - To buy or borrow, any TNG zines, especially adult relationship stories. Also any information on George Takei's film, Return from the River Kwai. Is it out on video or has it been shown on TV? Can anyone lend or sell me a copy of it? Or tell me where I can buy a copy from? L. E. Attwood, 63 Warren Close, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 9PQ.

WANTED - K/S zines Pavane I, The Voice 1, The Price of Freedom by Jean Lightfoot and Night Visions. Also any other K/S other than Pavane II or The Voice 2-5. (If out of print will accept photocopies). Please write to: Gill Gaffikin, 128 Cygnet Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 0DT.

WANTED - Episodes of TV series Airwolf, starring Jan Michael Vincent. Will pay postage and return all tapes. Elaine McCue, 109 Athelstane Road, Glasgow G13 3QY.

WANTED - Does anyone have any episodes of DS9/TNG Season Six/Space Rangers and Babylon Five in PAL Format to lend/sell me? If so please write to: Roger Ball, 44 Manor St., Hinckley, Leics. LE10 0AS.

WANTED to borrow: PAL VHS videos of ST Season 4 up and DS9, pay costs both ways plus a bit. Off-air multi-episode tapes even better! Stephen Shaw, 10 Alstone Road, Stockport, Cheshire, SK4 5AH.

WANTED to buy: World Without End by J Haldeman, your reasonable price paid. Also wanted, second hand zines - send your lists to David Gallagher, 47 Broxholme House, Harwood Road, Fulham, London SW6 4AA.

WANTED - Copies of the following. Ashenden (TV programme), Denis Leary -

Cure for Cancer (TV programme), Bill Hicks - The Relentless Tour (TV programme and ep. 1 of Deadlock (radio programme). Lesley Hatch, 74 Pitfields Road, Brandhill Estate, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 0RQ.

WANTED - copies of the radio programmes The Gibson eps. 1,2 and 3, and The Virgin in the Ice, eps. 1. Marise Morland-Chapman, 12 Marsh Court, London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1EW.

WANTED - Can someone supply copies of The Transformed Man by Bill Shatner and Nichelle Nichols' album. I will pay all costs. Kari M John, 4 Crescent Court, Crescent Rd, Maindee, Newport, Gwent NP9 8LU.

WANTED: Does anyone have new or second hand videos of ST:TNG that they are selling on competitive terms? I would be glad to hear from them. Owin Maye, 7 Newmore Gardens, Walsall, West Midlands, WS5 3NP.

WANTED: Does anyone know where I can find NTSC videos in England, and can anyone recommend a reliable video store in USA? (beside Intergalactic Trading, which I already know). Zines - I would like a good copy at reasonable price of Canadian zine Dreadnaught Vol 2 (3, 4, if any). I already have Vol 1, which is very good. I also want The Elder Brother by Clare Bell, from TOSOP No. 4, One is One by Janet Kilbourne from Shadowfax, and Crossroads by Alexis Fegan Black. Nicole Comtet, 101 Rue du Vieux Pont, 91800 Boussy St Antoine, France.

WANTED - Starship models, Klingon 'head', Spock latex ears and Starfleet uniform. Where can I get them? Ricky Elston, 11 Wrenbury Drive, Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 2BH

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

NOW AVAILABLE stickers on a science fiction theme from Republic & Empire, including Red Dwarf, Battlestar Galactica and even Citizen Smith. For further details send an SAE (overseas IRCs) to: Republic & Empire, 29 Thropton Avenue, Benton Lodge Estate, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE7 7NR.

Stargazer is a store based in Worcester which

specialises in Star Trek. They are offering a 5% discount to IDIC members through their mail order service or at conventions where they have stalls. When you write say that you are a member of IDIC and quote your membership number, you will then be sent a discount card. Write, enclosing a SAE, to Stargazer, 37 Upper Tything Worcester, WR1 1JZ. Telephone 0906 726259.

1988 Canadian Edition ST:TNG Lunch Tote/Thermos. This tote comes in either metallic green or blue with an illustration of the Enterprise-D on the side. A different picture of the Enterprise-D is on the Thermos. The tote is 13"x9"x7" with two zippered compartments and comes with a shoulder strap. I have obtained a limited number of factory-new bags and am selling them for \$25 US each. Surface shipping is \$7 a bag, Airmail is \$9.25 a bag. If 2 or 3 are ordered then shipping charges can be reduced. I anticipate a heavy response so recommend phoning your order. Kevin Moore, 314 Assiniboin Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada SK7 3Z2. Tel: 1-306-668-4232.

