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August 1993

Newsletter 29

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

Honorary Members: Gene Roddenberry, Majel Barrett, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Siddig El Fadil, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okuda, Ernie Over, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi, welcome to another newsletter. We would like to give a special welcome all our new IDIC members and also to Majel Barrett, who has kindly accepted an honorary membership of IDIC.

"Thank you for your invitation to be an honorary member of IDIC. I am happy to accept. I am familiar with your magnificent newsletter as it was one of Gene's favourites.

Peace & Love, Majel Barrett"

Majel should have been with us since February 1992. Unfortunately her letter to Janet never arrived and if it wasn't for Ernie Over we would never have known. Thanks, Ernie, and thanks for sending the information on Gene's Award. In his letter Ernie says, "The SeaTrek Cruise just completed was very relaxing for me and a very good time. On our way back to Miami from the Cayman Islands we even rescued four Cuban refugees who were adrift on a raft in the Caribbean! They had been at sea four days and were nearly out of water when we happened upon them. What a thrill it was to be on board and see the rescue."

We are delighted to have received a letter for the postbag from Bjo Trimble. In her letter Bjo answers a lot of your questions. For those new fans who do not know Bjo she was responsible for organising the letter campaign which saved the original series after the network had decided to cancel. Bjo wrote the Star Trek Concordance and On the Good Ship Enterprise. She is currently updating the Concordance, which covers original Trek, and hopes to reprint it soon. Bjo has guested at a number of conventions around the world, including Britain. She has also been a guest at a couple of Creation Conventions.

IDIC has gained over 250 members since the end of May, mainly due Janet having a letter about IDIC printed in Satellite Times and the info also being printed in TV & Satellite Weekly. Good advertising, we hear you say - it was, but it is also hard work writing over 250 letters in a week. On one day alone 56 letters arrived. Janet has been hard put to keep on top of things, what with also having to hold down a full time job - but she has done her best. If there have been any mix-ups with the mail please be forgiving. She did manage to lose a cartoon by Michael Sadler, but Michael will be pleased to know it

turned up okay - it had slipped into the 'On Hold' file.

One point - if you writing to any of the three of us and require a reply please enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope. What is just one stamp to you could be up to 1100 for us.

ZINES

There has been quite a lot of response to our statement that we are having to reduce the number of zines we are printing, as you will see from elsewhere in the newsletter.

To try and reduce the price of the zines we are going to print the next 2 or 3 zines at A5. Make It So 15 will be a straight reduction in size, whereas Make It So 16 will be double columned. There may be an Enterprise-Log Entries as well. Once you get them you can let Sheila know which layout you prefer; whether you like the A5 size or would prefer to go back to A4. We haven't advertised the zines yet because we don't know the price. Because we'll only be doing a 200 print-run and they will be trimmed, they will work out quite a bit dearer than the newsletter but they shouldn't be more than £2.50 each.

FAXES

Janet has bought herself a fax machine so if you have access to a fax machine you can now fax information etc. direct to her. You may find this useful, particularly near the deadline of the newsletter. The fax machine is on the same line as the telephone so if the machine you are using transmits a CNG (document recognition) signal be sure to send the fax automatically so that Janet's machine recognises it. If you have to send a fax manually Janet's machine will think it is voice call, ring the phone for 40 seconds and then, if it isn't picked up, check again to see if it is a fax. To foreign members - only send faxes with a CNG signal if it is after midnight in the UK; Janet will really not appreciate being woken by the phone in the middle of the night to find out it is a fax.

If you have any problem sending a fax then try again later, just in case the machine hasn't

been left on auto. There is almost always someone in the house in the evening.

The Fax number is 0546 60 2605. We can only accept incoming faxes at the moment. Janet's phone bill won't cover sending out faxes unless they are urgent. If we find a lot of members use the fax we may consider putting in a separate line at a later date.

One thing we do need to do is to build up a collection of useful fax numbers. If you have a fax number where you can receive faxes then let Janet know. Also, send Janet any fax numbers which you think might be useful for getting information, i.e. BBC, CIC, Sky Paramount etc. We can't afford to phone firms for information but we could afford to send a fax.

BADGES

There hasn't been a large response for the badges. We've enclosed the ones which were ordered with this newsletter. If by any chance you have ordered one and not received it, please let Janet know.

The badges are 2" x 3/4", the logo is printed on white card and then laminated with a safety pin as a fastener. They do look rather nice. You can order badges from Janet at 50p inclusive of p&p. Please make payment in stamps. Also please enclosed a self addressed sticky label or write your name and address on a piece of paper which we can stick on an envelope.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

There are number of conventions, Contagion and Holodeck, being held between this newsletter and the next newsletter so it will probably turn into something of a convention special. If you would like to send in a con report please try to limit it to 3 pages and we'll try to cover as many cons as we can. It would help if you could keep summaries of guests' talks separate from your actual con report.

We are still holding a number of articles but don't let that stop you sending more in. Having a selection helps keep a balance in

the newsletter and as we say elsewhere, if we find we are having to hold too many articles we may consider putting out a year book.

The closing date for the next newsletter is **September 15th** (September 11th 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 full name on all submissions - if you don't and it gets separated from your letter then we can't print it. (We had three letters sent in this time with no names on them - two had addresses so we could identify the writers, but the third had neither name nor address (even on the envelope) so although it included some interesting ideas we were unable to use it.) We hope to post the newsletter out around **October 6th**.

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 PCW 3" discs. All files should be saved as ASCII text files, aligned left and preferably saved without line-end markers.

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

Our thanks to Brenda Allan, Chris Bailey, Mark Burchell, Adam Dawes, Barbara Ellams, George Haggarty, Gary Heron, Paul Hulford, Ishtiaq Hussain, Debbie Lee, Anne MacKenzie, Fiona McDonald, Rebekah Owens, H.S. Pall, Chris Roberts, Moira Russell, Jean Sloan, Karen Sparks, Alan Stephen, Jenny Turner, Nigel Turner and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Lindsay was further on with her training

than we'd thought - when Squire was rejected, Ann Scroggie offered to choose a dog for us, and we accepted. From what she said, we thought she'd chosen from new dogs just gone into Forfar from their puppy-walkers. In fact, she selected from the unsponsored dogs that were already halfway through their training. Lindsay has now qualified and has gone to Elgin. Sadie is still undergoing her training and doing well.

SPACE TIME CONTINUUM

Bjo Trimble has also offered to send out a sample copy of her Space Time Continuum newsletter to anyone who donates a minimum of £1 or \$2 to the IDIC Guide Dog Fund. This newsletter will be of interest to anyone who wants to know the latest media news, what the actors and crew are doing and where they are appearing etc. There are also letter pages. The newsletters cover such programmes as Star Trek, Dr Who, Beauty and the Beast, Space Rangers, Quantum Leap, Lost in Space, Disney News etc. If you are interested send your donation to Janet and let her know you would like a newsletter. Janet will then send your address off to Bjo.

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are - Harvinder Singh, pen with a 'floating' Enterprise NCC 1701; Sue Cole, pen with a 'floating' Enterprise NCC 1701-D; Cinzia Iezzi, a year's membership of IDIC.

We're having another raffle with this newsletter. The three prizes this time are a copy of The Man Between the Ears (large format biography of Leonard Nimoy), a ST:TNG board game, and the usual IDIC membership. 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 September 12th. 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.

We would like to thank Steve Barnett, Claudia Baschke, Staff & customers of Glasgow City Libraries, Gillian Bent, Jennifer Blanchard, Catherine Brown, Mark Burchell, Brenda Callagher, Cheryl Chester, D Colucci, Stephen Daniels, Cassie Davies & her boss, Karen Davies, Ian Dixon, Barbara Ellams, E. Francis, Mark French, Kathleen Glancy, Grace Hawkins, Caro Hedge, Gary Heron, Tracy & Trevor Holland, John Hurlles, Cinzia

Iezzi, Ann Jenkins, Carol Kean, Marysia Kolodziej, Antje Konig, Ruth Kurz, Meg Lahey, Debbie Lee, Lloyd Lewis, Angrit Lower, Sharon Mansfield, Pamela McDowall, Anne McKay, Pat Mitchell, Philip Morley, Heather Noyce, Ann Peters, Ronald Reid, Stephen Rothwell, Tracy Saunders, Baerbel Schmidt, J Schmidt, Amanda Spence, Ingrid Smith, Kevin Thomas, Jenny Turner, Nigel Turner, Lisa Tynee, Gratiennne Vandekerkhove, Mollie Weston, Helen White, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten or who didn't give their name who has donated money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at Holodeck. If you have any second-hand ST items you want to donate to the Guide Dogs then just bring them along to our table in the dealers' room.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 11/7/93



THE FUTURE OF THE NEWSLETTER

We would like to thank everyone who wrote in to comment on our suggestion to publish the Postbag as a supplement to the newsletter. For those who wondered, our intention was to put it out with every newsletter.

After reading all your comments we have decided that the best thing to do is to leave the newsletter as it is. We will try to keep the postbag to a maximum of 35 pages and we will try to be a bit firmer with the editing. When we have a large number of articles on hold we will let you know and ask you to delay sending in new ones. If this doesn't work and we find the backlog of articles increasing we may consider putting out a yearbook which would be available as an extra to those would like it. We are not sure of the cost as this would depend on length and number of copies required.

To help us edit the Postbag we would ask that in future members don't use it to

send purely personal messages to other members as this really isn't of interest to the rest of the readers. If you really need to use the newsletter to contact friends you can always use the personal column.

As to why we have decided to leave the newsletter as it is - while quite a number of you were in favour of having a separate and larger postbag, many more said that while they would be willing to pay the extra for a supplement they would prefer the postbag left in the newsletter. A surprising number of people said that while they devoured the postbag, they often didn't read all the articles; that they felt the postbag was the heart of the newsletter. One added that he didn't mind paying extra for the postbag, which he read, but would feel the article part, which he didn't always read in full, was overpriced. Others of course were in favour of a separate postbag because they didn't really read it and would prefer the extra articles.

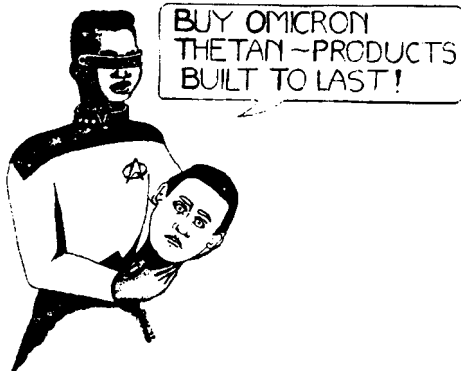
One person told us about a group that tried splitting articles and letters into two publications, only to find that it didn't work - that without the link between letters and articles, response was less. Someone else made a similar comment, that articles engendered comments and comments could engender articles; and that someone who didn't get the postbag could miss whatever had triggered a specific article.

One person suggested we could be a little stricter in terms of whether the subject matter actually relates to Trek or to fandom (this is referring to discussions that start as Trek but diverge); but another person said, "a lot of the best stuff is, strictly speaking, non-Trek by the time we've all finished discussing it, so please don't consider a 'non-Trek' ban!"

We felt that following comments needed an answer.

Several people suggest putting out an A4 newsletter instead of A5, because then we could increase the number of pages (100 is the viable maximum number of pages in an A5 presentation).

Janet - It would cost twice as much to put out an A4 newsletter as to put out an A5 newsletter and I don't think it would be possible to fit our 100 A5 pages into 50 A4 pages. Even with triple columning things like titles take up extra space, and since the newsletters are lithced and there is a limit as to how small we can make the print and still be readable. I really think that if we went for an A4 newsletter you would ending paying more 'per word' than you do



now.

One person suggested trying to find a cheaper printer. She was basically talking about zines, but her suggestion could be applied to the N/L too.

In fact, any other printer we have priced was much dearer.

There was a suggestion that we print only one review of anything, only one con report, etc.

On the face of it, this sounds reasonable, but if we get two reviews of - say - a book, which are completely different (one liking it and the other disliking it), it makes sense to print both. Likewise with con reports; two people can see the same con in completely different ways.

One person suggest that letters should try not to contain the 'To this person' and 'To that person' paragraph headers because this makes it difficult to follow, is too much like a clique and impolite to new members.

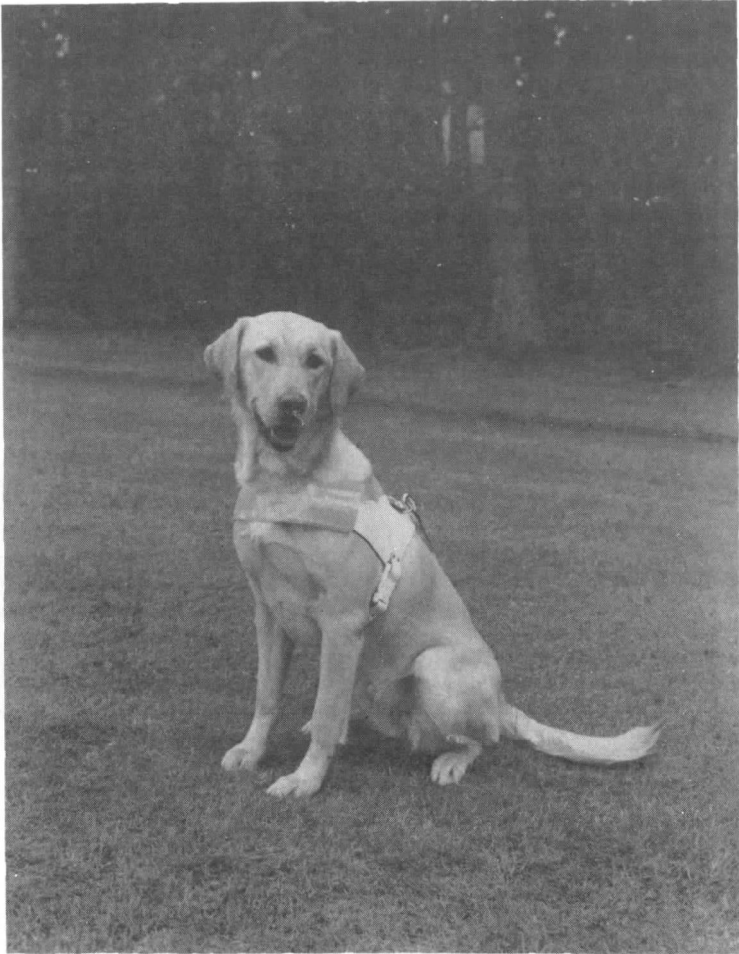
While we agree that it may be difficult for new members to follow some of the postbag discussions to start with, we feel that if they are interested they will soon pick it up. We don't agree that the 'to this and that person' is impolite. It is often just a short way of saying, "in answer to so-&-so's comment". We think it makes the newsletter more friendly - even when certain parties always disagree.

It was suggested that more use should be made of the QUESTIONS section to avoid cluttering up the letters. "I may have the information someone wants but if the request is buried in a long letter I may not read it. A QUESTIONS and ANSWERS section (with a repeat of the suitable edited question) may help."

We do separate out questions as much as possible.

If any of you would like to make further comments on this subject please send them in for the postbag as usual. Only please - don't fill up the postbag with comments on the postbag!

GUIDE DOG LINDSAY



*Presented to IDIC Star Trek Club
with grateful thanks from
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association*



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS



GENE RODDENBERRY WINS ROBERT HEINLEIN MEMORIAL AWARD

May 28, 1993

Hugh Downs, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Space Society, announced today that the late Gene Roddenberry, creator of the Star Trek television and motion picture series (and a longtime member of the Society's Board of Governors), is the winner of the 1993 Robert A. Heinlein Memorial Award. The award will be presented May 30 to Roddenberry's spouse, Majel Barrett Roddenberry, herself an actress on many Star Trek episodes, at the Society's 12th annual International Space Development Conference, sponsored by the Huntsville Alabama L5 Society chapter.

The 1993 Robert Heinlein Award is selected by the conference attendees and Society chapters and is based on the overall contribution the chosen individual has made toward the goal of creating a free spacefaring civilization.

... The National Space Society is an international grassroots organization of over 24,000 members and is the publisher of Ad Astra magazine.

* * * * *

The purpose of this award, which is to be presented at the 1993 Space Development Conference, is to remember Robert Heinlein and to honor those individuals who have best promoted the cause of free spacefaring civilization. The award consists of a fireable miniature brass naval signalling cannon (the symbol of the Lunar Republic in Heinlein's novel, *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*), mounted on a base, along with a brass plate describing the award.

This award is named after Robert Heinlein because of his great contributions to the pro-space movement. He was very active as a Director of the L5 Society, and the grassroots portion of the NSS probably owes its existence to him. He helped to educate million of people in the fundamentals of spaceflight with his writing, by teaching while entertaining. He espoused a distinct ethic, standing for social, economic, intellectual and personal freedom combined with personal responsibility. His concept of personal freedom, which included freedom of movement, is not freedom to vegetate. It is a participatory freedom of courageous individuals with the integrity and initiative to work for their goals against conventional wisdom, if necessary.

The plate will be inscribed with the following:

THE ROBERT A HEINLEIN MEMORIAL AWARD
PRESENTED TO <name of recipient>
BY THE CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY
AT THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
HELD AT HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, USA, MAY 27-31, 1993,
FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN PROMOTING THE GOAL OF
A FREE SPACEFARING CIVILIZATION

SKY

We had heard that Sky would not be showing 6th season TNG until the autumn because they have to stay a year behind the States. However, the TV Guides show 6th season as starting on 13th July, with Relics, the episode with Scotty, being shown on 16th July. If they continue to show the episodes 5 times a week they will complete the 6th season on 17th August. I wonder if there is any chance of us getting the 7th season in September simultaneously with the U.S.

TNG has been doing well in the ratings with 2 or 3 episodes being in the top 10 satellite shows. Figures vary between 0.45 and 0.5 million viewers.

Sky plan to start screening DS9 in the autumn (*possibly starting on August 15th - info from Abbott*) - probably one episode a week. With only 20 episodes it is unlikely they will have it on every day.

We hear that we will have to pay for Sky One from October 1st. Sky One will be offered in a package of 13 channels which will probably include U.K. Gold, The Family Channel, The Children's Channel, Nickelodeon, Discovery & Bravo. You can subscribe in September for £3.99 until the end of the year. The price from October is £6.99. There may be special deals for those renting the Sky film channels.

CIC VIDEOS

After being initially told that CIC would release DS9 straight on sell-through in June, they have released Emissary for rental instead and they will also be releasing several episodes for rental. Some shops are selling these tapes at anything between £29.99 and £39.99. What we do not know is whether the shops took the trouble to tell people that Emissary will be available on sell-through in August or September.

The current plan, according to TV Zone 43, is to release two DS9 cassettes (4 episodes) a month at around £10.99. However, Marion van der Voort of At the Sign of Dragon tells us that CIC keep changing their plans.

The extended version of Emissary may be released in time for Christmas, along with the wide-screen version of STVI: The Undiscovered Country.

We have no news on the TNG videos except that TV Zone 44 says CIC plan to release two tapes in August.

STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION

According to Richard Arnold *all* members of the cast have signed for the 7th season.

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 |
|-----|-----|----------|----------------|
| 148 | 248 | 08/05/93 | Suspicious |
| 149 | 249 | 15/05/93 | Rightful Heir |
| 150 | 250 | 29/05/93 | Second Chances |
| 151 | 251 | 05/06/93 | Timescape |
| 152 | 252 | 19/06/93 | Descent |

148. "Suspicious": Beverly is suddenly accused of several murders, including one of a Ferengi Scientist, and when she attempts to clear her name and investigates, she finds herself even more guilty and ends up being court-martialled. Whoopi Goldberg returns after a long absence.

149. "Rightful Heir": Worf goes to a Klingon spiritual world to seek some answers and finds that the Klingon deity Kahless, the greatest Klingon warrior, seems to have returned from the dead and wants to rule the Empire again. Gowron returns in this episode.

150. "Second Chances": Directed by LeVar Burton, the Riker/Troi romance is finally dealt with, and a duplicate of Riker is found on a planet after a transporter mishap. Guest starring Mae Jemison, who in real life was the first Afro-American woman in space, holds a degree in chemical engineering, speaks Swahili, Japanese, Russian and is an M.D.!

151. "Timescape": The second episode to be directed by Adam Nimoy, the Enterprise is frozen in time and faces total annihilation. Picard finds he has the task of trying to save his ship and his crew without killing everyone.

152. "Descent": The season 6 finale cliffhanger will be a Borg story. Jonathan Del Arco who played Hugh in "I, Borg" has stated that he has been in discussion with the producers about appearing in the season's finale, and possibly in the first episode of season seven. Lore is said to return (and will possibly be leading the latest Borg invasion) and Data will confront him about the stolen emotion chip. Data will also end up playing poker with Einstein, Issac Newton and Stephen Hawking (played by himself).

STAR TREK VII

• STVII is to be a TNG film, possibly guest starring some of the original cast. Filming will start in April 1994 with a Christmas 1994 release date in the States. The film is being written by Ron Moore and Brannon Braga.

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

• Rick Berman & Michael Pillar received a scroll proclaiming Apr 4 as ST Day in honour of DS9 "for upholding Gene's vision and in recognition of Star Trek as one of the most successful and innovative shows in Hollywood, and in honour of Star Trek fans' dedication to the show, LIVE LONG & PROSPER" -- Mayor Bradley, City of Los

Angeles. (info Bjo Trimble's Space-Time Continuum).

• The cast of DS9 are signed for 7 years, but they must wait each season to see if the show is a go. (info Bjo Trimble's Space-Time Continuum).

• Apologies for confusing some of you. In the last newsletter we gave a different title and synopsis for an episode compared with that listed in the previous one. The title was changed and the episode has two storylines.

411. "The Nagus" (formerly "Friends and Foes"): Quark finds himself the new leader of the Ferengi financial empire, and discovers that he is very popular... to the point of being the target for death. 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.

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

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

DATE EPISODE TITLE

| | | |
|----------|------|---------------------------------|
| 01/05/93 | 414. | Storyteller |
| 08/05/93 | 415. | Progress |
| 15/05/93 | 416. | If Wishes Were Horses |
| 22/05/93 | 417. | The Forsaken |
| 29/05/93 | 418. | Dramatis Personae |
| 12/06/93 | 419. | Duet |
| 19/06/93 | 420. | In The Hands of the Prophets |

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

414. "Storyteller": O'Brien ends up as the spiritual leader of a Bajoran village and finds himself the only one who can save them from a destructive energy force.

415. "Progress": Takes place on Bajor where a stubborn old Bajoran farmer forces Kira to take a good look at how much she's really changed since her alliance with the Federation.

416. "If Wishes Were Horses": The imaginations of the crew suddenly go out of control and becomes real. It will be revealed that Odo doesn't have a sense of smell.

417. "The Forsaken": While Lwaxana Troi drops by for a visit and takes an interest in Odo, an alien entity takes control of the station's computer and Odo is its first victim.

418. "Dramatis Personae": The DS9 crew find themselves in the middle of a fight when alien forces pit Kira against Sisko in a deadly power struggle. Can Odo prevent it from becoming an all-out war?

419. "Duet": When a Cardassian is visiting DS9, Kira finds evidence that he could in fact be a notorious war criminal. But is she simply mistaken?

420. "In The Hands Of The Prophets": A Bajoran spiritual leader and Keiko clash on her teaching methods which end up threatening to destroy the alliance between the Federation and Bajor!

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

Star Trek screening dates.

| Ep. | Title | Date Shown |
|-----|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 41 | I, Mudd | 12/5/93 |
| 31 | Metamorphosis | 26/5/93 |
| 44 | Journey to Babel | 2/6/93 |
| 32 | Friday's Child | 9/6/93 |
| 40 | Deadly Years | 16/6/93 |
| | 3 week break for tennis and golf. | |
| 47 | Obsession | 14/7/93 |

Viewing figures are averaging 4.2 million according to TV Zone 43. Quantum Leap is BBC 2's most popular cult show at the moment, hitting a high of 5.83 million and averaging 4.2 million.

MISC

• Movies, Movies on ITV Saturdays mornings often has Star Trek items. The

show on 26th June was a Star Trek Special covering the original series, movies and TNG.

• Starburst Readers voted Star Trek VI the best film for 1992. They also voted it as having the best music. Batman Returns was 2nd, Alien 3 3rd and Beauty and the Beast 4th.

• TV Guide (US) April 17, 1993 picked Patrick Stewart as the best Dramatic Actor of the 80s, Star Trek as the best Sci-Fi/Fantasy of the 60s and ST:TNG as the best Sci-Fi/Fantasy of the 80s and Star Trek as the All-Time best Sci-Fi/Fantasy.

• New York City's Museum of Television & Radio (25 West 52nd Street) will spotlight ST:TNG this summer. Included in the exhibits will be costumes, props, makeup creations, and other memorabilia. Individual episodes will also be shown as part of a thematic screening series. TNG will be on display June 4 - October 3. Info Starlog 192.

• Universal Studios are reported as dropping their Star Trek Exhibit in 1994. (info Bjo Trimble's Space-Time Continuum).

• The Sci-Fi Channel, the US cable channel backed by Hollywood studios Paramount and MCA/Universal, has postponed plans to launch to UK dish homes on Astra 1C this year. It has been unable to get its own transponder... They would still like to launch if a sublease from another Astra user becomes available. Broadcast 25/6/93.

• TSB are using the movie Enterprise for advertising their accounts for 11-15 Year olds.

• Absolute Field Marketing have launched the first authorised Star Trek Fan Club of the UK. Members receive 4 magazines, a badge and a membership card for £14.99 a year. European fans can join for the same price. The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the U.K., The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Nr. Cassington, Oxon OX8 1EB.



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 191** June 1993. Includes articles on Rene Auberjonois, who plays Odo in DS9 James Schmerer who wrote the script for the ST Animation, The Survivor and Robert Lewin who was a writer/producer on TNG.

• **STARLOG 192** July 1993. Includes articles on Brent Spiner & Data; Jon Povill, writer.

• **TV ZONE SPECIAL #9 - SUPER-VILLAINS SPECIAL.** Includes articles on Julie Numan (Eleen in Friday's Child); Dueling Qs (unfilmed TNG episode), Savage Curtain; A to Z of Villains (various entries).

• **TV ZONE 43** June 1993. Includes an interview with Terry Farrell (DAX in DS9) and an article on Kitumba, and episode from the lost STII series.

• **TV ZONE 44** July 1993. Includes an interview with Siddig El Fadil (Dr Bashir DS9) and an episodes guide to season 2 of original Trek

• STAR TREK POSTER BOOKS

Issue 45 - Article on Enterprise Relationships plus episode guides to First Contact and Galaxy's Child.

Issue 46 - Article on the Q Continuum plus episode guides to Night Terrors & Identity Crisis.

Issue 47 - Article on 24th Century Medicine plus episode guides to The Nth Degree & QPid..

Issue 48 - Biographical data on Majel Barrett plus episode guides to The Drumhead and Half a Life.

• **STARBURST 177** May 1993. Includes an article about a visit to the TNG set whilst filming Realm of Fear.

• **STARBURST 178** June 1993. Includes an article on Rene Auberjonois, who plays Odo in DS9.

STARBURST SPECIAL #16 - STAR TREK SPECIAL. Includes articles on Deep Space 9, George Takei, Marina Sirtis, Unseen Trek, Romulans, Arena, TNG Season 6 episode Guide, DS9 Season One Episode Guide.

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 91** May/June 1993. Includes an interview with Rick Berman; Welcome to DS9 Part 3; Michael Okuda and the ST Chronology.

• **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 24** Articles on Robert Becker, director; David Kemp, writer; Kasey Arnold-Ince, writer; Chip Chalmers, director; Jacqueline Zambrano, writer; Russ Mayberry, director; Jack Sowards, writer plus mission reports of the 6th season episodes; Rascals, A Fistful of Dollars, The Quality of Life, Chain of Command I & II.

• **ST DEEP SPACE NINE 3** (Starlog) Articles on Michael Pillar, Co-Creator; Herman Zimmerman, Production Designer; Paul Lynch, Director; Makeup Designs by Michael Westmore plus episode reports on Past Prologue, A Man Alone, Babel, Captive Pursuit and Q-Less.

• **"Blockbuster Enquirer Sneak Peek"** National Enquirer. 16/5/93 This was a fairly detailed synopsis of the TNG season-end cliff-hanger, Descent. It was printed before the episode had its first screening.

• **"Androids Have Feelings Too"** TV & Satellite Week 29/5/93. Article about Brent Spiner. He says that the highlight of his

latest stunt on the Enterprise was playing poker with Stephen Hawking.

• "By my Troth, Captain. These are very bitter words" Satellite Times June 1993. An interview with Patrick Stewart. When asked what his opinion was of the BBC's treatment of the show - a 6pm mid-week slot, with episodes banned and edited he answered, "Stupid. Stupid and a gross misunderstanding of what the show is and how it should be presented. I was enraged for years. Although we have a smaller audience on satellite, Sky know much more about what to do with the show than the BBC did."

• "Meet Mine Host, the Sex-Mad Alien" Mirror 3/6/93. Article about Armin Shimerman who plays Quark in DS9.

• "Out of This World" Daily Express 4/6/03. Article how Patrick Stewart gave up Shakespeare for Star Trek and became a sex symbol. Patrick says he became bald when he was 19 or 20 and thought that no women would ever look at him because of that.

• "Are we being governed by aliens?" an

article by Peter McKay suggesting that some people in public life might be aliens. Matthew Parris of The Times claims to have identified "the only Vulcan ever elected to Parliament". He cites Welsh Secretary John Redwood's staring eyes, unco-ordinated movement and lack of human emotion as proof that the minister hails from Vulcan. Goodness knows why the allegedly clever Vulcans might want to exile one of their own to Earth as Welsh Secretary, except possibly as some cruel and un-Vulcan form of punishment.

• "ST:TNG's Final Voyage" - This week's cliffhanger sets up a last TV season - and then the movies. TV Guide (US) 19/6/93. Article about 'Descent' and ST in general.

• "I boldly went with Star Trek Chief" Daily Express 29/6/93. Apparently in her soon to be published autobiography, Nichelle Nichols claims to have had an affair with Gene Roddenberry back in the sixties. She also says the first interracial kiss, between Uhura and Kirk in Plato's Stepchildren, was originally meant to be with Spock but that Shatner demanded to play the scene.

☆☆☆☆



Cast & Crew NEWS



• **William Shatner** is working on four television movies-of-the-week based on his Tek books. "I'll produce them and direct the first one," Shatner says. There are four books in the Tek series and the 5th novel is in the works.

For the last four years Shatner has been hosting Rescue 911, which is usually in the top ten every week. Shatner says that they have so far saved 117 lives. (Sky One viewers can see Rescue weekday nights at 7.00pm.)

He has recently been flexing his acting muscles, appearing as the villain in the recent 'Lethal Weapon' spoof 'Loaded Weapon I' and in the CBS movie 'Family of Strangers'. (High Trek 26/3/93)

• **Patrick Stewart** - A photo of Patrick as

Shylock appears on p21 of the programme that accompanies the current run of The Merchant of Venice at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. (£1.80 from RST). The info reads: "Patrick Stewart as Shylock, Dir. John Burton TOP, 1978."

"Patrick pays the Price of Success" Daily Record 27/5/93. An article about some of the problems actors have with obsessive fans. The article says that Patrick has just finished filming a cameo role as Richard the Lionheart in Mel Brooks outrageous comedy, Robin Hood: Men in Tights.

"It's a satire on Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves in which Sean Connery appeared as King Richard," said Patrick. "So, I play Richard in the broadest, worst-ever Scottish

accent.

"Strange Worlds" Cable Guide July 93

Patrick Stewart interviewed. In it Patrick says that he doesn't miss cities very much and he doesn't miss the Conservative Government, but friends and family are very much in his thoughts.

• **Siddig El Fadil** was on the early morning children's programme *Parallel Nine* on Saturday 19th June. There was also a number of Klingons and a Ferengi who were playing basket ball!

• **George Takei** - Explorer Vision Awards; given out to kids for futuristic inventions. George Takei hosted the ceremony and had a little advice for these innovators of tomorrow. "To you young people I say, good luck and as we say on *Star Trek* - live long and prosper. (Entertainment Tonight, Sky One 12/6/93)

George Takei finished the prisoner-escape film *Live by the Fist* for Roger Corman's Concorde Pictures. (High Trek, 16/4/93)

"I play an idealistic college professor who runs for president against a barbaric dictator in a mythic South-east Asian Country," Takei says. Drugs are planted in the professor's house and trumped-up charges land him in an island fortress prison where he shares a cell with a young martial-arts expert. "He is played by Jerry Trimble, who in reality is the world kickboxing champion," Takei says. "We plan our prison break then go about it." (High Trek 23/4/93)

• **Walter Koenig's** new comic book 'Raver', with art by Dan and Davee Day, will be released by Malibu Comics. "Raver is the supernatural alter-ego of Norman Walter, an ordinary guy whose mind creates nightmare worlds which Raver must enter," Koenig says. (High Trek 30/4/93)

• **LeVar Burton** celebrates 10 years as host of the PBS series *Reading Rainbow*, a program that encourages children to read books. The show regularly reaches 8 million kids Mon-Fri. Burton feels strongly about passing along his love of books. (Entertainment

Tonight, Sky One 19/6/93)

• **Wil Wheaton** recently filmed an episode of HBO's series *Tales from the Crypt*. (High Trek 30/4/93)

The following info is extracted from Bio Trimble's Space Time Continuum, Mar-June 1993. See zine ads for ordering details.

• **Fan Mail** - Try actors clubs first, especially with gifts! Mail sent to Paramount may not reach addressee.

Send TNG/DS9 mail to Paramount Pictures, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles CA 90038, USA.

Send Classic/Movie Mail to Lincoln Enterprises, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA.

Exceptions:

Nichelle Nichols, c/o Jim Meechan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

Grace Lee Whitney, POB 69, Coarsegold, CA 93614, USA.

Robert Justman, POB 491008, Los Angeles. CA 90049-9008, USA.

• **Gene Roddenberry** - Just starting: Gene Roddenberry Society, c/o Sandra Keel, 4001 County Road, Lafayette AL 36862, USA.

• **William Shatner** is in the new Columbo movie, *Butterfly in Shades of Gray*. His next film is *Underground*, a subway thriller. MCA TV plans Jan 94 syndications, including *TekWar*, for Universal Action Network.

• **Leonard Nimoy** - In February he presented the Governor's Award for Literary Arts to Ray Bradbury.

Leonard directs the 6-part mini-series *Deadly Games* (video game characters come to life). He voices "Clarence Carapace Moundshroud" in Hanna-Barbera's *Halloween Tree*.

• **Patrick Stewart** has a cameo <as *Richard the Lionheart*> in Mel Brooks' *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*.

The film *Annie & Castle of Terror* is on hold; he was to play *Daddy Warbucks*.

Patrick was nominated for American Television Awards, Best Performance of a Lead Actor in a Dramatic Series.

• **Michael Dorn** may show up as a Human on DS9.

The club MDAO: Michael Dorn Appreciation Organisation does not answer mail - may be disbanded.

