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Newsletter 31

"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, Jonathan del Arco, Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Siddig El Fadil, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okada, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, 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. By the time you receive this the festive season will be almost on us. We hope you will all have a good time.

We are sure you were all disturbed to hear about the fires in California. We would like to send our sympathy to all those people who lost their homes. We have been asked whether any of the Star Trek cast or crew were involved. To be honest we don't know, but we hope they weren't.

Our apologies for missing answer 15 for Mark Cottam's quotation quiz. The quotation was: "This isn't right...it's changed," and Guinan said it in Yesterday's Enterprise.

ZINES

Zine sales have picked up a bit since we have reduced the size of the zines to A5, which has

enabled us to reduce the price. In case any of you are wondering, the content of the A5 zine is the same as the A4 ones. We produce both the zines and the newsletter on A4 masters and then they are photo reduced. We will try to continue to produce zines as long as we can sell enough copies to cover the cost of printing them.

The vast majority of people who have commented either prefer or are quite happy with the A5 size. A few of you are having problems with the small print, so with Make It So 18, which we will be printing in January, we will increase the size of the print by one point and double column the zine. We know that a lot of people don't like zines double-columned but it is far easier on the eyes to read short lines of small print. We just hope that zine buyers will try the zine and then let us know what they think.

We have enough material for up to Make It So 22 at the moment but we are looking for more classic Trek stories for IDIC Log and Enterprise Log Entries. We will also accept DS9 stories although it may take a while before we have enough for a zine.

BADGES

You can still order IDIC logo badges from Janet at 50p inclusive of p&p. Please make payment in stamps. Also please enclose 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

We expect most of you will be busy over the festive season, but we would be grateful for any letters, articles and news you can send in. We do have quite a lot of items on hold so even if there is a shortage of submissions, the next newsletter should still be 100 pages.

We would appreciate any crosswords, quizzes and puzzles you can send in as we are running low. Try not to make them too difficult as that can put people off. We do have a computer program which can draw crosswords, but if you use any other kind of puzzle grid please draw it out neatly with black ink on white paper, so that we can scan it in to the computer. Send them to Janet.

Back in 1990 we printed an article which listed all the Star Trek music on CD and cassette. We think it is time this article was updated and wondered if anyone who is interested in, and collects, the music, would like to do it? If you are interested write to Janet and she will send you a copy of the original article. Please enclose an SAE.

The closing date for the next newsletter is **January 5th (January 3rd 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.

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you could 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. If you don't have Impression or Word Perfect, all files should be saved as ASCII text files, aligned left and preferably

saved without line-end markers. **Note:** if you are sending a disc to Janet do not send a separate hard copy to Sheila.

Our thanks to Irene Ambrose, Chris Bailey, Jean Barron, Jennifer Blanchard, Jacqueline Comben, Stephen Daniels, Barbara Ellams, Peter Fryer, Anne-Marie Flowers, George Haggarty, Angela Killelay, Fiona McDonald, Stewart McMillan, Harminster Pal, Margaret Rainey, Shirley Read, Jim Redrup, Jean Sloan, Karen Sparks, Kay Stagg, Alan Stephen, Jenny Turner, Joan Verba, Stephen Watson, Elaine Webb, Edwin Yau and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are: Nancy Mackay - an autographed 10"x 8" photo of Nichelle Nichols; Mairi Alexander - a copy of Starlog TNG magazine No. 21 (Hugh Borg on the cover) autographed by Jonathan Del Arco; Becky Gray - a year's membership of IDIC.

We are having another raffle in this newsletter. We're offering four prizes this time: a box with two packs of Classic Trek Enesco playing cards; a box with two packs of TNG Enesco playing cards; an autographed (by Bob) photo of Bob Justman with Gene Roddenberry, and the usual IDIC membership. For those who wish to take part - please state any preference and put it with your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 each. (if you want any extra just send the money and we'll put in a ticket for you.) Please send your ticket/s (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by January 3rd. 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).

We have had donated a black & white head & shoulders publicity photo of Data, autographed 'to Jennifer' by Brent Spiner.

While this will obviously be of most interest to Data fans called Jennifer among you, it could also be of interest to anyone who didn't care about the personalisation. We are offering this for postal auction, minimum bid £10. Send your bid and an SAE to Janet or Sheila before January 3rd; everyone who sends in will be notified of the result ASAP after the 3rd and the photo will be sent on to the successful bidder as soon as the money reaches us.

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 Frances Abernethy, Irene Ambrose, Liz Aris (with Theresa O'Hanlon & HMS Scotia Naval Reserve Unit), Jennifer Blanchard, Maggie Bradfield, Bernardo Carmo, Neil Christie, S Christie, Jennifer Cobbing, Ian Dixon, Barbara Ellams & The World In Action Team & Sally Haddon-Mason, Karin Embacher, Michael Farquhar, Mark French, Kathleen Glancy, Jesmond Green, Glyn Holland, Sandra Hunger, Jason Humphreys, Kathy Hunter, Muriel Jarrett, Christine Jones, Nanaki Kaur, Antje Koenig, Marysia Kolodziej, Sharon Mansfield, Gill Marsden, Jo Maguire, Kerry McGuire, Ross McIntyre, Anne McKay, Stewart McMillan, Philip Morley, Morag Philips, Shirley Read, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Rothwell, Michael Sadler, Neil Safi, Alexis Stokes, Bill Taylor, Jenny Turner, Linda Ware, Celia Wenban-Smith, Mollie Weston, Miss K Whitton, Sally Wilkinson, Edward Woo and the person who gave Stephen a

bagful of things at the Away Team meeting on October 17 to hand on to us - sorry, he forgot who you were - 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 can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving ¼" of envelope around the stamp. We would like to thank to Allison Rooney for trimming uncut stamps.

If any American/Canadian members would like to contribute used stamps, you can send them to Bill Hupe, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554, USA and he will forward them to us along with a list of your names so that we can acknowledge them.

We hope to post the next newsletter out around January 26th. Enjoy the holidays.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 14/11/93



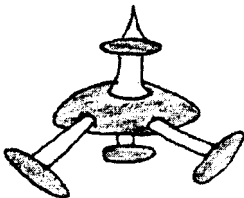
8 POSTERS OF DS9 TO BE WON!

In which ST:TNG episode do we first encounter the Trill?

Send your answer on a postcard to DS9 Poster, 7 Templemore Ave, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, L18 8AH. The first 8 correct answers out of the bag will receive a DS9 poster. (UK only, please.)

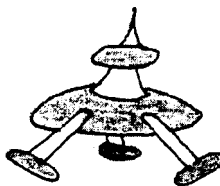
(Winners will be announced in the next N/L)

K7 SPACE STATION

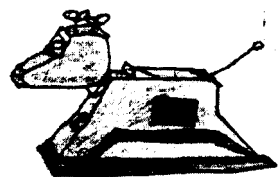


(TRIBLE CITY!)

K9 SPACE STATION



K9 SPACE STATION



M. SADLER



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



PATRICK STEWART A CHRISTMAS CAROL

27 December 1993 - 8 January 1994

Broadway-award-winning One Man Show.

Location: Old Vic Theatre, Waterloo Road,
London SE1. Tel: 071 928 7616

(Info IAAPS.)

At time of going to print booking is NOT open and the Old Vic are not confirming the show. Hopefully by the time you get the newsletter you will be able to book.

NEWS FROM RICHARD ARNOLD at MIDCON

Paramount is up for sale. The latest bid, as of Richard's departure from the States, was 9.5 billion dollars. QVC (the shopping channel) are in the bidding, and from the fan point of view they would be a satisfactory purchaser as they respect ST. The head of QVC used to be head of Paramount. If he comes in, the present quality controller of Paramount will be out, which should improve the quality of ST merchandise.