FOR SALE: New line in merchandise. All serious *Trekkers* take note! I can now supply you with high-quality personalised glassware: Large round paperweight - £7.99, Small round paperweight - £6.99, Display coaster dish £4.99, each item sold complete with display stand. Generous discounts on all larger orders. Why not breath new life into your old/new *Trek* photograph collection, illustrations, logos, and have them mounted in modern, crystal-clear glass for a lifetime of appreciation, into any combination of the above. For complete written details and current price list, please send an SAE (or overseas equivalent) to: Chris C. Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PF, England.

STAR TREK FAN AND ACTOR CLUBS UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet;

enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 17p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

NORTHERN IRELAND STAR TREK ASSOCIATION Write to 67 Meadowbrook, Craigavon, Co Armagh, N. Ireland, BT65 5AA. Tel: 0762 345498.

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 Treks 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.

FFTF - FRIENDS, FANS AND FOLLOWERS OF JONATHAN FRAKES (new address) Renee Blanchette, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, New Hampshire 03071, USA.

SPOTLIGHT - LEONARD NIMOY INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB. (new address) Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

IAAPS (International Audience Alliance for Patrick Stewart). Note new rates for January to December 1993 are £18. Membership automatically backdated to January 1993. Membership covers 4 Stargazer and 4 Britgazer magazines. Send SAE for flyer to Pat Mitchell, 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax,

West Yorkshire HX1 4JU. Make cheques payable to IAAPS.

IAAPS wishes to inform anyone who has read or heard from any source, information to the effect that IAAPS is a "private, invitation-only" club, that THIS IS NOT TRUE. The International Audience Alliance for Patrick Stewart is the official fan club, sanctioned by Mr Stewart himself, for those interested in his career, and welcomes anyone over the age of 13 who wishes to join. Any information from other sources to the contrary, should be disregarded. Thank you.

OTHER CLUBS

LEAPERS UK: A new British Quantum Leap fan club. Send SAE for details to: 57 Eldon Road, East Wood, Rotherham, S. Yorks, S65 1RB.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

ENTHUSIASTIC FANS WANTED! - Would you be interested in joining a new Star Trek Group (Classic and T.N.G.)? If you live in the Staffs, Warks, Birmingham area, within easy travelling distance of Tamworth... **CONTACT US!!!** : Lee Sansome & Gaile Wood, 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs. B77 4HY.

Anyone wishing to start a local group in the BATH area, please contact me. L. J. Turner, 21 Shaws Way, Twerton, Bath, Avon BA2 1QQ.

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. Next meetings May 15th and July 3rd, starting at 10.30 am till about 7pm, at cost of £5, children accompanied by an adult, free. For more details send an SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

LEEDS STARFLEET: Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month between 12 and 5pm at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds 2. New larger venue!!! Activities include; competitions, raffle, coffee bar, social outings and separate Video Programmes showing: Original, TNG and DS9. Write with SAE for more details to; Leeds Starfleet, P.O. Box HP 1701, Leeds LS6 4TE.

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; 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: meets 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&p). For more details of the club and the newsletter, please send an SASE to Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

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.

☆☆☆☆☆

Crossword Solution ACROSS

3. Imperfect; 8. Ore; 9. Loss; 10. Brain; 12. Mress; 13. Galaxys; 16. Tribble; 17. Plato; 20. Ensign; 21. Albright; 22. Mudd; 23. Alexander

DOWN

1. Corbomite; 2. Menagerie; 4. Mimic; 5. Eminiar; 6. Fall; 7. Cost; 11. Excalibur; 14. Stonn; 15. Klingon; 18. Lethe; 19. Arex

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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 \$21.00 (£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.

CONTENTS

Actor Info	14
Book & Video Reviews	77
Borg	71
Business Meeting Conventions	62
Con Ads/General Ads	91
Christmas Carol	55
Crossword	66
Crossword Solution	99
Deep Space 9 Comments	59
Deep Space 9 Reviews	57
Did Soong Create Life Pt.1	69
Families on Starship	76
Generation Gap	75
Guide Dog Update	5
Klingon Homeworld	67
Latest Star Trek News	6
Majel Barrett - Starlight Union	64
Merchandise	13
Postbag	15
Starbase 93 Reports	49
Star Trek in the News	11
Striving, Just Striving	76
STV - Unspoken Truths	73
To Boldly Go - Where	68
Troon	54
Universal Adventure	74
URS Discovery Report	53
Zine Ads	84
Zines - New Zines	84
Zine & Paramount	63
Zine Reviews	83

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