• **Marina Sirtis** - Mail is being returned from fan club: Imzadi, Frost, TX.

• **Avery Brooks** reprises Hawk in 4 Spencer for Hire made-for-TV movies to be filmed between DS9 commitments.

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MERCHANDISE



Some of this list is taken from TV Zone 44 and is subject to change.

July 15th (ST)

THE GALACTIC WHIRLPOOL by David Gerrold

SHADOWS ON THE SUN by Michael Jan Friedman. ST Hardcover, Pocket Books. When a young McCoy was betrayed by the woman he loved, he fled to Starfleet. Now more than 40 years later, they meet again. She and Kirk are captured by terrorists and McCoy is the only one with the power to save them.

Aug 19th (ST61)

FROM THE DEPTHS by Victor Milan
The Enterprise is sent beyond the Federation's boundaries to the water world Okeanos, which was settled by Federation separatists and is now rocked by a power struggle between them and the natives. When the Enterprise is implicated in the destruction of a floating city Kirk is arrested.

Aug 26th (Graphic novel) £7.99

WHO KILLED CAPTAIN KIRK? by Peter David, Tom Sutton & Gordon Purcell.

Sep 16th

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

Sep 23rd (TNG 27)

GUISES OF THE MIND by Rebecca Neason. Capulon IV is ready to join the Federation - all that remains is the ruler's coronation and the signing of the treaty. However, when the Enterprise arrives with a group of women from a religious order, they find only deceit and treachery. Troi is captured and an

imposter is about to accede to the throne.

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

Jan ST

THE STARLESS WORLD

The following list of additional new ST books comes from G.A. Shaw. The Starfleet Academy Trilogy is meant for young adults and is written by Peter David.

Aug DS9 3 - The Bloodletters

TNG Starfleet Academy 1 (Worf's First Adventure)

Oct TNG Starfleet Academy 2

Nov DS9 4 - Valhalla

Dec TNG Starfleet Academy 3

• **VIDEO UPDATE - ST:TNG & DS9**

June TNG

The Quality of Life/Chain of Command, Pt I
Chain of Command, Pt II/Ship in a Bottle

To Come:

TNG Aqueil/Face of the Enemy

Tapestry/The Birthright, Part 1

The Birthright, Part 2/Starship Mine

Lessons/The Chase

Frame of Mind/Suspicious

Rightful Heir/Second Chances

Timescape/Descent

DS9 Emissary

Past Prologue/A Man Alone
 Babel/Captive Pursuit
 Q Less/Dax
 The Passenger/Move Along Home
 The Nagus/Vortex
 Battle Lines/Storyteller
 Progress/If Wishes Were Horses
 The Forsaken/Dramatis Personae
 Duet/Hands of the Prophets

• **INTERGALACTIC COMMEMORATIVE COIN COLLECTION.** Franklin Mint have brought out this new set of coins minted in Sterling Silver. We feel these coins will be of most interest to coin collectors or those fans who collect 'everything'. There is a coin for: The Romulans, Starfleet, Borg, Vulcans, Providers of Triskelion and more. 12 coins are in the set and there is a glass cover case to display them. Price £29.50 per coin.

• Blockbuster Video have TNG tapes for rental. They have shops in London and the southern half of England.

• PLAYMATES "Deanna Troi" figurine. If

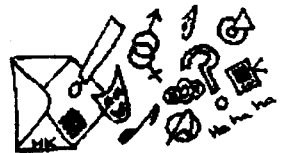
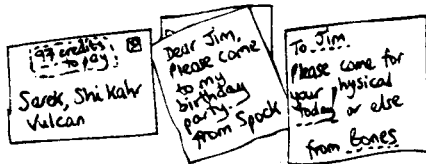
anyone is still in need of her to complete their collection, I have seen several in various Weymouth shops and I can get them on your behalf. Price £8 including p&p., but please enclose SAE in case they have all gone by the time I get your cheque. Send to: Miss B Callaghan, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth. Dorset DT4 0TQ.

• **THE DREAM LIVES ON** A full colour acid-free Lithographic print by Lucy A Synk. This edition of 500 prints are each signed and numbered by the artist. It features Gene Roddenberry in the center, encircled by the Classic Trek characters, with an outer circle of New Trek characters. Also included are 3 versions of the Enterprise - all in full colour on a blue background.

This is a one-time offer. The print run is already half sold out, and Lucy Synk will not be making any more Star Trek prints.

Each print is 11x14, and costs \$39.00. Postage and handling fee is \$15, plus \$1.00 for each additional print. (Prints will be sent rolled in sturdy tubes.) American currency only, please!! Send orders to Lucy A. Synk, P.O. Box 46803, Kansas City, MO 64118, USA.

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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'.

Bjo Trimble - Kingwood, Texas

To IDIC: Nice to see Guide Dogs "in person"! Love to cite all the Good Things fans do when talking to cynical news reporters. Thanks for mentioning my newsletter, SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM. I'll

support your Guide Dog Appeal with a sample copy of STC to anyone anywhere in the world who sends the equal of US \$2 or UK £1 to IDIC (not to me) for the Fund. You send their address to me, & I'll send a sample STC to the donor.

To Edwin Yau: DS9 executive producer Rick Berman admitted at a con that O'Brien didn't get his promotion on DS9 for the simple reason that everyone forgot about it. He cheerfully blamed the writers (who were present.)

To Janet Quarton: I agree that Kirk isn't insincere; it's just his style. Some people approach life in a cautious & serious manner (Picard), some are thoughtful but take chances (Sisko) & others swashbuckle their way through anything from tea time to space battles (Kirk). Ricardo Montalban can make you feel he'd waited all his life to meet you. It is his style & doesn't seem "put on" or insincere. I think Captain Kirk is like that.

To Jenny Turner: Brent Spiner wears specially-made yellow contact lenses, which often combine with makeup to irritate his eyes.

To Tom Mann: Speaking as a n/l ed, it wld be nice to rite w/o abbrev's. BUT 'til we become independently wealthy, you'll have to settle for: (a) LESS INFO if we use valuable space to write out everything in full, or (b) bear w/us, as do other readers, so we can squeeze in as much info/news as poss. Get acquainted w/fellow fans by asking what TOS & CT mean; fans love to puff off their knowledge!

To Baerbel Schmidt: Dr Bashir is just young. Many doctors spent so much time studying & never learn social graces or how to deal with women - they act just like Julian.

To Kevin Peters: Gene Roddenberry knew he was ill a long time before the public did & personally selected Rick Berman as his successor, so that Paramount wouldn't replace GR with some non-science fictional "empty suit". It may have seemed indecently fast for Berman to step into GR's shoes as soon as the man was dead, but Gene wanted

it that way. GR knew about DS9, saw early plans for it & approved. Majel says often that Gene would have been proud of the show.

To Gratienne Vandrkerrkove: What a great name! Historically & statistically, children are far more resilient than adults in survival. We see so many dying children in war zones, etc, because that's what TV shows us. We don't see the little survivors, because those kids are too wary to pose for a camera! Parents who take their children into space will be given long-term counselling to make them aware of the potential dangers. My kids would resent me very much if I had a chance to go to space with them & passed it up because I was cautious in their names.

To Sue Bursztynski: Send your address! Lost much of my address data base when we moved. Never worry about Australian cons becoming "just sit" events! Those I've seen were so busy with games, plays, flag-making, hands-on workshops, charades & others activities, I wondered why they need a Guest of Honour! The couple of British cons I've been invited to <ahem> were as busy with games, instant costumes, beverage contests, sing-alongs, & fashion shows (these get expensive to produce) & lots of other fun.

To Jacqueline Y. Comben: I wasn't relieved that Sarek died. Agreed his wife is extremely annoying, but not so dumb. She likely became heir to what we must assume was a considerable estate, since she made sure Spock would be too proud & alienated to claim his share.

To Karen Sparks: K/S fans have never been seriously HARMED by someone they trusted, or they'd know there is no way to be so badly hurt & then accept "comfort" from that person. Nobody in their right mind would set themselves up for future betrayal. I know whereof I speak. I agree that the basis of such stories is envy of a deep, true friendship. I dunno, Karen, writing a letter to HADDOCK just doesn't have the same feel...! My spell-check won't accept "Roddenberry" or "DS9".

To Peter Poole: Wish granted (I'm really the Tooth Fairy!) about expanded

views of Bajoran religion. Upcoming DS9 episodes explore Bajoran beliefs & the DS9 season finale has Bajoran religious leaders trying to pressure Keiko O'Brien into teaching a less scientific & more "spiritual" version of space.

To Sara Jackson: True spelling is "Vina" as listed in original scripts & on TV credits. Books are changed by overzealous editors who THINK they know Trek, or it may just have been a typographic mistake.

To Karen Breen & Matthew Ingrouille: Stardates were invented by Roddenberry for a "science-fictiony" episode opening, nothing more. Writers made up stardates randomly, checking only to see if that number had been used before. Nobody checked starmaps, so the Enterprise must have travelled over Warp Zillion to get some places. Get Mike & Denise Okuda's 'Star Trek Chronology: The History of the Future' for a full stardate timeline.

To Paul Hulford: Gene never had control over merchandising. Paramount never consulted him & seldom sent products to him (would have been courtesy, with the studio making loads of \$\$\$ off his creation!) Write Creation about the stardate mistake on the mug; it may have been a simple mistake. Contact Eric Stillwell, Creation Entertainment, 530 Riverdale Dr., Glendale, CA 91204.

To David J Raper: A delightful idea: a Starfleet-issue Swiss Army Knife! Think what Data could do with puzzling out all the blades....!!!

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl: You'd be amazed at how any name can be mangled - we get letters addressed to Trindell, Trumbell, Timble, Tirmboil & even Tribble! You & Zaquia Tarhuntassa share the same problem (& she has an even longer name!) My own exotic name is made up: "Bjo" is short for "Betty JoAnn" (which I dropped as soon as possible), pronounced BEE-joe.

To Lloyd Lewis: Write Pocket books to complain about the quality of Trek novels. If fans don't speak up, everyone can safely assume everything's OK.

To Jennifer Cobbing: I'd like to see less paper devoted to Creation Con & all this fan hassle over them. Adam Malin, co-owner of Creation Entertainment, told me that they don't want fan-run cons to die, because Creation is a Paramount licensee & sell their merchandise through dealers at other cons & want as many markets as possible. I don't think any commercial con can "kill" fan-run cons: compare a sit-down show with dealer's room against fannish communication, participation & good fun.

To Helen White: It's possible (with patience) to train any animal to void in a specific area (NOT on the holodeck!) so size would be the main question aboard a starship. Dog fanciers laughed to see Golden Retriever puppies in the classroom in a TNG episode; they can grow to 60 - 80 pounds. That's a LOT of dog in a small shipboard apartment! Think of walkies! But someone had a litter of pups at that time & nobody thought about the ramifications of their growing up. TNG set decorator Jim Mees said the puppies were NOT paper-trained & did much damage to a newly laid classroom carpet. Richard Arnold was half-right about Carolyn Palamas' gown; it was held on with surgical glue BUT look carefully to see her top pulled to her back as if by an invisible thread - it's dental floss, hard to see from a distance. An old "exotic dancer" trick (my mom sewed costumes for Warner Brothers Studio.)

To Chris Coxon: You don't need a petition. Anyone with dealer problems should write a letter, citing specifics, to Starlog & to the Better Business Bureau of that city. BBB will investigate the dealer, since it reflects on then & their area. You'll get even more action if you send a copy of these letters to the dealer.

Con Reports: Almost (not quite) as much fun as being there, especially with Karen Sparks & Helen White details. "Odo on vacation" - hilarious! Aren't you folks tired of Richard Arnold hanging around all the time? Isn't it about time you invited a nice, short freckled lady <ahem> to visit a con? He must be getting old hat (only kidding, Richard!)

Clique Comments: I've been going to conventions since 1951 (as my daughters irreverently say: since dinosaurs trod the earth!) & everything Jacqueline Comben says is true. Shy fans should volunteer to help; they get a chance to be "backstage" & meet people in smaller groups, as well as knowing they've been of assistance to a con.

Watching videos at cons: There is an anti-gamer attitude at some USA cons - all they do is stay in one room all weekend (sound familiar?) but they pay admission & don't bother a soul. It's extra money for a con & since the con-com KNOW gamers won't participate in the con, they don't have to worry about extra seating in meeting rooms or programming anything special for gamers. Just a room & a few tables or a dark room & a VCR. What's the harm? Cons are made up of all kinds of people, thank goodness!

Going to USA cons: Many US fans would love to meet a fellow ST fan from anywhere else in the world. If you don't know anyone here, let me know when & where you'll be in the USA & I'll try to put you in touch with someone to perhaps ride-share to a con & tour the area. Starfleet is putting together a "bed offer" listing of USA fans willing to host a visitor.

DS9 Fan Fiction: I'd like to see that forbidding letter. DS9 is part of the Trek universe & Trek fan fiction has been written too long. There is a legal "grandfather clause" in the USA; if something was established in the past, it is VERY difficult to change things now.

Now to friends: I've shamefully ignored many of you & I apologize. Our personal lives have been filled with mundane hassles & medical problems for far too long. If you still wish to communicate, send me your address, please, for I'm not up to date on most of you

Bjo Trimble, 2059 Fir Springs Drive,
Kingwood, TX 77339-1701, USA.

Sheila Clark - Dundee

A few letters have commented on what sort of ship a new Captain would get, citing

Sulu as an example. I still think it makes more sense for a new Captain to be 'tried', so to speak, on a smaller ship, even if it's only for six months. A good First Officer doesn't necessarily make a good Captain, and I think it would be irresponsible to give an untried, newly promoted Captain a top-of-the-range ship without first 'testing' him on a smaller, less demanding one. Re Sulu - how do we know he *hadn't* had a brief period in command of a smaller ship before he took over the Excelsior? Actually, although it was nice having him in there with his ship helping the Enterprise, I found his being in command of the Excelsior unconvincing, since he hadn't, to the best of my knowledge, had a spell as First Officer of anything. He appeared to jump straight from helmsman, not even First or Second Officer, to Captain. That's even less credible, to me, than Kirk's jump from Captain to Admiral.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - Re Vaal. To add to 'Who built Vaal', I'd add 'why?'. If Vaal was built simply to control the weather and put the fruit on the trees to feed a couple of dozen men and women in exchange for being refuelled at regular intervals by them, the whole set-up seems singularly pointless! Incidentally, since the natives seemed to do nothing except feed Vaal (and possibly collect exploding rocks for the purpose?) their lives must have been pretty boring. Come to that, what was going to happen to their 'culture' when the exploding rocks ran out? They were bound to sooner or later.

To Edward Woo - Re Creation cons and size of hotels - since as I understand it Creation doesn't bother about little details like cheap hotel rates or booking rooms for attendees, it would simply have the venue at somewhere like the NEC at Birmingham and the fans would have to make their own arrangements for accommodation at whatever price they could get. I would hope that Creation's being run for profit and not for charity would keep a lot of British fans from supporting it, but I'm also realistic enough to suspect that if Creation offered Shatner, Nimoy, Stewart and Spiner, a lot of fans would succumb, no matter how much it cost them or how inconvenient commuting from digs twenty miles away might be.

Worf in a ponytail -
 Aaaaarrggghhhhh! His back view in Birthright kept reminding me of Khan (who was always my least favourite villain). I don't like long hair (I had it for years as a kid and detested it); I don't know how they can be bothered! Seriously, though, although I know all about the Samson's-strength-was-in-his-hair school of thought, I really don't see the logic in a warrior with masses of long hair, whether flowing loose or ponytailed or pigtailed; too easy for an enemy to grab from behind. Not honourable? No, of course it wouldn't be; but when was war ever honourable (except possibly in the cultures where the entire battle was decided by single combat between rival champions)? Realistically, if I'm in a melee where the combatants win or die, I want to be among the survivors; if I get the chance to grab an opponent from behind by the hair and slit his throat, I'll do it!

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

Re NL 27

To Carol Sterenberg - I think Shatner's style of acting is his own. Otherwise everyone else in Classic Trek would be acting the same way and clearly they are not.

To Peter Arnett - Yes, Classic Trek nurtured an interest in computers in me. Not the ones they kept blowing up but the one aboard the Enterprise and Spock's rapport with it. Now I work in an IT department!)

To Dave Styles - I have to agree that I have had similar experiences to you at cons; ie talking to people and being ignored. This isn't a new phenomenon; it happened in the late 70s/early 80s when I did most of my con-going.

I think the complaint about strong women is related to the relative lack of them as regular characters rather than guest stars.

To Nina Lynch - Tachyons are faster than light particles which are one of the theoretical particles talked about in modern physics. Therefore tachyons in whichever series are the same, though their uses are purely fictional.

Re Data's cat - I thought it was a joke, considering that 'Spot' is often a dog's name. It's also supposed to be the real name of the first cat actor (which apparently died, hence the part has been played by two) and I think it indicates that its owner has a quirky sense of humour.

I was interested to read Ann Peters' article on Data. On a slightly different tack, I was intrigued by the recent Horizon programme on BBC2, The New Alchemists, which was about spot engineering; the attempt to create materials which are 'smart' and have similar properties to biological materials. It might explain the thing that has puzzled me for some time - that Data is described as biomechanical.

Chris Blenkarn's article was interesting. I think another offender is The Apple. After all, the lack of children indicates that these are the original people who founded the village and have not aged. They presumably wanted to return to a simple life but with no pressures and in a controlled environment to that life wouldn't be 'nasty, brutish and short' as it might otherwise be in such an existence. Yes, this was running away from 'progress' but they had made this decision and must have arranged also to be mentally adjusted so they would forget all about their advanced civilisation which had created the computer to look after them. In other words, Kirk's interference is hypocritical - if he admitted it was just to save the ship, fair enough, but he has to make out that he's saving them from themselves. Far from giving them a choice, he's destroying the environment they created for themselves and taking away their choice. I discount the stuff about Vaal not permitting sex as just a way of saying what an old killjoy Vaal is who deserves to be destroyed. It would have been a simple matter for a culture that arranged defences like the poison dart flower to arrange for contraceptive substances to be incorporated into the fruit (which could be withdrawn temporarily if 'replacements' were necessary). Incidentally that would have obviated the need for what I consider to be one of the most coy and embarrassing scenes in ST where Spock is forced to talk about sex and ends up skirting

round the subject in obvious embarrassment. Firstly, I think that Spock would be quite matter of fact about non-Vulcan sexuality; secondly it's totally unnecessary because if the landing party found contraceptives in the fruit it could have been worked in without being too naughty for NBC and 1960s sponsors - that the natives were having sex quite naturally, they just didn't understand the link between sex and children (even if they had had one or two in the millennia or so since they chose that life, it would have been 'a gift from Vaal' with no relationship to sex since sex had no such result the rest of the time). Anyway, that and various other aspects of this episode are really cringeworthy and the only interesting thing apart from the number of times Spock gets thrown around and seems little the worse afterwards is that the woman crewmember gets to throw round some of the natives. This is a nice contrast to, eg, Uhura's ineffectual behaviour in *Mirror Mirror* a few weeks earlier, but presumably is allowed since the natives are shown to be such 'wimps'. I'm sure it wouldn't have been allowed if they were 'real' men!

Toni Cumming - Glasgow

Re the debate on Saavik, I feel I must come down on the side of Robin Curtis. Kirsty Alley was too severe. RC appears to be similar in kind to Mr Spock, logical with a little bit of compassionate humour.

Jason Wells - Stevenage

I am writing for information about building models from scratch. Can anyone give me any tips on how to go about this?

Recently I built the AMT kit of the Klingon Battle Cruiser (it came out great) but in the plans it stated that it was a K'vork Class Starship and in the ST:TNG Companion it says it's a Vor'cha Class. Which is right?

William Marsh - Atherstone

Has anyone noticed the great relationship between Quark and Odo? Personally I think the 'love to hate' relationship between them is the same as Spock and McCoy, and that if DS9 is going to last as long as TNG then they must elaborate on such relationships.

To Lee Sansome - Re my last letter to you - I know a lot of people fit my description of New Trekkers, but I must say some others, myself, and for that matter you, will go and talk to people, and in my letter I was not blaming you or others for lack of involvement in conventions; but if you're going to complain, at least try to do more about it. (I know you do try to get people involved.) I look forward to going on the quiz team at UFP.

To Judith Proctor - I find myself agreeing with you that two Klingon races is more believable than the Klingon/Human theory. Even this will become unbelievable now, as in a new episode at the end of season 6 you see one of the Original Series Klingons come back with the bumps on the forehead (Richard Arnold, Warp One).

Michael Farquhar, Westhill, Aberdeenshire

I've just received my first newsletter and found it interesting and well worth the membership fee.

To Edwin Yau - Re Troi being a Lt. Commander and not a bona fide Starfleet Officer. The way I see it, Troi studied psychology on Betazed and thus qualified for service in Starfleet as a Counselor, without Starfleet Academy training, bar a rudimentary command course. Her rank is therefore as valid as any other officer's. Also see *Future Imperfect*, where Troi had accepted a non-Counselor post with Starfleet and Riker (after his sixteen-year 'memory lapse') didn't react adversely - so she must be a bona fide Starfleet officer. Personally I think she looks pretty damn good in the Starfleet uniform, and I hope it continues.

I've always wondered about the ranks given to Chief Medical Officers as well. Both Crusher and Pulaski have the rank of full Commander, and thus outrank practically everyone on the ship (bar Captain and First Officer) - including the Second Officer. To what degree can they exert this rank, and are they further up the chain of command than the Second Officer, a humble Lt. Commander?

To Steven Gibb - Re non-Human Borg.

Peter David gave us Vastator/Daimon Turane, a Ferengi Borg, in Vendetta. However, I think the real reason most Borg are basically Human is because the 'Borg baby' seen in Q Who? is also basically Human, implying that the Borg race as a whole has this appearance. I await the 6th season The Chase to clarify this Human aspect issue. We've only seen two ships' worth of Borg, plus Hugh (Q Who, Best of Both Worlds, I Borg) so we can't categorise for the whole race either.

Re 7th season - I read somewhere that the producers/writers were thinking of killing a major character in the course of the Descent storyline. Given that neither Gates McFadden nor Brent Spiner have signed for season 7, could we be saying goodbye for ever to the characters of Dr Beverly or Data?

Re watching videos at cons. As Margie Ferguson says, just because people watch videos doesn't mean it can't be socially enjoyable as well. If you look at the postbag, a sizeable percentage of the discussion is on episodes seen by those writing - and you can't talk about 'em if you haven't seen them.

With regard to Kirk after the end of ST VI and beyond - J M Dillard's novelisation of ST VI implies that Kirk will probably work for Carol Marcus' company Marcuslabs after his retirement - and what's wrong with Kirk finally settling down with Carol and dying a peaceful death in his own time?

To David J Raper and Sara Jackson - What does Starfleet pay its officers in, if not money?

To Neil J Barrett - Re Sulu having a command before Excelsior. You're forgetting that Sulu was almost (or was - I get confused now and then) granted Captaincy of the Excelsior once before, in ST III. So it is illogical to assume Starfleet would suddenly change their minds. I figure the time between the end of ST VI and Sulu becoming Captain of the Excelsior was taken up in outfitting the ship with a standard warp drive (after the Transwarp failure), field tests, etc.

Can someone please explain/define to me what a hurt/comfort story actually is and what it encompasses? [Ed: See article on fan writing.]

David Mason - Wigan

nuq neH. For my first letter to IDIC, I would just like to sound off about Warp One and give out one or two personal messages.

Warp One - this was my first Trek convention, and will by no means be my last. I went with the intention of watching videos and buying merchandise, and ended up mostly socialising. I think I enjoyed this more than the videos. The convention was well organised and all credit is due to the committee.

To Nick (Sorry, I forgot your last name). Thanks for the Starship combat session. I had a great time. Our ships will meet again in the Black Fleet.

To the catwoman - I never did get your name and address. I would very much like to continue our discussions on the finer points of Klingon culture.

As to the question of different races of Klingons, why shouldn't there be? There are many different racial groups here on Earth, and I have yet to see a Vulcan with the same type of forehead as a Romulan. Racial characteristics are developed in response to environmental stimuli, eg Vulcans developing an inner eyelid to protect against a strong sun and a larger and more efficient auditory sense to compensate for desert terrain; or the salt vampire developing the power of illusion as a defence mechanism. The original Klingons are still around, they are just biding their time and still serving the Empire loyally on the fringes.

Hadyn Wiltshire - Pontymister, Gwent

To Sara Lyford-Smith (P24) Re moving in the holodeck. The Technical Manual explains that in the holodeck there is a substrate forcefield which creates a 'treadmill' effect. This means that the user actually remains stationary whilst the environment 'scrolls' by. I don't know how Data banged into the wall in Encounter at Farpoint, but

here's my guess. The holodeck can only operate within the limits to which it has been programmed. Maybe the program Data used was a small one which just simulated a park environment, so when Data reached the limit of the program, he 'bumped' into the wall. Picard's 'horse' program may have been more complex. It was a much larger program which had more scenery available to 'scroll' by, whilst Picard actually remained stationary on a holodeck horse.

To Sara Jackson (P29) - I have the 3 Star Trek Classic episode books by James Blish. These editions are adapted from the original scripts and in them the spelling is 'Vina'.

Finally, are there any IDIC members going to Lightspeed '93 in September? It's my first convention, and I would like to meet some fellow IDIC members there.

Elaine Webb - Sevenoaks

Having seen ST VI twice in quick succession, I have answered to my own satisfaction the question of the name of the Klingon homeworld. Its name is given as Kronos (spelled Qo'nos) by various members of the cast, and the name of Gorkon's ship is Kronos One. However, I now have another question - why do Klingons wear red? I've always thought that red was adopted by the military and figures of authority because it was the colour of blood, and hence of the heart; the colour of life, strength and passion. Klingon blood is mauve-pink. I agree that pink does not seem an appropriate colour for Klingons to wear (though given the above it should be) but what is the significance of red to a Klingon?

To David Brown - Re episode titles. Up The Long Ladder is something I can understand without really being able to explain it. The options are a) a literary reference, b) an allusion to the structure of DNA chromosomes, c) simply that both the Brngloidi and the Mariposans have a long way to go, hopefully upwards. Bread and Circuses comes from the Roman people relying on the Imperial family for provision of 'bread and circuses', these presumably being regarded as the staples of Roman life.

To Karen Sparks and Marie Park - I understand it to be felt, generally, that Kirk had died by the time of TNG and Spock's reference in Unification to a Captain 'I used to know' seems to support this. Why else would he and McCoy be wandering round the galaxy without Kirk?

To Stephen Gibb - Have you read the TNG giant novel Vendetta? This has a Ferengi assimilated as the new spokesperson of the Borg. I recommend this novel - the return of Shelby and Pulaski, riveting battle scenes... Also according to the ST Chronology, Admiral Hanson was among those lost at Wolf 359.

To Pilot, Shuttlecraft 01 - We've already discussed your letter in N/L 28, once I'd twigged it was yours, but I want to say that among the things which give me hope for the future are Star Trek and, more immediately at this trying time, your friendship. Thank you.

Moir Warburton - Skelmersdale

To Neil J Barrett - Re Sulu and his captaincy. Sulu was actually made Captain between ST:TWOK and ST:TSFS but because of the Genesis controversy he was unable to take up his post as Captain of the Excelsior. You will find this in the book of the film. You will also get a lot more information, including what happens between the movies; ST:TWOK, the young ensign whose death Scott is so upset about was his nephew. ST:TFF - you find what pain some of the other characters suffer, even Kirk's (from his thoughts). Carol Marcus also plays a bigger role in Kirk's life.

To Floranna Limonci - Re Picard/Troi relationship. I have thought about why Ardra (aka the con artiste) in Devil's Due changed into Deanna, not Beverly. Deanna was down on the planet so Ardra probably took more notice of her than she did of Beverly, who she only sees checking to see if Worf is injured. At this point she is far too busy concentrating on Picard to even bother noticing Beverly. I must admit I would have liked to see Picard's reaction had Ardra turned into Beverly. Perhaps Ardra would have got the response from Picard that she

wanted? Alas, we will never know.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my very first IDIC N/L, especially others fans' news and opinions. I look forward to the next one.

James Shaw - Tamworth

I have always wondered why they don't use emergency transporters in case of an emergency when somewhere is blocked off - surely if the doors have closed and someone is trapped inside, the computer could automatically transport them straight to sickbay. Anyone know of a reason why not?

To Jenny Turner - I must defend Q and the Q Continuum. I'm a great fan of the Q, and I think he is totally brilliant. (You must admit, he's not *that* bad!) I'd be interested to hear anybody's ideas on how the Q Continuum is organised. Write to me if you're a fan of Q and we can exchange ideas - 7 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4HY.

To Stephen Gibb - It may be that the Borg all look the same because any unnecessary features are blotted out - for instance, in *The Best of Both Worlds*, Picard's colour was totally drained out of him. They might find other features 'irrelevant'? And do we really know what the Borg look like without the entities they've collected? It may be they are just machines, in which case they might have used the first creature they came upon as the acceptable thing, and shaped all of their slaves that way.

To Vikki Tittley - I totally agree that there would be no Data in the Yesterday's Enterprise universe, but I also think that there would be no Enterprise - at least of that design. I would have thought it would have been made bigger, with more armour, and less elegant. And what about Guinan? I'd have thought she'd go somewhere else in that time zone rather than into a war. JANET - NEEDS SOME EXPLANATION.

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

To Bill Taylor - Do you seriously contend that intellect is hereditary? It's true that the child of intelligent parents will have

an environment conducive to learning, but environment is not everything. Most of today's female go-getters are of an age to have been born to mothers who followed tradition and stopped working, if not on marriage certainly when the first child was born. Besides, how do you explain the exceptionally bright children born to dull-minded parents and the converse, the children of highbrow parents who are not at all gifted?

To Tom Mann - I can't believe you missed the chance to sign off with TTFN (Tata for now) or indeed LL&P (need I expand *that* one?) What an amusing way to make your point, with which I agree. Not even fans can recall every acronym for every film/episode/book.

To Jacqueline Comben - By George, you've got it - Sarek's mind *must* have been starting to go when he married the ginastly Perrin. Probably, poor dear, he rambled on to her about Amanda and this caused her to visit her jealousy and spite on Amanda's son.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - What if Vaal was built by some superpowered race on the Organian/Trelane's people/Q level, who were conducting an experiment with the natives of the planet? And what if they come back, found that some interiering bugger had ruined it all, found out who he was and came after him?

Jennifer Blanchard - Godalming

To Tom Mann - Thank you for the funniest thing I've read for a long, long time!

To Sheila Clark et al - The question of the meaning of Silicon Avatar. Avatar means incarnation, but the entity is not made of silicon, the title refers to Data, here he is the 'incarnation' of Dr Marr's son Renny.

Dave Brown's questions - I think Qpid is just a pun on Q playing Cupid between Picard and Vash. Bread and Circuses - didn't the Romans believe the masses would be content as long as they had bread and circuses?

Marie Park - Hull

First of all I'd like to say thank you to Scott Carrick for the transcription of Steve Wright's interview with Patrick Stewart. I was on Adult Training at the time and didn't know anything about it, never mind get the chance to listen! I enjoyed reading the article.

To Victoria Roberts - Re Saavik. In comparing Kirstie Alley with Robin Curtis, I felt that Kirstie Alley gave a better performance and it was a shame she didn't play the characters in TSFS and TVH. Robin Curtis played Saavik very well, but I felt that she was a little *too* cold, exemplified in TSFS when she said "Admiral, David is dead" as if she was completely indifferent to the fact. Your "*too* Vulcan-like" statement, in my opinion, would apply more to Curtis than to Alley. Yes, Saavik is not a full Vulcan, *but neither is Spock!* It is worth remembering that he is half Human, so his emotional control would not be any more faultless than Saavik's.

To Barry O'Doherty - Where did Cinefantastique come up with the notion that the UFP President in TUC was an Efrosian? I thought the character was supposed to be *Delban* and, therefore, so would the helmsman on the USS Saratoga (TVH) be.

To Jacqueline Comben - Re Sarek's third wife Perrin. It seems that I'm not the only one who dislikes her. Where Amanda Grayson always tried to see both sides of any argument, Perrin was so much on Sarek's side, she had few scruples about driving a wedge between Sarek and Spock. She then had the *gall* to say of her stepson, "He showed no loyalty to his father... I was offended. And I made sure Spock knew it." It was little wonder that Ambassador Spock decided to remain on Romulus - what reason did he have to return to Vulcan? I can't see Perrin swallowing her pride just long enough to allow Spock to return to pay his respects to his deceased father, if nothing else.

What was ironic about this situation was that in TUC, *Captain* Spock had no qualms about approaching Sarek for advice concerning diplomatic overtures to Gorkon. It had come to a point where Sarek had not

only accepted his son's choice of career, but also encouraged Spock's interest in diplomacy. Yet, by the TNG episode Unification (I & II), Ambassador Spock was staying away from Vulcan again. How much can be attributed to Perrin's attitude?

Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

It was quite a shock for me to learn that Gates McFadden and Brent Spiner will not sign up for the seventh season. I regret this very much, but of course six years is already a long time and it is understandable that they want to do something else for a change. Data and Worf are my favourite characters in the series, and imagining TNG without Data is very difficult for me. I don't think it is possible to replace him; Data is unique, the same as Worf and Spock are. Whoever is chosen to fill his shoes will not have an easy task ahead. Concerning a replacement for Dr Crusher, I would like Dr Selaar to come back. I think Suzi Plakson was brilliant, and that it would be a good idea to bring a Vulcan main character back into TNG.

To Bill Taylor - I definitely disagree about your views of the future of women. I have no child yet but want to have one in the near future. Even if some pain is involved, bringing a new life into this world is definitely also rewarding. Do you really think that women who want children are "docile and stupid"? If so, you are wrong!! I am most definitely not!! Without children there is no future for mankind and that is something also the male population should know. Although women have gained a lot of rights and freedoms since my grandparents' generation, we still live in a male dominated society. But contrary to you, I see what women have gained, not only what is still missing, and I am sure that one day both genders will achieve equal rights in real life. When companies start to provide child care and also men stay at home for some time to look after their children, that would definitely be a big step forward. Today there are already some companies and men who do that - only a few, but it is a start!

To Russell Witheyman - I enjoyed the appearances of Lursa and B'Etor, Vash and Q,

and I think I will enjoy the appearance of Lwaxana Troi and Whoopi Goldberg as well; but I agree, DS9 needs its own regular irregular characters. I think the Cardassian Garrick should appear again - I think it was about time to introduce a Cardassian who was not a real villain! I hate it when a race is only shown to be 'good' or 'evil' and this was a pleasant surprise.

To Lloyd Lewis - I didn't mean to say that Denise Crosby is less a beautiful, feminine woman. I only think that she is a different kind of beauty, another type of woman who doesn't induce reactions like Edwin Yau's so easily. I only wanted to answer him, and I certainly don't want to say that Denise Crosby, Gates McFadden or Whoopi Goldberg are less attractive. They are only different.