DS9 won 3 Emmys, one for the theme music (the others for: Makeup, Series - "Captive Pursuits"; Individual Achievement, Special Visual Effects - "Emissary"). NG won 2 Emmys (Hairstyling, Series - "Time's Arrow II"; Sound Mixing, Drama Series - "A Fistful of Datas") and both shows continue high in the ratings. Descent Part 2 had the highest viewing figures of any episode. Everyone has signed on for the third season of DS9.

Rumours about a 4th ST spin-off are true; at the moment it is planned to replace NG after the 7th season with the new series, featuring a Starship with a younger crew. So far, no-one from NG is moving over. Jonathan Frakes and Marina Sirtis had suggested that they move over as Troi and THOMAS Riker - now married.

Wil Wheaton could appear in the 7th season of NG, but as they are trying to do a real time line he would have to be on leave from the Academy. Also Wil is otherwise occupied, working as a consultant for a computer firm in Kansas. An option for an 8th season is built into the cast's contracts, but at the moment Rick Berman and Michael Piller want to focus on DS9. NG is now costing 2 million dollars per episode - expensive - and the cast is not really interested in an 8th season.

The first NG movie starts filming in April for a Christmas release in the States. There are two scripts for the film, both featuring some of the original cast in cameo/guest roles. Four NG movies have been ordered.

If NG is expensive to produce, so is DS9. Richard explained that resources are often siphoned away from NG, sometimes resulting in errors. For example, the set in Timescape was constructed so that DS9 could use it. The runabout in Timescape was a mistake - it could never fit in the Enterprise. If such errors in continuity are spotted, they are often left, the rationale being that no-one will notice!

Gates McFadden will direct.

Robin Williams is interested in guesting.

A Guinan appearance unlikely; Whoopi is

doing 4 films this year.

A DS9/TNG crossover is unlikely.

DS9/TNG have different teams of writers, but TNG scripts can get moved over to DS9, and vice versa, if it is felt that a story will work better on the other show.

Walter Koenig has submitted a TNG story featuring himself (Chekov) but not in the same time frame.

Denise Crosby wants to be in the Motion Picture; Michael Dorn is fed up with Denise trying to come back; he half expects her to turn up as Worf's son!

Paramount pays \$5000 for an idea, plus residuals for life. DS9 has an 'open' script policy.

STAR TREK VII

- Information leaking from Paramount suggests it will be a time travel story. One script which has apparently been rejected centered on Kirk (the TNG stars were reportedly not happy with that idea. Rumours abound that Leonard Nimoy may direct although he's said to be too busy to do anything but make a cameo appearance as Spock. It has been suggested that the film could be done as part of Paramount's TV division, in order to keep the costs down below \$30 million. (info Starburst 182)

One rumour says that William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy are unlikely to be in the film because they wanted too much money.

Another rumour (via CCSTSG) says that in one of the scripts, Spock and Scotty appear at the end of the Next Gen's Season Seven finale with a problem: someone has stolen the cryogenically frozen body of James Kirk. Captured and put into stasis by bounty hunters, Kirk's body has recently been awakened and sold to the Borg. The rescue of Kirk begins, culminating in a cameo appearance by William Shatner at the end of the film.

SATELLITE

- Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country will premiere on Sky Movies on Christmas Day.

- QVC, the cable shopping channel, held an Intergalactic Hour on Sun 7/11/93 featuring Star Trek goodies. The awful hostess spoiled the feature by trying to speak in an American accent and kept referring to TNG as Star Trek the New Generation. (info Alan Stephen)

- Sky One are getting well through their third showing of TNG. By Nov 12th they were over half way through the third season with Offspring. As a matter of interest they showed High Ground in its correct order this time. The rates are holding up well with one or two of the 5 pm screenings being in the Satellite top ten with over 0.4 million viewers. It would be interesting if they showed the total viewers for both screenings each night. DS9 has dropped to no 3 in the top ten with 0.6 - 0.7 million viewers.

STAR TREK: 4TH SERIES

By Edwin Yau

Here is the latest news on Paramount and the new Star Trek series...

Paramount Communications and Chris-Craft Industries have recently announced the formation of a fifth television network in the US. The Paramount Network will be launched in January 1995 and will be jointly owned and operated by Paramount and Chris-Craft.

The new network will initially present four hours of original programming over two nights, featuring the introduction of a new, hour-long action/adventure series, STAR TREK: VOYAGER. It will also acquire additional original programs from Paramount and other leading television producers. So far the network will reach more than 27% of U.S. television households.

There are 2 possible plot rumours concerning the series. The first is that Star Trek: Voyager will be concerned with a group of Starfleet

cadets out on their first mission in space. It may or may not star Wil Wheaton as Wesley Crusher (who is at present working for Newtek Inc., promoting their computer graphics workstation, the Video Toaster), and it is not known which ship they will be serving on board.

The second is that it will be about a starship that is chasing a renegade ship and both end up on the far side of the galaxy because of some sort of accident. This means that they have to work together to slowly make their way back to Federation space, and have many adventures along the way.

• Alex Pidd tells us that the latest on the computer net is that, according to an interview with Rick Berman, the latter story is the most likely. Some of the crew being discussed are a middle-aged Vulcan, a holographic character, a native-American from a Tribe which has left Earth, and a half Klingon-half Human female.

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
54	The Omega Glory	22/9/93
53	The Ultimate Computer	29/9/93
43	Bread and Circuses	6/10/93
55	Assignment Earth	13/10/93
61	Spock's Brain	20/10/93
59	The Enterprise Incident	27/10/93
58	The Paradise Syndrome	3/11/93
60	And the Children	
	Shall Lead	10/11/93

STAR TREK **THE NEXT GENERATION**

• The Science Fiction Achievement Award (Hugo) for Best Dramatic Presentation went to "The Inner Light", a TNG 5th season episode. The Hugo Awards were presented at the 51st World Science Fiction Convention in San Francisco. (info Space Time Continuum)

• A clause in the contracts signed by the cast of TNG states that an eighth season of the show may be produced if the Paramount Executives wish it. It has been reported that certain people within Paramount think that it's a bad move to axe the show when it's generating record ratings. However, if they want to push for an 8th season they will have to persuade the cast first. Patrick Stewart has stated that he's happy to put on Picard's uniform for a 7th year and any TNG film, but wants to pursue other projects which he couldn't do if committed to an eighth season. (info TV Zone 48 & Starburst 182)

STTNG - 7TH SEASON

Star Trek: The Next Generation.

Season 7 Broadcast Schedule.

Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List:-

Date	Episode & Title
18/09/93	#253 Descent, part 2
25/09/93	#254 Liaisons
02/10/93	#255 Interface
09/10/93	#256 Gambit, part 1
16/10/93	#257 Gambit, part 2
23/10/93	#258 Phantasms
30/10/93	#259 Dark Page
06/11/93	#260 Attached
13/11/93	#261 Force of Nature
20/11/93	#262 Inheritance
27/11/93	#263 Parallels
08/01/94	#264 The Pegasus
15/01/94	#265 Homeward
29/01/94	#266 Sub Rosa

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#253 Descent, part 2: Riker discovers Hugh and a renegade Borg group and joins up with them to fight the Borg that have captured Picard, Troi and Geordi. It is revealed that Lore has promised the Borg to rid them of their remaining vestiges of flesh. In the end, dozens of Borg will be left on a deserted planet, and how they evolve will be revealed in an episode later on in the season.