Meantime I got another signed photo of the DS9 cast, this time from Arwin Shimmerman. I was told that he replies to anyone who sends an addressed envelope with the correct postage, meaning an envelope for an 8 x 10 photo and 3 IRCs. Thank you very much, Mr Shimmerman!

I would also like to say something about whether Riker should finally accept Captaincy. I think he said it very well himself; his career plans are his own business. What is important is what he wants and being First Officer on the Enterprise is a very challenging and rewarding job. Riker likes it and that is the main thing. Why should he leave a post he likes so much? I don't think you should make career moves at any cost because the most important thing is your health and when you have a job that gives you so much, then I most definitely wouldn't give it up lightly.

Lesley Arrowsmith - Cusop, Herts

Reading the various views on the Trill in recent newsletters, I thought I'd mention what may be Trill origin. In the book Chessmen of Mark, Edgar Rice Burroughs has a race in where there are mindless torsos, capable of movement, and heads with a crablike arrangement by which they can perch on the shoulders of the torsos and plug

themselves into the nervous system. Since the torsos are mindless, this could be the source of the original Trill character in TNG. (As far as I can remember, the Martian race were trying to evolve themselves into a state of perpetual meditation.)

On the zine problem - perhaps one reason for the drop in sales is just that there is a lot of other Trek about. When I was writing for Excalibur in the early 80s, zines were an important source of new Trek. There were few novels and few videos about, so we were thrown back on our own resources. That's no longer the case. There's so much Trek around now, especially with DS9 starting, that we need zines less than we did (though the quality of the professional novels seems to be so bad now.) I agree completely that it would be a sad day for fandom if zines stopped being produced. There are a lot of good fan writers and they, and the publishers of the zines, deserve to be supported.

To Edwin Yau - You're on very dodgy ground, saying that women are as responsible as men for messing the planet up. This isn't really the place to go into it, so I'll just say that the global economic and banking system responsible for Third World debt and boon-bust recession was set up entirely by white European/US men, and for their own benefit.

Rebekah Owens - Birmingham

I've decided that it's my duty as a Datholic to pass on vital information regarding all the educational literature I've been delving into recently. Do you realise that kids at school are having more fun than WE are? I mean, seriously, could you

- construct and assess Data
- analyse Data
- research and implement Data (don't quite know what that means but hell, let's give it a try!
- probe Data (Ooh... I feel dizzy!)
- handle Data (phwoooaargh!)

Yes, all right, I know it should be 'data' and not 'Data', but it doesn't half give you something to think about while you're

teaching!

Liz Caldwell - Penrhynreath, Gwynedd

To Michael Sadler - Your comments about Guinan's hats made me smile. A while back, the first time I saw Hollow Pursuits with some friends, a comment was made about Guinan's hats at a particular point in the episode that might amuse you. The scene is in Ten Forward when Geordi talks to Guinan about Barclay, and runs thus -

Guinan: He's imaginative (hat wobbling frantically as she speaks)

Geordi: How do you know that?

My friend John: He designs my hats(!)
(Well... we all thought it was funny at the time!)

To Floranna Limonci - Ardra in Devil's Due had only seen Bev briefly on the bridge and so changed into Troi as she was the female crew member that Ardra had seen most often with Picard. I really don't think a romance between Troi and Picard is likely at all, but Ardra's choice of Troi at least made for an interesting scene! When they showed it in the US trailer (Next time on an all-new episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation...) we were jumping out of our seats shrieking "WHAT?!!!"

Alex Pidd - Selby

Having read Karen Spark's gushing review of Marina Sirtis's talks at Warp One I'd like to add my reactions.

Marina obviously has a set routine which is geared for the American convention circuit. She could anticipate many questions and had her stock answers and anecdotes well prepared. There were times when I felt that if it wasn't for the fact that Marina was there and bouncing across the stage I could have been watching a recording. In retrospect Marina's talks were informative and amusing and did include details about herself and the Trek cast and crew which I wouldn't have normally come across. However, at the time I got the impression that she didn't think it worth adapting her American show for a British audience.

On Marina not allowing electronic recording of her talk. One plausible

explanation I heard is that in North America such recordings are sold for profit and the actors don't receive any commission on these. As such Marina (and other cast members) don't allow it because they (the cast) are in it to make money. Any explanation that it's in her contract not to allow these recordings I find inconsistent with Richard Arnold's statements that the Creation Convention agreements are only applicable in America (I suspect Canada is also included in this).

The low point for me was at the end of the Sunday talk. Here she thanked the fans for everything she owned and stated she loved us all. Now I'm someone who cringes on hearing 'Have a nice day' but I wasn't the only one to think Marina was OTT in her platitudes. This display of 'affection' may go down great with the Americans but where I live such statements aren't believable and carry no credibility.

Before I get too much negative response to this I'm only stating my opinion as someone in the audience and who queued for an autograph. I like Marina Sirtis with her bubbly personality and what she's achieved with the character of Troi. I just didn't expect the performance she gave at Warp One. I know I've no right to expect cast members to appear at a convention but if they do then I'd expect them to treat the fans with a little more than disdain. Would I go and see her again? Probably!

Grace Hawkins - Houghton Regis

A couple of weeks ago I attended a Beauty & the Beast Convention - what made it really interesting was that Armin Shimmerman, who plays Quark in DS9, was a guest. I was able to see another two episodes in which he appeared. It was nice to meet him as the convention was quite small - only about 200 people there. He's really charming and very funny. An ideal convention guest.

Edwin Yau - Hove, Sussex

A rather interesting debate has been going on on the computer networks for some time now, and I thought it would be interesting to find the IDIC members' points of view. Basically, if the TNG Federation met

the Empire from Star Wars (SW) and a battle arose, who would win it? Don't forget that SW existed a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away etc. so the only way they could meet is by some sort of time travel. You must also take into consideration the weapons, robotic, shield, ship and scientific technology, so some points have to be laid down.

ST has transporter technology whereas SW do not. However, they do have AT-ATs, Walkers etc. Hand weapon technology is in the ST favour as phasers are superior to SW's blasters, but then ST don't have light sabres. Ship weaponry strength seems about the same with ST having the edge on shield technology. SW has better robotic technology seeing as TNG has only one android.

It is obvious that the ships in SW are bigger, but the ST ships are much more manoeuvrable. The ships in SW must go faster (via Hyperspace) than the ST ships as a whole galaxy has been covered in SW, whereas in ST only a small 11% of the galaxy has been explored.

Finally, the nearest thing to the Death Star in ST is either a Dyson Sphere, and that was alien technology that no-one really knows anything about, or the planet killer in TOS episode "The Doomsday Machine". Even a Borg ship doesn't have the power of a Death Star, which can blow up a planet. Thoughts, anyone?

Karen Davies - Birmingham

I feel I must come to the defence of Carol Stenberg. My, all you Kirk fans did jump down her throat, didn't you! I also much prefer Patrick Stewart's acting, but I do still have a soft spot for Kirk. I just happen to prefer Picard's style of command. In fact, I have heard that an airline in the States shows episodes of TNG to its pilots at training sessions to show them what command presence on the bridge should be...

I have just bought ST VI and after watching it a few times, a thought occurred to me. How come Chancellor Gorkon as leader of the Klingons did not know that they had developed a vessel which could fire

when cloaked? If he did, I do think that, knowing how delicate the peace talks were going to be, he could have warned someone. But if he had, there wouldn't have been a story, would there?

To Ann Peters - Why shouldn't Classic Trek fans expect to see CT videos at cons? I also prefer TNG, but if I paid out £30-odd for registration then found they weren't showing any TNG, I wouldn't be very happy. Would you?

To Vikki Tittley - I had a similar thought about the crew who shouldn't have been in Yesterday's Enterprise - not about Data, the chances are he would be there. No, it's Wesley being there that bothers me. A child on a Warship bridge?! Besides, in the alternate universe the chances are that Jack Crusher is still alive, so neither Bev nor Wes would be there. Also Tasha Yar - the chances are she would never have been rescued from Turkana IV. The only two people who would definitely have been there were Picard and Riker.

I would just like to say that it was nice to see those people who were accused of the riots at Sol III give their version of events. Subject closed.

Dave Smith - Northampton

To Ann Peters - Re Did Soong Create Life (2). How people see other life forms has an effect on their reaction and their idea of what constitutes life. If Data was a mechanical man (ie unhumanoid in appearance) then people would regard him as an IT. As he is most definitely humanoid in appearance, this certainly gives him a plus as most people regard him as HIM, a person. The fact that he is capable of rational thought, makes choices and shows loyalty, is in my book more human than some people that I know. I find that people have a curious outlook on physical appearance, myself included. I have an intense dislike of moths - can't stand them close to me - but butterflies, which belong to the same family, can crawl all over me. The point I'm trying to make is that what something looks like governs how we react to it. The moth is nocturnal, its body covered in hair and is colourless, its

erratic flying manner makes it seem out of control, yet the butterfly is colourful and seems to have purpose in flight. People step on beetles and yet love ladybirds. It is this preoccupation with physical appearance that dogs our growth as a race, limits our understanding of others and confines our ability to interact with others. When the time comes - and it will undoubtedly come - when androids are built, let's hope that we have more feeling, more concern, more humility, than we have at present. Did Soong create life? In my opinion, most certainly. Good article, Ann. I enjoyed reading it.

To Ian Colbert - I for one enjoy all Star Trek. There are good and bad episodes in both CT and TNG (I've not seen DS9 yet); everyone has different tastes and, let's face it, the world would be a boring place if everyone liked the same things. It's obvious that people have favourites. I like CT, but at the moment I prefer TNG because of its characters, stories and production values - it's more... *together* than CT was, but I realise it's because of how TV production has improved since CT. In 25 years time we can look back on TNG and probably say how antiquated it looks against its modern equivalent, but it's still Trek and can be enjoyed by all.

To Jean Sloan - I can understand your friend's objections to a race being spied on, as in the TNG episode First Contact, but I feel that if it's for peaceful ideals then it would be acceptable. Obviously, if the idea was to collect information leading to invasion and takeover that would be unacceptable. The Federation, in this case, had to make sure the Malcorian society was ready to accept that there were other life forms in the Galaxy before making itself known to the planet's leaders, as it turned out that the Malcorian culture revolved around the premise that their world was the centre of creation (an idea shared by a large percentage of this planet's citizens!) and were not ready to accept that there were other life forms that were ahead of them in space travel, technology and social interaction. Technically they were ready, emotionally and religiously (again like us) they were unable to cope with the culture shock involved in meeting an alien race. I would imagine that

(apart from Trekkers) we as a planet would suffer a major upheaval in our social and theological thinking were we to encounter aliens, either in space or on the planet itself. We, like the Malcorians, are not ready to accept that we are not unique, but that doesn't mean we're not being watched... does it?

Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent

To Chris Coxon - As Janet said in her editorial comment, the legal status of videos brought in and copied from America is rather uncertain. However I would agree with you that their apparent mass circulation is morally wrong. After all, Star Trek is produced from revenue from legitimate sales and this pirating must reduce that revenue. Anyway, I've seen a couple of these 'pirate' tapes and the quality is rubbish.

To Bill Taylor - Where did you study genetics? I have professional biomedical qualifications and can see no sense in your argument that career-minded ladies not having children will lead to the selective breeding of docile, stupid women. To the best of my knowledge personality traits like ambition and docility are not genetically inherited in the simple fashion that you propose. "Intelligence in women is an evolutionary blind alley", to quote your letter. I find that insulting to women, and I have a reputation as a male chauvinist pig. Are you a Ferengi?

To Chris Bailey - Graphic Novel?! Yes, they ARE comics. It is a sad indictment of our society that literature has degenerated to a point where we pretend comics are novels in order to hide our illiteracy.

A question - how big is Starfleet in TNG? We have seen USS Victory (NCC 9740) and USS Phoenix (NCC 65430) on active service within a few years of each other. Now assuming that only 1% of the NCC starships are in use between these numbers gives us an active fleet of over 500 ships. (I don't include Runabouts.) Why, then, in logistic terms, was 40 such a loss in the battle with the Borg? Also whatever happened to transwarp drive?

Edward Woo - Twin Cathedral City

Re the 7th season TNG, if Gates does not reprise her role, how about promoting Lt Selaar to CMO? The possible loss of Brent Spiner is a major blow if it occurs. He can never be replaced. Any news about LeVar and Michael returning? New characters that could be introduced - I would like to see a Benzite or even an Andorian.

To Chris Coxon - I beg to differ with you, but I thought the music to DS9 was good. The opening and closing themes just seem to suit its style. It's certainly different from the TNG theme.

To Janet Quarton - Dr Crater still had salt tablets when the Enterprise arrived, so why did the Salt Vampire kill the security guard? It could have waited to see what would happen. The only reason it killed was that the instinct for survival clouded its thinking and it had to survive using whatever using whatever means it had.

To Sheila Clark - The Salt Vampire had killed Nancy Crater a year before the landing party arrived, so it must have got its nutrients from somewhere and not just from killing the Enterprise crew members.

To Steven Gibb - I think DS9 is the baby at the moment and TNG is not as good as it was. I believe TNG peaked during seasons 3-4-5; since then it has gone down a bit. It's highly unlikely that Admiral Hansen survived the action of Wolf 359. You're right saying the Borg should be less Human and should vary in appearance to allow for other species it has assimilated in its quest.

To Baerbel Schmidt - Face of the Enemy is an excellent story for the abilities of Marina Sirtis. I would have loved the episode to have been completely subtitled in English with the whole story in Romulan.

To Lorraine Poole and Ann Peters - I think Odo, Quark and O'Brien are the best characters in DS9 (so far). It's the love/hate relationship of Odo and Quark, and O'Brien's off-beat humour, that make it worth watching. Lorraine, as a supporter of Dr Crusher, I would disagree with you that she

looks bored. She's a good doctor and always has something to do - either medicine or her hobbies.

To Peter Poole - The first time I saw Emissary I thought it was great. On its third showing, I know what you mean about the religious bit with the Bajoran philosophy - was it needed? I suppose it helps to explain Sisko's apparent change of heart, making staying on DS9 a personal mission for him.

To Caroline Lewis - People have been discussing Riker's refusal to accept a captaincy for many N/Ls. He's been offered one three times. Will he get a fourth offer? Spock, you remember, was never offered a chance of command except when Kirk was thought to be dead. He only got the Enterprise in the movies for training new crew.

To A C Harris - I believe the person you are talking about is Alex T Greene of Wales/Wrexham who knows the Klingon language.

Tracy Saunders - Westcliff on Sea

To Sheila Clark - Re your answer to Maria Nausch concerning McCoy's guilt about the death of his father.. Obviously you haven't yet realised that doctors *do* have feelings. Remember that McCoy is Human, which makes him a neurotic being, as in having feelings. I can understand that a doctor wouldn't show any feelings for someone they don't know, because otherwise they wouldn't be able to cope with the job. Since McCoy is a very sensitive and outspoken person in my opinion, I can wholeheartedly understand his actions.

To Bill Taylor - Concerning your opinion on female Starship Captains. May I say that I think you are still living in the last century. Yet if you look back in history, there have been influential females in the past, eg Boadicea, Elizabeth I, and Queen (Pharaoh) Hatshepsut who claimed the Egyptian throne even though she was a woman. These are only three examples - how can you say that women won't succeed in what they want to do? We have come a long way since last century - who then would ever have thought

of a female astronaut? I think you are being a bit chauvinistic on the subject.

To Jacqueline Comben - Re Sarek's death. You were not the only one to breathe a sigh of relief about it. I, like you, could not stand the thought of anyone suffering.

To Ronald Reid - Thank you for telling me about the different races of Klingon. May I ask if you can explain another two questions - 1) what happened to the Human fusion Klingons? 2) Seeing that the Imperial Klingons are evolved from dogs, are these like the species on our own planet? If so, why are the Imperial Klingons not in some sort of 'pack'? I can understand their leadership system since dogs do have their status in packs. I'm interested in finding out because of the way that Humans behave in relation to the animal kingdom, even though a lot of people don't realise it.

Dawn Tittley - Birmingham

To William Marsh - It's far too easy to blame others for not wanting to talk to you. If you're really that keen to join a quiz team, or fancy dress, or anything like that, why not ask in IDIC or Space Central? You could even put up a notice in Ops at the convention and take over the club meeting room for people under 18 only. It's a double-edged sword, and you need to make some kind of effort too.

To Sara Lyford-Smith - Re Quantum Leap on video. Chas Evans said at Warp One that CIC have the rights to it but they're not sure what to do with it!!! Try writing to them and asking them to release it.

To Lesley Hatch - Do you fancy meeting up for a drink and a chat about Trek some time? My address is 117 Dulwich Rd, Kingstanding, Birmingham.

I also want to say a few words about Warp One. Wonderful, great fun, fan-tastic (get it?) Although this was only my second con I had the best time. Even though the accommodation was a little... spartan, this didn't really worry me - after all, I was only going to crash out there. Judging by the number of attendees (1704-ish at the last

count, I believe) this sort of facility is going to be the only sort that can accommodate that sort of number. Con-gratulations to Dave, Gill and Jan for a wonderful weekend, and I hope we can do it again soon.

D Flack - Romford

I recently received Franklin Mint's TNG model and promptly returned it because on inspecting it closely I found indents and marks on the base and model - plus one of the engine nacelles was bent; and for what they're asking (£195) I think they should be thoroughly inspected before being sent to customers.

To Keren Breen - The 'Spock' bookmark ISBN number is 0-7824-0830-3. I've also got Kirk, but I can't find it at the moment. The number is probably the same. *[Valerie - Sorry, no. No two items have the same ISBN.]*

Jennifer Cobbing - London

Unfortunately I too succumbed to the bugs that were swarming around Middleton Towers and was too sick with flu to do the con report I intended to write. So I'd just like to say that Warp One was the best con we've been to. It was awesomely well organised, there was so much going on we didn't do half the things we planned, the discos were superb and we were having so much fun we didn't have time to watch even one episode or film. However - I've always enjoyed the fancy dress competition at cons, but will probably be avoiding them in future. They've turned into SF Amateur Dramatics and are becoming extremely boring. 'Fancy dress' does not mean putting on a three scene comedy that only the participants find funny. I beg the con committees to put a stop to this trend and lay down some rules and time limits. Original and imaginative costumes don't need a script.

When I first read Bill Taylor's letter regarding the lack of women in authority in Starfleet I thought he hadn't realised that men have something to do with their offsprings' abilities and that women give birth to both males and females, and that therefore both would end up docile and stupid. Then it dawned on me what he was up to. Bill is one

of those juvenile wind-up merchants you always find at parties who think it's original and clever to tell every female in sight that a woman's place is in the bedroom and the kitchen. Sorry, Bill, I've heard it all before and I'm not biting.

To Jacqueline Y Comben - Your article about cliques was very good and I appreciated the advice to new attendees not to 'glue' themselves to people. I'm very wary of being too friendly to new faces as this has happened to me and I've actually had to be rude to a couple of people to get rid of them. Perhaps this is why some people are unfriendly. The advice to talk to fan dealers was good. Kay and I love to have a good gossip across the dealer's table, especially with fellow Kirk fans.

Jill Clements - Bexleyheath

I really look forward to the newsletters. The interaction and fun that flow back and forth on the letter pages is wonderful. Although I can sometimes bore my family and friends witless with Trek facts and trivia, we must all remember that it is fun. The best scenes for me in Classic and Next Gen are usually the fun moments. My husband (who would never admit it) enjoys the 'Data' humour. There are some special scenes of Brent Spiner's which should be required watching by any actor having difficulty with timing.

It is the friendship and closeness of the main NG characters that has made me enjoy it so much. I hate to admit that anything could be as great as Classic (particularly the Vulcan I fell in love with 24 years ago) but I need my daily dose (it's what we got SKY for).

Because I've heard that things are not quite the same on DS9 I'm again awaiting seeing the first episode with preconceptions. I hope it's not a dark, gloomy and unfriendly feeling. I have to believe that we will survive and learn that relationships and sharing our lives are the more important things in life. Of dear, I'm doing it now. I was talking about fun!

I've never been to a major con yet, but

thoroughly enjoy the con reports, particularly those of Helen and Taruka (why do I always see her as some amazonian complete with hunting kit and trailing tribbles?) After reading her report today I realise the outfit would be of the knit 1 purl 2 yarn k2tog variety!)

I'm so looking forward to being well again and meeting the people that I've come to know through the pages of IDIC and STAG. It would be wonderful to go to a con this year.

I went to Brighton in December and met George. Wow - what a smile! I've actually got a photo of him sighing my copy of IDIC. Isn't he a real gentleman?

My son was driving me somewhere the other day and suddenly said, "I think Worf's first name is Canary, and he does wear yellow." Poor boy - he gets it from his father, who has asked "How functional is Data?" The remaining member of our team thinks Bill Shatner shirtless is "something else" but then at 22 so did I.

Redemption 1 is on and I want to know why is Worf the only attractive Klingon and why is his hair lighter? Is its length Starfleet regulation or choice?

Maria Woodward - Emsworth, Hants

About Geordi being called Geordi - you've got to have an easy Lt. Commander to get along with. If you needed an answer to something who else would you turn to? Not Picard - or would you?

To Baerbel Schmidt - I'm glad someone else thinks Time's Arrow and Man of the People are rubbish. I saw the second of these in America and thought it was terrible.

To Chris Coxon - Intergalactic only let me down once, over a Next Gen phaser, but when I've wanted stuff by a definite date they make sure it gets to me. They're brilliant.

Stephen Daniels - Kelso

First can I say how nice it is to know the faces behind the names, courtesy of the photo in the last N/L.

To Helen White - Of all the costumes in Trek history, boring little me (I?) would like the plain old mustard uniform issued by Starfleet to the ship's crew (seasons 3+). Mr Data looks quite snappy in his, don't you think? As for who I would like to be, my first choice - surprise, surprise - would be Q, because then I could be anybody! My next choice would be Dr McCoy, for much the same reason as you, he's such a character. Finally, I think Lwaxana Troi would be fun. What a line - "...don't worry, dear, your body's not that bad!"

To Sara Lyford-Smith - According to the TNG Technical Manual (a fascinating book) the holodeck can have two settings, scrolled - for continuous traipsing about, like Picard on his horse - or bounding limits, like in Encounter at Farpoint, where an outer wall limit can be set as you described. The latter, I believe, uses less computer memory. As for the privacy laws, this is something I too have wondered. I mean who would use it *only* for quaint country walks!

Did anyone else spot the microphone boom stick's reflection next to the aft turbolift on the bridge as Dr Crusher rose from her seat just after the Captain disappeared in Remember Me, and again in the same place as she stood by the Captain's chair after quizzing the computer on why she was the only crew member?

Neil Barrett - Preston

On the two Klingon races. Judith Proctor is missing one vital point about the 'fusion' theory. These Klingons were genetically manipulated individuals rather than simple cross-breeds. The Imperial genes are dominant therefore some offspring appeared full Imperial (as does K'Ehleyr) and these were raised by childless Imperial families. Those who appeared more Human-like were selected for the special missions. There also exist fusions with Vulcan and/or Romulan genetic material in the hope of gaining the advantages of the mental powers. The two race theory is reasonable, however I have my doubts about the purge of non-Imperials - since when was genocide an honourable act?

However it does explain the apparent change in the name of the homeworld. If the two races are from different worlds within the empire then the non-Imperials come from Klinzhai and the Imperials from Kronos; even if they come from different areas of the same world then we cannot assume that they have the same name for it or that they even speak the same language e.g. Germany, Allemagne, Deutschland are all the same place. There may also be some changes in the way the Federation translates the name from its original e.g. Peking, Beijing.

On the Lydia Sutherland. Careful reading of the relevant part of 'Enterprise - The First Adventure' suggests that this was not a solo command but part of a flotilla. Thus the Lydia Sutherland cannot be larger than a destroyer (a Siva-class to be precise). This makes sense given that Kirk was a very young and new captain.

On the Borg. If Steven Gibb reads 'Vendetta' by Peter David he will meet a Ferengi-Borg. His point is quite valid, perhaps the Borg have determined that the humanoid form is the most practical or most versatile for their purpose. Given that uniformity is part of the Borg culture, could we always tell precisely which species was the basis? If the colouring is lost and the features are obscured, can we tell whether a Borg began life as Terran, Vulcan or Andorian?

On Troi. Jenny Turner may be disappointed to learn that Troi's lovely tresses are mostly a wig anyway. Even if they were real she could compress it under a close fitting cap and then top it with a hairpiece as 20th Century actresses do. Learning perfect Romulan would be harder (as Baerbel Schmidt points out). In 'Spock's World' by Diane Duane we have the idea of learning a language by DNA transfer which gives a perfect accent and knowledge of idiom. Does anybody have any idea whether this is a realistic concept?

On Valeris. Graeme G Lowe's explanation is a good attempt but a bit complex. I would think it insulting to promote someone (even temporarily) and not

address them by that rank. If the Class A jacket has been removed in favour of an engineer's waistcoat, a lab coat or whatever then the distinction is lost. Edward Woo's explanation seems to have a flaw. If officers in training start at Lieutenant then where do Ensigns come from? Is Ensign Crusher a figment of our collective imagination? This is just another Paramount costume department cock-up, most likely because Kim Cattrall was wearing Kirstie Alley's old shirt with a new jacket. Presumably Robin Curtis's command coloured uniform wouldn't have fitted.

On Saavik. I've already said that I prefer Saavik Mk I and for the very reason that Victoria Roberts quoted. The early Saavik should be excessively Vulcan, having acquired the veneer of civilisation at a relatively late stage. The combination of Romulan pride and Vulcan discipline would probably lead her to prove herself by being more Vulcan than the Vulcans *just as the young Spock did*. The experiences of STII:TWOK and her relationship with David Marcus led her to rethink this position and accept the duality of her nature, thus we get the more relaxed Saavik Mk II. As for her tone in the disputed line "David is dead" there should be no confusion - a Vulcan Saavik would say it with no feeling, a Romulan Saavik would have been too busy throttling Kruge.

On Yesterday's Enterprise. Vikki Tittley suggests Data should not be around. I would say that it depends on whether the area of space he was found in has any strategic value or is likely to be patrolled. I do object to the presence of Guinan though; on a warship there is no place for a civilian who contributes little to the effectiveness of the ship.

On NCC 1701-B. I remember seeing the name Captain Thomas Jonson/Johnson associated with the Excelsior-class Enterprise but I doubt this was a canon source.

On lechery. I have to agree with Gaile Wood. I'm always in favour of a good healthy lech between two (or more) consenting adults as long as it doesn't harm anyone else in the process. Unfortunately I

can't easily convince Helen White of this ...

Maureen Hollinsworth - Lake, Isle of Wight

Could someone please explain to me the riddle of Bill Shatner's popularity!

It was the advent of Starbase 93 that set me thinking. The main guest, Jimmy Doohan, seemed to have two major problems in life. One was Mr Shatner whom he took every opportunity to denigrate, much to the delight of one section of the audience, and the other was the casting studios. According to Mr Doohan this august body have been ignoring his multitude of abilities for many years.

Now, if Mr Shatner is so lacking in talent, why is a major studio prepared to finance the making of TekWar into a TV series to the tune of umpteen million. Why do his books jump immediately to the New York best seller list? Why was he given a major part in a big feature film? Etc; etc;

Mr Shatner is far from flavour of the month. Why? Is the fans dislike based solely on the debacle of STV? Surely not. Are we so petty? Perhaps we are, after all. I remember the reaction to a book entitled 'I Am Not Spock'. That took Mr Nimoy many years to live down even if the title was a misnomer.

So, what's it all about? Why is the man disliked by the fans yet the most successful of all the crew? Perhaps this dislike is confined to this country or, is it just another of life's little mysteries?

Lloyd Lewis - Bridgend, Mid Glam.

To Bill Taylor - Didn't you see the amount of trouble I got myself into? I'd emigrate before Janet offers your address as a prize in the next raffle. On a serious note - I for one don't agree.

Helen White - I haven't a clue what latitude or longitude Bracknell is, Mr Woo!

I enjoyed n/l 28, especially all the Warp One stuff (hello Karen, Taruka) and Jacqueline Comben's 'clique' article; excellent stuff. I was glad to see the Patrick-Stewart-

on-Radio-One-Flipping-F-M transcript; I did hear it, but was unable to tape it, as I was driving to Warp One at the time! Incidentally, re my con report; for anyone who was waiting for 'plan D', I'm afraid it was edited out! I'll have to use it in the next one; watch this space....

To all at Scottish KAG - I won't now be at Contagion, unfortunately, sob. Please would one of you take a photo of Edward Woo in his kilt?!

To Bill Taylor - re 'selective breeding of docile, stupid women.' I think I can see what you're trying to say, but no matter how I read your letter it seems that you're implying that any woman who wants a baby/child falls into both the above categories. I know plenty of intelligent women - including my mum - who would argue that point with you! Before I, as you say, 'burst a blood vessel', would you care to tell me whether I've misunderstood?

To Philip Morley - re Troi in uniform, rather than her usual frocks: she first went into uniform in the sixth season episode Chains of Command.

To Jacqueline Comben - No, you're not the only fan who was relieved when Sarek died. My Grandma, whom I was very close to, had a severe stroke, and spent ten weeks paralysed down her left side; her eyesight and hearing failed almost completely. Unfortunately, she was perfectly 'with it', and was fully aware of what was happening. It was a great relief to the family when she died, as she was then at peace. Mind you, that's not to say that I wasn't upset when Sarek died; I was.

To Karen Sparks - So your spell-checker suggests 'haddock' for IDIC, does it? Mine is even less flattering; top of its list is 'idiot'!

To Stephen Shaw, Cathy Halford, and anyone else interested in the ongoing 'homophobia' discussion - I agree with Cathy - the ending of The Host was a typical Paramount cop-out; it would have made a far more impressive ending, in my view, if the

new host had been a rather attractive man and Bev found him totally UNattractive. The trouble is that in the current social climate, there's more shock value in the 'proper' ending; viz. "Oh lawsks, it's a girly, and Bev's a girly too. Ooer."

To Russell Witheyman - re a surfeit of TNG characters appearing on DS9 (Q, Lwaxana Troi etc). I agree with you; it looks to me like a bad case of 'too much, too soon'. I love DS9, and have enjoyed seeing all those guests, but surely they're going to run out before long, and then what? Original Trek guests, perhaps? Hey, that's an idea - how about Spock on DS9 (I am joking, I hasten to add.)

To Paul Hulford - re the DS9 mug with the 'wrong' stardate on it; it looks to me as if Creation are using the old 'let's make today's date look like a stardate' trick, ie 9301.11 is January 11th 1993. Incidentally, I'm a Klingon, and I'd LOVE Klingon bubble bath - essence of Romulan blood, perhaps, or 'Eau de Tribble'. Yes please!

To Lloyd Lewis - I hope you're enjoying your working holiday (!) and I do agree with you about the rapidly deteriorating standard of professional ST novels. Give me a zine any day; much better characterisation, on the whole, and often better stories too.

Kathryn Boag - Hamilton, Lanarkshire

I was rather upset to hear that you are planning to cut down your production of zines. I know that you must have valid reasons but there is so little available on the UK market as it is that this is going to make life poorer for those of us who read zines and cannot afford lots of American imports.

It surprises me that anyone would buy the professional novels in preference to fan literature especially in the light of the recent excruciating offerings. Is this because anything published by a 'professional publishing house' has to be better than amateur writing? I am sure that anyone who has read stories by Brenda Kelsey, Gloria Fry, Nicole Comtet or Meg Wright (the first few names that spring to mind) would not agree.

David J Raper - Keyingham, N. Humberside

Having just seen "Birthright Part I" I thought I would let you all know that Troi does get to wear a proper Starfleet uniform and has apparently been promoted to full Commander. I have yet to see Part II and I hope it lives up to the promise of Part I. As to whether or not she wears it all the time is anybody's guess, while Worf's pony tail doesn't look that bad once you get used to it.

On the issue of strong female characters, of which there have not been enough really, as a male of the species I would just like to say that I am all for it but give them some good scripts! What makes Trek, in any of its forms, special is the interplay between the various characters and the high standard of the scripts - aside from the odd exception to this rule - and some of the best Trek writers are women anyway, so why ever not? Even if it is only someone like Shelby to keep Riker on his toes, though hopefully they would not introduce such a character solely for the purpose of introducing a little conflict of personalities into TNG.

I've also seen some DS9 and while there is always room for improvement, it seems to have got off to a good start, aside from the most forgettable signature tune ever to grace Trek. I don't know who wrote it but if it was one of the regular Trek composers he/she must have been having a bad day. That aside I hope to see more.

Also "True Q", why the fuss? All I can say is that it was not as bad as I was led to believe and in fact I thoroughly enjoyed it, if only to see Q up to his tricks again. Q was as obnoxious and as arrogant as ever and completely mishandled the situation, which was no surprise. As the Continuum's resident "expert" on humanity he has hardly learnt from his past experiences and if he was the best that the Continuum could find to instruct Amanda Rogers - maybe they were still punishing him? - I would rather not see the worst.

As for the debate on children on starships, it is understandable when viewed in the light of the long voyages of TNG. The

Enterprise D is on a ten year mission, a very long time indeed to separate parents from their children. Such prolonged separation would do the children no good, unless Starfleet were to put them in stasis - which is hardly ethical - and the same applies to the parents. Then there is the matter of losing experienced and valuable personnel if they decide to get married and start a family. Bearing in mind all the time and effort to train a single officer, it is understandable that Starfleet will want to keep such valued personnel and since Starfleet is a wholly voluntary organisation, I think, then the only way to do this is to make the conditions of service as comfortable as possible, both physically and mentally.

Forcing Starfleet personnel to choose between a home life and a career is not going to improve the chances of Starfleet hanging on to experienced personnel or attracting them in the first place; removing the need for such choices would go a long way towards this.

And almost finally, why doesn't the Federation use cloaking devices on starships? The best possible explanation I have found was that offered in the book STIII - though I am not going to get involved in the debate as to whether it is "real Trek" or not - namely that every now and then it drives someone insane! Unlike the Romulans or Klingons, Starfleet would never employ such technology unless they were sure it was safe, or at least not on a routine basis and definitely not on a ship with non-combatant civilians onboard.

Another possibility I would like to suggest is that Starfleet does use cloaked ships but we have never seen them because they are always cloaked and are very secret indeed, possibly as part of a long running plan to make the Romulans think that Starfleet has no cloaking technology in service - which would explain why Picard had to borrow a Klingon ship in "Unification".

And finally, will Data ever cease to be the only android in Starfleet for this generation? We know that sooner or later

they will build more, even if Data never does. I'd just like to know.

Paul & Judie von der Fecht - Helsby, Cheshire

To Cheryl O'Connor - Re dismissing the effects of synthehol. Richard Arnold explained at SOL III '89 that synthehol has the same taste and smell as alcohol but its effects are immediately nullified by adrenalin. So as soon as the red alert sounds - or even if a drinker pinches himself - they are immediately sober. (Though judging by Scotty's reaction in Relics, synthehol does not satisfy the discerning palate.)

To Kathleen Glancy - Re English fans not willing to travel to Scotland for cons. It is unrealistic to compare SF Worldcon with British Trek cons. If there was only one major Trek con in the British Isles per decade, then I'm sure that fans would be willing to travel to any venue.

When we went to Silvercon, *some* of the Scottish fans we spoke to were amazed that we had travelled up from Cheshire "just for a convention". They also said that while they had enjoyed the con, they wouldn't travel to England for one. We know plenty of English fans, some of them based well to the south of us, who regularly attend the Glasgow cons.

It is not as if the Scottish cons are under subscribed, and obviously fans will try to attend the closest possible con. Less time travelling means more time at the con. It took us nearly seven hours to drive to Glasgow for Silvercon; we were completely exhausted when we arrived which meant that we were tired for most of the weekend. Also the Scottish cons are held on a Scottish Bank Holiday weekend. There is no Bank Holiday in England that weekend, and time off is not always easy to arrange. *[Sheila - in fact, Contagion isn't on a Bank Holiday weekend. It's on the first weekend of the Glasgow holiday fortnight and none of the rest of Scotland is automatically on holiday that weekend, so even the non-local Scots have to arrange fortnite off.]*

To Paul Hulford - Re the stardate on the DS9 mug. It refers to the transmission date of the pilot episode (11/01/93)

To Ann Peters - Re 'duplicate fading'. It has been compared to taking a photocopy of a photocopy and so on indefinitely. The replication process is not perfect, and the further you get from the original, the poorer the result.

To John Marshall - Re Trelaine being Q. John de Lancie was asked at a con what he thought of Trelaine and he replied, "I thought my son did quite well for himself!"

To anyone interested in Trek model kits - The magazine 'Model and Collectors Mart' has a regular SF section with adverts for all the AMT Star Trek kits and some of the less readily available ones (eg Excelsior, Reliant, Romulan Scout). A recent issue had a feature on building the AMT Star Trek movie kits and the Data vinyl figure. The magazine is available at most large newsagents.

To Jacqueline Comben - Re 'When is a Clique Not a Clique?' - we agree wholeheartedly with your comments about the general friendliness of fans. If anyone is ever on their own and hasn't anyone to talk to, they can always come to us. We will usually be in the Dealers' Room at our stall (Ferengi Bazaar) and will talk to anybody (no purchase necessary!). We have met a lot of our closest friends through trading.

Joan Verba - Minnetonka, USA

I enjoyed the report of Siddig El Fadil's appearance. I would love to have a snapshot of Siddig and his beard. Would anyone be willing to send one to me? (PO Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345, USA). I would be happy to trade for ST items available in the U.S.

By the way, there is a group forming for fans of Siddig, the SEF Fan Network (see Club Ads).

[Janet: Joan is also looking for any articles on Siddig.]

Stewart McMillan - Glasgow

To Sara Lyford-Smith - Thanks for telling me about the TNG Makeup FX

Journal. I have now acquired a copy and it is excellent. I highly recommend it to anyone interested in this aspect of the show.

As to your question on why Picard doesn't hit a wall while riding his horse around the holodeck. If you can get hold of the TNG Technical Manual, it has a chapter dealing with the holodecks and outlines (somewhat vaguely in my view) how to avoid hitting the walls. Re the privacy laws while using the holodeck, the Tech Manual also states that there are 20 personal holographic simulators which are probably intended for private use and I assume no other person can gain access while in use, while the larger holodecks are open to all even when in use. I hope you find this helpful.

To Steven Gibb - Maybe the Borg all being humanoid comes down to cost - it's cheaper than creating more new alien designs.

Finally, my favourite 6th season episode so far is A Fistful of Datas. **SPOILER ALERT.** I found it really funny, and Marina Sirtis was obviously enjoying her Clint Eastwood role of the Wo(man) with no name. The best laugh was the look on Worf's face when he realised the holographic simulated Data/Barmaid was about to kiss him. Luckily for him he managed to end the program in time. Although this is a great comic episode, I don't think Worf had has a really serious role on TNG since the excellent 5th season episode Ethics - so I am eagerly awaiting the 6th season two-part episode The Birthright in which Worf is apparently told that his father is still alive. Looks like being interesting.

Liz Butler - Pennywell, Sunderland

Am I reading the 'other news' in the last newsletter right? At the beginning it is stated that Gates McFadden has definitely not signed up for season 7, yet further on it says that they are thinking about a love interest between Bev and Picard. It would be interesting to know how, if she's not even there. [Janet: This is what can happen when we get news from different sources. We still haven't heard which actors have signed for the 7th Season.]

Paul Hulford - Camberley, Surrey

Firstly, I would like to express my sadness over the reduction in publication of the IDIC/ScoTpress zines. I enjoy these zines very much, and think that they are very good value.

I agree with Lloyd Lewis's comments in the previous N/L that the books are getting worse, and I would like to think that the zines offer hope to the disenchanted. Zine writers generally know the characters better, come up with more ideas, and have far fewer restrictions placed upon them.

While not always agreeing with the points they raise, I find these Zines a lot more challenging than the books. They often open up many avenues that the 'official' authors cannot explore, and always prove interesting in one way or another.

Just a suggestion, but could someone at IDIC/ScoTpress write a page or two about their zines and put it in a prominent spot in the N/L - at the beginning of the postbag, for example? I imagine many people don't wade through the small ads and may not realise zines are so easy to get hold of. *[Sheila - a letter like yours, Paul, is probably more telling. The recommendation of a satisfied reader is worth twenty ads put out by the publisher. Would you like to review some of our zines?]*

I have just seen Chain of Command. Wow, what a brilliant episode. I can't remember the last time an episode affected me this much. The scenes between Patrick Stewart and David Warner were superb, and Ronny Cox's Captain was a joy to watch - he really got me to dislike him, yet respect him at the same time.

However, I was disturbed at the BBFC's 'PG' rating. God knows I deplore censorship, but the torture scenes in part 2 seemed a bit strong for a 'PG' rating to me. I realise there is no '12' rating for video and the only alternative would have been a '15' rating, but this would have given me more peace of mind. Many parents don't make a distinction between 'U' and 'PG' films, and let children of whatever age watch both types. I am not a parent, but I do believe that I'd

think twice before letting younger children watch part 2, and would urge any parents to view it first to make sure. I realise that many parents already do this, but 'many' is not all.

Having read the above back to myself I would not be surprised if someone said I was over-reacting. Perhaps I will change my view when I get the opportunity to view it again. But I would not be surprised if the BBC banned this episode, or moved it to a later time slot. Shortly after this sees print it will be SKY's turn to transmit this episode. I will be amazed if it goes out uncut. *[Janet: It seems that Sky will be delaying a while before showing the 6th season. I would expect Sky to show the episode uncut in the late time-slot. As far as I know, so far they have july cut one line from High Ground - the one about the Unification of Ireland.]*

To Jenny Turner - Both Brent Spiner and Marina Sirtis - Majel Barrett for that matter - wear contact lenses to give their eyes the respective yellow or black colour. However, I understand that Brent Spiner is notorious for playing for sympathy with his, unlike Marina who seems to suffer in silence.

To Vikki Tittley - Re your question 'Should Data be on the bridge of the Enterprise?' I think it is all a matter of degrees. If the Federation was 100% committed to war, then no, Data should not be there, but then neither would Geordi - as was mentioned in The Enemy, the Romulans wouldn't waste time on a cripple, nor would this Federation.

I personally feel that the Federation in Yesterday's Enterprise was similar to the 'real' one, ie it had exploratory ships but had been forced to curtail these activities due to Klingon aggression. After all, we are led to believe that the Federation had evolved into this state because of one event not happening, that they had reached this stage in only 22 years.

To Russell Witheyman - Re DS9 feeling claustrophobic. Maybe that's just the way it works. Many series have started off with small sets and become major hits. The trouble comes when the outside of the set becomes more common than the inside. The

Wormhole should be used as a treat - like the Enterprise Saucer Separation; if it is used more often it will lose some of its mystery.

It was nice to see Sarjenka and Mr Mott make guest appearances in the new Dunlop tyre commercial.

I take back what I said about merchandise in the last N/L - it *has* got that bad. The back page of Starlog has recently been advertising Skybox Playmates NG 'action' figures. Firstly, Wesley doesn't look a bit like Wesley - a case of plastic surgery? Secondly, the Borg outfits are BROWN. Captain Picard is brandishing a phaser which is in the process of discharging, so he looks for all the world to be carrying a light sabre. And the cherry on the top is Worf and Geordi in RED uniforms. I despair, I really do.

Kevin B Thomas - Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan

In W H Smith's on 12th June I saw TNG tapes 68 & 69 on the shelf next to ST VI - needless to say, I bought them. While not questioning my luck, weren't they meant to be out in July? Thanks to this video bonanza I've now got to wait to get the DS9 tape which I went in for in the first place.

The small book you get with ST VI is quite interesting as it gives a brief history of Trek from its conception to DS9.

This is the third time that I've read the novelisation before seeing it on screen, and think I must issue a warning. DON'T DO IT! You'll be disappointed when you see it on the screen. I know that the books are padded out with extra scenes, but I kept thinking 'what about the...'. Buy the book, but keep it till after you've seen it on screen or prepare to be disappointed.

Am I the only one disappointed by ST VI? After the long wait, I find that it has the same contrived feel as ST V. I couldn't suspend disbelief and enjoy the film. I found it lacked the realism of ST II. which in my opinion is the best of the lot. Does anyone else think the title music was too much like the Batman movie theme?

To Phillip Morley & Martin Helsdon - Yes, you are right. I haven't seen The Wounded so I was relying on the ST:TNG Companion for information. I'd misread the synopsis; instead of the Melbourne appearing, it was the *model* which had been redressed and renamed the Phoenix, which was supposed to be another ship in the Nebula class. On the point of the Wolf 359 wrecks being salvaged, I now find myself agreeing with you on the fact that although the structures are maybe OK the workings are just a hunk of junk.

Question - How come Ro is on the TNG video boxes but O'Brien isn't?

Stephen Shaw - Stockport

Re Silicon Avatar - the teleplay was by Jeri Taylor, who is quoted in Nemecek's Companion as relating the title NOT to the entity but to DATA, with the meaning 'repository of knowledge' - Data holding the memories of Dr Marr's son.

The video version of ST VI has the actor who plays Odo, Rene...?... (good as Taruka's surname!) in uncredited cameo appearances. About 40 minutes into the video, watch for the Starfleet personnel coming into the UFP President's office. One has a flip chart (!!) and expounds upon it. That man became a shape shifter! The video also has a very nice 'trailer' at the start, for which many thanks to CIC.

To William Marsh - As well as Genesis II, which was the pilot for a series not taken up; there are at least two other unused pilots which MAY appear (they are on NTSC video tapes!) These are Planet Earth (2nd pilot for Genesis II, 2 hours) and Strange New World (3rd pilot for Genesis II, 2 hours). The other title is Spectre (2 hours). Gene also produced Room 333 with DeForest Kelly (1 hour).

To Karen Sparks et al - In H/C, I take the point that COMFORT is the important thing, but that can also be used as an excuse by folks who like beating the tar out of other folks (or more subtle cruelties). I recall an old 'pop' song (giving my age away here) "...the best part of breaking up is when you're making up". A finely balanced point,

perhaps.

Re cons and video watching. I can only comment on Rec Con, but there were 15 minute or so gaps between videos, and the folk in the room who were waiting for the next video did have a tendency to chat to each other, sometimes about something else entirely. Watching videos with a like-minded group really did enhance the enjoyment.

To Dawn Tittley - To a limited extent it is possible to dismiss the early effects of ordinary alcohol. Flooding the system with adrenalin or boosting the metabolism some way works wonders. Try getting mildly merry and have someone give you really bad news or put you in a life or death situation. Only the milder effects can be so reversed; synthehol is possibly made a little less poisonous to the system!

To Gaile Wood - You are indeed fortunate. Believe me, when sledgehammers and shotguns are USED in a raid, the effects are long-lasting. When knives are USED, it is very nasty indeed. I was thinking of actual violence rather than a quick note under the counter.

To Gary Heron - Many thanks for a superb refutation re The Outcast. I take on board all you say. It is of course a factor of TNG that while topics are raised they are not fully resolved, which gives a lot of room for IDIC members to write in with differing perceptions, ideas and viewpoints.

To K/S fans obtaining zines from the USA - be warned. An SF fan in Northern England recently received from a US source two publications GRATIS which had not been requested. They were delivered by three Customs officers and a nice policeman. He is not going to be prosecuted as he had no other similar material they could find and they could not prove he ordered/paid for the items. It was an unpleasant experience. It is unlikely that anyone supplying the goods IN THE EEC would have been subjected to any difficulty - imports from outside the EEC face much harsher 'censorship' than imposed by the old 'Obscene Publications Act'. K/S type fiction HAS been targetted in the past.

John Goss - Clacton on Sea

It is now evident that CIC Video have released DS9 on rental. A number of DS9 episodes will be released this way, with the apparent sell through in August. A month earlier, in July, CIC are rumoured to be releasing a limited edition of the DS9 pilot on sell through which will include interviews with the cast members.

I don't see the point of the rental release of DS9 with the sell through apparently a month or so later. It seems that CIC are wasting time and money.

I don't think I will be renting DS9 only to have the chance to purchase a permanent keepsake a little later on.

I think CIC should stop messing the buying public around and honour the speculative rumours as to how any Star Trek material is released.

Ronald Reid - Kilbirmie, Ayrshire

Re Klingon home planet. As in all civilisations, there are always disputes among Klingons and each believes itself to be the ruling class and thus that their planet is the homeworld. At present it is based in New Khal City on the planet Klinzhai.

To Phillip Morley - Re ST VII. I agree fully with you that there is no way that Kirk could hand over the command of the Enterprise A to Jean-Luc Picard. Kirk was born on March 22 2233 and served in Starfleet until 2305, making him 61 years of age. Picard was not born until 2305 and entered Starfleet in 2323, and finally graduated in 2327. It was 6 years before Picard was given command of the Stargazer, which he held for 22 years. So if Kirk was to hand the command of the Enterprise-A over to Picard, Kirk would have to be at least 122 years old.

To Marie Park - Re your questions in N/L 28 similar to the above. If you read the book Star Trek Chronology - The History of the Future, it will answer most of your questions but not what happened to Kirk. The NCC 1701-B is supposed to have been captained by a Tomas Johnson Jnr and the

ship was built at the Antares Shipyards. (This information comes from a section contained on the NCC 1701-D poster which I have. It lists all the ships with some details about each. I don't think all the things are correct, though.) I do agree it would be nice to know what happened to Kirk.

To Paul Hulford - I think your idea of two films running alternate years is a great idea. I hope that Paramount have someone working for them with your insight.

Here are the answers to the quiz I set in N/L 28:

- 1) "I am the Daughter of the Fifth House. Holder of the Sacred Chalice of Riix and heir to the Holy Rings of Betazed."
- 2) The ship that first found Data was the USS Tripoli.
- 3) Commander Quinteros was in charge of the team that put the Enterprise together.
- 4) Deanna Troi's father is Ian Andrew.
- 5) Data's record shows that he has been awarded the following decorations - Starfleet Command Decoration for Valour and Gallantry; Medal of Honour with Clusters; Legion of Honour; The Star Cross.
- 6) Rop'ngor is the Klingon version of measles.
- 7) Mot is the best barber in Starfleet.
- 8) Q's IQ is 2005.
- 9) Tin Man's real name is Gomtuu.
- 10) Robin Leiffer's Law 17 is When all else fails, do it yourself.

The winners of this quiz were a) Margot Sykes & b) Joanne Holden. The reason there were two is because they are the only two people who replied. For this reason I would not be prepared to organise another quiz for IDIC even though the proceeds would have gone to a worthy cause. I have sent off the relevant prizes to both Joanne and Margot (as there were only two replies, I thought they each should receive part of the prize) and I thank them for taking the time and trouble to reply.

Gary Heron - Falkirk

I was very sorry to hear that you are having to cut back on your zine production. Perhaps fans who have never read a zine

may feel prompted to try at least one so they can see what they are missing. I agree that with D59, TNG and OS there is far more merchandise available to part a fan from his/her money than ever before; I hope that zines will not be squeezed out entirely.

I'm surprised that there are a lot of IDIC members who do not read the Postbag - for me it has always been the most important part of the N/L and gives fans a chance to air their views and discuss any points of interest. It is particularly useful as it gives con committees an idea of what fans like and dislike at conventions.

To Chris Coxon - The Postbag should be for the discussion of any subject which arises from Star Trek. If a subject is raised which does not interest other fans then it will not elicit any response and no discussion will result. The sexism debate was of interest to many people and produced some very interesting letters. I assume that your reference to 'people who seem to be just itching to be called gay or lesbian' is in some way connected to the discussion of homophobia in general and the episode The Outcast in particular which has been taking place in the N/L over the last few issues. I would say that when a Trek episode is made to deal with a social issue then it is only natural for that issue and the episode's handling of it to be the subject of discussion among fans.

To Janet Quarton - I was very pleased to see your letter in the June issue of Satellite Times giving details and the address of IDIC. It was particularly fortuitous that this issue had a picture of Patrick Stewart on the cover and contained an interview with him. The more opportunities that are taken to advertise Star Trek fandom in mainstream publications the better. It is my experience, and that of many fans I have talked to, that the hardest part of becoming involved in fandom is getting the first contact. I hope that other people will copy your example and give as many Trek fans as possible the chance to become involved with organised fandom.

Brenda Allen - Canada

Thank you to Dawn Tittley for offering

to lend me some Make It So zines. I can't wait to read them! Anyone else out in IDIC land willing to lend/sell me any issues? Look for my ad.

To Margie Ferguson - Re rank pips. I DIDN'T write that no pip = Chief Warrant Officer! My inaugural card says that no pip = Midshipman (what is a Midshipman anyway?) Apparently my letter was edited contrary to what I actually wrote! *[Sheila - Sorry, but it wasn't. The list of uniform pips we printed in N/L 27 gave a single pip with a black centre (ie a half pip) as Chief Warrant Officer, and we didn't mention Midshipman. This was an oversight - we decided to use graphics to reproduce the pips, and since there was no pip for Midshipman, it got missed out.]*

To Vikki Tittley - Re Data in Yesterday's Enterprise. You said that Data wouldn't have been around if the Federation was at war, but what about Wesley? I know he's a genius, but would a teenager really be on the bridge, a non-commissioned officer at that? (Let's face it, Picard gave him the rank of Ensign as a gesture.) Comments, anyone?

To Paul Hulford - Re Stardate 9301.11 on mugs. I'm sure you realise that this this a hokey way of announcing the premier date of D59 (January 11 1993). I have seen this type of stardating used elsewhere, even in the advertising of the release date for STVI:TUC (9112.04).

Taruka Quauhtezcatl (the Bolivian Terrorist) - Preston

Anyone who was at the recent Leyland Festival would have been surprised to have seen a small group of Trekkers collecting money for charity. This was the 'Star Wreck Away Team' who came third in the fancy dress competition and comprised my friend Judith (a Bajoran), her brother Paul (a Borg), his friend Andy (Data) and me (a Klingon). Great fun, and we raised about £50. Should anyone in the general area of Preston/Leyland be daft enough to want our services we are available c/o Starship Ch'illik'utu, 8 Brook St, Higher Walton, Preston, Lancs PR5 4DU or on 0772 628773.

To William Marsh - Hey, don't tar us

all with the same brush! I'm 32 and the rest of the Away Team range from 12 to 16. I happen to find young people a refreshing change. Catch me at a con - if you can! Oh - and you mean to say you HAVEN'T seen Planet Earth or The Questor Tapes?

To Rebekah Owens - Re bimbos in lingering soft focus. Hey, what's wrong with them? I can usually recognise the actresses again later because of Jerry Finnerman's camera work - it's so distinctive. Mind you I wouldn't have minded a nice long shot of a certain blue-eyed, left-handed Texan actor in Birthright...

Bill Taylor, if it wasn't for your surname I'd send you a bomb. I know many intelligent women who have families. Though I'm not all that intelligent myself - so they keep telling me - your letter seemed infused with 'Machismo'. OK, you said you didn't like bimbos, but you seemed to be advocating them. (The rest of this comment has been censored on the grounds that it might further inflame the argument.)

To Alberto Gorin - A gentleman at last. Your sentiments re sexual assault taken to heart. If everyone thought like you the problem wouldn't exist. Trouble is, they don't.

To Tom Mann - I'd love to write to you re abbreviations. Being a part-time copy typist I get very annoyed with the things - it doesn't help that English (despite my accent) is not my maternal language, but then again the Spanish speaking world is just as bad - if not worse.

To Ann Peters - Thanks for the comment re my cartoon. I have this nasty habit of disguising my initials. Perhaps we should abandon the planet to the tribbles - they can't make more mess of it than we have!

To Karen Sparks - I'm not a great H/C reader myself, I don't see the point of much of it. Having said that it can be a very good way of letting off stray emotions - as I do by occasionally writing a H/C story for a friend.

Stardates - I gave up long ago!

This month's crop of tribbles are awarded to Helen White for the 'Typical Trek' cartoon and Michael Sadler (again) for the terrible 'hollow-deck' joke. (To qualify for one of Taruka's tribbles you have to make a REALLY bad joke, believe me!)

Dave Houston - Preston

Will I ever catch up on the last N/L? I doubt it. I can't quite get past N/L 26 for some strange, possibly Bolivian, reason...

Sheila, thanks for the enlightening conversation at Warp One. Now all I have to do is find out what the hell they call gigot chops in England...

Re the excision of the Postbag. That might give me something to read while the Terrorist races through the rest of the N/L.

K'Tan Vestai Kuragan - KAG Scotland

To Gratiene Vandekerckhove - Sorry, but you answered the wrong person. It wasn't me speaking about children on Starships (N/L 27) but Chris Bailey in the letter following mine.

Harvinder Singh - Southwick, Sunderland

To Ann Robertson & Stephen Wallwork - Re Picard and Data beaming down to Romulus (Unification) while the Klingon Bird of Prey was cloaked. This is my solution.

Remember STIV:TVH? When Kirk and his crew landed the Klingon Bird of Prey they left it by walking off via a staircase coming out of the ship, but when they went back onto the ship they had to beam back on (remembering that the Bird of Prey was cloaked all the time it was parked on Earth), so it must be possible to beam off and onto a cloaked Bird of Prey.

It is obvious that for ST VII there will be a new, beyond imaginable terror for the Enterprise to deal with rather than unfashionably dressed Romulans (no offence to Romulan lovers out there) or the Borg who you can put to sleep just like that (Tommy Cooper joke); then again Q could be in it, but

in the end he would dismiss the danger with a wave of his arm - what fun!

To Janet Quarton and all other ST fans. Since I heard about DS9 I have been eager to watch it. This is my story of what happened when I went to buy it on 7th June 1993 from my local HMV shop.

Captain's Log: Today I and the crew of the Enterprise (my imaginary crew, that is) were on a mission to buy the latest TNG tapes and the all-new DS9 pilot tape, Emissary. We were travelling at half impulse power, torpedoes armed, phasers on the ready, on red alert in case we were attacked by any Romulans or Cardassians or by any chance the Borg. Anyway, to cut a long story short, I bought the latest TNG tapes, had a look at the price of Emissary and got the hell out of there before the engine core exploded from shock.

Can you believe it? £34.99 for Emissary (both parts) on one tape, and another £34.99 for a second tape with Past Prologue and A Man Alone. All I can say is that either the powers to be are warped out of their minds or have been drinking too much of Mr Scott's whisky. Can somebody tell me why has DS9 been priced so high? [See CIC Videos in Latest Star Trek News.]

Keren Breen - Neath

To Lloyd Lewis - Nice to hear from you! I feel your comparison of Trek novels with assembly instructions for flat-pack furniture was a bit severe - I have had many hours of intellectual stimulation from trying to figure out which is screw Y and where exactly is grommet GG? Could this be partly attributable to Paramount's strict guidelines for authors, I ask myself.

To Ewan Chalmers - Thanks for making me go to Enterprise - The First Adventure to check out JTK's first captaincy - I haven't re-read it for a while. Two things, though - in the book he is *not* Captain of the Scoutship, but Commander (he wakes up from stasis to find himself promoted) and the novels are not 'official' Trek, however much we enjoy them. Same applies to Kevin Thomas re Worlds of the Federation - is that

the RPG handbook, by the way? (Oh, and you have the same name as my boss - you aren't writing under an Assumed Address, are you?)

Just for interest - one of the songs in this term's BBC schools radio programme Time and Tune is Star Trekkin'. My class already knew it. Can't imagine how!

I am in a *very* good mood with Sky One - not only the later seasons of TNG, but DS9 in due course! The Game was one of the best episodes I've seen, even if it was a rework of Invasion of the Body Snatchers. And am I alone in playing Spot the Voice? For example, LeVar Burton does the voice for Kwame in Captain Planet and Wil Wheaton played Martin Brishby in The Secret of NIMH. Any more?

Ann Peters - Kidderminster

I recently saw Avery Brooks as Hawk in Spenser for Hire and was amazed at how good he was. He really brought the character to life. Can this be the same actor who plays Sisko? In DS9 he is more like the token black than the star. I can only conclude that Sisko is entirely the wrong part for Mr Brooks.

Re Saltie - To Janet Quarton - No villains in Trek? Please elaborate - I'm intrigued. I called the thingy a monster for identification purposes, not through any prejudice as to its IQ. Intelligence is irrelevant anyway (as long as it couldn't develop space travel), but considering all those conversations - in Swahili too - I'd say it was intelligent. What would I have done? I would have left it on its planet with lots and lots of salt and made a sharp exit! The fact that Green was killed is no reason to destroy it - the rock monster in Devil in the Dark had killed, but it had good reason and the writers allowed it to live. Poor old Saltie wasn't so lucky though its motives were not dissimilar. I do agree, though, that Crater was largely to blame by failing to explain the situation. To Sheila Clark - If Saltie had needed anything other than salt, would it have survived on the salt Crater had been giving it or looked so longingly at that salt-cellar instead of at Janice? I think not.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Watch the scene where Data (as himself) chats with Bones in Encounter at Farpoint. That contraction doesn't sound like fast talking to me!

To Bill Taylor - Are you sure that intelligence is sex-linked? If it is not, then smart fathers would pass their intelligence on to some daughters as well as some sons, regardless of the mother's.

To Lloyd Lewis - The common ancestor we share with the apes would surely have been an ape too. Not one of the present-day apes, but an ape nonetheless.

To Ronald Reid - So Klingons evolved from dogs? That would certainly explain the death howl and the general growling that goes on, but I don't see that it explains the ridges on their foreheads. Please elaborate.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - I do agree with your analysis of The Apple. If Western culture is such a 'natural' and 'correct' thing, how come so many people are in therapy? It doesn't even work for us, let alone a people brought up on something else.

Re spores and paradise - To Kathleen Glancy - There is no need to see a sinister motive in the spores' benevolence. By keeping their hosts well and happy they were creating an environment in which to exist more fully than they could in their dormant spore state. That is quite enough to make the partnership worth their while. To Janet Quarton - I thought Chris Blenkarn's article was excellent and I do think we really should question the idea that progress is ALWAYS good. It wasn't so much the destruction of the spores that I object to, but to Kirk's attitude at the end. Wasn't that what Chris was saying too? 'Mankind must progress or stagnate' is a common cry, but it stems from a purely Western perspective and not all mankind would agree. There ARE tribes who live in balance with nature and I doubt they see themselves as stagnating. If there is more to life than reproduction, surely it is to be happy, and Spock did say he had been happy under the influence of the spores. Wouldn't most people prefer happy to

progress given the choice? And don't forget that Kirk was none too thrilled about 'progress' in What Are Little Girls Made Of. Even he stagnates occasionally!

Dejan Ladika - Slovenia

After seeing all the fourth and ten episodes of the fifth season of TNG I must say I enjoy it. My favourite fourth season episodes are Best of Both Worlds II, Remember Me, Legacy, QPid and Redemption. I missed the Ferengi episodes. My favourite non-Human species are the Romulans, so I find all the Romulan episodes excellent. The fifth season started with very good stories. Redemption II and Disaster are the best, and I like Unification. It doesn't have much action, but it is very peaceful, funny, and you can learn a lot about Romulans.

I don't think that Spock and Sarek's appearance saved it; they just made it better. I think that Data, Romulan Picard and Sela saved it. My favourite scene is when Data neck pinched Sela and her face is very funny. Ro was really refreshing. Guinan is excellent. TNG needs more women characters. If Lursa and B'Tor and the very powerful Sela weren't in Redemption I would think that in the world are only males.

ST VII - It's possible that the old crew and the new could work together. If the writers based the story on Yesterday's Enterprise everything is possible - even some dead characters (like David) could come back. There are two options, the old Enterprise in the time of the new, or the opposite. But I think that there will be no old characters in it - at least not Spock, because I read the talk with Leonard Nimoy and he said that Unification was his last appearance as Spock, and he really meant it.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth

To Bill Taylor - Your theory, I must admit, raised my hackles. After careful rereading, I can take your point, but I certainly don't agree with it. Such pessimism for the future is very sad, and to write off one third - or however many of us 'intelligent women' there are - of the population as a 'genetic accident' is plain idiotic. There is one

argument I would put forward to you: if it will be only the less intelligent females of our species propagating themselves then the gene pool'll narrow and the Human race'd die out anyway (Do I hear loud cheers from the ecologists among us? Heaven knows, it's a problem I've thrashed myself with for years.). There will be no evolution towards space, or new frontiers, because we'd be crippling ourselves by our own stupidity. And besides, who the hell said evolution was static? Is it finished because we've reached the pinnacle of our existence? Take a leaf out of the book regarding Dinosaurs - maybe we're about to become superseded and obsolete. No, what lies behind the non-acceptance of women with some basic smarts is SOCIETY, and it's that we need to change. Starting with our kids.

To Peter Poole - I know we've had this conversation a couple of times, but it is so good for there to be someone else who's spotted the serious lack of SF. I love Trek, don't get me wrong, but I despair, at times, with the lack of ideas and worse yet, the lack of development (you can write me a really long letter now telling me what else you think about my stuff.). Face of the Enemy is a truly excellent example. It was very good entertainment, but it was not SF. At least, not in my book.

To Sara Jackson (and Sheila) - What discerning and truly wonderful people you are. To spot the talent, the ability, the sheer prowess... and to wonder whether I can fit my head through the door...

To Lee Sansome - Having watched you drool your way through a semi-naked Kirkian episode and listened to the descriptions of golden torso, hazel eyes, bronzed skin... AAAGHH!!! Yes, you can be accused of lit(c)king male bimbos. No greater love hath any friend than to watch a mate dribble profusely, and suffer the still frames on the video!

To K'Tan Vestai Kuragan (better known as M.M.) - Yes, I have Klingon name. How much for the information (Ferengi mode)?

To Helen White - Missed Richard Arnold's talks, so thanks for the gen. As for what costume I'd like to wear if my figure was good...? One of those little (*little* being the operative word) numbers which abounded in the original series consisting of a length of lace curtain, plenty of glue and enormous amounts of will-power. But would I have the bottle to carry it off? Now *that's* another question...

By the by, Ann Peters is a very clever woman. I only understood the gist of her argument by searching through some rather dust-covered manuals left over from my abortive attempt at college. Still, this is one argument, I feel, which will never be resolved satisfactorily. I believe, however, that 'life' such as Data is an impossibility for many reasons. The foremost of them being that life is something God-given, otherwise strands of amino acids at the right time and place (and there are plenty on this old world of ours) would be 'alive' too. Call it a gut feeling if you like, but I don't think artificial lifeforms will ever exist outside of Humanity's imagination, or the covers of a book. Unless we are artificial too? And then we really do start to get into the realms of theology, and other esoteric theorems.

Philip Morley - Fleetwood, Lancs

Re Klingon vessels being able to transport whilst cloaked; of course they can. Remember STIV? The crew used the transporter several times whilst the Bird of Prey was cloaked on Earth.

To Steven Gibb - Further to why the Borg all appear to look Human, why do *most* of the intelligent life forms Starfleet encounter look humanoid - four limbs, a head, eyes ears and mouths in the relative same places as our own? Perhaps the Borg all appear humanoid because it is easier to identify the Borg as a species of humanoids with implants attached to them, rather than a life form that looks like a lump of plasticine that has been assimilated. It also may be only possible to assimilate life forms that are humanoid in design. I think Admiral Hansen was on board the USS Tolstoy and she was destroyed in The Best of Both Worlds, therefore it must be assumed he died.

To Vikki Tittley - Re Data being on the Enterprise in Yesterday's Enterprise. Why shouldn't he be there? You could argue that it is a big coincidence that there is the same crew (minus Worf, of course) in a different timeline under a totally different set of circumstances. For instance, why would Picard be on the Enterprise when surely he should be on the Stargazer, because as you said there would be no ships of exploration (which the Stargazer was) and so Picard would never have encountered the Ferengi, the Stargazer would not have been abandoned and therefore would still have been in service in the alternative timeline.

To Russell Witheyman - I like character crossovers. Do you not think it is a big coincidence that the Enterprise-D was sent to investigate the whereabouts of Spock, and then a year or two later it rescued Scotty. There must be over a thousand starships under the Federation, so the possibility of both these events happening to one ship is 1,000,000 to 1 (1000 x 1000). After all, we never see crewmembers from the Enterprise B or C appear on the D, as it would be irrelevant to the viewer.

I think the Oberth Class (the small science vessels) must be the most ill-fated ships in the Federation. The Grissom was destroyed in STIII, and then in TNG so was the Tsiolkovsky, the Vico and the Yosemite. Are they jinxed or what?

Margie Ferguson - South Shields

I like Edward Woo's idea of Shelby turning up as Captain of another ship - a lot! Someone should write that - a fan writer could probably do the best job! (Don't look at me - I find NG fiction very hard to write. Dr Who is a lot easier!)

Liz Tuckett - Laindon, Essex

With all the discussion and rumours about the DS9 character developments abounding at the moment, here is another ripple in the pond to think about. (Me? Stirring it up??)

If Dax is seen as a possible script-writers' let-out to change Federation personnel without too many character

changes (think about it carefully) then the Federation characters on DS9 itself could be seen as a whole to lack 'an edge' and the simplest way short of death is to change the Trill host and hey presto, instant new recipe and firmer structure, still without conflict. If I were Terry Farrell I would be wary - after all, Dr Who was written and developed to allow an almost seamless continuity of story but changes of actor! Also, since the science officer post seems to have about as much to do in terms of plot as the botany specialist, then the whole story area is ripe for a quick kickstart, from studio-writer viewpoint. Add to that my suspicious recall of Brent Spiner's projected withdrawal from TNG season 7 (or should I say lack of signing up). The comment that Guy Vardaman chose TNG because in Richard Arnold's words 'You can't work on TNG *and* DS9 because of the filming overlaps - would I be out of order to project Data transferring to DS9 on a more permanent basis, perhaps as commander and maybe even somehow acting as Trill host (see the comment he makes in The Host, season 4). Don't laugh - stranger things happen in Hollywood. Sometimes a whole way of life is created in the Trek world from one throwaway line. It depends on what they find to be suitable according to how they want the action/character aspect of DS9 to develop, and TNG fans to 'follow on'.