#254 Liaisons: Aliens come on board the Enterprise and take Picard to visit a planet which wishes to join the Federation, but they crash on a planet on the way there and Picard is taken into care by a crazed female nurse who falls in love with him.

#255 Interface: Geordi explores a starship discovered in the thick atmosphere of a planet via a virtual-reality probe. He then defies Picard's commands and risks his life in what appears to be a futile attempt to rescue his missing-in-action mother (played by Madge Sinclair, the captain of the Saratoga in Star Trek 4) who disappeared by bursting into flames! Ben Vereen will play his father, a Starfleet medical officer. In this episode we also find out about Geordi's sister.

#256 Gambit, part 1: Start of a 2 part episode, which is linked to the episode "Rightful Heir" in season 6 and the restoration of honour to the Klingon Empire. Riker is shocked to find Picard, who has been missing and presumed dead, posing as a mercenary on an alien ship to infiltrate a ruthless smuggling ring who are looking for an ancient Vulcan psi weapon of great power. Both Caitlin Brown (from the DS9 episode "The Passenger") and Robin Curtis (Saavik in Star Trek 3 and 4) will play Romulans in this episode; Robin gets feelings for Picard and her character may be recurring.

#257 Gambit, part 2: In part 2, James Worthy, the Los Angeles Lakers forward, will play a tall Klingon named Koral, a mercenary under orders to transport stolen artifacts to a roaming pirate ship. In order to retrieve the potentially lethal Vulcan artifact, Picard must continue masquerading as a mercenary and Riker as a Starfleet Officer gone bad, but how far will they go to stop the sinister plot?

#258 Phantasms: In this Patrick Stewart-directed episode, Data meets Sigmund Freud and undergoes dream analysis with him, explaining to Sigmund the strange dreams he has been having recently which turn into real nightmares for the rest of the Enterprise crew, like a cake made out of Troi, with her head at the end, and Dr. Crusher sitting at Ten-Forward with a straw up to Riker's forehead, sucking his brains out through it!

#259 Dark Page: Lwaxana Troi returns to tutor a group of people from a telepathic race various forms of communication. But a traumatic secret causes a psychic breakdown, leaving her in a coma, and Deanna must probe her mother's mind in order to save her life.

#260 Attached: Directed by Jonathan Frakes. With a plot ripped off from the SF movie "Wedlock", Picard and Crusher have been kidnapped and are soon on the run. Just to make matters worse they can't get more than a few feet away from each other because they're linked telepathically by a device attached to their brain stems. This link means that they can sense their intimate feelings for each other!

#261 Force of Nature: An environmental episode where an alien brother and sister resort to desperate measures to prove their theory that warp drive is destroying the universe.

#262 Inheritance: A Data story which involves his "mother", Dr. Soong's wife, appearing when a mission to save an endangered planet brings Data face-to-face with a woman who claims to be his "mother".

#263 Parallels: Worf returns to the Enterprise after a competition only to find himself in and out of parallel universes, but no-one else seems to notice. Is he going mad? Guest starring Wil Wheaton as... you guessed it, Wesley Crusher! This time he will be returning as a lieutenant in the alternate universe and manning the tactical station.

#264 The Pegasus: Directed by LeVar Burton. A Riker story where we find out why the Federation doesn't have a cloaking device

#265 Homeward: Plot unknown.

#266 Sub Rosa: Plot unknown.

Other News This Issue:-

1) Michael Dorn has said that there will be an episode involving Alexander and time travel.

2) Lt Riker be back in this season.

3) Barclay is set to make his fifth appearance on TNG sometime in the first ten episodes of season seven.

4) They are trying to find a story to bring back Lal.

In a future episode, Troi will take her commander's exam. (info TV Zone 48)

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

KIRA - Season 2 opened with a provocative trilogy that left Kira believing more strongly in the Federation - and her part in it.

"Her defenses are down now," Visitor says. "But her hostility and arrogance are ready to pop up again if her defenses go back up.

"Now that we know her back story and what she has been through in the episodes we've done so far, I'd say she has really come to trust Sisko and knows she has a friend in Odo.

"It's as if someone took an orphan and gave her a home. It'll take a long time for her to trust the security that's being offered to her. She's starting to, but it's a day-to-day thing." (High Trek 22/10/93)

Star Trek:Deep Space Nine.
Season 2 Broadcast Schedule.
Compiled By Edwin Yau.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.
Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title
25/09/93	#421 Homecoming
02/10/93	#422 The Circle
09/10/93	#423 The Siege
16/10/93	#424 Invasive Procedures
23/10/93	#425 Cardassians
30/10/93	#426 Melora
06/11/93	#427 Rules of Acquisition
13/11/93	#428 Necessary Evil
20/11/93	#429 Second Sight
27/11/93	#430 Sanctuary

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#421 Homecoming: Part 1 of a three part episode where the Cardassians want DS9 back and it is discovered that they have broken treaty obligations by still having prison camps. O'Brien and Kira risk their lives and war with the Cardassians to rescue an important Bajoran MIA and Kira discovers that the Bajoran provisional government is corrupt. She ends up relieved of duty.

#422 The Circle: Part 2 centres on Kira in the religious centre of Bajor and a secret society called "The Circle". She finds herself caught up in the struggle of 3 clerics (of which 2 have appeared in last season's "In the Hands of the Prophets") to become Kai, and helps to reveal the hidden force behind "The Circle" - and a greater secret that could destroy them all.

#423 The Siege: Part 3 involves major changes of Bajor's social, political and religious environment. A coup ensues and while Sisko leads a daring last stand against the Bajoran takeover forces, Kira and Dax embark on a desperate mission to reveal the truth about it.

#424 Invasive Procedures: A Dax episode in which crew must fight for Jadzia's life when a desperate Trill takes the group hostage and steals the Dax symbiont, leaving her to die.

#425 Cardassians: An Odo and Bashir-based episode which sees the return of 'Plain simple Garek' from last season, and Dr Bashir following up on his 'spy hunting'. We discover that Garek was raised by Bajoran parents. Meanwhile there's other turmoil on DS9 when Cardassians come to reclaim an orphaned Cardassian boy who is being raised by Bajorans to hate Cardassians, and the crew become involved in a sinister political game. Mark Alaimo is back as Gul Dukat.

#426 Melora: Dr Bashir falls in love with a wheelchair-bound scientist whose species cannot walk in "normal" gravity. He then develops a technology that could free her from her wheelchair confines (the wheelchair-bound scientist was the original idea Paramount had for Jadzia Dax).

The episode introduces new aliens on the station and a new character who comes from a low gravity planet and is confined to a wheelchair. She has a chip on her shoulder about her handicap. Her quarters are rigged at 0g by Bashir and O'Brien, which allows for some flying sequences.

#427 Rules of Acquisition: A female Ferengi comes to DS9 disguised as a male, and Quark will go to any length to get what he wants, but is it worth the risk? Wallace Shawn reprises his role as Grand Nagus.

Originally called Profit Margins. The episode introduces a new nemesis, the Dominion.

#428 Necessary Evil: Another episode centring around Odo, where an attack on Quark's life brings Odo face-to-face with a five year old unsolved murder - for which Kira was a prime suspect.

#429 Second Sight: Sisko falls in love for the first time since his wife's death, but the lady he falls for has a habit of disappearing!

#430 Sanctuary: Kira is torn when a displaced alien race arrives on DS9 and claims Bajor as its people's legendary homeland.

Other News This Issue-

1) Geordi & Riker will visit DS9 and Kira falls in love.

2) The prime directive will become an issue in a series of DS9 episodes where they encounter "The Dominion Race", which has a prime directive of its own.

3) A sequel to the Classic Trek episode "Mirror, Mirror" is being done!

MISC

- Edward Woo received the following letter from Gillian Geering, Programme Acquisition

I seem to remember answering these questions before.

The BBC has the rights to years 4 to 6 to STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION. We have already shown years 1 to 3.

We have acquired the first series of STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE, but our rights don't start until January 1995.

We passed on BABYLON 5. It has been acquired by ITV or Channel Four, I'm not sure which.

SPACE RANGERS was not liked. TIME TRAX is with Channel Four, I believe.

- There was a brief item on Good Morning with Anne and Nick BC Friday October 15. The item featured Tania Bryer at Midcon and an interview with George Takei who was talking about the diverse range of Star Trek fans, and a fan costume designer. The article lost all credibility at the end, however, when Tania said "Beam me up, Scotty" into a TNG tricorder! (Info Stephen Daniels)

- Honour the Enterprise(s): The Enterprise Stamp Committee, c/o Bill Kraft, 1032 Shady Oaks Dr., North Mankato, MN 56003 USA wants to see a stamp honouring NASA's space shuttle Enterprise & the USS Enterprise of Star Trek. UK members can get information on the campaign by sending an SAE to Vicki Bowring, 71 Barlich Way, Lodge Park, Redditch, Worcs. B98 7UP.

- From a postscript in Arthur C. Clarke's new novel "The Hammer of God", he talks about the procedure of naming places on other planets.

"I am currently trying to persuade the nomenclature committee of the International Astronomical Union to put Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein and Gene Roddenberry on Mars. Unfortunately all the major formations have already been appropriated, so we may have to settle for Mercury..."

Early in the novel, the narrative reads:

"After a century and a half, Star Trek was still affectionately revived from time to time. It was a reminder of the naive dawn of the Space Age, when men dreamed it might be possible to defy the laws of physics and race across the universe more swiftly than light itself." (info Karen Sparks)

- According to the 2nd edition of the Trek Encyclopedia by John Peel, page 161, Kirk

Thatcher, who played the punk in STIV, is the son of Margaret Thatcher!!!

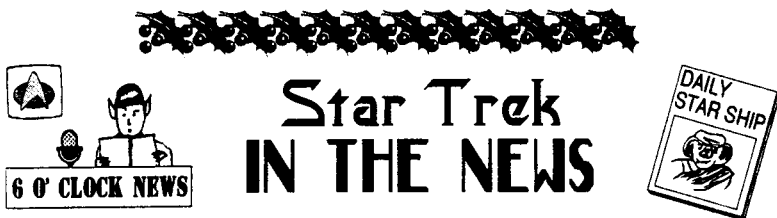
- Hayden Planetarium, 81st Street, Central Park West, New York has a couple of shows of interest to Star Trek fans and also a Star Trek Exhibit A Retrospective of the 60's. The shows are Orion Rendezvous narrated by LeVar Burton plus Skies of the Season narrated by Gates McFadden. They run until March 6th, 1994.

- The first Klingon Language Camp was held in Red Lake Falls, Minn., from Aug 15 - 28. Camp attendees received five language lessons per day and also participated in traditional summer camp activities. Softball also underwent some changes, becoming more militant in nature, with a gunman instead of a pitcher and guards instead of basemen. Instead of being safe or out, base runners were declared either alive or dead.

- 15 year old Skyler Hawk, a fan of Star Trek make up artist Michael Westmore's work, sent a home video of his creations to the TV show "Name your Adventure". Michael Westmore was impressed by the work and invited Skyler to visit the DS9 set. While there Skyler was able to assist in the make up for Armin Shimerman (Quark). Should Michael use any of Skyler's designs on DS9 they will be named after Skyler. Info Entertainment Tonight, Sky One 24/10/93. (info / Ian Stephen).

- Paramount Licensing have renewed Starlog's license to publish the TNG & DS9 specials. (info CCSTSG)

- Trek Talk is a radio show that allows Trek fans, actors, crew members and writers to chat about their favourite series. The one-hour program, which used to air on KIEV in Los Angeles, is now being broadcast live on the Cable Radio Network every Friday night.



compiled by Janet Qarton

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

- **STARLOG 196** November 1993. Articles include: Rescues at Sea Trek and Beloved Betazoid - Marina Sirtis.

- **TV ZONE 47** October 1993. Includes an interview with Rick Berman and Michael Piller on DS9

- **TV ZONE 48** November 1993. Includes an interview with Armin Shimerman, Quark and an episode guide to the original ST's 3rd season.

• ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS

Issue 54 - Article on Leonard Nimoy plus episode guides to Unification I & II.

Issue 55 - Article on Time Travel plus episode guides to A Matter of Time and New Ground.

Issue 56 - Article on Time Travel plus episode guides to Hero Worship and Violations.

Issue 57 - Article on Psychological Drama in TNG plus episode guides to The Masterpiece Society and Conundrum.

- **STARBURST 182** Oct 1993. Includes an article on Patrick Stewart.

- **STARBURST 183** Nov 1993. Includes an article on Gates McFadden.

- **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 94** Nov/Dec 1993. Includes articles on: Star Trek Earth Tour, LeVar Burton, Talk Trek (radio

show), Movie Update & Treknology.

• **UK OFFICIAL ST FAN CLUB Vol 1 No 2** Autumn 1993. Includes articles on Trek Trivia, Whoopi Goldberg, Patrick Stewart, From One Generation to the Next & Colm Meaney.

• "Trekkly HQ beams down in backwater hamlet". South Oxfordshire Courier 23/9/93 Article about John Tulley and the Official UK Star Trek Fan Club. Unfortunately they couldn't get Kirk's middle name right. Most fans could tell them that it is Tiberius, not Theodore.

• "Future Tense" Cable Guide Included an article about the original ST, DS9 and an interview with Patrick Stewart. He hired an automatic car when he came to London recently, "I can't cope with gears now." He says he misses friends and family but not cities or the Conservative government. His favourite TNG episode is The Offspring.

• "It's a memoir Jim, but not as we know it" Today 16/9/93. Article about William Shatner's book, Star Trek Memories. Also "Spock Horror" Daily Star 16/9/93.

• "Seeking out new markets" South Wales Evening Post 22/9/93. This article about QVC mentions that there will be a Star Trek Memorabilia Hour.

• "Trekkie Superfan" Glasgow Evening Times 25/9/93. Article about Jim Davidson

who admits to being a big Star Trek fan. Wherever he goes, he always takes an armful of Star Trek videos and his lap-top video player. On a recent flight to Australia he managed to watch seven Star Trek episodes.

• "Star Trek's star wars" Daily Express 29/9/93. Article saying STVII will focus on the TNG crew with only minor parts for Kirk, Spock and McCoy

Not on this Earth Magazine Issue 1 Oct 93 had an article about the making of the four Star Trek pilots.

"Moriarty boldly goes to 24th century" Sherlock Holmes Gazette, Autumn 1993. A one page article by John Goslin, about Sherlock Holmes in TNG.

• "Skipper's Last Trek" Daily Mirror 6/10/93 Article saying Patrick Stewart doesn't want to do a 8th season on TNG.

• "Very Entertaining!" Evening Times 7/10/93. Article speculating on STVII and an 8th season of TNG.

• "Boldly go where no ban...." Guardian 16/10/93. Short article by John Hind about the the banned episodes, Whom Gods Destroy, Empath and Plato's Stepchildren.

• "Making Whoopi" Good Idea, Woolworths magazine, Winter 1993. 3 page article Whoopi Goldberg.