Really, if all else fails they could invite Susi Plakson back - Trek needs actresses of her presence and I'm sure another Dax host could be arranged? I'm not sure if Denise Crosby's agent could get her a look-in at the part; she is on all accounts keen on Trek if nothing else. Data deserves his own command, and Brent deserves another Trek role without the make-up if he wishes. Having seen Birthright I am won over to the Brent Spiner cause completely - and will freely admit I'm biased, but DS9 needs something before it becomes the Odo and Quark Show with those nice people from the Federation...

Thanks to everyone on wishing my recovery after my small op - next one is in August so keep on writing to IDIC - it's by far the greatest recovery tonic invented.

Lorraine Poole - Stenhousemuir

To Bill Taylor - re your theory that there will be no women in positions of authority in the 24th century. Hmm... I don't know, but I think I should feel faintly insulted by your assertion that only docile and less intelligent women have babies! I presume your idea comes from the 'March Of The Morons' theory of the 30's which postulated that 'less intelligent' people would outnumber the intelligentsia because 'intellectuals' have less children. Well, yes, there are a lot of morons around. There are also a lot of highly intelligent women who chose a career and children as well as those who chose either. As for the 'intelligent' men who will control the 24th century world, well someone had to pass on the intellectual genes and I'm damn sure it won't be only the men! Intelligent women don't necessarily avoid pregnancy because they have a better 'understanding' of the physical pain etc at the end. Pregnancy has to be experienced to be completely understood. I don't think intelligence has so much to do with family size as situation and upbringing. Your point was a tad too generalised, Bill; do an article and expand your theory.

To Tom Mann - I get confused by the differing abbreviations too, although I suspect their numbers have increased in order to save room. There was one letter a few N/Ls back that totally lost me as to the subject!

To Floranna Lomonci - I very much doubt if a romance between Troi and Picard would ever happen. Their relationship has to be close because Deanna's main job is to be the Captain's sounding board and supporting shoulder. They have become very good friends because of this support but a romance would destroy that bond and they are both too professional to do that.

Ann Neilson - Glasgow

To Helen White - re Klingons with girly hairstyles (N/L 28). Don't tell anyone I told you this, but at the recent 'Midsummer Trek' at Glasgow's MGM Film Centre certain individuals representing the Klingon Assault Group Scotland changed from their civvies into full battle regalia in the 'Klingon Lair'

aka the 'Ladies Toilets' to us Earthers. Apparently it had something to do with full length mirrors hmmmnnnn!

Re prices paid for signed photographs at cons. Surely if someone is happy to part with their own hard earned cash for such items it's really none of our business. I should like to point out that most of these photographs are donated by ST cast members (via Richard Arnold) for CHARITY AUCTIONS - as indeed was the case of the Brent Spiner photograph which went for £80 at Contagion '92. This plus other donated items helped us make £1,400 at the auction alone for the Scottish Sports Association for the Disabled - are we to grudge them this? I think that rather than throw our hands up in horror we should thank the individual who paid £80 - THANK YOU! There's nothing to stop anyone else either writing to the cast via the TV Studios or buying from Creation or any other licensed supplier.

And now - A PUBLIC APOLOGY TO WILLIAM SHATNER AND KIRK FANS (especially Linda Hannah if she's reading this). Over the years I have been .. ahem ... a little critical, okay okay, I have been VERY critical of both gentlemen. I confess that I have on numerous occasions mocked Shatner's acting ability and said all manner of nasty things about JTK. However, having recently indulged myself and binged on the entire 79 episodes of classic Trek plus all 6 films, I have been forced to review the situation and admit that a) Bill CAN act. and b) if my logical Vulcan would follow his Captain to the ends of the universe (and beyond) then so could I. Please, don't get emotional about this, fellow Spock fans, it's not heresy. After all it would be illogical, would it not, to deny the facts!! Sorry!

PS have you heard the one about Captain Kirk and the.... ooops, there I go again. It seems that some bad habits die hard!

Ingrid Smith - Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

To Edwin Yau - I was going to argue with your statement about women being just as responsible as men for messing up the world. then I thought of our last PM and decided not to!

To Judith Proctor - I liked ST V as well. I know this is going to be an unpopular statement but I much preferred it to ST VI (even with the holes in the plot). ST V was almost like an original Trek TV episode with all that wonderful character interaction. In many ways I wish that had been the last film with the original crew, instead of VI.

To Bill Taylor - I think you must have been in a very cynical mood when you wrote your letter about the future of women in general. I won't say too much, as I think you will have provoked a reaction from just about every female member of the club! But from this 'semi-docile' creature (I only have *one* child after all) I sincerely hope you're wrong!

Morag Phillips - Kilmarnock

ROSETTA PRODUCTIONS - The producers of the new Trek zine 'Let's See What's Out There...' would like to take this opportunity to explain the change in our press name from 'Empathy Press'.

Until January 1993 we were unaware of the existence of Empathy fan club. As soon as we became aware of that club's existence, we wrote to them regarding the coincidence of our names (unaware at that time that they also produced zines). However, we received no reply or acknowledgement of our letters and concluded (correctly) that the club was defunct and that we would be free to use it.

Five months after our letters to them, Empathy fan club (now calling itself Empathy Publications) wrote to us and suggested that we should change our name.

This we decided to do despite the fact that we were part of the way through a print run and had expended a large amount of time, money and effort in the production of artwork, logos, advertising and promotional material all including the 'Empathy Press' name; also despite the fact that by doing so we would seriously delay the launch of the zine (launched 3.7.93).

Our reason for changing our name, other than common courtesy, was in order to avoid being confused in any way with an

organisation that takes so long to respond to its correspondence.

We hope that this clears up any confusion which may have already arisen through the similarity of names and the sudden change of our name, and prevents any future confusion. All other details pertaining to the fanzine Let's See What's Out There... (ie contact addresses, persons involved, charity donations) all remain unchanged.

Questions

Jason Wells - Are there any members in the Stevenage area who would like to meet up to talk, etc, and maybe even start a Stevenage Local group? And how would you go about organising something like that?

David Cameron - I'm planning on starting a Science Fiction and Horror Society at University and was wondering if you could give suggestions as to what such a society can do on a regular basis (other than watch videos!)

Put an ad in local shops, University notice board, etc. The easiest thing to do is start small and hope to expand - plan to meet initially in someone's house or in a bar lounge and just talk; get to know each other; plan discussions on your subjects, maybe by dropping a controversial comment into a conversation - you don't have to believe it yourself, and you can drop out and listen to the others debating it. Be willing to expand the scope of discussion; anyone interested in Trek or SF will probably also be interested in astronomy. Keep things informal to start with and you'll be surprised how well they can go.

D Flack - I've heard a rumour that later in the year SKY One is going over to subscription only. Is this blackmail for Trekkers? Pay it or miss it! Is there any truth in this rumour? [*Janet: See Latest News.*]

Paul Nicholson - I have been searching for a Star Trek uniform for months, without any luck. I am after a Captain's uniform from seasons 5 & 6 of TNG. If you're lucky enough to have one, I beg you for info on where I could get one. Would I have to order it, and do you get the badge and pips with it?

Can you buy the uniform in separate parts, because I just want the jersey at the moment (but eventually the whole uniform, complete with phaser), and how much would it be?

Several groups have sold uniforms at cons, but for a uniform made to measure you could try Paul Curtis, Hightower Crafts, Clwt Melyn Pen Lwi, Newborough, Anglesey, Gwynedd LL61 6RS.

Stephen Daniels - I've seen the Classic Trek bloopers, but is there a TNG one available?

Season one TNG bloopers were available on video in America some years ago - pirated but on open sale with the tape made up with other items (various, depending on which dealer you bought it from). There was a second season set, but as far as we know this never reached the general public. For subsequent seasons no bloopers were compiled.

Harvinder Singh - Does anybody know how much an original videotape of ST:TMP, released in 1979, is worth?

Dejan Ladija - Is there any chance you can print some colour photos, or two or three colour pages in the newsletter

Sorry, we're afraid there isn't. Colour printing is very expensive.

Sally Goodwin - Can anyone tell me where I can obtain a cast list of non-speaking actors who appeared in the original series and

motion picture, and is there any kind of cast list for the animated episodes? I know many of the voices were provided by James Doohan, Majel Barrett and Nichelle Nichols. but I don't know who played which character.

Star Trek Concordance will give you most of the information you are after. It is out of print but Bjo hopes to reprint it and we'll let you know when it is available. In the meantime you could try advertising for a second-hand copy.

I have two dates for the US airdate for THE CAGE - 8/9/87 and 8/9/91. Does anyone know which date is correct, or could it have been shown on both these dates?

Who did the voices for the Providers in Gamesters of Triskelion?

I read in The Star Trek Compendium that Malachi Throne did the voice of the Keeper in The Cage/Menagerie, but did he also do the voices of the other Talosians?

Can You Help?

D Flack - I am currently struggling with the Star Trek 25th Anniversary computer game, stuck in the 'Alpha Proxima III' level. I need the access code to open the door. Can anybody help me, please?

WARP ONE

RICHARD ARNOLD AND CHAS EVANS

Edited talks by Helen White and Karen Sparks

RICHARD ARNOLD

"MIKE WESTMORE GIVES GOOD FOREHEAD...."

On Saturday Richard gave a slide show of 6th Season TNG and answered questions. For each episode he read out the writing credits but I have not listed them here; those details may be found in various publications.

"Realm of Fear" - the first episode

written by Brannon Braga, who Richard described as their resident psychotic! He has fears of flying, heights, enclosed spaces - so any future episodes featuring nightmares, phobias, etc. will probably have been written by him!

"Man of the People" - this was the first time Richard mentioned the financial strain that DS9 put on the TNG budget, especially in the early days. One example was Marina's old age make-up in this episode being recycled from Patrick's old make-up from

"Inner Light" so Troi aged about 50 years too much! Another example was given by Marina in her talk that for a period she only had one regulation uniform, so if anything happened to it (as when a nervous extra spilled a glass of water over it in "Second Chances") production had to wait while it was laundered.

"Relics" - the shuttlecraft (which as Richard pointed out, was given away rather casually) was named after the space pioneer Robert Goddard. Whoopi was meant to be in the scene with Scotty in Ten Forward - Scotty was to have said, "I've been drinking whisky since before you were born," and Guinan was to reply, "I doubt that!" Everyone came to pose with Jimmy Doohan on the old Enterprise bridge set.

"Schisms" - gave Mike Westmore a chance to create some interesting aliens. (Here came the unforgettable quote I used as a title!) Jonathan kept falling asleep under the hot lights during filming.

"A Fistful of Datas" - was more violent and less comedic in the original draft. This episode was directed by an Englishman (Patrick) and written by Brannon Braga who'd never even seen a western - as Richard said, the last two people who should have been involved in making a Western! The episode was filmed on Warner Brothers' Western town on Burbank.

"Chain of Command" - a very dark, heavy story which received a great deal of press. Patrick (and I think other cast members) watched Amnesty International tapes to gain some understanding of the effects of torture which can only have been very distressing. Picard's costume was cut off him, and he was meant to have remained nude for the rest of the episode. He was also never referred to by name. Richard expressed a personal objection to this story, along the lines of Star Trek was never meant to promote political groups (apologies for the inaccuracy of this quote; I believe this was the gist of what he meant although I didn't record his exact words). David Warner appeared as a Cardassian and now rivals Mark Lenard as appearing as 3 different

aliens in Trek (STV and VI).

"Ship in a Bottle" - for which Paramount finally settled their dispute with the Conan Doyle estate.

"Lessons" - a classic Mary-Sue story about which Richard expressed unreserved disgust, saying they have no right to call this Trek. Picard becomes utterly besotted with this accomplished, beautiful, clever (etc.) female - totally out of character.

"Second Chances" - TNG's 150th episode, directed by LeVar Burton. Once upon a time...there was a planet where storms raged so violently that for only 3 months in every 8 years could the surface be visited. The Enterprise discovers Lt. Riker, unknowingly created by a transporter glitch when Riker barely escaped with his life on a previous visit.

"Descent" - cliffhanger 2-part Borg story, to be concluded in first episode of Season 7. Features a teaser cameo appearance by Dr Stephen Hawking as himself, playing a poker game with Einstein. Newton and Data - and Dr Hawking gets all the best lines! He was visiting the Paramount lot, where a film is being made of his "A Brief History of Time". He insisted on being lifted out of his wheelchair to be photographed in the captain's chair.

Asked about Star Trek VII, Richard explained this will not be about the original cast - it will be essentially a TNG movie, which may feature guest appearances by Shatner, Nimoy and Kelley, although they have not yet been signed for it. The script is currently being written by Ron Moore and Brannon Braga (both under 30 years old!) in Hawaii. In fact Patrick is the only actor so far to be signed for the 7th season, although as Marina was in the very last shot of "Descent" Part 1 with him, she reckons she is safe! Season 7 will be shot from June '93 to February '94, with only 2 days off for Christmas/New Year, instead of the usual July to April with 2 weeks off. This is in order for filming on the movie to begin in March 1994.

Patrick is currently working for Sky TV in the UK. Asked about possible UK con appearances, Richard said he is in an exclusive contract with Creation Con. His appearance here at UFP '88 was done as a "political favour".

On the merchandise front Richard mentioned a new boxed set of films to be released in the States, containing holograms of each film's starring ship, at a cost of around \$200 - \$250. Gene's novel of his script "The God Thing" is ready for publication but Pocket Books apparently want to rewrite parts of it - quite rightly this is being fought by everyone - you don't change Gene's Star Trek.

Asked about Bill Theiss' death from AIDS, Richard told us that Gene knew about his HIV status when he hired him for TNG. Gene simply asked him, "Can you handle it?", and when Theiss said yes, Gene made sure he was hired over the objections of the studio. I think that says a lot about Trek's creator.

DEEP SPACE NINE INFO (Saturday and Sunday)

NB: There's no point putting spoiler alerts in here because it would about double the length of the report, so I haven't! Also, I have no way of checking most of the spellings of names etc, so I'm afraid that I've had to guess, and my hearing isn't wonderful, so don't be surprised if the correct name turns out to be rather different!

Firstly, a few snippets from Saturday's talk, which was mainly TNG and is reported elsewhere:

Scott MacDonald, who played the Tosq in Captive Pursuit (DS9 ep), also played a Romulan in Face of the Enemy (TNG ep); he was given the part to make up for the huge amount of makeup that he needed for the Tosq.

A couple of questions: Bajorans all seem to wear their earrings on their right ear - why does Kira wear hers on the left? "She's a lesbian!" The real reason is that there's a

different hair and makeup team working on DS9; it's lack of continuity, even though Michael Westmore is still in overall charge. Richard said that the earrings constantly pinch, to keep the Bajorans in touch with the Par; he said that perhaps the right ear is for the Par and the left for the Mar!

How many seasons of DS9 will there be? All the cast have seven-year contracts, and as DS9's ratings are excellent - it's in the top ten of all syndicated shows (not just sci-fi) - it probably will go for that long.

On to Sunday, which was a DS9 slideshow; the question and answer session mostly concerned DS9 too. There weren't many people in the hall who'd seen no DS9: the last episode aired in the US was Battlelines.

(Past Prologue) All the episodes were shown in production order in the US except for Past Prologue and A Man Alone, which were shown back-to-front. Lursa and B'Etor are back in this episode, and Leonard Nimoy's wife Susan Bay appears also.

(The Storyteller) This story involves negotiations between various Bajoran factions; in one, there is an old chap known as the Sirrar who tells a story to an approaching storm in order to deflect it, aided by the local villagers. He dies, and the person that he selects to replace him is O'Brien....

(Progress) Nog and Jake Sisko go into business together! Something is happening down on Bajor that means a farm must be destroyed; Major Kira is taken hostage by the farmers and ends up being shown how she's changed since she went to DS9.

(If Wishes Were Horses) A Shoreleave-type episode. There's an apparent malfunction aboard and people suddenly find that the things that they think about appear, including a bunch of emus! As well as this, a rift appears in space and DS9 is being drawn into it. Molly O'Brien suddenly jumped in age; she's now three years old. This is due to the fact that she had dialogue in Rascals (the TNG ep); the studio thought that viewers

wouldn't notice'.

(The Forsaken) Lwaxana is back. She has a run-in with Quark and mystifies Bashir. One of Michael Okuda's 'joke graphics'; there's a notice in Quark's bar about which credit cards can be accepted. These include Federation, Klingon, Romulans, Cardassians, Ferengi and.... The Man From UNCLE!

(Dramatis Personae) The DS9 crew mutiny against Sisko, and Odo freaks out.

(Duet) Kira is assigned to protect a Cardassian war criminal; he is stabbed (not by her).

(In the Hands of the Prophets) The Bajoran Kai are upset because Keiko has been teaching the DS9 children 'heresy'; ie the scientific information pertaining to the wormhole, rather than the Bajoran religious information.

After the slides was the question and answer session:

Is 'Major' (Kira) a name or a rank? It's a rank; Kira was a major in the Bajoran underground and kept her rank when she joined DS9.

Does Richard think that DS9 is true to Gene's view of Trek? He thinks that it wasn't at first, but it's now getting there; they (I'm not sure whether this means Rick Berman and Michael Piller or the studio) found that it didn't work being 'dark and gritty'. It's been described in the US as 'Star Trek with PMT'! Richard said that he was cross that Sisko had been allowed by Starfleet to bottle up all those feelings about his wife and towards Picard; why hadn't a medic spotted the problem? Why did Picard sit there and allow Sisko to speak to him like that? Richard said that he felt that Starfleet personnel would be better controlled than to go arguing all over the place, too. Apparently Michael Piller had been complaining for years how hard it was to write for ST; yet now they're beginning to bring back proper 'Gene-type stuff'. After the pilot aired the ratings began to drop, so there had to be a rethink.

Is there any chance of seeing 'old' aliens on the show? (eg Andorians) Why? It's like Christopher Columbus sailing west and expecting to find Spaniards, Italians etc. DS9 is situated on the opposite side of the galaxy to that explored by the original Enterprise; Gene always said that you can't treat space as a neighbourhood. The ship returns to Earth too often in TNG, really; it's on a fifteen year mission and shouldn't be able to get back so easily.

Richard says that Colm Meaney is very funny and that we should have him over to a con.

MONDAY TALK (ORIGINAL TREK)

Richard had two and a half hours to fill on the Monday, owing to the fact that the schedule listed himself followed by a guest panel, and he was the only remaining guest!

Richard began by saying that he couldn't imagine what he was going to talk about for two hours; what did we want him to talk about? We clamoured for 'secrets'; he told us that that was 'dangerous territory', especially if he were to talk about Michael Dorn! He told us that Brent is an innocent. Someone in the audience shouted a question as to whether Brent is married; "I don't think even he knows!" said Richard. Every once in a while Brent shocks the TNG team by saying, when invited out for the evening, that he'll have to get a babysitter in.... No, he's actually not married, and "I don't even know if he's really fully functional!"

Someone said that Marina had told us to ask him about Arthur Cohen. Arthur Cohen, it turns out, is the person who had Richard sacked. He had had major battles with Gene over Trek merchandising for a year before Gene's death - Gene wanted to keep things as accurate as possible, and Arthur felt that this was 'interference'. Once Gene died, Richard found himself on a 'hitlist', along with Guy Vardaman, and in spite of three other divisions saying that the Star Trek Office was needed, Cohen won. Luckily Richard caught sight of some minutes from a meeting - "Arthur Cohen wants Richard Arnold gone NOW" - and that

gave him grounds for his fight against Paramount. Apparently Cohen "has a temper" and Richard thinks that it must be hard for him to accept that Richard is still working at Paramount, now as a paid consultant. He sees Cohen occasionally "and he's livid when he sees me."

Has Richard's mother moved in with his sister yet? No, she's actually left LA and is now living in St Louis; she's bought a house. (Richard's mother left England in 1939 at the age of twelve.) She's been in hospital for "gallstones or something" and also needs a hip replacement in summer and St Louis is "very, very hot"; otherwise she's fine.

Richard offered to tell us about the project that he's working on at the moment. He's helping with the repackaging of all the Original Series videos (in the US); the blurb on the boxes will be replaced with a short synopsis plus some (new as far as possible) trivia about the episode concerned. Richard has been talking to all sorts of people for the project, including Herb Solow who used to be Gene's boss. The following are various snippets that Richard has come up with.

(The Cage) Meg Wylie (The Keeper) still drives the car that she bought with her Cage money. She remembered having trouble with the hoses in her costume; said hoses ran down her back from under her 'head', and Bob Justman blew air through the hoses to make the veins pulsate!

(Where No Man Has Gone Before) Bob Justman still has the silver contact lenses used in this episode.

((Balance of Terror) This was Mark Lenard's first Hollywood job.

(What Are Little Girls Made Of?) Sherry Jackson (Andrea) remembered that it was very cold while they were filming this episode, and bits of her anatomy kept reacting; she had to have bandaids put over her nipples to stop the censors from going berserk!

(The Menagerie) Sean Kenney (Pike)

had black hair at the time; it had to be bleached completely white for Pike. One day he was late for work and a police officer pulled him over for speeding, then refused to believe that it was really his driving licence because he looked so different! He had to call Paramount for confirmation....

(Shoreleave) Perry Lopez (Rodriguez) only remembered problems with the animals; they had an elephant which never made it into the episode because it wouldn't behave, and the tiger - which we do see - had to be chained in some scenes because it wanted to play!

(The Squire of Gothos) Bill Campbell (Trelane) was on holiday when Richard went to talk to him, but Mrs C was able to tell him a story of when Captain Kirk came to call: around the time of Tribbles, which Bill Campbell was also in, Bill Shatner, who lived close-by, said that he'd come round. Bill C then told all the local children that 'Captain Kirk' was coming for a visit. Come the day, and there was a knock at Bill C's door; there stood Bill S, without his toupee - "who are you?" As soon as he spoke, of course, Bill C knew who it was; and Bill S then put on the toupee and went out to see the children, telling them that he'd just beamed in!

(Return of the Archons) If you unscramble some of the names in this episode you get people's names; David Alexander (Gene's biographer) has been trying to pin down who these people were.

(Space Seed) Ricardo Montalban (Khan) has a real soft spot for Trek. He was working on The Colbys during the filming of TNG; Gene, Susan Sackett and Richard all used to take a short cut through the Colbys sets to get to work. Gene commented on how lovely the Colbys sets were; Ricardo's answer - "I'll trade you two of these for one Enterprise!"

((The Devil in the Dark) When Janos Prohaska created the Horta costume, he demonstrated it by placing a rubber chicken out on the sidewalk, then shuffling over it and leaving chicken bones behind! Richard also told us a story which anyone that's seen

the video of Bill and Leonard at the 25th Anniversary Creation con will know: During filming, Bill's father died, and he had to leave for a while to attend the funeral etc. Meanwhile, the director shot all of Leonard's 'mind-meld' close-ups; when Bill returned, he felt that he had to prove that he was 'the same old Bill', and asked Leonard to show him what he'd done. Leonard told him; "no," said Bill, "I need you to show me so that I know exactly how to react." After a little more persuasion, Leonard agreed to demonstrate, and got down on the floor; "Pain! Pain!" etc. Bill's response to this? "Somebody get that man an aspirin!"

The Universal Translator was 'created' in this episode, although the same prop was used in *Arena*.

(Friday's Child) Julie Newmar (Eleen) towered over the Big Three, so she wore flat slippers in this episode.

(Who Mourns For Adonais) Jon Voigt was the original choice for Apollo; Bill Theiss had been to New York and saw him in Li'l Abner. Unfortunately the studio wouldn't pay for him to be flown in. Lesley Parrish (Carolyn Palamas), who loved Gene dearly, is married to the author of Jonathan Livingston Seagull. When she was playing Palamas, her costume had to be glued to her bosom; Leslie has very sensitive skin, so the glueing had to be in different spots each time (ow).

(Amok Time) Lawrence Montaigne (Stonn) refused to have anything to do with Richard's project - as did a few other actors - which he thinks is because of Paramount previously not asking for permission to use said actors' images; Richard and Guy (Vardaman) were always very careful about asking. Of all the Trek guests, the one who irritates Richard most is Arlene Martel, now known as Tasha Martel (T'Pol). According to her, T'Pol is the most pivotal role in the whole of Star Trek. She apparently thinks that she should be paid as much money as the main cast for con appearances, be in TNG, etc etc! She has actually done a few cons but seems to be very bitter about the whole thing.

(The Doomsday Machine) For the shuttle scenes, William Windom (Commodore Decker) was in a 'box' (a cutaway of the shuttle interior) looking at nothing; the director explained what was supposed to be happening - the shuttle is approaching the planet-killer, entering its mouth, you're going to die etc etc - and asked him to produce a range of suitable expressions, building up to a death scream. He managed to do it in one take, even with nothing to react to, and the director just selected the bits that he wanted.

(Wolf in the Fold) Charles Macaulay (Jarvis) was shooting for this episode when Cassius Clay came along to watch the filming. He saw Charles dressed in his costume of a long robe, with a strange hairstyle and a beard, and said, "Hello, Reverend." Fifteen years later Charles was working on a film when Muhammed Ali - as he now was - came to watch again. Even without the robe, the makeup or the hairstyle he recognised Charles as the 'Reverend'. Richard said that he was 'flap aghast' by this; we all shouted that it's 'flabbergasted'. He agreed that it is that now but said that he'd found a 1700s slang dictionary and it listed 'flap aghast', so there you are! Incidentally, he said that the introduction explained the presence of the dictionary as being "so young men can discuss such things as 'twiddlediddles' (use your imagination....) without upsetting young ladies."

(The Apple) David Soul was in this episode as Makora; he's quite proud of it.

(Mirror, Mirror) For the 'side to side' sequence of the Enterprise during the ion storm, two models were used; the 11 foot one and the four foot one. Richard was able to surmise which was which because the 11 foot model had a hole in one side for the lighting cables. The latter was also the one that was presented to the Smithsonian; the hole was filled in by then.

(I, Mudd) Kay Elliott (Stella) has died, but her husband told Richard that it was her favourite role of all that she'd done. Roger C Carmel (Mudd) has also died, but Richard had a good story about him: he was at a con

in Kansas City judging the fancy dress, when Richard's mother came on dressed as Stella and started with "Harcourt Fenton Mudd..." etc. Someone in the audience then stood up, dressed exactly the same, and, "Harcourt Fenton Mudd..." By the time sixteen Stellas had appeared and were closing in on Roger he was rolling around on the floor gasping for breath! They won.

(The Trouble with Tribbles) Richard tried to get hold of Whit Bissell (Mr Lurry) and was told that he had died. When he rang back later to find out who was controlling the estate, the person who answered the phone asked whether he wanted to speak to Mr Bissell....

(Bread and Circuses) Rhodes Reason (Flavius) is the younger brother of Rex Reason. In the late 70s/ early 80s he was playing Daddy Warbucks in Annie, and had, as the role demands, a shaved head. He was out shopping and a couple of young people approached him; "Are you Rhodes Reason?" He agreed that he was, thinking that they'd seen him in Annie: "We loved you in Star Trek!" Ian Wolfe (Septimus) had been in films since the silent era.

(The Immunity Syndrome) Eddie Egan (publicist for STII, III and IV) was sitting with Bill Shatner in a hotel room while he was watching this episode; Bill was really shattered because he didn't remember anything about filming that particular show. It wasn't until about six months later that he was told by Richard that there was nothing very memorable in the episode for Kirk; no guest stars, no 'bimbo of the week', and the giant amoeba was matted in during post-production. This made Bill feel much better.

(A Piece of the Action) Lee Delano (Kalo) is Sid Caesar's 'heckler'; it's his job to travel around with Sid and create 'trouble' from his place in the audience.

(By Any Other Name) This was the first episode containing aliens from outside our galaxy (in Catspaw, Spock speculated that Korob and Sylvia weren't from our galaxy). Richard said that Forbidden Planet was a great influence on Gene.

(The Ultimate Computer) The 'Daystrom Institute' is mentioned a lot on TNG. William Marshall (Daystrom) went on to play Blackula. He'd like to do another Star Trek episode. Richard reported that a lot of the Trek actors said that they have wonderful memories of fan response to their performance; Jane Wyatt (Amanda) once said that in all her (over seventy) years in the film business, more people recognise her for her part in Star Trek than anything else.

(The Omega Glory) Gene was very angry with the situation in Vietnam. At the end of the episode, when Spock 'hypnotises' the girl to pick up the communicator, you can hear, "at the sound of the tone, the time will be..." when she flicks it open, if the sound on your television is good enough.

(Spock's Brain) Creation sent out letters to all of the Trek guests for their 25th Anniversary con; Marj Dusay (Kara) agreed to appear. Richard was, luckily, escorting her; she didn't know that Spock's Brain is generally considered the worst Trek episode, so he explained to her. She went out onto the stage and said that she'd just been told that 'her' episode was a bad one, and the audience all agreed with her; she then got on fine!

(The Empath) (In answer to an audience question) Kathryn Hayes (Gem) isn't deaf; she's an excellent mime.

(Plato's Stepchildren) Liam Sullivan (Parmen) had previously done an episode of Bonanza with Bill Shatner. He remembered Plato's Stepchildren very clearly; he said that the actors obviously knew that the show was in its final season and tended to goof around a lot, especially Bill... Liam remembered the famous kiss (Kirk and Uhura); there were studio executives on the set to watch the filming because they were completely paranoid about audience reaction. The kiss was filmed from two angles; on one, Bill and Nichelle actually kissed, and on the other the camera angle made it look as if they were kissing. The shot actually used was the non-touching one. Liam also remembered that Michael Dunn (Alexander) had great difficulty walking and was in terrible pain all the time; the director had him running and

jumping about all over the place and he never once complained. Michael Dunn has died.

(Requiem for Methuselah) The piano used in this episode was also used in many period films, plus Citizen Kane and a lot of Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire films. It went up for auction a few years ago at Christies in New York; what put the price up high was that Leonard Nimoy played it in this episode of Trek!

Richard then moved on to the films and answered some questions:

In STIV when the Bird of Prey lands in San Francisco Bay and the hatch is blown, we can see the wall of the sound stage through the 'hole' in the ship. No you can't; it's the wall of the passage to the exit, which is a bit like a Jeffries tube.

In STIII Spock and Saavik are down on the planet, with no Klingons about. Why do we see a Klingon falling from a tree? "He was spying on them!" It's actually just poor editing. Someone in the audience shouted that they thought he was scrumping for apples!

Was there a blooper reel for STIV? All the films had a blooper reel, but the fans will never see them. Richard's favourite is the one from STV: as well as the usual collection of f- and s- words, it has McCoy looking up at El Capitan through his 'binoculars' - "Damn irresponsible stuntman...." When the turbolift arrives at the Bridge and the door sticks, the "Doesn't anything work on this ship?" was actually an ad lib; the blooper reel has this scene on it because Leonard was goofing around behind Bill. The best bit was based on the liftshaft scene; they made a giant 'mallet' and got people to 'hit' the base of the shaft. This was intercut with footage of the Big Three zooming up the shaft; thus making a giant 'test your strength' machine. After various people had had a go it was the turn of John Dwyer, who is a 6'8" sethand. He hit the base with the 'mallet', up went the Big Three, and at the top Bill produced a little bell and tapped it with a hammer - "ting!" Richard said that he's very lucky; he's been at

all the wrap parties.

Will we ever see the Captain's yacht? Richard doesn't think so; it would mean building at least two miniatures plus at least one interior set, as well as having to modify the model of the Enterprise, and it would cost three to four hundred dollars just to do all that, before you even start filming; why bother, when they've already got the shuttles?

Can we get to see the sets? No! Even people at Paramount can't visit the sets unless they're a senior vice-president or higher, and even then they have to have a good reason and to request permission. TNG and DS9 are the most popular shows in production at the moment; besides which, they have to be careful about security - someone once stole the Captain's chair!

That was the end of Richard's talk; he said that he'd thought that he'd never be able to fill all that time. He thanked everybody for being so patient and said that he appreciated our attention.

CHAS EVANS

"WE HAVE NO STARS, NO SCRIPT, BUT WE ARE GOING TO MAKE A FILM"

Chas Evans is Creative Services Manager for UIP (Paramount, Universal and MGM), formerly of CIC. 'Star Trek VII' - Chas showed a promotional trailer consisting of a compilation of brief shots from classic Trek, and the narrator spoke of "a new breed of heroes". Chas said the Trek films so far have grossed \$600m, and they are committed to a major picture release (in the States) at Christmas '94.

Chas told us that his former job at CIC has been taken over by Andrew Hinton, who knew nothing about Trek when he started, but has made it his business to learn a lot in a short time! He has been working with Richard Arnold and Stuart Clark to design packaging for DS9 video releases - the pilot of which will include extra footage. On 19.07.93 a numbered, limited edition of

"Emissary" will be released in a laminated card box for £12.99, including an 8 page booklet with cast biographies, etc. A standard copy will be released in August '93 to begin the series. Successive releases will feature one character on the cover with their biography on the back. When filed side by side, the pictures on the spine will make a map of the Trek universe. This image has been produced by a top designer - CIC are now putting money into Trek to get it right.

Episodes will probably be released in US broadcast order.

When asked about the poor quality of the insert for the boxed set of Trek films, Chas explained that US artwork had to be used which was designed for their different sized boxes. Chas stressed that if people want anything released on video, it is always worth writing to CIC - they do listen to people and take their ideas seriously.

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MARINA SIRTIS INTERVIEW

Some questions asked of Marina Sirtis at Creation Con in Fresno, 23/5/93

from Zorch Frezberg on FNET Start Trek Fans intl.

This is a very edited report - we've printed the questions not asked at Warp One which we thought you would find interesting.

HAVE YOU BEEN IN MICHAEL DORN'S JET, AND IF SO, WHAT MANOEUVRES DID HE PULL IN IT?

Dorn's jet is a military two-seater with no bathroom, so she avoids it; she has been in his propeller-driven plane. Paramount has nervous fits whenever anyone from the show flies with Dorn; at one point, they went to a restaurant on the California coast, called someone at Paramount, and told them 'Michael just flew us up here, and is going to fly us all back.'

Dorn plays Worf as if there is a relationship; Sirtis said Troi's reaction to this would be "In your dreams, turtlehead!"

WHY HAVEN'T YOU DONE ANY AUDIO BOOKS YET?

Because no one has asked...she thinks it may be as a result of someone thinking she sounds 'too foreign'.

Someone in the audience pointed out that IMZADI was done by Jonathan Frakes doing her parts in a high falsetto; she said she hadn't heard the tapes yet, but now definitely had to get it!

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT?

It has to be "The Goddess of Empathy", she relates. She played the role, as she put it, doing 'bad acting'...then she saw the dailies and regretted that decision.

To this day, whenever the role calls for her to 'emote', the cast usually yell out "Do the Goddess of Empathy!!! Do the Goddess of Empathy!!!"

WHAT WAS IT LIKE PLAYING A ROMULAN?

"I LOVED IT!" What was even more fascinating, she said, was that when she was done with her Romulan scenes, the camera would stop and the stage crew just stood there with their jaws slack and mouths hanging open in shock.

She says that she has renamed Romulus to the "Bad Hair, Bad Clothes Planet."