• **William Shatner** was on Larry King Live (1 am CNN) 28/10/93. Larry King was really praising Bill's book, "A rollicking good read," he said. Bill seemed a bit distracted by the news and pictures of the California fires. "Are you worried about your houses?" asked King. "I'm worried about everyone," answered Bill. (info Barbara Ellams)

William Shatner, who own a horse farm in central Kentucky, was bucked off one of his horses when he was exercising it on the Kentucky State Fair grounds (the grounds of the World's Championship Horse Show in Louisville) on the evening of Aug 21st. Despite some bruises and soreness, he planned to ride in the competition the

following week.

William Shatner will be the Grand Marshal for the 105th Tournament of Roses Parade, the event that always precedes the Rose Bowl game at Pasadena, Jan 1st. The theme of the 1994 parade is 'Fantastic Adventure'. Bill will be riding his own horse which is called I Prefer Roses.

Millions of TV viewers who know nothing of Kirk's many adventures, embrace Shatner as the authoritative host of Rescue 911.

His wise, sincere, confiding demeanor on the show contributed to Shatner's finishing third in the TVQ survey published last March of TV's most popular hosts, ahead of Johnny Carson, Oprah Winfrey and CBS' new \$15 million baby, David Letterman.

Shatner has been with Rescue 911 from its inception as three one-hour specials. Because he had worked with executive producer Arnold Shapiro on other specials, including Top Flight for CBS and two syndicated, The Science Fiction Film Awards, Shatner was Shapiro's first choice to host Rescue 911.

"It's a great show," says Shatner of the weekly reality series. "It's provided me with more laughs and more tears than any other show that I've ever seen or been involved with. (At the Helm by Steve Chagollan)

• **Patrick Stewart** is bringing his one-man-show, Christmas Carol, to London over Christmas.

Patrick was interviewed by Andrew Billen, in the Observer Magazine 31/10/93, regarding his one-man rendition of a Christmas Carol. Patrick reacted angrily at the suggestion that STTNG is hokum. (info Alan Stephen)

• **George Takei** - an interview with George at Midcon was shown on Good Morning on 15/10/93. George was wearing a beard.

"A Touch of class in Tinseltown" Daily Telegraph 20/9/93. The aim of the article was to discuss the fact that 'the time when great British actors considered Hollywood to be beneath them is long gone'. I think its safe to assume that its author does not approve of Star Trek. In his introductory paragraph, he

states:

Patrick Stewart, from ST:TNG, was one a fine Shylock at Stratford.

Later, the article quotes British actor Roger Rees, who has been in Cheers.

Most of all, he says, "I've always hated people being too grand about acting."

It's a lesson his friend Patrick Stewart might remember. Stewart now has his pick of theatre projects, including a planned revival of 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' opposite Helen Mirren. As part of his price for signing for yet more years on the USS Enterprise, he has a feature film deal with Paramount.

But even at warp speed, he still justifies his classical background. "I can say with absolute certainty that all of that was preparation for what I'm doing on Star Trek". He has convinced himself that "Shakespeare is appreciated in the series." (Helen Webb)

• **Colm Meaney** - Born and reared in Dublin, but based in America since 1962, Meaney honed his acting skills on the theatre stages and film and television sets of Ireland, England and America.

The prolific 40-year-old actor counts among his most recent credits the pilot for the TV series Doctor Quinn: Medicine Woman and the films, The Commitments (1991), Last of the Mohicans (1992) and Under Siege (1992). He also appears in the recently released family drama, Into the West.

During a break from DS9 last season, Meaney shot The Snapper, reprising his Commitments role as the Elvis-loving father. (High Trek 24/9/93)

The following info is extracted from Bio Trimble's Space Time Continuum, September/October 1993. See zine ads for ordering details.

• **Gene Roddenberry** - The Star Trek Austin Regulars are sponsoring a Star for Gene on Austin's Walk of Fame. (Gene was born in El Paso) They need about \$5000. Roddenberry Star Fund, POB 18782, Austin, TX 78760-8782, USA.

• **William Shatner** His book, Star Trek Memories, is now available. A 4-tape

reading is also available with a photo booklet - A barn fire at Belle Rive, his Kentucky farm, killed 5 horses, owned by others, waiting to be bred by Shatner's stallion.

- **James Doohan** is working on his own ST biography - Help get his star on Hollywood Walk of Fame. Contributions: Trek Talk Ent., SCOTTY'S STAR, POB 7401-725, Studio City, CA 1604, USA.

- **George Takei** is writing his bio, but it is not just Trek. He was in Romania to film Oblivion.

- **Walter Koenig** says he is feeling positive after his heart attack. - He will appear in Babylon 5 when fully recovered & ready to work; a psi-cop role is being written for him.

- **Jonathan Frakes** is Stanley Hazard to wife

Genie Francis' Brett Main Hazard in ABC's 6hr conclusion to North & South.

- **Marina Sirtis** is considering doing Othello with Michael Dorn on stage. - She wants to continue in the ST world.

- **Wil Wheaton** signed with NASA to be their youth spokesperson at 25th Moonwalk Anniversary celebrations next year.

- **Whoopi Goldberg** settled the \$20 million T.Tex lawsuit by agreeing to star in it, after all. The film will not start until next year. - Sister Act won a Best Actress in A Motion Picture Award from Soul Train Comedy Awards.

- **John de Lancie** is filming his first action movie, Deep Read, an SF story where he plays a mad scientist.



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOKS

Oct **DESCENT** by Diane Carey. Novelisation TNG's 6th season cliff-hanger and its conclusion.

Nov **THE PRICE OF THE PHOENIX** by Sondra Marshak & Myrna Culbreath. **THE NIT-PICKERS GUIDE for NEXT GENERATION TREKKERS** (Phil Ferrand) £7.99

HERE THERE BE DRAGONS by John Peel (TNG 28) The crew of the Enterprise discover a world of knights and serfs and investigate. They must learn the secret of this lost world or face destruction at the hands of an ancient weapon, based on a technology far more advanced than the Federation's.

STTNG MAKE-UP FX JOURNAL by Michael Westmore and Joe Nazzaro.

STAR TREK MEMORIES by William Shatner. Published by Harper Collins in the UK on Nov 15th.

Dec **FIRESTORM** by L.A. Grag. (ST 68) The Enterprise is sent to mediate a dispute between a colony leader and a Federation geologist who claims that Rakata Mons, the largest volcano in the known galaxy, is in danger of erupting. Soon her worries are borne out and Kirk must lead his crew and the colonists in a frantic plan to escape the eruption and unravel Rakata Mons' deadly mystery.

DARK MIRROR by Diane Duane. (TNG HB) The crew of ST:TNG encounters their deadliest enemies... themselves!

From January Pocket Books takes over the UK publication of new ST and TNG books from Titan. Titan continues with the publication of Star Trek Adventures - the first UK publication of early ST books.

The following list of proposed books is from TV Zone 48 and is subject to change.

- Jan Starfleet Academy 3: Survival by Peter David.
ST Adventure 3: The Starless World by Gordan Ecklund.
- Feb STDS9 5: Fallen Heroes by Daffyd AB Hugh.
STDS9 Young Adult 1: The Star Ghost by Brad Strickland.
ST: Transformations by Dave Stern h/b?
ST Adventure 4: Perry's Planet by Jack C Haldeman.
- Mar STTNG: Sarek by A.C. Crispin h/b
STDS9: Warped by K W Jeter h/b
STTNG 29: Sins of Commission by Susan Wright.
- Apr ST 64: Patrician Transgression by Hawke.
Star Trek Encyclopedia by Michael & Denise Okuda.
STDS9 Young Adult 2: Stowaways by Brad Strickland.
ST: Mudd's Angels
- May STTNG 30: Debtor's Planet by Thompson
STDS9 Antimatter by John Vornholt
- June STDS9: Warped by K W Jeter
ST 65: Lost Years #3 by L A Graft
Starfleet Academy 4: Capture the Flag by John Vornholt
ST Adventure 6: Trek to Madworld by Stephen Goldin
- July ST Shadows on the Sun by Michael Jan Friedman.

• VIDEO UPDATE

TNG

- Tapestry/Birthright, Part 1 (71)
Birthright, Part 2/Starship Mine (72)
Nov Lessons/The Chase (73)
Frame of Mind/Suspicions (74)

To Come:

- Rightful Heir/Second Chances (75)
Timescape/Descent (76)

DS9

- The Nagus/Vortex (6)

Nov

- Battle Lines/Storyteller (7)
Progress/If Wishes Were Horses (8)

To Come

- The Forsaken/Dramatis Personae
Duet/Hands of the Prophets

Also due in November:

- STVI - The Undiscovered County (Widescreen) £12.99
STI - VI Collectors Box Set (All 6 movies in Widescreen)
ST:DS9 Collectors Box Set £15.99. (Extended Emissary + DS9 Behind the scenes Documentary)

• AUDIO TAPES

- November - **Power Klingon** by Marc Okrand,
Imzadi by Peter David, **Faces of Fire** by Michael Jan Friedman, **Best Destiny** by Diane Carey, STVI by J M Dillard.
December - **Dark Mirror** by Diane Duane.

• **CAPTAIN JAMES T. KIRK.** Franklin Mint have brought out a sculpture of Kirk sitting in his command chair. It is in a combination of hand-painted pewter, 22-carat gold and lead crystal. Price £195. Franklin Mint, Bramley Road, London SE6 2XG.

• In mid to late november more Playmates models should be in the shops, including the long awaited TNG Tricorder, a Romulan Warbird and other alien ships - all with lights and sounds.

MicroMachines have three sets of three Star Trek ships. Collection 1 (CT) USS Enterprise, Klingon Battlecruiser & Romulan Bird of Prey, Collection 2) (Movies) USS Excelsior, Klingon Bird of Prey & USS Reliant, and Collection 3) (TNG) Klingon Vor'cha Attack Cruiser, Borg Ship & Romulan Warbird. At only £4.99 per set, these tiny models are ideal for the top of the TV or VDU.

All info and models from Wonderland Models, Lothian Road,, Edinburgh (031) 229-6428 (Info Stephen Daniels)

• Star Trek-The Motion Picture jigsaw puzzle, 1000 pieces. This is a puzzle of the poster for the film and costs £9.99 from Puzzle World, in the Meadowhall shopping complex, Sheffield. It is a limited edition of 10,000 and on the back there are four more puzzles listed from STIV, STV & STVI, which should be available in a few months.

• Antioch Bookmarks are available from Sheffield Space Center for 99p each. There's

3 classic Trek: Kirk, Spock & Enterprise. For TNG there's: Enterprise, Picard, Riker, Data Troi, Wesley, and possibly Worf & Crusher. Write, enclosing an SAE, for availability and postage price. The Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HS. (info Angela Killelay). You could also try your local bookshop.

• WESCO STAR TREK TALKING ALARM

- if you look at the deflector dish you will probably find that the long spike is broken off. Angela Killelay wrote a polite letter to Wesco asking for a replacement dish and received a nice letter saying that the spikes were removed to comply with Toy safety regulations. A few with long spikes have slipped through, but 95% of the clocks in the shops have the spikes removed or a modified dish with a short spike. Wesco sent Angela a replacement, modified dish. If you want the modified dish you could try writing a polite letter to Wesco, enclosing an SAE. Wesco Limited, Unit 2, Wolfe Close, Parkgate Industrial Estate, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 8XJ.

• COMPUTER GAMES

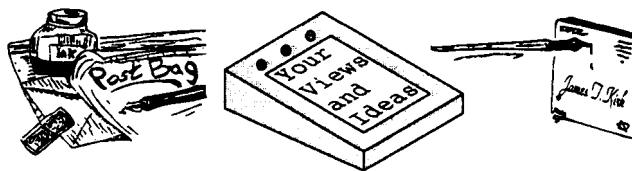
Star Trek: Judgment Rites brings eight new

episodes to PC based computer following the tremendous success of Star Trek: 25th Anniversary. "We've taken everything we liked from the first Star Trek game and made it bigger," commented Brian Fargo, President of Interplay Productions. "We're using digitized paintings and renderings and have added a lot more audio to take the game to the next level.... Each episode consists of a specific mission that requires the player to solve various puzzles and other mysteries in order to progress to the next episode. Whilst each episode is a story in and of itself, they are combined together with a common storyline which the player will discover at the conclusion.

Star Trek: The 25th Anniversary. Now available for the Amiga 1200.

Star Trek: The 25th Anniversary Enhanced CD-ROM. DOS Was due for release in October.

Star Trek: Starfleet Academy for PC & Compatibles will be released in the first quarter of '94. Star Trek for Super Nintendo Entertainment Systems will be released mid '94.



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'.

Liz Butler - Pennywell

I am intrigued by the fact that several people in N/L 30 replied to comments 'I made in N/L 29. I have gone through it again and assured myself that none of the

replies bear any relevance to the short comment that *was* printed. Am I missing something or is there another Liz Butler out there? And if so, where is the letter they are all referring to?

[Sheila - This has occasionally happened before. As far as I can make out, the comments should have been directed to Paul Hulford, whose letter followed yours. Unfortunately, when material for the newsletter comes in, we're too busy to check all the Postbag comments against the previous newsletter, and have to trust that these comments are directed at the right people. Can we ask everyone to please double check that they are answering the right people when they are sending in replies for the Postbag.]

Adam North - Norwich

DS9 - what can I say? It's fantastic. I've noticed there have been mixed feelings about it - people say it's dull, slow, etc, but I've noticed none of this; it has involving story lines, the sets are great, not to mention the special effects, even down to the music - it's great and yes, I can hum it! I am getting to know all the characters - I seem to know someone like all of them, and I can relate to Dr Bashir!

To Stephen Daniels - When you gave your opinion on ST:TWOK, you said you were puzzled how Khan knew Chekov. Well, Khan first appeared in a Classic Trek episode - the crew of the Enterprise found Khan and his crew in suspended animation on board a starship (from the late 20th century), thus the meeting with Khan and Chekov.

To anyone - in ST:VI:TVH, the scene where Spock and Co were discussing who could have fired at the Klingon cruiser, Chekov says "...could only have come from another ship"; Uhura says "Kronos One?" The ship that was hit was Kronos One. Spock then says "Too far away". Is this a mistake, or are there two Kronos Ones? Help!

Gill Marks - Oxford

To Tina Baker - I thought I was Data's Number One fan! Do you really want Lore to change his wicked ways, because as well

as excelling at being funny, Brent makes a smashing 'baddy', particularly in A Fistful of Datas - don't you think?

To Valerie - Thanks for the N/L articles - I enjoyed adding to my little collection of info on all Trek characters.

To Jo Christodoulides - Re DS9 - I'm glad someone else loves it. I think the pilot was rather show, but it's improved steadily since then and Dr Bashir and Quark are now firm favourites. Q was as brilliantly tiresome as ever in Q-less, although I miss the wonderfully comic relationship between him and Picard.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - Re synthehol. Guinan, having been around supposedly for eons, would doubtless have done a deal with the Ferengi at some time!