Huge shoulder pads that serve no purpose, wearing Wellingtons indoors, and just plain ugly clothes...have these people no fashion sense?

One thing she has noted, however, is that people ask her about her hair on the show. It is all sets of wigs. However, she is surprised

to note that there are 'hair replicators' on board the Enterprise that people stick their heads into...this is the only way to explain how Deanna went from the Romulan hair-do in "Face of the Enemy" to her normal hairstyle in the very next scene.

WHAT'S MAJEL LIKE?

Majel and Rod [Gene Roddenberry Jr.] are her family away from England. They celebrated Christmas together, and are just as close as real family.

Majel, she points out, is "constantly pinching Jonathan Frakes' bum." Also, it's hard to keep clothes on Majel during her Lwaxana Troi roles. While she is pretty much of an exhibitionist herself, Marina stated that when the mud bath scene was being shot, Majel was out of her clothes and into the hot mud before anyone else.

WHAT'S YOUR RELATIONSHIP TO JONATHAN FRAKES?

He's a good friend, as is all the cast. Amongst them all, her best friend would be Michael Dorn, with both Brent Spiner and Jonathan Frakes being second.

Her favourite interests are in a charity known as "Last Chance for Animals", a group which breaks into research labs and releases animals from cages, as well as other humane society groups.

With the rest of the cast, she says she stopped trying to play matchmaker for Spiner and Dorn. She said she stopped with Brent no reason given], and might be stopping with Michael, after she received a call from him. He was one of the judges for the Miss Universe Pageant in Mexico city, and called her at home to say "I've died, and I've gone to Heaven."

HOW HARD IS IT WORKING ON THE SHOW?

It depends, she said, on what is involved.

For "Face of the Enemy", where she was the star, she worked 16-18 hour days for 7 days

straight. In a show where she has only a line or two, only about three hours for the whole of the episode being filmed.

WILL YOU BE DOING ANY SINGING?

Not likely...the only people in the cast who can sing are Brent Spiner and Jonathan Frakes; Michael Dorn and Patrick Stewart *think* they can sing, and she's not sure about LeVar Burton. Gates McFadden can 'sort of' sing, usually songs she makes up for herself about her cat.

She recommends that at any convention Gates McFadden is in, ask her to sing one of her cat songs.

WILL TNG WIN ANY EMMIES?

Not likely...the nominating committees are made up of members from the Big Three networks and Fox, and STTNG is a syndicated program. Because of that, the nominations for STTNG never make it out of the preliminaries because the committees are trying to promote their own shows from their own networks.

She relates that there is no better actor than Patrick Stewart on American television today, but will never be recognized because of this situation.

"It's a disgusting situation, but it won't change."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF PATRICK STEWART?

He is the sexiest man she knows on the set and over everyone else. He is the most physically fit, and despite his age, has a magnetism about him that most men don't have.

WILL YOU SING WITH BRENT SPINER?

She has no plans to do so. She also points out that Spiner lost a lot of money on the album "Old Yellow Eyes is Back", due to a bad distribution deal with the company.

He might do another album, but not until he

gets over the last one.

HOW DID SHE GET HER NICKNAME FROM "POWER PLAY"?

Because the three of them (herself, Brent Spiner and Colm Meany) were supposed to be 'other' people in the episode, they began calling each other by 1930s gangster/tough guy names. Spiner was "Buzz", Meany was "Slasher", and she was "Slugger"...which Spiner started calling her "Sluggo", which she said "made me sound like a bad drain cleaner."

WHERE DO YOU FILM ALL THE SCENES?

Most of the scenes are shot on the Paramount sets and lot, about 99% of the time. Those times that they do go on location, it isn't fun at all; it seems as though they chose only the hottest days of the year to do all of the location shots.

WHO IS THE MOST INTELLIGENT PERSON ON THE SET?

She would have to say that it was Brent Spiner, despite his unique education history. [??? This is a story that she didn't detail. -sf-]

She related that Spiner is the most articulate person on the cast.

This related to the other people as well, since she felt that the character of K'eyhlar was very good, and that the producers made a very bad mistake in killing her off. She said that the 'chemistry' between Michael Dorn and Suzie Plakson acting was fabulous, and

that's what helped to carry off their roles a lot better than anyone expected.

WHAT EFFECT DID GENE RODDENBERRY'S DEATH HAVE ON YOU?

She felt a tremendous personal loss...Gene was like her father and you never get over your father dying. Since his illness, he hadn't been on the sets much since the second season, so there was no 'big transition' from him to the new producers, but her biggest concern is that the new producers are doing things on the show that Roddenberry would never have allowed.

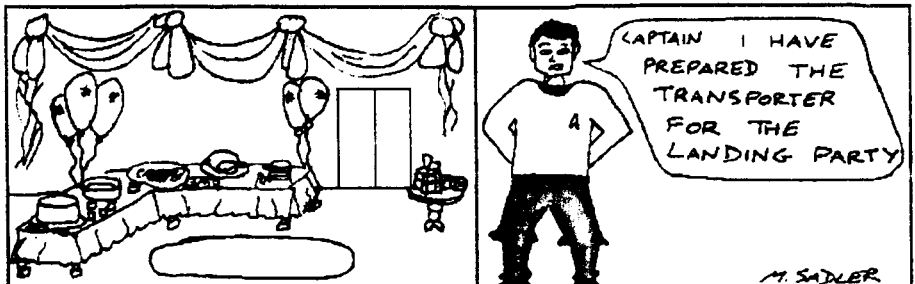
She gave two examples:

"The Masterpiece Society": The line that Riker uttered--"They're Human, the Prime Directive doesn't apply." This was in direct contradiction to everything that the Prime Directive meant to Gene, and Patrick Stewart refused to say it. The line was given to Frakes after Stewart's refusal.

"Birthright, Part II": The carcass used was of a skinned baby lamb. Not only was it against all previously established material (that no one in the 24th Century ate meat), but Michael Dorn was also upset with the use of a dead animal as a prop.

She has concerns that Star Trek may not be changing for the better under the new producers; the promotion that DS9 would be a grittier and darker version of the Federation seems to have been happening on the TNG set instead.

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QUEUE TOO!

SeaTrek '93 con report. Guests Majel Barrett; William Campbell; Robin Curtis; Daniel Davis; John de Lancie; James Doohan; Jerry Hardin; Mark Lenard; Eric Menyuk; Diana Muldaur; Robert O'Reilly; George Takei

reported by Brenda Kelsey

For those of you who don't know about SeaTrek, let me explain. Three major league American loonies, Joe Motes, Ruthanne Devlin and Carroll Paige came up with the novel idea of running a convention on an ocean-going cruise liner. You put as many guests as you can get to come on board, fill up the rest of the cabins with Trekkies and sail off! In May, Joanne Osborne and I went to America to go to SeaTrek '93.

We used Virgin to get us across the deep ditch, and having learned from the severe post-con blues after SeaTrek '91, this time arranged to Trek first and Disney second. We arrived early and had two days of cautious sightseeing in Miami (mindful of the mugging horror stories) and trying to acclimatise. Rather to our disappointment we found that the TNG and DS9 crew guests would not be on the cruise. Rumour had it that they'd been shipped to the UK to do promo work for Sky!

The Saturday Night Gala again didn't go off as planned. The plane bringing all the actor guests from LA broke down and was severely delayed. They literally walked into the hotel, dumped their bags and came to the Gala - a generous and most appreciated effort.

The committee had really improved the quality of service from the ship's staff, and booking for shore trips and getting the VIP (very inflated prices) cards to run the bar tab was accomplished in under 40 minutes. A vast improvement on the nightmarish queues of '91!

We sailed from Miami on time, read the con package and went to dinner (late seating). Our table mates included two American IDIC members - Ray and Brigid

(hi, guys!)

On Monday it rained. All day. We sat in on the late seating guest talks, had our photos taken with all the guests at the organised shoot and generally bummed around taking to people. We tried very hard not to spend any money in the small dealers' room - we failed.

Tuesday dawned fair and bright and we docked at Ochos Rios in Jamaica. This was where we discovered that knowing a country is poor and seeing it first hand are two entirely different things. Jamaica is a poor country. It is very hot, very beautiful and POOR. I have to admit that if we hadn't been in an organised group with bus to get us around I'd have got straight back onto the ship. I know exactly how a chicken feels when a fox sits outside the chicken run and watches it.

Back at the ship, the food was as good as in '91 and the evening programmes were varied and lasted into the wee small hours.

Wednesday we arrived at Grand Cayman and were ferried ashore by motor launch. The buses took us on a speedy tour of the island. Grand Cayman is exceedingly rich, owing to the islanders' ancestors saving the lives of everyone on a convoy that foundered near the island a couple of centuries back. The British Government rewarded them by various gifts, including exempting them from paying tax! Consequently there are a huge number of banks on the island and full employment.

The tour was interesting and fast. A stop in Hell to view the weird rock formations was followed by a visit to a turtle farm and breeding centre, where George Takei was recognised by some Trekkies from

another cruise liner. We really put a crimp on their day by explaining that we had a dozen Trek actors on our ship.

Thursday, like Monday, was spent at sea. Unlike Monday, the sun shone. The GHT people had breakfast with George then we sat in on more guest talks and tried to avoid too much sun bathing and the dealers' room. Richard Arnold battled on with his charity auction despite the competition caused by the sighting of 4 men on a raft made from planks tied to inflated tyre inner tubes who were trying to escape from Cuba! I kid you not. Britanis stopped, lowered a boat and brought them aboard. They were landed at Miami with a collection taken up from the Trekkies to help them in America. I wonder what happened to them next?

On Thursday I broke rule one of the con - don't ask the guest stars for autographs - and did my best to acquire items for charity raffles. I am deeply grateful that the vast majority of the guests generously consented to sign. Thank you.

Unfortunately, I didn't manage to accost all the guests. On Thursday night my back simply decided to stop working. Poor

Jo then had what must have been the worst 36 hours of any holiday she'd ever had. I spent Thursday night strapped to a backboard, had to be carried off the ship by the emergency services and was taken to Mercy Hospital for sufficient treatment to enable me to be flown back to the UK, 8 days early, drugged to the gills with muscle relaxants and painkillers.

The initial diagnosis (muscle spasm) has now been amended to damaged discs and I am still off work. Jo developed pneumonia during the week after our enforced return and has only just returned to work herself. To cap it all the insurance company is getting a bit iffy about a refund because the American doctor didn't put GO HOME in writing. Note to anyone who goes abroad. make sure you have insurance. If you get sick, get the doctor to sign a repatriation certificate. Never heard of it? Neither had we!

Did we enjoy it? Well, yes, we did. Immensely. The convention was fun, the events were fun and the shore trips were good too. Are we going to SeaTrek '95? We're talking about it!

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CONVENTIONS

by Ann Neilson - Glasgow:

Firstly I should make it clear that I write this on my own behalf and not for the Contagion Committee.

I have become increasingly concerned at articles in recent newsletters which I feel have misrepresented, particularly to new fans, the status of 'unofficial' conventions. The allegation has been made that those of us involved in organising these events have broken a so-called gentleman's agreement and this is simply not true. So, thank you Sheila Clark for setting the record straight.

I too was at the Terracon '80 meeting which was attended by active fans; I was part of the Shore Leave '82 Committee. My

recollection is slightly different from Sheila's in that not only were mini-cons not barred, there was in fact a positive agreement reached that mini-cons, local cons and regional cons could continue provided that they did not identify themselves as official British cons. The proposal limiting British Cons to two per year, one in Spring the other in the Autumn, and to adopt a bidding system also received the support of that meeting and was put to fans at the Stag Con '81 Business Meeting where it received overwhelming support.

Some may argue that unofficial cons have grown in size and question whether they can still be classed as mini-cons. This

does not however mean that the organisers are breaching any agreements; everything is relative and official cons have also grown considerably in size!

There is a saying which goes something like - if it's not broke don't fix it but it seems that a handful of people have decided that's exactly what they want to do. Are they serious when they suggest limiting cons to 3 per year? What are the rest of us who have abided by the rules and established the tradition of local/regional cons supposed to do, just pack up our conventions and go home? Somehow I don't think so!

The attendance at the unofficial cons should be proof enough to anyone that they have the support of con-going fans. We do not deliberately aim to take people away from official cons and never represent ourselves as anything other than what we are. If people want to attend unofficial cons in addition to, or in preference to, the official British cons for whatever reason then that is their choice. We in turn are morally obliged to put on the best con possible for attendees who have parted with their hard earned cash. Any con which fails to come up with the goods will soon lose its support.

I would like to add to what George Haggarty said in his letter in N/L 27. The

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WHY FAN FICTION MUST NEVER DIE

by Dawn Tittley

When I read Janet & Co's comments about their having to limit the number of zines they were producing, I was most dismayed, to say the least. Like most fans I started reading Trek by reading the 'professionally' written novels. After a short time, however, I began to find that something was wrong. After much deliberation I pinned it down. It was the characters. Sometimes they just didn't *sound* right. I would be sitting there quietly (unusual for me at any time!) and would suddenly exclaim "Data would never do that!" or "That's not

Contagion Committee did discuss bidding for an official con but decided not to. The main reason for that decision was not that we knew we did not stand a chance of winning but simply that we prefer to be known as a Scottish Con. We don't need or want the kudos attached to being called a British Convention, official or otherwise. We are proud to be Scottish and intend keeping things the way they are. In 1991 over 750 people attended Silvercon, 800 attended Contagion 92, we hope 1,000 will come to Contagion '93, and moves are already afoot for '94. The Away Team (Glasgow local group) has 450 members and there are many other groups all over Scotland. What do we think about the possibility of 3 conventions in Scotland next year (Contagion '94, Dundee and West of Scotland)? Fantastic! We welcome them and look forward to assisting in any way we can, including putting our money where our mouths are and attending them all if possible.

If anyone has pangs of guilt about attending an unofficial con instead of an official con then I suggest you ease them by going to the official con. A guilty conscience means that you believe you've done or are about to do something wrong so please don't let us tempt you - we wouldn't want you on OUR conscience.

Picard saying that!" Now I haven't read all of the TNG fiction and I haven't read any of the Original Trek novels, but of the TNG writers, the only one I really enjoy is Peter David. Having read his author's notes at the beginning of his books, it is obvious that not only is he a writer, he is a *fan*. I think that makes all the difference. Some of the professional writers are excellent science fiction writers, but they just don't know the characters as well as a fan does.

The first time I read a zine, I don't

really know what I was expecting to find, but I certainly was not expecting to find the quality and energy of the writing that I did find. At this point I would like to congratulate all fan fiction writers who contribute - keep up the good work! Only rarely when reading fan fiction have I found myself exclaiming out loud (much to my family's relief!) but instead I find I get totally wrapped up in the excellent stories that I find. I have been known to read a whole ScoTpress zine in two hours, which isn't bad going.

If anyone reading this has never read a zine, my advice is to go out and get one - borrow it or whatever, just get your grubby

mitts onto one and give it a go. You never know - you might like it (that sounds a bit familiar). And even if you're not much of a reader, still try one. At least give it a go, if only to see what you're missing out on.

Gene Roddenberry, as I understand it, was very pleased and flattered that his creation could inspire so many fans to write their own fiction, and so he should have. In the early days of fandom, fan fiction was the only kind available. It would really be tragic if this element of fandom were to fade away. I shall be nagging all my penfriends to buy at least one zine and read it (if they don't already do so) so beware!

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FAN WRITING

by Sheila Clark

Michael Farquhar has asked for a definition of hurt/comfort stories, and it occurred to me that he may not be alone in not understanding what Star Trek fan fiction is all about - and this may be one of the reasons for the drop in zine sales nowadays. I wrote a similar article some time ago, but we've had a lot of new members since then.

Over the years a number of different types of story evolved in fan fiction. As well as ordinary action/adventure, there are the categories of 'get-someone', 'someone-bonker', 'Mary Sue', 'hurt/comfort (h/c)' and 'K/S'. Certain of these can be linked, and usually involve the writer's favourite character in the main role.

'Get-someone' involves marrying off one (or more) of the characters to the female guest character(s). There were a lot of these written in the early days of fan fiction, usually involving Spock, and they lead into the 'Mary Sue' where the lucky lady is the writer's alter ego, sometimes blatantly a Trek fan from the 20th century who somehow has ended up on the Enterprise, sometimes a little more subtle. There are male versions of the Mary Sue tale where the writer is obviously casting himself as - for example -

Kirk or ends up marrying Uhura. Many fan writers start off with some version of a Mary Sue, some of them less obvious than others.

'Someone-bonker' involves one character - and what the psychological reason is for this usually being the writer's favourite character, I don't begin to understand - being put through mayhem - usually physical, occasionally mental - sometimes after being captured by an enemy, usually in an attempt to make him betray Federation secrets or brainwash him into becoming an agent for the enemy. (Bonk, here, means what it did in Miri - 'Bonk, bonk on the head!' with a stick.) Occasionally it's an accidental but very severe injury, normally in a situation where no medical help is available. This leads on to the hurt/comfort story, where one character (usually Kirk, less often Spock) is severely injured and the other is trying to tend the victim with only a minimal first-aid kit (if that), and worrying about him. Devotees of hurt/comfort say it's the comfort aspect that's important; the hurt aspect is incidental, used only to provide a need for the comfort.

K/S evolved from the hurt/comfort story - where the 'hurt' was pon farr and only Kirk was available to help out, this in turn

evolving into Kirk/Spock love stories. This is a sub-genre that zine readers either love or hate, and there are some extremely capable writers in it.

These categories mainly refer to Original Trek stories. For some reason, most TNG fiction seems to be action/adventure, possibly because there isn't the same character interaction in TNG that there was in OT, with some Picard/Beverly and Riker/Troi romances thrown in. There are a few stories that involve - say - Riker with a female guest. So far I haven't seen any DS9 fanfiction.

Professional writers - even those who are fans - are writing under a handicap; they have to meet the requirements of Paramount and the publishers while writing something that - theoretically - will appeal to the general public as well as fans.

Fan writers do not have those handicaps; they write from love of the characters, often with a deeper understanding of the characters than the professional writers show.

Fan stories often develop the characters in a way they don't appear to be on TV. For example, although there are people who like Christine Chapel, she is generally considered to be a pretty weak character (in spite of Majel Barrett's best efforts - and her part as Lwaxana Troi shows that given half an opportunity she can portray a very strong character), there - to quote David Gerrold - for no other reason than to be hopelessly in love with Spock. Some fan writers have managed to write a very strong and believable Chapel.

Often the fan writers pick up on a point in an episode that is weak, under-explained or that contradicts something in an earlier episode and come up with a logical explanation; or they feel that an episode is incomplete and write what might be called a final chapter; or they write a scene where they feel one is needed to explain something in the middle of an episode.

Frequently they come up with ideas that professional publishers might reject as not likely to appeal to the general public, but which do appeal to fans. Fan fiction usually includes a lot of character inter-relationship - something that professional publishers seem to shy clear of. Many fan writers are extremely competent at telling a story - indeed, having honed the skill through fan writing, some have moved on to become professional writers writing in their own universes. Others, equally gifted, choose to stick with fan writing because they want to write Star Trek - and for an unknown name to break into professional Trek writing is extremely difficult, especially if they are not American, since only Pocket Books have the right to print Trek fiction.

Obviously different readers enjoy some writers more than others; but I'm not joking when I say that a good fan writer is probably producing the best Trek fiction around.

Typical Trek



by Helen



Can you spot the 1st season stunt-doubles?

HOOKED!

by Jacqueline Y. Comben

Everything is relative. Nothing has ever hooked me as original *Trek* did, with less than five minutes of the end of an episode, seen in flickering black and white, of which all that really impinged was a person with pointed ears vanishing in a glitter and the fact that this alien was not a threat or a villain, but the friend of Humans. I think it hooked me in seconds and I did not even know what the programme was. I knew I must find out and see more, if there was more to see. I suppose there may be some programme in the mind of a writer which will one day have that effect, but no offshoot of *Trek* can come upon me unawares and unrecommended with the impact of the original.

I watched TNG as an avid *Trekker* hoping for the same magic as before and failed to find it. The chemistry of the characters just did not appeal as Kirk, Spock, McCoy and crew always had. Some episodes were/are excellent SF, but it lacked that special 'something' which glued me to the screen when any original *Trek*, even the worst of the third season, was aired. The appearance of Spock and, later, Scott in TNG transformed it for me. I remained a hopeless case of unreformed 'original *Trek* fan', watching TNG, usually, more out of loyalty to Gene than anything else. I have never been hooked.

What is different about Deep Space Nine? I realised it had caught me towards the end of the pilot, even while mentally criticising the plot, into details of which I will not go, as I do not want to give anything away to those who have not seen it. Of course, it is the chemistry of the characters which has entrapped me; not the same chemistry as the original, but a new mix with possibilities and with a charm which had its effect at some undiscovered moment during the first hour. I am not saying that DS9 is all good, merely that, for me, it has a certain 'something' similar to original *Trek*, but, as Surak would say, fascinating for its

differences.

Why should Kira 'grab' me, when Ro never did? I cannot analyze that. I know I am very like Kira. I was somewhat disconcerted by the actress's comment, in a Press Clip, to the effect that Bajoran women are 'like the ancient Celts': 'I'm not one to wait around for permission. I will act!' Anyone who knows me will agree that the description fits me perfectly, so I guess the ancient Celts are alive and well in West Gower! Or do I count as ancient at 51? Certainly it is wonderful, at last, to have a strong female character in *Trek*. Tasha Yar never came over to me as such; there was a brittleness to her, a tendency to act without thinking. I only hope that Kira survives male scriptwriters intact and is not diluted into a shadow of her former self.

Kira's boss has a temper. Maybe Picard has one, but he keeps it under such control that one would rarely notice. I guess I like my Captains to have more fire than Picard displays, even if it makes them less excellent officers! (I know Sisko is a Commander, but he is in charge, so is, in effect, Captain of the Station.). There are sparks between Kira and Benjamin, which, for me, add spice to the mix and provide all sorts of possibilities for future sword-crossing.

I began with doubts about Dax. 'She' states that she is 'the same old Dax', despite having a totally new host, and this smacked of slavery. However, it becomes clear that both parties gain from the symbiosis, which is just that, not slavery or parasitism. This gives us yet another strong 'female'. Not only that, but the host is beautiful and an excellent scientist in her own right - a good role model for girls who previously thought that science was only for boys or girls with no sex appeal!

Delightfully, the weakest character is male! Dr. Bashir, of course, I adore 'of course because I had invented a character very like him for one of my own stories and would not

have done so unless the notion of a wildly enthusiastic 'space-struck' doctor had appealed to me! It is a shame Julian is unlikely to meet Bones McCoy! This youth is better 'rounded' than my version - I had not thought of the idea of someone so gifted with terrible chat-up lines, so keen on women and so incapable of interesting them - all he can do is talk about himself! I suppose he will mature and I will enjoy watching the process, but, in a way, the knocking off of his corners will be a shame. At the moment he reminds me forcibly of my little dog!

Odo, the shapeshifter, had to contend with the fact that I had seen the actor before and never much liked him. The character completely succeeded in overcoming this disadvantage almost instantly, because he is able to make us look at ourselves anew, from a totally nonHuman viewpoint, just as Spock could. Data never fitted this bill, since he was too uncritical of Humanity and had been programmed by a Human, a fact which I could never forget. Odo, however, is a danger to scriptwriters. Already they have fallen into the trap of allowing him to form himself into shapes with no notion of conservation of mass. I do not wish to give away plots, but will make my point by saying that one would expect, say, a suitcase, to weigh a lot less than a 6ft man. If the man was that light, he would be very easy to knock down in a fight and not much use in Security. If a case had the weight of a man, it would be very hard to lift. In the novelisation of the pilot, an attempt is made to imply mass-conservation, but it does not ring true. We are liable to run out of plots which cannot be resolved in the first five minutes by having Odo change into, say, a cup and saucer! If the 'rules' had been laid down from the first, to the effect that he could become an armchair but not a tea-tray... but they were not! I shall mutter whenever something like this happens, or whenever it is clear that doing it would have solved DS9's problem instantly, but I still like Odo as a window on Humanity, as an essential part of the character mix which hooked me.

The Ferengi, as originally conceived by Gene, were to be formidable enemies, but the make-up department stymied that idea. As

an inveterate capitalist with, from a Human point of view, doubtful morals, Quark is excellent - adds a lot to the whole which is DS9 - and cannot help the name someone chose for him!

Whereas children on a Starship always seemed to me to be totally out of place, I am perfectly happy with children on a Space Station. Jake is no infant prodigy, which helps. He and Nog, the young Ferengi, have all sorts of possibilities for getting into trouble and causing mayhem. As long as they do not do it every week, I shall be quite comfortable with this - I may even write a story along these lines!

The fact that, after seeing only a few episodes, I began to think in terms of writing about DS9 underlines the difference between it and TNG. These characters, already, I know and care about enough to want to write about!

I nearly forgot O'Brien. I do not think this is because we had met him before, because, in a way, we have not! At least, this time, we do not find a Command Branch officer (i.e. a navigator) suddenly becoming an engineer. Scotty always worked the Transporter, so it is clearly an engineer's job. However, the O'Brien of DS9 is much more like Scott than anyone in TNG. He has a load of broken and inefficient equipment to fix in no-time-flat and rolls up his sleeves for the job. He is shown as a good practical engineer, with a 'feel' for mechanical and electronic bits and pieces, and also, as more of a real person than he ever had a chance to become on USS Enterprise. It is a shame his wife is not a 'cast' character, as she will only appear in the odd episode and this leads to obvious gaps - i.e. situations when she should be present, but is not. Perhaps Paramount will eventually give the actress a contract, so that she can be where one expects to see her. I think this would add realism and save scriptwriters having to send her to visit yet another relation! (At this rate, she will soon have buried more grandmothers than any Welsh Rugby fan has managed during an All Blacks tour!).

So, DS9 has hooked me. I suspect that

real fans or TNG will be less vulnerable to its snares, but other 'diehard' original fans may find they, too, get caught! [I would be interested in comments on this]. I hope this article does not spoil DS9 for anyone, such was certainly not my intention - in fact, I guess, I am recommending it - especially to original Trekkers. Obviously, character chemistry is a matter of personal taste, so you may find you disagree with me, but we all

fell for Kirk and crew, so may all fall for this mixture. Whether DS9 will appeal to the fans of 'the fleet in space', I cannot predict. I will show some to Ray Dowsett as soon as I can, to see what he says! For myself, I find the series an excellent successor to original Trek, not at all the same, but with a great deal of appeal, and I look forward to many happy hours in the company of Sisko, Kira, Dax, Odo, Julian, O'Brien, Quark and the kids!

☆☆☆☆

ER... WOULD YOU RUN THAT PAST ME AGAIN?

by David Houston

I feel I have to say it, despite everyone else saying otherwise. I don't think much of Deep Space Nine. The episodes I have seen seem rather flat, lacking movement.

A bit like DS9 itself.

To deal with the characters first. It may be my luck that I found episodes where there wasn't much involvement, but what is Commander Sisko supposed exactly to be doing there? He is a bigger cypher than Riker was in TNG. The standing joke about 'The Sisko Kid and Egg-Nog' (DS9 cast via Richard Arnold) sums the two children up reasonably well.

Miles O'Brien is underused or is a direct clone of Scotty, again a bad move. And where's his pet tarantula?

I hoped that Quark would give a bit of insight into the Ferengi but he doesn't. All we learn is what we already knew, even in the heavily Ferengi-orientated The Nagus. Again, a wasted opportunity.

Odo, sitting behind his desk in a bucket. He has some possibilities. In fact he and Quark have a couple of the most memorable lines to date:

From Q-less: Quark: How would you like to be able to sit there in a gold-pressed latinum bucket?

ODO considers this

From Babel: ODO: Are you sure you know how to work this? (the transporter)

Quark: Yes. I served on Ferengi ships for four years. (a beat) I have seen the procedure many times.

ODO looks at him, horrified.

Although I'd love to see Bashir get his act together with Dax I don't think it'll happen. It hasn't in any other incarnations of Trek, so why should DS9 be any different?

And the Bajorans. Why set up such an elaborate backstory and then all but ignore it? We had a taste of Bajoran mysticism and then nothing at all. Where are Kira's references to it? Even Spock made fairly regular references to Vulcan belief and Worf tends to stick firmly to that of the Klingons, so why abandon the Bajorans' beliefs so suddenly? Or did the scriptwriters blunder when they invented it? It's a nice idea to have invaders steal religious objects (as Taruka Quauhtezcatl wrote in a short story in October 1991) but the idea behind this must be continued.

The poor Cardassians, such a threat in Emissary, seem to have shifted their attention to the Starship Enterprise - a waste of a good plot device.

Another beautifully wasted idea was in

Q-less. The animosity between Picard and Q, their verbal sparring matches, works. Sisko just loses his temper, and of course that's exactly what Q wanted. But there are a few possibilities here.

O'Brien's look and "Bloody hell!" when he realised Q was aboard DS9 were wonderful. But why use a different effect for Q's materialisation? This should be consistent with that established in TNG.

Did anyone spot Terry Farrell, Nana Visitor and Rene Auberjonois (I think) standing below the terrace when Worf flung the Ferengi over the rail in Birthright? As Odo was able to see what was going on, why

didn't he stop it? A reverse inconsistency which should not have been there.

Remember, TNG and DS9 are supposed to take place at the same time. Both production crews should at least check their notes occasionally! It may get better. I hope it does. But at the moment I consider DS9 to be an affectionate send-up of everything Star Trek is or was (anyone else spot recycled plotlines?) and until I see something better, I live in hope.

By the way, was the plot of *It Wishes Were Horses* borrowed from *Where No One Has Gone Before*?

☆☆☆☆

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

ACTORS' OTHER ROLES

by Ron C. Carmen (Compuserve)

Rene Auberjonois

ST Role(s) - Odo

Theatre - "Big River"; "City of Angels"; "Flea in Her Ear"; "The Good Doctor"; "Metamorphosis"; "The Misanthrope"; "Petrified Forest"; "Richard III".

Television - *Absolute Strangers*; *Benson* (*80-86); *Beyond Westworld* (Sound of Terror); *The Bionic Woman* (The Dejon Caper); *Birdmen* (aka *Escape of the Birdmen*); *The Christmas Star: A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (89); *Dark Secret of Harvest Home*; *Eerie, Indiana* (Zombies in PJ's); *Faerie Tale Theatre* (Tale of the Frog Prince; *Sleeping Beauty*); *Fantastic Max* [Voice] (88); *Gore Vidal's Billy the Kid*; *The Man from Atlantis* (Crystal Water; Sudden Death); *More Wild Wild West* (80); *Ned Blessing: The True Story of My Life*; *The New Adventures of Wonder Woman* (Spaced Out); *Night Gallery* (Camera Obscura); *Once Upon a Dead Man*; *Panache*; *Pirates of Darkwater* (series) [Voice]; *The Rhinemann Exchange*; *Shirts/Skins*; *A Smoky Mountain Christmas*; *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (Jan. 93-??); *Wild*

Card.

Pictures - 3:15 - *The Moment of Truth* (85); *The Big Bus* (76); *Brewster McCloud* (70); *The Eyes of Laura Mars* (78); *The Feud* (90); *The Hindenburg* (75); *The Little Mermaid* [Voice] (89); *M*A*S*H* (70); *McCabe and Mrs. Miller* (71); *My Best Friend Is a Vampire* (88); *Once Upon a Midnight Scary* (79); *The Player* (92); *Police Academy 5: Assignment Miami Beach* (88); *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* [video release only] (91); *Walker* (87); *Where the Buffalo Roam* (80); *The Wild Wild West Revisited* (79).

Avery Brooks

ST Role(s) - Commander Benjamin Sisko

Theatre - "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Television - *A Man Called Hawk* (Jan.-Aug. 89); *Roots: The Gift*; *Spenser: For Hire* (85-88); *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* (Jan. 93-??).

Pictures - (None Known.)

Siddig El Fadil**ST Role(s)** - Doctor Julian Bashir**Television** - The Big Battalions; A Dangerous Man: Lawrence After Arabia (91); Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Jan. 93-??); Star Trek: The Next Generation (Birthright, Part I).**Pictures** - (None Known.)**Rosalind Chao****ST Role(s)** - Keiko Ishikawa (O'Brien)**Television** - The A-Team (Point of Entry); After M*A*S*H (83-84); Against the Law (90-91); Almost American (Pilot); The Amazing Spider-Man (The Chinese Web); American Playhouse (Paper Angels); An American Portrait (Peter Cooper); Beauty and the Beast (China Moon); Bring 'Em Back Alive (The Reel World of Frank Buck); Different Strokes (82-83); Drug Wars: The Camarena Story; Falcon Crest; Hardy Boys Mysteries (The Mystery of the Jade Kwan Yin); The Harlem Globetrotters on Gilligan's Island; How the West Was Won (China Girl); Jack & Mike; Last Flight Out; Lobo (The Roller Disco Karate Caper); M*A*S*H (As Time Goes By; Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen); A Man Called Sloane (Tuned for Destruction); Max Headroom (Grossberg's Return); Miami Vice (Heart of Night); Moonlight (82); Mysterious Island of Beautiful Women; One Day at a Time (Julie's Return, Part 2); Private Eye (Nobody Dies in Chinatown); Riptide (Smiles We Left Behind); Shooter; Spies (From China with Love); St. Elsewhere (Not My Type); Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (A Man Alone); Star Trek: The Next Generation (Data's Day; Night Terrors; The Wounded; In Theory; Disaster; Violations; Power Play; Rascals); Stingray (Anytime, Anywhere); The Terry Fox Story; Tour of Duty (Grey/Brown Odyssey); Twirl; The Ultimate Imposter.**Pictures** - The Big Brawl (80); Eye for an Eye (81); Memoirs of an Invisible Man (92); Thousand Pieces of Gold (91); White Ghost (88).**Terry Farrell****ST Role(s)** - Lieutenant Jadzia Dax**Television** - Beverly Hills Madam; Mimi & Me (Pilot); Paper Dolls (Sept.-Dec. 84); Quantum Leap (A Leap for Lisa); Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Jan. 93-??); The Twilight Zone (The After Hours).
Red Dwarf U.S. Pilot (unused pilot for NBC playing the part of Cat)**Pictures** - Back to School (86); Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth (??); Off the Mark (86).**Cirroc Lofton****ST Role(s)** - Jake Sisko**Television** - Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Debut, Jan. 93-??).**Pictures** - Beethoven (92).**Armin Shimerman****ST Role(s)** - Quark / Letek / Bractor**Television** - Alien Nation (Gimme, Gimme); Beauty and the Beast; Brooklyn Bridge; Bulba (Pilot); Married with Children (Buck the Stud); Murder, She Wrote: L.A. Law; Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Jan. 93-??); Star Trek: The Next Generation (The Last Outpost; Peak Performance).**Pictures** - Arena (89).**Colm Meaney****ST Role(s)** - Miles Edward O'Brien**Theatre** - "Breaking the Code"; "Every Good Boy Deserves Favour".**Television** - Doctor Quinn, Medicine Woman (2-hr Pilot) (92); The Father Dowling Mysteries; The Gambler III: The Legend Continues; Jack's Place (4th episode (name?)); MacGyver (Good Knight MacGyver, Part II); Moonlighting (Atomic Shakespeare); New

Adam-12; One Life to Live; Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Jan. 93-??); Star Trek: The Next Generation (87-Dec. 92); Tales from the Darkside (Beetles). The Snapper (93);

Pictures - Come See the Paradise (91); The Commitments (91); The Dead (87); Dick Tracy (90); Die Hard 2: Die Harder (90); Far and Away (92); The Field (90); Last of the Mohicans (92); The Omega Syndrome (87); Under Siege (92).