Finally, re the novels - Peter David's Vendetta is excellent, particularly if you're fans of the Borg, and A Crispin's Classic Trek books about Gateway and Spock's son, Yesterday's Son and Time for Yesterday, are also worth reading.

Ann Coulstock - Hertford

To Jo Christodoulides - I too am a big Major Kira fan. I think that without her DS9 would collapse into oblivion, because Sisko could never manage it on his own. Maybe he will get better, but at the moment I feel that he is a bit wooden. Does anyone out there agree with me?

To Anne-Marie Flowers - Maybe the Ferengi pinched the synthehol from the Federation in the first place. I mean, they are not really a race to be trusted - mind you, I would quite happily marry Quark from DS9!

To Scott Rhodes - I'm not too sure, but I think that Troi didn't eject the engine core because a) they didn't have much power, b) maybe it could only be done from engineering and c) if they could eject it it would make Disaster not a disaster but a normal day on the Enterprise!

To Andrew Carnegie - and to anyone else. I saw Frame of Mind at Lightspeed '93

in Leeds. The plot itself had potential, but was it necessary for Riker to keep shattering scenes only to find that the next scene was also an illusion? Trying to understand it gave me quite a headache.

To Helen White - I really enjoy reading all your reports - you must spend an absolute fortune at cons for registration and merchandise. However, re your spoiler alert about Beverly being left in charge of the Enterprise - being commander, surely she would have some knowledge about how to control the ship. I read in TV Zone that in Part 2 Bev pulls off some very spectacular moves whilst being in charge - but I guess we will have to wait and see what happens, won't we?

Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Jim Robertson - Re Classic Trek SFX. You may think these are pretty naff, but remember that 25 years ago when the series was made, those same effects were pretty much state of the art.

Re intelligence. It is my understanding that diet also plays a part in the development or, more probably, retardation of intelligence.

To Andrew Carnegie - Re Data's rank in Imzadi. There is a difference between rank and position. His rank is Commodore, his position is Captain. There was a precedent in OT - in Doomsday Machine, the Captain of the Constellation was Commodore Decker. I believe that in today's navy a Lieutenant can hold the position of Captain of a ship and will be addressed as 'Captain'.

To Steven Gibb - I think the strongest regular female character Trek has produced is Kira - she's certainly the first one, in my opinion, who has been allowed by the scriptwriters to be a strong woman without occasionally falling into hysterics when faced with a difficult or dangerous situation - "Captain, I'm frightened" is a line that's been given to Trek women all too often. I can't see Kira ever looking for protection from a man.

Re the DS9 uniforms - could the difference between these and the TNG ones simply be to show that these members of

Starfleet are what might be called 'ground-based', rather than starship crew? (Actually, I prefer the DS9 uniforms to the TNG ones!)

To Gaile Wood - Re a screenplay not living up to the promise of a novel. I take your point about something like Dune or Shogun, which started life as novels before being media-ised, but the novels of the ST movies are done the other way round and *should* be reasonably like the movie; it's just a pity the writers mostly seem to feel they have to add something for dramatic effect. (Blish is an exception. His episode adaptations are very close to the scripts from which he worked - it wasn't his fault Paramount initially gave him early draft scripts rather than shooting scripts to work from.)

To David Raper - Re Sulu's promotion. See above para for comment on writers inserting bits. I don't take those bits as canon. To take command, no matter how competently, for a few hours in the absence of the regular Captain doesn't prove that someone would make a good Captain at whom the buck stops or that he would be able to handle the paperwork, etc, that goes with the job; all it proves is that he has the potential, and that he can cope perfectly well as long as he isn't permanently in the hot seat. I do, however, take the point that Sulu might have had a smaller command between ST V & ST VI.

Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent

To Jean Sloan, Ann Peters and probably everyone else - Now I realise that I'm probably in a moral minority of one (myself) but pirate videos are plain illegal. A friend of my brother has recently been sent to prison for crimes involving copying videos. It is possible to keep very much up to date with the latest Trek without resorting to illegally produced tapes.

To Marie Park - Where have we seen male Deltans? I can't remember seeing any.

To Jamie Boast - There IS gravity in space. Gravity is what keeps the Earth orbiting the sun. Also compasses work on the principle of magnetism, not gravity. I cannot see why a map of space is an absurd

idea; if you want to find your way about surely a map is a good idea.

To anyone who makes models - Help! I've recently made up Excelsior and Stargazer kits which don't come with a model stand. Does anyone know of a supplier of model stands, or how I could make a decent-looking stand?

Alberto Gorim - Netherlands

Boldly go where no man has gone before - we men were the heroes.

Boldly go where no one has gone before - women came, we men were too late.

Boldly go where no woman has gone before - we men are scared, we leave it up to the brave women!

I'd prefer a woman as Captain. Even this club has women at the top.

My friends Tracy Saunders and Steve Gibb told me BBC will broadcast DS9; I can get this with cable BBC as well, so why do we have to pay for Sky TV? If it's because they're broadcast from first movie to last, and TNG, well, I understand. Netherlands 1 had some, even some replays, in no order.

Question - does anyone know who's producing Star Trek now, or have an address for him? Does anyone have pictures or postcards of 3 Enterprises - Classic 1965 and 1984, TNG 1986, and what they use in DS9?

[Janet: If you can get the BBC on cable the BBC must be licensed to show you their programmes. Sky only have a license to show their programmes to the UK & Eire - they are not allowed to sell viewing cards outside this area.]

The producers of Star Trek are Rick Berman and Michael Piller. You can write to them at Paramount Pictures Corp., 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90038, U.S.A.]

Stephen Shaw - Stockport

To Lee Sansome - I don't embroider and my report was accurate re the Customs 'raid'. I agree the action taken was OTT, but

it is not for me to explain it! It was within the law and there is no room for complaints. The 'victim' needed medical attention (re stress related conditions) for some time. I would not suggest this sort of thing happens every time a strong K/S work is spotted - your own 'loss' is far more reasonable and more likely.

To everyone - Season 6 TNG - I must admit to not liking the two-parter, most especially the story of Picard's torture. I agree that his almost instant recovery was not credible. The two-parter with Worf was almost embarrassing - how do KAG feel about it? Were these Klingons captured? What sort of brain washing did they undergo to turn them into such slugs? Not credible. Worf looked quite uncomfortable in the second part.

And as for the season 6 episode in which Bev single-handedly sets about solving a murder (apparently), she looked as though she was reading her lines off an autocue. Picard needs a court martial if he allowed such things to happen on his ship - not investigating an apparent murder; allowing a senior officer to not only do her own thing but to ignore orders... agghh.

DS9 video volume 8 was fun, featuring a very strong Kira episode, with excellent acting and a comedic episode in which Sisko showed his colours, and displayed the characteristics which led to his command of the Station. However, The Storyteller failed by making a fool out of O'Brien, and he is surely no-one's fool - it seems unwise at the start of a new series to make an idiot out of a leading player. Miles looked pretty uncomfortable in the episode, and I am sure it was not just the supposed discomfort of being close to the good Doctor for so long...

A5 zines - vote in favour. Easier to carry, read and store!

Brief zine recommendation - MAB by Debbie Lee. This story is very professionally crafted, and has a number of reflections of past TNG episodes. It could well be turned into an aired episode (have you sent it to Paramount yet, Debbie?) Available from Nannyte Press. 10 out of 10 from me!

To Michael Sadler - Never again can I watch motor racing on TV without thinking 'Ferengi take-over'. But what is the PROFIT? This is surely the sole driving force of the Ferengi? Is Damon Hill undertaking something more sinister? Perhaps looking for someone to stroke his ears?