Nana Visitor (also known as Nana Tucker)

ST Role(s) - Major Kira Nerys

Television - Claws (Pilot); The Colbys (Legacy); Homewrecker; Manhunt; The Doctors (series); Downtown (The Spring

Line); Fraud Squad (Pilot); Highway to Heaven (Love at Second Sight); Hooperman (Blues for Danny Welles); Hotel (Heroes); Hunter (The Biggest Man in Town); In the Heat of the Night (Fate); It's a Living (Conny's Big Chance); Ivan the Terrible (Aug.-Sept. 76); Jake and the Fatman (Lady Be Good); Knight Rider (Hills of Fire); L.A. Law; MacGyver (Hellfire; D.O.A.); Matlock (The Best Friend; The Other Woman); Meet the Munceys (Pilot); Nikki and Alexander (Pilot); Night Court (Educating Rhoda); Ohara (Laura); Remington Steele (Steele Blushing); The Spirit (Pilot); Ryan's Hope (series); Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (Jan. 93-??); Thirtysomething (Success); Working Girl (Apr.-Jul. 90).

Pictures - (None Known.)

☆☆☆☆

Romulans and the Sinister factor

by Cathy Halford

I'm beginning to like the Romulans. I don't mean that previously I didn't like them as an alien species in Star Trek, because I always have. What I mean is that there are aspects of the race and culture which impress me the more I see of them, just as certain Klingon characteristics appeal to fans to the extent that we have personas and activities dedicated to them, eg. KAG.

Ever since Mark Lenard's performance as one of the first Romulans in Classic Trek, there has been the potential to appreciate these aliens as fellow sentients of the galaxy. That particular Commander displayed both intelligence and sensitivity in his strategic battle with Captain Kirk; but he was also calculating, and prepared to destroy if necessary, and it is this side of the Romulans that I find appealing.

Commander Toreth in Face of the Enemy exhibits such qualities, while her verbal sparring with Troi - whom she understandably regards as a representative of oppression - shows that her people are neither uniformly callous nor deceitful.

Toreth is as much the star of the episode as Troi (one of my favourite TNG characters) and I very much hope that we see her again.

There is something attractive, perhaps even erotic, in the controlled ruthlessness of certain aliens in Star Trek, and it can be manifest in those of both sexes. This was once evident amongst the Klingons, but various episodes of TNG have made their aggressive natures repeatedly obvious, and consequently it is sometimes hard to see them in the cool light of an episode like Day of the Dove. However we've certainly gained more than we've lost, because TNG has done much to enhance and unfold the Star Trek text, especially where the Klingons are concerned. Since Farpoint (and I must include Star Trek VI in this appraisal) we have learned a great deal about the Klingon character and customs, and now I would like to see similar attention paid to Romulan culture. It seems there is a mine of history, tradition, language and mentality to invent or discover and explore in this species. Some of this has been attempted in The Romulan Way - one of only two Classic novels I've read,

which I bought for the title and enjoyed very much; but little exists which is "official" as yet. Perhaps the Romulan episodes promised for season six will begin to fill the gap.

Cunning and arrogant cynicism are the finest qualities in a Romulan, and they were the icing on the cake in the excellent Contagion. During the first season's The Neutral Zone (not one of my favourite episodes) Troi referred to Romulan arrogance in her brief introduction to this enigmatic race; but much as arrogance is a characteristic which Humans claim to dislike, perhaps we can understand it, if not excuse it, in those whose achievements afford it. For a start the Romulans are a lot prettier than the Klingons, and Humans do appreciate that quality no matter how much they deny it. And from their beginnings as a Vulcan splinter group the Romulans have built a Star Empire, perhaps the Federation's military superior if it were not strengthened by a Klingon Alliance. Recent developments indicate the Romulans' potential as a powerful opponent, which the Feds are wise to subvert from within rather than take on in open battle - in what the Klingons might describe as an "honourable" war. Picard once told Negilum (Where Silence Has Lease) that the next time they would meet him it would be out there, amongst the stars. The Captain envisaged the next confrontation as face-to-face and open, with both sides on an equal footing. The Federation will not, perhaps dare not, do this with the Romulans, whether Starfleet is up to it or not. They prefer to let Spock and his underground movement take the risks, and knew nothing about the latest defection until the rebels kidnapped Troi.

What Face of the Enemy reveals is an unfamiliar side to the Romulan military - a side which tries to carry out its duties honourably, despite the sinister regime which governs it. Even that regime is fascinating; I want to know more about the Romulan Tal Shiar (I'm guessing at these spellings) and the system which they "protect". In a sense I even hope that Ambassador Spock's mission fails, because much as I like the Vulcans I'd hate to see Romulan moral imperialism succumb to their logic. I much prefer the antagonism between the Romulans and the Federation - it makes good Star Trek. Sometimes antagonism is lacking on the Enterprise, which is probably why I've found the early episodes of Deep Space 9 refreshing. Very often Picard's crew get on together too easily, and they need an angry character to start their adrenalin flowing. Ro Laren is a fine example (and not necessarily a hostile alien) who helps to generate such friction, and I do appreciate the rebellious nature of the Bajorans in general. But when the Romulans appear we're always treated to antagonism, and it doesn't have to come to blows to excite or entertain us.

What we've seen of the Cardassians is still too cruel and ugly for me to like them as a species, though future episodes may change that. For now, however, the Romulans are my heroes. I shall wear the latest crest I've acquired to honour their Star Empire, and await the rest of the season with anticipation. Romulan uniforms may be strange but their warbirds are sublime, and I long to see them in fierce and splendid action.

☆☆☆☆

THE CARDASSIANS

by Mark Dwyer

The Cardassians were first introduced to us back in the fourth season episode The Wounded and since then have been built up from an irritation to a threat to Federation security. How much of a threat is the question that must be answered. First we must examine the facts and then conclude

whether or not if they are capable of carrying on where the (original) Klingons and Romulans left off - that is, of destroying the Federation.

The Cardassians come from an area of space to the west of the Federation; also they

must border Federation space due to the fact that they want disputed territory back; territory which they gave up in the treaty which ended the long war with the Federation. There is not much known about this war, but those facts which are known show the war did not go well for the Cardassians and left their economy very depleted and near to collapse. This left the Cardassians to rape other communities and worlds - most noted of these is Bajor, which they later abandoned once there was nothing left of any value to them.

Since their appearance in *The Wounded*, the Cardassians have had many clashes with the Federation, and have come out second best in them all. Here are some of the many examples: first, in *The Wounded*, the *Enterprise* easily disabled a Cardassian warship, and the *Phoenix* (a *Nebula Class* vessel) easily destroyed a Cardassian warship by just moving outside the range of its weapons while still being in range with their own; this was done when the Cardassian vessel had the advantage of firing first on a ship with no shields. This shows for a start that the Federation technology is far superior to that of the Cardassians.

On the next occasion the Federation misled them and caused them to destroy an empty vessel, with the help of *Ensign Ro*, of course. Next came *Chains of Command*

where an entire Cardassian fleet was put under threat by just one Federation vessel. This shows how easily they were out-thought.

Finally, on the two occasions I have seen then in *DS9* (*Emissary* and *Past Prologue*) they have been thwarted, once trying to take the station itself and once trying to capture a Bajoran terrorist.

The Cardassians have also shown themselves to be a race that shows no mercy to its enemies; the two most notable instances are the massacre of innocent civilians on a Federation outpost and the atrocities committed against Captain Picard. There is also the raping of planets like Bajor to satisfy their own need - this shown them to be a race which cannot be trusted.

Sure, maybe the Cardassians are stronger than they have so far been shown to be. Maybe in *DS9* we will be shown that the Cardassians could be a threat to Federation security: but on current form, even with a weakened Federation due to their confrontation with the Borg, the Cardassians cannot be seen to be a serious threat to the Federation. Maybe I could be wrong; we'll just have to wait and see.

Of course, this is only my view; other fans might see them differently.

☆☆☆☆

SAREK'S KATRA LOST? ILLOGICAL

by Caroline Lewis

It came as a surprise to me that Sarek's katra had been lost even if it had been affected by *Bendii Syndrome*. Indeed, it was a greater surprise that people were arguing over why it had not been given to Jean-Luc Picard. You see, I had assumed since seeing *STII:TSFS* and from books I had read that a Vulcan's knowledge and experiences (part of his katra but not necessarily all of it) would be taken to and preserved in the Hall of Ancient Thought.

What is my evidence? A logical

question. My first source is *STII:TSFS* (the film) where Spock, through McCoy, asks Jim Kirk to take him to Vulcan and to climb the steps of Mount Seleya. No-one mentions that Spock's katra will then be given to another Vulcan and I don't believe Spock knew that his body had been regenerated (although I may change my mind on that question?!)

My second source is *STII:TSFS* (the book by Vonda McIntyre). Sarek says, during the meld with Kirk, "Perhaps there is still time! Time to save him for the Hall of

Ancient Thought", and it suggests that Kirk begins to understand that a few Vulcans "could communicate with the presences that existed in the Hall of Ancient Thought". In an extended dialogue with Saavik, Jim Kirk tells her to tell Sarek that Spock's body is alive and she says, "The katra ritual is meant to deposit Spock's consciousness in the Hall of Ancient Thought."

My third source is STV:TFF (known these days as 'The Nightmare' by many IDIC members!) The information comes from the fill-in scenes in the book so I realise a lot of people will disregard this evidence, though I have always found J M Dillard to be true to the 'canon'. The following words are spoken to Sybok's mother T'Rea: "You are High Master no more. But we will grant you this; upon your death, your spirit will be enshrined in the great Hall of Ancient Thought."

My fourth source is Spock's World by Diane Duane. Her story could be used to support or undermine the evidence, it is true. **SPOILER ALERT** When T'Pol passes her katra on to Amanda, Amanda is different and given a new respect by the Vulcans. Shortly afterwards she appears to be her usual self

but is still held in respect. My interpretation is that T'Pol's katra is eventually passed on to the Hall of Ancient Thought but Amanda is left with some residual traces, much like could happen in a mind meld, normally.

My argument is based on this evidence and the probably naive assumption that the books for III and IV would have some connection with Gene's ideas about Vulcans. Either the books have been based on scripts partially approved by Gene or the writers have consulted the show's 'bible'. I hopefully have grounds for my belief in the Hall of Ancient Thought.

However, having established the premise, I have to admit to not being entirely comfortable with the idea of the whole inner being (soul/spirit/essence/whatever) being placed in this sort of confinement - on the other hand the idea of the knowledge and experiences and wisdom (not to be confused with knowledge!) being collected into a kind of huge library is fascinating and probably highly logical.

Any theories to the contrary would be most welcome. I look forward to further discussion.

☆☆☆☆

ENSIGN RO LAREN

by Edward Woo

Ensign Ro Laren was introduced to TNG as a character with an edge to provide conflict with other members of the Enterprise crew. She was a Bajoran, a race who had lost their home world to the Cardassians. She first appeared in her very own story, an episode called Ensign Ro. Her less than perfect Starfleet background caused a stir as soon as she arrived unannounced. It meant she was trouble.

After this first adventure she had found two friends in Guinan and Picard. We still don't know the whole truth of the events leading to her court martial but she must have learned something otherwise she would not have hesitated in following the Admiral's

plans. Picard was right in saying this saved her from a second court martial. At the end she is still a Bajoran wanting to wear her own distinctive ear jewellery.

Her next appearance was in Disaster, where she seemed to have a cold and less than caring attitude, wanting to separate the saucer section from the star drive section. She was concerned in saving lives but did not want to risk others to save people in the lower decks. The problem of time and the crumbling anti-matter containment forced her to adopt this position.

She even had the nerve to challenge Counselor Troi's ability to command during

this emergency. I think if O'Brien hadn't suggested that Deanna Troi was in charge, Ensign Ro would have assumed authority, even over O'Brien. I didn't like the line in which Ro apologised to Troi, saying her decision was right. I thought it was more or less luck that the antimatter containment didn't fail earlier.

In Conundrum and The Next Phase, there's a growing love/hate relationship between Riker and Ro, with the crew losing their short term memory in Conundrum. Riker and Ro are drawn together in business and pleasure. Why does Riker consider saying some words at Ro's wake (in The Next Phase) unless he was impressed by her abilities despite their disagreements.

Ro is still rash, doing things her way, but she seems to have a pretty active mind in nearly pulling off not giving the shuttle's transporter controls to the three aliens in Power Play.

Despite La Forge's initial concern about working with Ro, he seemed to have got on well with her in two tricky situations, one of them being Power Play. She appeared briefly in Cause and Effect as the helm officer.

You'll notice her hair style keeps changing, which is a good idea that could have developed. Personally I can't see why

she can't wear her Bajoran jewellery, which Riker remarked upon. Surely it's the way she does her job in Starfleet and on the Enterprise that counts. It would also be a sign of an individual standing out in the crowd.

Despite her only appearing in six episodes, her character was a welcome change and I will miss this injection of conflict that could have made her an up and coming officer with rough edges.

Michele Forbes' decision to leave Star Trek is a loss to the show. She said she wanted to concentrate on making films. I hope the actress does not regret this decision. In Star Trek, anything's possible and she could come back as a guest if the writers leave her character available and not dead.

Just a note: Colm Meaney, who plays O'Brien, seems to have combined a TV and film career well enough to get a permanent role in DS9, as TV exposure keeps an actor in the minds of producers, directors, etc, for both TV and film roles. So I wonder why Michele Forbes couldn't do this as well, combining a TV Star Trek career with time to go and do other TV and cinematic roles. That's just my opinion - I would love to see the character of Ensign Ro continue. I can't see another actress filling that role - so another strong woman role in ST bites the dust again.

☆☆☆☆

TV TIMES

reported by Kathleen Glancy

It seems that Spock, in his spare time, decided to investigate popular television of the late 20th century. He watched a number of old programmes with some bemusement (not all of them were still being shown in 1993). One day, McCoy asked him which ones he'd seen. Spock told him some, but of course translated the titles in his own way.

They are listed below - any guesses what they actually were called when first broadcast? (Proper names have been reduced

to an initial). It should be added that Spock was *very* alarmed by Astral Arduous Journey and Astral Arduous Journey - The Progeny, whose creators appeared to have access to classified Starfleet information and people's personal logs, and recommended an urgent investigation to Starfleet.

THE PROGRAMMES, AS DESCRIBED BY SPOCK

1) The Practice of Jurisprudence in the Major

Conurbation of Southern California.

2) J..... Will Arrange Matters to Your Satisfaction.

3) A Single Pedal Extremity in the Excavation for the Disposal of a Cadaver.

4) The Society Devoted to an Anthropomorphic Specimen of Mus Musculus Named M.....

5) Ceremonial Enthronement of a Monarch Thoroughfare.

6) The Supernatural Fairground Attraction of

a Vertiginous Nature.

7) The Consequence of Intense Illogical Affection is Suffering.

8) Illegal Taking of Life Inscribed by a Female Person.

9) Task of Insurmountable Difficulty.

10) Notes on Patient Care Belonging to General Practitioner F.....

11) The Totality of Living Organisms, Irrespective of Dimension.

12) A Period of 245 Days, Earth Time.

Answers on page 80.

☆☆☆☆

ORIGINAL TREK TRIVIA QUIZ

by G Moffat

- Who provided the voice of the Melkot warning buoy?
- Which starship was destroyed in The Immunity Syndrome?
- In And the Children Shall Lead, what illusion did Sulu see?
- What was the chemical substance that gave Parmen and his followers their great powers in Plato's Stepchildren?
- What was it that sustained the entity in The Man Trap?
- How did Kirk and Spock make a jail-break in Patterns of Force?
- What was the name of the drug used in Mudd's Women to keep the women beautiful?
- What was the name of the planet in A Piece of the Action?
- What was the antidote that Dr McCoy discovered would stop the age acceleration in The Deadly Years?
- For which award was Mirror, Mirror nominated?
- What ship was Kirk serving aboard when he first met the cloud creature seen in Obsession?
- What were the names of the Enterprise shuttlecraft seen in the series?
- a) In what three episodes did Kirk appear to be dead? b) In what episode did Scotty get killed?
- In The Lights of Zetar, who did Scotty fall in love with?
- In which season was Star Trek cancelled?
- In what episode did Lt Riley shut off the Enterprise engines?
- On what game was the Corbomite Maneuver based?
- What was the name of Harry Mudd's wife?
- In Obsession, what odour did the cloud creature emit?
- In what episode did Lt Riley get poisoned?
- Around which Earth colony was the Enterprise orbiting in Arena?
- Which episode won an Emmy award?
- In The Cage, what planet did Captain Pike visit?
- In Is There In Truth No Beauty, what was the ambassador's name?
- Who invented the Ultimate Computer?
- In Bread and Circuses, what people lived on planet 892 IV?
- In Errand of Mercy, what was Kirk's 'under-cover' name?
- Who was the only person to exhibit immunity to Spock's nerve pinch?
- In The Deadly Years, who was not affected by the acceleration disease?
- How many episodes are 'Stardate: Unknown'?
- Who enforced the will of Landru?
- In what episode did Spock eat animal flesh?
- In Amok Time, who did T'Pol really want to marry?
- Who has first credit in the opening titles of Star Trek?
- In which episode was Nurse Chapel introduced?
- What was the name of Spock's mother?
- What is the title of the last episode of

- original Star Trek?
 38. What began at Red Hour?
 39. How much did Cyrano Jones charge for a

- tribble?
 40. In which episode did Kirk kiss Uhura?
 Answers on page 80.

☆☆☆☆

QUOTATIONS

by Mark Cottam

Who said the following? - and in which TNG episode?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) "Captain Picard, I cannot allow you to leave. Before we can go forward, the cycle must end." | 9) "The Picard manoeuvre, what is the defence against that, Data?" |
| 2) "It is possible to commit no mistakes and still lose - that is not a weakness, that is life." | 10) "If you can't make the big decisions, I suggest you make room for someone who can." |
| 3) "Oh, very clever, Worf; eat any good books lately?" | 11) "I must amass information on every kind of dying - the experiment shouldn't take more than a third of your crew, maybe half." |
| 4) "The Enterprise will remain in orbit around Rana IV as long as the two of you are alive." | 12) "It is better to have loved and to have lost than never to have loved at all." |
| 5) "We can be found at 221B Baker Street." | 13) "Lieutenant, what are their sensor readings, is that an enemy vessel?" |
| 6) "Commander, just what are your intentions towards my daughter?" | 14) "But from the amount of the wreckage, I'm sorry, sir, it can only be the Horatio." |
| 7) "How sad, dear brother, you make me wish I were an only child." | 15) "Do you understand? I have given you the power of the Q." |
| 8) "I know a host of Romulan Cyberneticists that would love to be this close to you." | Answers on page 80. |

☆☆☆☆

IS THIS TELEPORTATION AS WE KNOW IT?

by Barry O'Doherty

Whilst 'Beam me up, Scotty' may have become synonymous with Star Trek, the teleportation it heralded was never taken seriously, least of all by scientists. But what was once a joke is fanciful no longer, because six physicists have invented a way to teleport matter at the speed of light.

In a recently published paper in the premier Physics journal *Physical Review Letters* entitled "Teleporting an Unknown

Quantum State via Dual Classical and Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen Channels", C H Bennett *et al* detail a method for teleporting particles from one place to another. The theory is sound and some of the equipment required to perform the teleportation already exists. The remainder can probably be developed.

The major problem with teleportation has always been the Heisenberg Uncertainty

Principle. This states that it is impossible to physically measure exactly all the properties of a subatomic particle such as an electron. Because of this it has always appeared to be impossible to recreate an exact copy of a particle somewhere else.

This method avoids the problem by exploiting the properties of pairs of particles whose destinies are linked even though they're far apart. The Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen (EPR) theorem says that measuring the properties of one particle in such an 'entangled' pair tells you instantaneously the properties of the other. It is suggested that such an entangled pair could be used to transmit the exact description of a particle without violating the Uncertainty Principle.

Suppose that Captain Kirk on board the USS Enterprise wants to teleport an electron to Spock on Vulcan. Before he does this, Kirk creates an entangled pair of electrons and sends one to Spock, perhaps by putting it in a box and sending it down by shuttle.

Kirk then takes the electron he wants to teleport (electron No. 3) and joins it with the entangled electron he has kept. He measures the properties of this pair of electrons. This tells Kirk what Spock must do to his entangled electron to reproduce the characteristics of the electron Kirk wanted to teleport.

Kirk transmits this information to Spock (presumably by subspace) and Spock

introduces a fourth electron to his entangled particle and manipulates the pair until they reach Kirk's description. In effect, electron No. 4 has been turned into a copy of Kirk's electron No. 3.

Although the description of the electron has been transmitted from Kirk to Spock, this doesn't violate the Uncertainty Principle because neither of them knows what the description is; part of the description always remains hidden in the entangled electron pair. Electron No. 4 is now an exact replica of electron No. 3, but no-one possesses a complete description of either.

Of course, this method only works for a single particle, and that is a long way from teleporting a human being. But all that has to be done now is to figure out how to instantaneously measure the quantum properties of the ten thousand million million million million (10 to the power 28) or so particles in a Human body and a way of transmitting all that information from one place to another before the Universe comes to an end, and we'll have teleportation cracked.

The paper may be found in the 29th March 1993 issue of Physical Review Letters, and the scientific listing is as follows;

Bennett, C. H. *et al* (1993) "Teleporting an Unknown Quantum State via Dual Classical and Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen Channels", *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **70**, 1895.

☆☆☆☆

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



WINDOWS ON A LOST WORLD by V E Mitchell Pocket 65 \$5.50 (£4.70)
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

While carrying an archaeological party studying a long-dead civilisation, the Enterprise finds indications of an even older culture - one that someone in the past has made a concentrated attempt to hide.

They investigate and discover a

mysterious 'window'; and anyone entering this promptly disappears. The disappearances are Chekov, Kirk, one of the archaeologists and a number of security guards.

The reader learns fairly quickly what has actually happened to them (in the unlikely event that (s)he hadn't already worked it out) but it takes a little longer for the Enterprise crew to realise what has

happened and take steps to rescue their missing personnel - hampered by a technology so alien that it is impossible to understand.

The book reads well enough, and the writer has made a reasonable attempt to patch over what could have been a nasty hole in the development, although I wasn't totally convinced by the reasoning (to say why would give away too much of the story). I did feel that there was a little padding here and there - times when we're being told something about the alien culture in a little more detail than was, perhaps, absolutely necessary - but that only involves a few pages. V E Mitchell has come up with a truly alien culture here.

I did however feel that the ancient civilisation that tried to hide this one did a better job than the Federation plans to do! 8 out of 10.

THE MAN BETWEEN THE EARS (large format biography of Leonard Nimoy) by James Van Hise Pioneer Press 1992 \$14.95 (£12.75) Reviewed by Sheila Clark

James van Hise is well known to regular readers of the large format books. His books are of the 'unauthorised' variety, and although this one claims to be based on interviews both with Nimoy and those who have worked with him, it doesn't say that Mr Van Hise himself did any of the interviewing.

The first half of the book, written in an easy, readable style, tells the story of Mr Nimoy's career from the earliest days as an 8-year-old playing Hansel in 'Hansel and Gretel' in a local community theatre up to reprising his Spock role in the TNG episode Unification. The second half is a listing of his stage, screen and director's credits, with dates (sometimes only the year).

There was little in the book that I didn't already know apart from some of the credits, but for a Nimoy fan the book could be useful for those. Probably one of the better of the large format books I've so far seen, though at nearly £13 it's expensive.

TREK: DEEPSPACE NINE Scott Nance (with Keroack & Sheehan) Pioneer \$14.95 (£12.75) Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This large format A4 book could loosely be subtitled 'The Making of Deep Space Nine'. It gives, among other things, some details on the development of the series, profiles of actors and characters, a potted biography of Gene Roddenberry, a resume of the first 4 episodes and a little on the other SF series (Babylon 5, Time Trax) that came out about the same time.

There are several full-page black and white photos of various cast members on other shows; it would however have helped if they had been captioned.

Mr Nance has a fluent writing style and the book is very readable. However - and this is presumably the layout decided on by the publishers - the contents (120 pages) could have been slotted into 80 (with a corresponding reduction in price) by the simple expedient of providing normal-size margins instead of ones that take up at least a third of each page.

The blurb on the back cover calls this 'the definitive book of Deep Space Nine'. Nothing written about an on-going series (and this only includes the first four episodes!) can possibly be 'definitive', as I understand it, so this must be some strange new meaning of the word. I would hesitate to call it a rip-off, because for those fans who are developing a love of DS9 and its characters it does contain some interesting facts, but it is definitely a case of jumping on the Trek bandwagon.

WAR DRUMS by John Vornholt Titan Books £3.99 Reviewed by Nanaki Swali

War Drums are played by the savage group of teenaged Klingons, survivors who crashlanded on the planet Selva around ten years ago. When conflict arises between the survivors and the newly settled colonists, the Enterprise is sent to render assistance.

When they arrive they find the colonists ready to annihilate the Klingons,

and the group's leader to be an irrational dictator.

Things are complicated further when the Enterprise is called away on another urgent mission. The away team - Lt Worf, Counselor Troi, Lt Commander Data and Ensign Ro, find themselves having to contend with the two warring factions and prevent utter destruction by the planet's deadly secret - geological instability.

Although I liked this novel, I did however find a few plot background holes, a few aspects of the conclusion weak and some inappropriate twentieth century slang. Having said that the twists in the story and the steady pace at which it unfolded kept me reading on.

This book is ultimately about the prejudice and hatred between two different groups and how a crisis can pull them together and diffuse their bigotry and fear.

I found the book to be a true representation of the way in which the characters interact, and the story flowed from chapter to chapter.

In my opinion the book was well written and I enjoyed reading it. This may be due to the fact it was the first ST:TNG novel I have read, but I recommend it to any TNG fan.

THE TREK ENCYCLOPEDIA 2nd edition
John Peel et al, Pioneer Books 1992 200 pages
£16.99 Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is a large format book that has been printed for a second time. It is divided into 4 sections - the characters, the people, the worlds, and the final section comprises the Enterprise, other starships and devices.

I found the book a somewhat useful reference source for Classic Trek and the movies only. Even though it says it covers TNG, it does so only briefly.

What I found personally disappointing about this book was its errors. The author said he hoped there would be only one or

two errors. However, every time I turned a page I would spot an error. The mistakes I found included the spelling of names, different spellings for the same word, grammatical errors and incorrect spelling of Trek fact/fiction. It would seem that there was no proof reading before it went to print! So far I have spotted up to 20 pages of alarming errors. In my own job I do technical writing and would not tolerate these mistakes.

In all, I would not recommend this book until the errors are corrected. It should also be defined as a Trek encyclopedia for Classic Trek and the movies. A separate book is needed for TNG. As for the price of such an expensive book - if it's facts and figures, O.K. However, for presentation its desk top publishing system needs attention. Other readers may like it but I can't jump the hurdle to appreciate the book more fully because of the printing errors.

CRACKED SPACED OUT No. 1 Summer 1993 The Sci-Fi Humour Magazine 40 pages
\$2.25. Reviewed by Brenda Allen

The cover is what caught my eye. It features Captain Picard, Worf and Quark in the process of transporting; however, a mindless custodial engineer is sucking them up with his vacuum cleaner! Catchy cover phrases: We Deep-Six Deep Space Nine! We Wreck Star Trek! We Degenerate The Next Generation!

Contents include:

Deeply Spaced Out Nine - a spoof on the DS9 episode Babel.

Star Wreck: the Uninspired Conclusion - This, of course, is a spoof on STVI:TUC in which we find out who Valeris really is: Captain Picard, who is sick of people always comparing him and Kirk!

Star Wreck: the Next Degeneration - This spoof combines elements from Darmock and Silicon Avatar. Spock makes a guest appearance and makes a point of comparing Picard and Kirk!

Memorable Mentions: Vulcan Knock
Knock Joke
Knock, Knock

Who is there?

It is I; now open the door.

I cannot. Identification is required.

You are not acting logically. I will take my leave.

If that is your wish, then go.

A picture of Guinan that explains the reason for all those big flat hats - her head is actually shaped that way!

Alien Personal Ads: *Let's mind meld.*
Are you the Vulcan who blew my mind

away? Meet me in Holodeck 3 and cure that 7-year itch.

NCC-1701-D Newsletter. Captain Picard urges Starship personnel to "refrain from having carnal relations with alien life forms (especially you, Commander Riker!). There will be no more 'Kirk'ing around'!"

I found this magazine to be very humorous! We all need a good laugh now and then, and if we can't laugh at our favourite show, we haven't got IDIC.

☆☆☆☆

TV TIMES Answers

1) L.A. Law, 2) Jim'll Fix It, 3) One Foot in the Grave, 4) The Mickey Mouse Club, 5) Coronation Street, 6) The Magic Roundabout, 7) Love Hurts, 8) Murder She Wrote, 9) Mission Impossible, 10) Dr Finlay's Casebook, 11) All Creatures Great and Small, 12) May to December.

TRIVIA QUIZ Answers

1. James Doohan, 2. USS Intrepid, 3. Giant daggers, 4. Kironide, 5. Salt, 6. Spock makes a laser, 7. The Venus drug, 8. Iotia, 9. Adrenaline, 10. A Hugo award, 11. USS Farragut, 12. Galileo and Columbus, 13. a) Amok Time, The Enterprise Incident, The Tholian Web, b) The Changeling, 14. Lt Mira Romaine, 15. Third, 16. The Naked Time, 17. Poker, 18. Stella, 19. Honey, 20. The Conscience of the King, 21. Cestus III, 22. The Tholian Web, 23. Talos IV, 24. Kolos, 25. Dr

Richard Daystrom, 26. Romans, 27. Baroner, 28. Gary Seven, 29. Chekov, 30. Six, 31. Lawgivers, 32. All Our Yesterdays, 33. Stonn, 34. Gene Roddenberry, 35. The Naked Time, 36. Amanda, 37. Turnabout Intruder, 38. Festival, 39. Ten Credits, 40. Plato's Stepchildren

QUOTATIONS Answers

1) Picard in Time Squared; 2) Picard (to Data) in Peak Performance; 3) Q in Deja-Q; 4) Picard in The Survivors; 5) Data in Elementary, Dear Data; 6) Data in The Offspring; 7) Data in Datalore; 8) Romulan defector (Admiral Jaroch) in The Defector; 9) Riker in The Battle; 10) Lt Commander Shelby in The Best of Both Worlds Pt.1; 11) Nagilum in Where Silence Has Lease; 12) Picard in Menage a Troi; 13) Picard in Yesterday's Enterprise; 14) Lt. Worf in Conspiracy; 15) Q in Hide and Q.

☆☆☆☆



Zine Reviews



MAKE IT SO 9 Reviewed by Karen Sparks

This ScoTpress zine contains 3 stories and also 5 poems, of which my favourite is "The Loss" by Sheryl Peterson.

The first story, "Retribution" by J Schmidt sees the Enterprise called to a troubled planet to assist after the overthrow of a cruel and bloody government. The

perpetrators of the atrocities on non-Humans must be transported to be tried by Federation, not planetary, law. Beverly and Worf combine to help a single survivor through the trauma of her recovery. Possibly not for the squeamish, the theme of this story (in the best tradition of aired Trek) is horribly relevant today as any news programme reminds us.

"That Which Hungers" by Gaile Wood takes up the second half of the zine. The Enterprise investigates a planet whose colony has mysteriously disappeared. The landing party find grisly human remains, and the beast responsible manages to board the ship and continues its gruesome trail of destruction there. A terrified child is rescued and attaches herself to Worf, much to the warrior's discomfort. An interesting story, although I would have liked it to include the scene where Worf and the child parted, since their relationship was such an integral part of the story.

My favourite story is P J Poole's "Question of Judgment". Troi is convinced that a child is being badly treated on board, but finds her empathic "knowledge" is insufficient to persuade Picard to take direct action in such a delicate matter, although he finds another way to help. There is an excellent scene between Guinan and Troi, discussing the differences in their roles and with insight from Guinan on Picard's character. It also includes the splendid quote, "It's taken me all day to get this tense and I would hate to waste it!" Personally I think the Troi/Guinan relationship is potentially one of the most interesting in TNG and one which is rarely written about, either by fans or in episodes - but this story goes a long way towards redressing the balance. All in all, a most enjoyable zine.

Make It So 9 is £4.00 and is available from ScoTpress.

MAKE IT SO 11: POPPIES by Gaile Wood
Reviewed by Debbie Lee

This is a very attractively set out zine; illustrated by Gaile Wood and one of the first ScoTpress zines to feature the improved fonts, resulting in a most professional layout.

Poppies is a story in which Dr Crusher has to find out what is poisoning the women of Injaabi. An interesting tale, although in all fairness, the story seems to have just as much to do with the diplomatic effects on the part of the Enterprise to outmanoeuvre the Ferengi. I'll not spoil the story by telling you if they are successful or not!

The Injaabi are quite a complex race, whose customs seem to carry a hint of eastern culture about them - for instance, for me anyhow, the concept of Sister Brides. And this backdrop gives the usual crew of the USS Enterprise a lot of scope for intrigue and excitement.

Poppies is an incredibly polished story that easily knocks efforts such as Grounded by Bischoff and Devil's Heart by Carter, off the shelf. The story doesn't lack pace, and characterisation is excellent. If I have one criticism - it's that it's maybe a little too professional. The interpersonal relationships are exactly what you would expect - nothing more. Everyone behaves very much in character. But hey, if that's the only thing I can find to criticise in this novella length story (and that's only what I think, after all) doesn't that say something? Now then - if you were going to ask my opinion of Bischoff's Grounded...

Make It So 11 is £3.90 and is available from ScoTpress.

MAKE IT SO 12 Reviewed by Debbie Lee

An interesting read, and one of the MISs to boast the very professional layout and fonts that ScoTpress have been using since MIS 11.

The stories include The Storyteller by Bonnie Holmyard; You Lived Among the Colonists? by Christine Carr; Party Animal by P J Poole; Yin 'Ethh, Hegg 'Ethh by Gail Christison; Trial by Error by Margaret Connor and Dangerous Diplomacy by John Gallacher.

Okay, this zine has a wide variety of stories in it, and I'm not going to offer any prizes for my most favourite one of all. So I'll start with that. Yin 'Ethh, Hegg 'Ethh (Live by the Sword, Die by the Sword) by Gail Christison. It's a Picard and Worf story and is a good one. Picard gets injured. Should Worf do the honourable Klingon thing - and finish him off? Read it and find out. Other stories that, in my opinion, qualify for a mention in despatches are Party Animal by P J Poole and Dangerous Diplomacy by John Gallacher.

The first features the 8-foot otter-like Mijbillem Poppet again, and has got some brilliantly funny bits - my favourite being the attempted exit by Riker et al from Ten Forward, as they struggle with a drunken 8-foot otter being. Dangerous Diplomacy is an interesting tale of deceit and treachery, which I can't tell you too much about or I'll spoil the story.

The Storyteller is well written, but maybe a little too short for my taste. Atmospheric, tense, it just seems to get going and then it's finished. You Lived Among the Colonists? is a Lore story, an interesting development of Lore and Soong's life on Omicron Theta. It is cleverly handled with good characterisation, but was not really my cup of tea. The same goes for Trial and Error by Margaret Connor - but then I'm not the world's greatest Riker fan... yet.

So there you have it. There are also four poems. The cover illustration is one of Data as Sherlock Holmes, looking as if someone's knocked against his 'off' switch. By that, I mean he's got that 'Ah!' expression on his face.

Make It So 12 is £4 and is available from Scotpress.

MAKE IT SO 13 reviewed by Debbie Lee

First off, I think Make It So 13 is possibly *the* best collection of TNG stories I have read in terms of breadth of material in it (and I'm not just saying that, honest!) I can be a very intolerant reader if I don't like something (I gave up on Grounded by David Bischoff after chapter 3) but I had no such problems with this edition of Make It So.

There are seven stories and four short poems. All the stories are very good; Tail of the Unexpected by Lorraine Goodison, Excuse Me, is This Holodeck Taken? by Elizabeth Roberts, Tailored Environment by Peter J Poole, Marella by Helen Connor, After by Gail Christison and A Question of Being by Gail Christison. (The seventh is by me, but I'll let others be the judge of that one - it's called Terminus.)

Tail of the Unexpected and Tailored Environment are both Poppet stories, alive with the humour I have come to expect from the TNG stories featuring Poppet, an eight foot high otter-like being; but my personal favourites have to be Excuse Me, is This Holodeck Taken?, After and A Question of Being.

Excuse Me, is This Holodeck Taken? is a very clever short story. Elizabeth Roberts takes us through various holodeck vignettes - from a hilarious account of a school trip by the Enterprise's 'infants' to Data's investigations into being more Human, to Picard trying to view his ship as the lower ranks would experience it, to Geordi simply relaxing on a beach. Excellent stuff. And then we get on to the stories After and A Question of Being, both by Gail Christison. Now those who know me know that I'm a complete and utter fan of Gail Christison's stories - which are always totally excellent (in my view). After is a very short one, devoted to Captain Picard's attempts to deal with the aftermath of being so badly 'borgified' in The Best of Both Worlds. It's a sensitively done story that shows Gail's ability to show TNG character interaction better than almost any other author I know of (and if you are reading this, Mr Bischoff, you could do worse than get Gail Christison to give you a lesson on this subject).

This is followed by A Question of Being, by Gail Christison again. It is the longest story in the zine, and is a Data/Geordi one of surprising complexity. Without spoiling it, Data leads an Away Team to investigate a crashed vessel and ensuing events result in the death of Jennifer D'Sora (yes, THAT Jennifer) and the near fatal injury of Geordi (by Data, as he attempts to protect his friend). Again, the character interaction is excellent all the way through and what starts off as an almost standard TNG Away Team type story soon has you caught up in a tale of terrific depth.

So there you have it. I am an avid zine reader now, having stopped buying the TNG novels because I found them so disappointing. (With the next one being Nuns in Space - aka Guises of the Mind - I

think I'll stick with my zine reading for now!

Make It So 13 is available from ScoTpress and costs £4.

SNAKE IN THE GRASS

Reviewed by Karen Sparks

This TNG tale is published by BSFR in two parts. Written by Mike Wells, it has the usual high quality printing and glossy covers which are BSFR's hallmark (although I was surprised that the editor missed a couple of recurrent spelling mistakes). It contains full page illustrations by Simon Lewis of each of the main characters. The story is set in the third season - after Pulaski, but before Wesley has left.

This is a BIG story! It begins with the Enterprise being assigned to investigate the disappearance of a small science vessel, and goes on to include Klingons, Romulans, two new races which exist in different dimensions, sabotage, spies and war!

What it does not include, in my opinion, is believable characterisation. Often I felt the characters were just standing around delivering lines (at times even cliches) appropriate to their function. I found Picard to be particularly unsympathetic - losing his temper with subordinates; inviting all senior officers to take a break from bridge duty because it was boring, saying, "I can call up a couple of reliefs quite easily if I need them"; and even leaving Data and Wesley alone on the bridge while he goes off to do his packing when the ship is in an absolutely critical situation with systems failing all over the place.

However, after a somewhat shaky start, I found the characterisation of Data to be the best and the two scenes I liked best involved him - one of him talking about "Expecting the unexpected" and the other in the situation I mentioned above, where his skills get tested to the utmost as he single-handedly holds the ship's computers together to allow crewmembers to be evacuated.

So, to summarise, this story contains lots of action and adventure and some

technobabble (or maybe it's real science; I didn't understand it!) which, at the risk of being thought sexist, I think might possibly appeal more to male readers.

SNAKE IN THE GRASS is available from BSFR. £7.50 for both parts to BSFR members. Dave Uppington, c/o 64 Springlease, Park, Bristol BS4 2TY.

LIFELINE and others - short story zine by Kay Stagg. Reviewed by Jean Sloan

There are five stories of varying length here. Three have never been in print; two appeared in Mind Meld VI in 1991.

I always enjoy Kay Stagg's work and this zine is no exception. The fact that I haven't a favourite story in the publication is a testament to the quality of all the stories, which are actually very different from each other.

Lifeline is a hurt/comfort story. Kirk is on leave after a very draining mission. He seeks solace in the company of a girl named Liz with whom he develops a close relationship. Unfortunately Liz is not all she seems to be...

The Spirit of Enterprise examines Kirk's relationship with his ship through his career; for the sake of the story the Enterprise takes Human form...

Gathering Storms is a mystery story of a type which Kay Stagg does very well. There are lots of twists in the plot, which kept me guessing until very near the end. I am not going to hint at what the story is about - it would spoil it. Suffice it to say that the storms are both literal and metaphorical and the story raises some moral issues which remain unresolved, and which actually made me uncomfortable - this was meant, not a flaw in the story. Anyway, I want a sequel???

A Silent Cry is lovely. The cry is Kirk's, Spock provides the solution, and the story is set after the Amoeba incident.

A Major Crisis Amongst the Ursus Major Miners is very short and very clever, based as it is on word play.

Kay Stagg has a very readable style

and her characterisation of Kirk, Spock and McCoy fits in with how I see them. All her stories are exploring relationships, but she is good at inventing plots; her zine *Too Many Avenues* remains one of my favourite reads.

ALEXANDER by Sue Embury

Reviewed by Jean Sloan

Another of my favourite writers is Sue Embury. She has produced a new zine called *Alexander*. Kirk and Spock meet a figure rather like the Traveller from TNG who sends the pair back to the time of *Alexander the Great*, one of Kirk's heroes. The *Enterprise* two have to live in *Alexander's* court until Chronos, the traveller, rescues them. The story juxtaposes the philosophies of *Alexander* and the *Enterprise* pair, highlighting the similarities and differences. The brutality of *Alexander's* time is counterbalanced by his personal philosophy of racial tolerance which allows Spock total acceptance.

The story is a study of *Alexander*, the man and the hero, as seen through Kirk and Spock's eyes. The two are there as observers; the story concerns them but does not involve them in any danger or conflict; you never doubt that they will get home safe. It does not set out to be an action/adventure or hurt/comfort story; it sets out to explore the past with the eyes of the future, providing, at the end, a physical link between the two times - I won't explain how.

The story is well written with considerable attention to detail. *Alexander the Great* has fascinated me even since I read whichever one of Mary Renault's novels deals with his story; I read this zine in one sitting, finding myself drawn into the world which Sue has realistically created.

For ordering details for both zines, see Ads.

As a postscript, I want to say how sad it is that the demand for zines is dropping. It is explicable in terms of the recession, and the proliferation of novels and other merchandise to buy. I also think that perhaps zines gain in popularity when there is no new *Trek* to feed

the demand for new stories. That is hardly the case at the moment. However, it occurred to me that there are many new ST fans joining the club. I wonder if some, who do like to read stories, have perhaps not tried zines. To those people I would say that fan fiction is often quite superior to the professional novels - particularly to the recent ones which can often, in my opinion, be classed as worse than mediocre. In fan fiction it is always possible to find the sort of story you like, with the characters behaving just as you imagine they should.

If you have never tried a zine, write in and say what sort of story you like, then ask for recommendations. You might be pleasantly surprised; and tracking down recommended reading is a hobby in its own right.

TREXINDEX 7 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This 500-page monster from Bill Hupe costs \$30 + postage, but for the zine reader is well worth the money. Do you like to keep track of what you have read/want to read, but don't have the time or energy to keep regular records? You can stop worrying about it; it's already been done for you! Have you heard about a good story, recently published, of just the kind you like to read, but your informant can't remember where (s)he read it? Fret no more. Alphabetically arranged, *Trexindex* lists zine stories by subject and tells you what zine the story is in and where to buy it. It is, obviously, mostly concerned with American zines, but includes several British ones as well.

See zine ads for ordering info.

GALAXY CLASS 11/12, Fall 1992, 62 pages
Reviewed by Brenda Allen

While at a *Star Trek* convention last year, I looked for a good NG zine to initiate me into fan writing, and I found a great one: *Galaxy Class*. Issues 1 - 10 were published approximately 4 times per year beginning in Nov 87. Now, with issue 11/12, it is being published 2 times per year in a double issue format. This issue has to be the best fan fiction I have read.

The Letter by Andra Marie Mueller - Riker reads a letter from his mother written on his first birthday shortly before she died.

Down and Unsafe by Yvonne Harrison - Wesley takes a trip to a holiday planet to live out a wild west fantasy - only it turns out to be real!

Letters Home by Andra Marie Mueller - Commander Riker accepts captaincy of a new Galaxy Class Starship and has to come to terms with his relationship with Deanna.

Letters Home by Sherry Leigh Hopper - Dr Beverly Crusher has problems adjusting to Wesley's absence on the Enterprise.

Fate's Choices by Andra Marie Mueller - a sequel to Choices of the heart.

Jean-Luc's Holiday by J Jeffrey Blaauboer Jr - Captain Picard begins exhibiting some strange powers after his mind meld with Sarek.

Visit to a Strange Time by Danielle and

Karina Fabian - A spoof in which Q brings Kirk & Co to the Enterprise 1701-D and puts Kirk in command!

Thought Processes by Charlotte Graham-Clark - a short vignette which studies Data's thought processing during his encounter with Dr Soong and Lore.

Persephone Awakes by Gwynn Allman - A story of Beverly and Jack Crusher's first meeting.

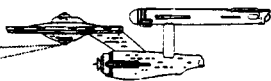
I have to say this zine was excellent! The stories Choices of the Heart and Fate's Choices were my particular favourites. since it gave Riker the Captain's chair and brought him and Deanna together.

For a list of back issues and prices send a SAE and IRC to to: Mindset Press, P.O. Box 7000-822, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, USA.

☆☆☆☆



NEW ZINES



ABODE OF STRIFE 19 Time has led Kirk's, Spock's and McCoy's paths in different directions, but McCoy's illness brings them back together; Kirk, Spock & McCoy are missing, presumed dead; Spock and Sarek join on a diplomatic mission; lots more.

ABODE OF STRIFE 20 'Ry', a Star Trek novel by Betsy Fisher. While on medical leave, Spock is abducted, his mind altered, and sent back to Earth's 1960s to alter the past, thereby negating the Federation's existence. Befriended by a Pennsylvanian family, Spock learns to make a new home for himself.

ABODE OF STRIFE 21 'Cycles' by Thomas Palmer. A roller-coaster ride of an action-adventure novel, with beaurocrats on the Enterprise, an Irishman testing a gadget in engineering, a beautiful lady scientist, and more.

KALIFEE 2: INTERLUDE Sarek, Amanda & McCoy learn to accept Kirk and Spock's relationship; T'Pol orders Spock to return to

Vulcan to be assigned a mate; and others. K/S; AGE STATEMENT REQUIRED
HAILING FREQUENCIES 4 A story of love, old and new, starring Beverly and Wesley; a light-hearted romp with Worf definitely out of his element; a romantic interpretation of the relationship between Riker and Troi, set against a background of intrigue, a grim coming of age chronicle starring Wesley; dreams and reality are inseparably entwined in a story featuring Beverly and Data; and more.

XXX BEYOND THE FARTHEST STAR 7 An old flame's death brings back memories for James Kirk; Beverly, Jean-Luc, a riding crop and bridge. Say no more! Spock's pon farr is approaching and the mate his parents have arranged for him is already bonded; and more. AGE STATEMENT REQUIRED

See zine ads for prices. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA.

☆☆☆☆



ZINE ADS

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

IDIC/Scotpress

IDIC LOG 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

IDIC LOG 15 - The Daystrom Labs appear to be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others. U.K. £4

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 T'Varon 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 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. £4.00

MAKE IT SO 13, 12 - U.K. £4.each

MAKE IT SO 11 - A novel, POPPIES, by Gaile 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.

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

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MATTER OF HONOR 2 is due in July. No 3 is now accepting TNG submissions. Send to Peg Kennedy & Bill Hupe.

DATA ENTRIES is filled with tidbits on Brent and fiction about Data. 1 - 4, \$1 each (4 oz each); 5 - 2, 15 - 18 \$1.50 each (6 oz each); 13/14 \$3 (10 oz)

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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.

ORION PRESS

A Long Way Home - TNG novella by Jo-Ann Lassiter, 106 pp, U.K. \$15.75 airmail; Eridani 20, TNG short stories by various writers, 160pp U.K. \$18.75 airmail; Tantalus 6 - short stories (CT & TNG) with the accent on pain, death and sorrow, due July; Idylls 9, short stories focussing on character relationships (TNG), due July. Many other titles available. Cheques, etc, in US funds only, made payable to Randall Landers. Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Drive, Albany, Georgia 31707-2952, USA.

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I'm always interested in seeing stories and never, ever unkind!

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All available from Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, 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 Lorrah! Price £3.80 inclusive of p&p (ALL PROFITS TO CHARITY). Cheques/Postal Orders made payable to Contagion. Available from Contagion, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

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.

Pat Mitchell

Reprinted, at last! **BROTHER'S KEEPER** by Pat Mitchell, the Ultimate Hurt/Comfort genzine featuring Kirk and Spock. Also still available, **MOMENTS IN TIME** by Pat Mitchell, the adult TNG zine. (Age statement required). Flyers are available for both zines, send SAE. Prices include p&p: Brother's Keeper, UK £4.50, Europe £5.50. Moments In Time, UK £5.50, Europe £6.50. Available from Pat Mitchell, 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England. Make cheques payable to Pat Mitchell.

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.

OUTPOST 23 Amiga Disk Based Magazine - Compatible with the Amiga Workbench v1.2, v1.3, v2.04, v3.0. Includes all the latest Star Trek news from The Original Crew, The Next Generation and the new spin-off series Star Trek Deep Space Nine, plus your views, music, artwork, stories/poems, reviews and a list of Star Trek memorabilia. Issue 1 £2.50, Issue 2: release date 17 July, 1993. All profits goto Make-A-Wish Foundation. Outpost 23, Adrian Brown, Flat 1, 140 Hutcheon Street, Aberdeen AB2 3RX, Scotland.

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. It is full of news and well worth having. 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 comes under the spotlight, we listen to Orson Welles' radio WAR OF THE WORLDS, take an overview of the new DOCTOR WHO adventures, consider SURVIVORS, combine all the Gerry Anderson puppets series into one universe, and ask if organised fandom can spoil a fan's enjoyment of their favourite series. Plus Telefantasy Reference Books, Non-English Language MERCHANDISE, and WAFFLE!

M3 : ISSUE FIVE - We ask if FORBIDDEN PLANET was the basis for STAR TREK, if the NEXT GENERATION novels are worthy of the name, and listen to the second season of HITCH HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY. Plus TWIN PEAKS, THE MOON STALLION, MORK AND MINDY and more. Available August 1993.

ISSUES ONE to THREE are also 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); **RIDER COMING IN...** (The Young Riders - 2 issues, more planned); **FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (B7 crossover with Battlestar Galactica); **CHILDREN OF PEACE** ('V'); . Submissions wanted for any and all publications, no limits to length but no "/" fiction please. Cross-overs and/or spoofs especially welcome. 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 Blake's Seven column and more! **Issue No. 2** (out April 1992) will see the start of an **EXCLUSIVE!** We will be publishing the first part of an **ACTUAL SUBMITTED TNG SCRIPT** called "The Ghosts of Yesteryear"! What are you waiting for??? Please send cheques/p.o. payable to Susan Parker, 42

Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ, or an SSAE for more details.

WARP NINE: Issue five is now available. The 38 pages feature articles on Doctor Who, Star Trek (all versions), The Prisoner and other cult sci-fi. Send cheque/PO for £1 made payable to the DREAMWEAVERS to the address below. Back issues available (SAE for details). Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St Edmunds, IP32 6HT. Enclose SAE.

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

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CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



CONVENTIONS



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: Robert Justman (Guest of Honour), Geoff Ryman (author of "Spock In Manacles"), Freda Warrington (fantasy author of the "Blackbird" series), Dr Julian Headlong (scientist extraordinaire and a wonderful speaker on topics such as alcohol and Vulcan biochemistry) and Janet Quarton (Fan Guest). 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 9TC.

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. Charities: The World Society for the Protection of Animals (Liberty) and Sickle Cell Research. 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!

STARBASE 94 28th - 30th January, 1994. Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Guests of Honour: GEORGE TAKEI, others still to be confirmed. We will be showing; TNG, Deep Space 9 and Original Trek. Non-Trek programmes will also be screened. Other activities will include; Fancy Dress, Discos, Dealers' Tables, Auctions, Art/Model & Fiction competitions and more!! Our convention charities are; St. Gemma's Hospice, Leeds & the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust. Registration; £35 Adult, £17.50 child under 14, Under 5's go free. Day registration rates available on request. Hotel room rates (per person per night); £26.50 sharing, £33 single. This rate includes Full English Breakfast & VAT. For more details and a Registration form write (enclosing Stamped Self Addressed Envelope please!) to; Carol Looby, 152 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX.

T'Kon 1994 - 1st - 4th April 1994 at Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford. Guest - Armin Shimerman (Quark) and John Carrigan (subject to work commitments. 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: £30. 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.

WOLF 359 in association with 1701 A-D 28th - 31st October 1994. Holiday Inn Leicester. Registration £30 (till Dec 93), children under 16 years half price, under 7 years FREE. Payments by instalments accepted. Accommodation: All rooms include B&B. Triple £25.00, Twin/Double £30.00, Single £41.00. Enquire about the QUAD at £22.50. Young adults under 19 years are free when sharing with a parent. (breakfast will be charged additionally). All enquiries to Margo White, 37 Branksome Road, Southend on Sea, Essex SS2 4HG. Please enclose a SAE.

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

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.)

OCTOCON '93 The Fourth Science Fiction Convention. 30th-31st October, Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Guests include: Storm Constantine, Steve Dillon, Michael Carroll, Diane Duane, Katherine Kurtz, Morgan Llywelyn, Ann McCaffrey, Scott McMillan, Peter Morwood, Michael Scott, James White. Pre-registration £15. For more info send SAE to Octocon '93, 20 Newgrove Avenue, Sandymount, Dublin 4, Ireland.

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.

TREK/DWARF II The 2nd British Star Trek/Red Dwarf Convention at the Holiday Inn, Leicester. 25th-27th March, 1994. Registration £30. Guests: T.B.A. Please send 3 SSAEs for further details to Trek/Dwarf, 47 Marsham, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5RN

VOYAGE '94 29th-31st July 1994. The First British Convention for fans of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Novotel, Sheffield. Registration: £25 until 31/12/93, then £30. One day rates available. Room Rates: £26 per person, per night - Twin/Double; £33 per person, per night - Single. These rates apply for a 2 night stay. For more details and

registration form please send an SAE or 2 IRCs to: Voyage 94, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

MASQUE III - The Third British Costume Convention. March 4th-6th, 1994. Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. It will provide a forum for interchange of ideas between makers of Science Fiction, Historical, Role Playing and all other forms of costume. Membership: Full £20, Supporting £5. SAE for info to Masque III, c/o Mike Percival, 4 Ednaston Court, Yeldersley Lane, Ednaston, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 3BA.

AWAYTEAM '95 Yes, folks, we are doing it again. Next time will be in September 1995. Join us for a terrific Trek and Space Travel theme holiday, taking in a visit to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Star Trek Adventure, Yosemite, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Paramount Studios, to name but a few of the many exciting places we will be visiting. For further details, please contact Sadie Mason & Paul Anson, 63 Woodstock Ave, Bobbers Mill, Nottingham NG7 5QP. (Once again we want to point out that we have NO CONNECTION with the Glasgow Away Team.)

PERSONAL COLUMN

17 year old ST:TNG fan seeks other TNG fans who love the show too! Any age; I will reply to all. Sally Wilkinson, 143 Hutton Drive, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1QN.

Would any fans of Rick Springfield please write to me, particularly if you enjoy his recent work, including Midnight Cop. Any fans of Geraint Wyn Davies, John Wesley Shipp, James Parker and Gerald McRaney out there? I'd love to hear from you. Beverly Golesworthy, 37 Elland Road, Churwell, Morley, Leeds LS27 7TB.

Mark Burchell would be interested in hearing from or meeting any members in his area. Mark Burchell, 12 Purton Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 4XX.

We urgently need to contact the following people - DEBORAH LEIGH of the USS St Leger and EMILY CARDING, last known to

be living in Newcastle, Staffs. If they are out there, or if you know of an address for them, please contact P & J von der Fecht, 24 Holly Court, Chester Rd, Helsby, Cheshire, WA6 0PH.

Hi! I'm a 17 year old Star Trek fan from Glasgow. I like all Trek, but particularly TNG. My favourite characters have to be Picard, Data and Worf, though all the others come a close second. Other interests are drawing, swimming, building model kits and climbing the occasional mountain. I would like penpals from anywhere, but especially Britain or the USA. I don't care if you are black/white, M/F, rich/poor - I think all people are equal regardless of any difference; so get writing! Steven Gibb, 15 Scaraway Place, Milton, Glasgow G22 7NA, Scotland.



ADVERTS



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 only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which break copyright.

FOR SALE - large collection of Star Trek related merchandise - books, magazines, cards, calendars, newsletters. Many bargains and rarities - everything must go! For price list, send a SAE to Scott Carrick, Craigview, Craigton, North Kessock, Inverness, Scotland IV1 1YG or telephone 0463 73584 after 7 pm.

FOR SALE : Back issues of IDIC Newsletter from issue 4 onwards, plus TV, cinema and general SF and Fantasy books and annuals. Please send SAE for list to Jeremy Briggs, 52 South Scotstoun, South Queensferry, West Lothian, EH30 9YD.

FOR SALE - Lack of space forces sale of over 150 Star Trek zines. All types available, plus approx 30 other media. For list, send SAE to A M Barkham, 40 St Christopher's Gardens, Warwick Td, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7NS.

FOR SALE - ST:TNG videos - genuine CIC - fourth, fifth and sixth season £10 each incl p&p. Also Space 1999, Blake's 7 & Red Dwarf II. Various other Trek books, send SAE for full list. Nigel Turner, 3 St Heliers Drive, Sandfields Estate, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan SA12 7AS.

FOR SALE - Complete set of 12 Original Trek, Star Trek photonovals. Published mid-late 1970's, now out of print. Mint condition - offers invited. Also - the complete set of 12 authentic blueprints of the original starship Enterprise. Mint - offers invited. For both or either of the above - first instance tel. Dave 0527 77703

FOR SALE - Man From UNCLE paperbacks £1.50 each. SAE for list to Linda Smith, 32 Lyonette Road, Darlington, Co Durham DL1 2AT.

FOR SALE - Star Trek zines (classic); gen, US, few K/S. SAE to Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics LE12 9HQ

FOR SALE - IDIC newsletters nos: 25, 27, 28. £1.50 each inc p&p. Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY

WANTED - K/S zines Gemini, If Freedom Fall, Nor No Man Ever Loved, Candlelight and Flames, Sharing the Sunlight. Any reasonable price paid. Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX.

WANTED - models. I am looking for diecast models of the Enterprise 1701 and 1701-D. Does anyone have these and are willing to sell, or know where I can get them? I don't have the time or patience to make up the plastic models. I would also be interested in any other Trek diecast models. I will pay any reasonable price. Jenny Turner, 46

Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or phone 021 443 2995 after 6pm.

WANTED - Star Trek classic US zines. Reasonable prices paid. Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics LE12 9HQ

WANTED - Help! For many years I've been hoping that the Danny Kaye/Kurt Jurgens film *Me and the Colonel* would be shown on TV, but if it has been I've missed it. I've now discovered that it has been available to buy on video, but no local shop has it on their lists, so it may be long 'out of print' - the film was made in the late 50s. I'd dearly like a copy; if anyone has it and would be prepared to part with it, I'll pay any reasonable price. Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH.

WANTED for an American who has recently discovered *Blake's Seven* - any info on Gareth Thomas and Paul Darrow. Contact Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH.

WANTED for an American fan - copies of *Thigh'leg*, *Rah-sen-yai*, *Alternative Factor* (Elson), *Remix* (Elson), *Nawls I & II*, *Obszine 1* (UK), *Second Comings*. Any reasonable price paid. Contact Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH.

WANTED - Full uncut transcripts of Marina's and Siddig's talks at *Warp 1* and also good close-up photographs of both. Harry, 18 East Greenlees Crescent, Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX

WANTED - I would love to have a snapshot of Siddig and his beard at *Warp One*. Would anyone be willing to send one to me? I am also looking for any articles on Siddig. I would be happy to trade for ST items available in the U.S. Joan Verba, PO Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345, USA.

WANTED: Card traders for 1991 *Impel Series I & II*. I have loads of doubles and need people to trade with. Brenda Allan, PO Box 935, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H9 Canada.

WANTED - Anyone willing to sell/lend me issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 13 of the zine *Make It So*. I will pay all postage costs. Brenda Allan, PO Box 935, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H9 Canada.

WANTED - Any episodes of *DS9*; *TNG* *Blooper tape*; *Babylon 5 Pilot*; all episodes of *Space Rangers*. Please contact H Singh, 20 Carlisle Terrace, Southwick, Sunderland SR5 2DF.

WANTED - Desperate fan of Rick Springfield seeks a video of his 1984 film, *Hard to Hold*. Also certain of his LPs. Beverly Golesworthy, 37 Elland Road, Churwell, Morley, Leeds LS27 7TB.

WANTED - Can someone lend me a video of the BBC series *Westbeach*? I only need the episode shown on June 12, 1993. Also a video of *Viva Cabaret*, the broadcast which featured Julian Clary. I will pay postage both ways. John W Goss, 48 Douglas Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3JT

WANTED - Anything and everything on Michael Crawford (of *Phantom Fame*) either to lend or buy. All costs met. Please write and let me know what you have. Sharon Mansfield, Flat 3, 15 Bellview Court, Cherry Lane, West Drayton, Middx. UB7 9HB.

WANTED - The original *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* film on VHS. Please contact Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Daill, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX

WANTED to borrow - any zines, K/S and similar on various TV shows; *Professionals*, *Man from UNCLE*, *A-Team*. Will pay postage both ways. E Francis, Flat 4, Park Lane, 22 Dunsfold Croft, Astan, B,ham B6.

WANTED - German *Raumschiff Enterprise* telephone cards with the heads of Kirk and Spock. Can anyone help? Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, DD4 6NP, Scotland.

WANTED - Any old Original Series Star Trek plates - Hamilton? Send details of plate, price etc to Stephen Rothwell, address above.

WANTED: To borrow or buy, VHS 1969/71 4th and 5th Season Mission Impossible with Paris. Also Spotlight newsletters 1-27. State price. Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

ANCHOR BOOKS - THE SEARCH FOR POETRY. The first Anchor book of Sci-Fi poetry. Submissions are invited from poets on any Sci-Fi TV shows/films. Eg. STAR TREK, DR WHO, BLAKE'S 7, STAR WARS, FORBIDDEN PLANET, etc. Poets may send up to 3 poems for consideration, which should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope. There are no entry fees, accepted work will earn royalties for a charity (to be nominated by accepted poets) any unused poems will be returned via the SAE. Send entries to: Anchor Books - The Search for Poetry, 1-2 Wainman Road, Woodston, Peterborough, Cambs. PE2 7BU.

AMERICANA: U.S. TV NEWS is a new monthly 20 page publication offering features, articles, and many pages of news and information on American TV series collected from many sources and contacts in the television industry. £2.50 per issue or £25 for 12 issues. Send £2.50 chq or p/o payable to Jon Abbott at Americana, P.O. Box 1468, Portslade, Brighton BN 41 1QN, for more details and a first edition.



CLUBS & GROUPS



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 24p 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.

QUARK'S BAR - This is going to be a new fan club and we would love some feed-back on what you would like to see! We are looking for short stories, art/paintwork, crosswords, and something a little different. We are mainly aiming for DS9, but we will cover ST:TNG and ST as well. So please, PLEASE help us to get a new club running! Please write to either: Miss Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr. Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH or Miss Dawn Tittley, 117 Dolwich Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0EW.

THE FINAL FRONTIER is a new Star Trek club (Classic, TNG and DS9) with monthly newsletters in German language. The subscription rate for one year (12 issues) is DM 25.- for all European countries. For further information send a SAE and an IRC to: The Final Frontier, c/o Martin Stahl, Ulrich-Willer-Str. 8, D-97828 Marktheidenfeld, Germany.

OUTPOST, the "Open Union of Trekkers for the Preservation of ORIGINAL Star Trek" is a Club dedicated to the ORIGINAL Star Trek series ONLY. It is our venture to ensure that ORIGINAL Trek continues to live long and prosper. We are an International, English-language Club, which provides our members with 6 newsletters a year, plus a membership package, and LOTS of merchandise, as well as our own zines. Membership costs £15 or 30DMs for one membership year. For more details and information please write, enclosing 2 IRCs for those people in the UK, 4 IRCs for those in the States, Canada & Australia, and 2 x 1DM stamps for those within Germany to "OUTPOST", Karen Hayden & Bettina Rackel, Rheinstrasse 23, 47799 Krefeld, West Germany.

fffJF (friends, fans and followers of Jonathan Frakes) is Jonathan's unofficial fan club. Membership is \$21 a year (US money) and

includes a subscription to Ready and Willing, our quarterly newsletter which features articles, reviews, art, cartoons, short fiction, a calendar of upcoming events, etc. Make cheques payable to Renee Blanchette. If writing to enquire, please enclose addressed envelope and 2 IRCs. ffff, P.O. Box 90, New Ipswich, NH 03071, USA. (New address)

TEN FORWARD Star Trek: The Next Generation Fan Club. Membership open to anyone with an interest in ST:TNG or ST:DS9. 3 A4 newsletters per year, sealed membership card, assignment to a ship in the Ten Forward Fleet, personal ship certificate, choose to be a Terran or one of various aliens. Registration £3.50 single, £5 family. SAE to Ten Forward Fleet Command, 18 Beckwith Road, East Herringthorpe, Rotherham, South Yorkshire, S65 3PD.

GENE RODDENBERRY SOCIETY, (New) c/o Sandra Keel, 4001 County Road, Lafayette AL 36862, USA.

SEF Fan Network for fans of Siddig el Fadil P O Box 3825, Evansville, IN 47736, USA. Marilyn Wilkerson has founded this club, she will send a newsletter for a self-addressed envelope and postage (I would suggest 3 IRCs).

WILLIAM SHATNER CONNECTION, 7059 Atoll Avenue. N. Hollywood, CA 91605 USA.

DeFOREST KELLEY COMMUNIQUE, Sue Kennan, 5507 W. 98th St. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90045 U.S.A.

WALTER KOENIG INT'L, POB 15546, N. Hollywood, CA 91615 U.S.A.

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

OPEN HAIL TO INTELLIGENT (?)LIFEFORMS IN FALKIRK/STIRLING

AREA: Just when you thought Scotland was all Trekged out - In Stenhousemuir, no one can hear you giggle! **DARE YOU FACE...THE FALKIRK FERENGI???** Trek, TNG, SF, Media, RPG, Comics, Japanime and bad, bad puns are our forte. Any local yokels or those willing to commute who are interested in forming a light-hearted, light-headed and generally sociable group please contact Peter & Lorraine Poole, 43 Kingsley Avenue, Stenhousemuir, Larbert, Stirlingshire. Phone: 0324-570-300. July/August kickoff, dependent on response.

NORTH WALES Local Group. Contact Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

Anyone interested in starting a local group in the North West area? Please contact Samantha Tuley, 11 Heys Close, Blackburn, Lancashire BB2 4PF or Adele Hilton, 104 Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancashire BL1 3ET.

IDIC/Off World Society of Vulcans/Outpost/Something Else/Original Trekkers, do you want to meet for coffee and a chat first Saturday of every month 12 noon. Pretty-in-Pink Cafe, West Orchid Centre, Coventry. (Klingons permitting) Tel 0203-503113.

A new ST group (as yet unnamed) has started in Ashford (Kent). Fortnightly meetings involve chat, tea, coffee & videos. Contact Chris King on 071 580 4741 ext 196 during office hours or Dave and Tina Styles on 0233 642687 any time.

THE AWAY TEAM: Glasgow Star Trek Local Group. Meetings every 6 weeks approx. at the Central Hotel, Glasgow, 10.00am - 10.00pm. Entry £5.00. SAE for info to: The Away Team, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

THE BRIDGE CREW: - formerly The Landing Party. The group can be contacted at Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ. Please enclose an SAE.

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.

HULL STARFLEET Monthly meetings at the Tamworth Lodge, Beverley Road, Hull. June 20th, July 18th. For more info: tel Hull (0482) 48562/806283 or come along to one of the meetings above.

IPSWICH STARFLEET Star Trek Fan Club encompassing all forms of Star Trek. or details please write, with SAE, to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF or telephone number above.

LEEDS STARFLEET: Meetings on the 2nd Sunday of the month between 12 and 5pm at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds 2. New larger venue!!! Write with SAE for more details to; Leeds Starfleet, P.O. Box HP 1701, Leeds LS6 4TE.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP meets every two months or so at the Britannia Intercontinental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. For more details send an SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

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.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Write to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

SPACE CENTRAL The West Midlands Star Trek Group. Meetings held on a monthly basis and there is no membership fee! What more could you want? For further information 'phone: Lee (0827) 64911 or write to 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs. B77 4HY

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.

U.S.S. TIANAMEN - Kirkcaldy's new Star Trek club for the over-18s. All enquiries contact Zander Bruce, 73 Brown Crescent, Thornton, Fife KY1 4AB, including SAE. 50% of money taken goes to IDIC Guide Dogs.

THE OUTER ZONE: meets once a month in Brighton. 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. For more information please send a SAE to Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

☆☆☆☆☆

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, 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.

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Dues UK £7.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00
(£13.25), Australia £14.50, Europe £9.50.

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This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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