Jennifer Cobbing - London

To Anne-Marie Flowers - To explain why synthehol is available on the Enterprise before contact with the Ferengi, I suggest you use the excuse I use for such anomalies, ie, there are always plenty of small private enterprise ships in the galaxy - in other words, pirate ships - that would have brought such useful inventions into Federation space. That's how the Klingons got hold of the Genesis information in TWOK, so why not?

To Edward Woo - I agree that TNG is not as innovative as Classic Trek. Someone at Midcon summed up TNG very well - she said it is 'too politically correct'. Those of us who were old enough when Classic Trek was first shown remember how controversial some of the subjects were. (The famous Kirk/Uhura kiss is just one example.) One episode that I've always hated for being the complete opposite is The Way to Eden. Apart from it being one of the worst episodes ever made, I dislike the way it was made by an older generation who did not understand the Peace Movement of the 60s. Captain Kirk was a contemporary hero but in that episode he was cast as a mirror image of the 'Establishment' and it has always annoyed me that Star Trek was used for such propaganda. Classic Trek is full of the 'American Way' which was a way of life in the States in the 50s and 60s, and in most episodes this can be ignored. In Eden, there was a blatant message to a young generation that to rebel would only end in tears. Then, of course, there's the Stars and Stripes in The Omega Glory - Yuk!! Perhaps I feel this way because I was a hippy myself; Peace, man, pass the joint!

To Paul Hulford - A glamorous woman for Captain? I suggest Hyacinth Bucket. And Victor Meldrew for First Officer and Jack Duckworth as Chief Engineer.

To Jill Clements - Who would I be in Star Trek? Captain Kirk's yeoman, please!

To Stephen Daniels - Chekov was on night duty during Space Seed.

To Jamie Boast - There were some excellent hand-made TNG uniforms on sale at Midcon. They're cheaper than the professionally sold ones and are beautifully made. The organisers of the Wolf 359 convention make the uniforms - the address is at the back of the newsletter.

To Alan Stephen - I agree with your statement that nothing's more annoying than someone with a minority interest attacking others with another minority interest. Each to his own.

To all of you who wrote about the pro-books (Hi, Gloria!) - I gave up buying them a long time ago - give me a good zine any day. I'm convinced most of the authors have never watched Trek. I keep hearing good things about Imzadi so I just might buy that one. And to all of you who defended William Shatner - I hear so much plain nastiness concerning him these days it's so nice to hear people with kind words for him.

I recently saw Ricardo Montalban late at night in a short film made in 1947. I wouldn't have recognised him if I'd seen a still picture of him but the way he used his hands and moved his head was exactly the same as in TWOK and I knew immediately who he was from those familiar actions. Incidentally, has he even been to a convention? Can we invite him? I think he's lovely.

I've really enjoyed the few episodes of DS9 that I've seen. I think it has more going for it than TNG - the characters aren't quite so perfect, and like a good row now and again. The TNG crew all get along just a little too well for my liking. Patrick Stewart's acting in the 6th season leaves a lot to be desired. I think he's bored with his role. It's only in episodes such as Chain of Command when he's out of uniform (I don't mean that literally!) and off the ship that he puts any effort into the part. If it hadn't been for the

script in Lessons I would never have known he was in love. However, episodes such as The Chase, Timescape and Frame of Mind were good stuff.

Marysia Kolodziej - Glasgow

To Ewan Chalmers - Re Star Trek novels. I think it's best to accept what feels right to you. Everyone has their own views about the ST Universe and what is 'official' to Paramount doesn't have to be what is 'official' to you.

I love the new A5 format for zines, mainly because of the price difference and also because it's easier to keep and carry around.

To Edward Woo - Re Yesterday's Enterprise. If the Organians are as super-intelligent as they're made out, they probably got bored watching the Federation and the Klingons' petty antics. We haven't heard anything of them in TNG, so perhaps they moved on to bigger, better and more interesting things.

To Valerie Piacentini - Re noses. The nose is such a focal point that make-up people focus instantly on it when asked to create new life forms. I'd like to see more aliens who aren't adjusted to Earth's gravity and atmosphere.

On several pages of my newsletter there was a double printing as if the words had shadows. Is this likely to happen often or was it a once off, as it is very difficult to read without getting eyestrain. *[Sheila - This is a printing error which hasn't shown up in every copy. I'd say it isn't likely to happen often, and you were just unlucky to get a faulty one.]*

To Victoria Roberts - Re intelligence. Are you sure intelligence is entirely social? I have been reading up on it and had come to the conclusion that neither genetics nor environment could be held entirely responsible for intelligence, but that both were inseparably linked in their effects.

To Andrew Carnegie - Commodore is one step up from Captain. In an emergency

situation a Commodore could probably countermand the Captain of another vessel and commandeer the ship.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Re the mangled surname branch of IDIC. May I join? In case you hadn't noticed they've spelt my name with a 't' at the end at the back of the zine. Another favourite is swapping the 'j' with an 's'. It's pronounced 'Kowodji', and god forbid if anyone sees how it's spelt before they hear it said! Preconceived pronunciations are hard to budge.

To Neil J Barrett - Re Klingon vision. It would be perfectly feasible for Klingons to be unable to see red. It makes sense for non-Human eyes to see different frequencies, especially if their sun is a different colour. Our sun is yellow which is near the middle of our absorption spectrum. It has been suggested that Vulcans can see infra-red; this too would make sense as their sun is redder than ours, thus their absorption spectrum would be shifted towards the red end.

To Jill Clements - If I could be anyone in Star Trek I would be Saavik, because she has a long life ahead of her and is capable of some mental powers; also she has an excuse to be logical and illogical, being only half Vulcan. Plus who knows what she and Spock were up to while David was away on the Genesis planet! She's not my favourite female character, but I'd rather be her.

To Gary Heron - Re birth rates. It makes sense that the birthrate on Earth in the 24th century would be low. At the moment it is the Developing World that is pushing the birth rate so high; in places such as Europe the rate is quite low and in some places so low they have campaigns to raise it before there's no-one left. In general, the more advanced a country the lower the birth rate (and death rate), leading to a more stable population.

Well, it's good to hear Bill Shatner's changed his tune at last. He always seemed very pompous to me when I saw him on TV, although I had no complaints about his portrayal of Kirk. Congratulations on his change.

Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

To Bjo Trimble and Marysia Kolodziej - Ladies, can we assume that the Vulcan laws of inheritance are as illogical as our own? Would Sarek's estate be disposable according to his whim, so that the ghastly Perrin would grab it all? Might there not be a totally different property system on Vulcan - clan ownership, perhaps, with the clan head (who I do not believe would necessarily be a Matriarch - that would be sexism, which is illogical) deciding on distribution according to each person's abilities and what they have contributed, and to their needs. No doubt suitable provision for Perrin's future, whether she chose to remain on Vulcan or not, would be made - but I doubt she'd get it all. Of course, there is T'Pol's statement that she would have Spock's name and property if he did not release her - but might not the linking be significant? Perhaps a spouse, especially one whose partner was working off-Vulcan, had a right to benefit from his or her share of the clan moolah.

I shall stay out of the Let's All Hate Shatner Debate - except to say I felt the laughter and applause when it was announced he would *not* be at Contagion (as I had never imagined he would; I can only assume the local media, maybe the same person who claimed in previous years that a *life-sized* model of the Enterprise would feature, had been telling tall stories) was very uncalled-for. I am no Shatner fan, but there must have been many there who were and could have been upset (though Janet, who was in the row behind me, seemed to survive it all right).

To Andrew Carnegie - Re Picard's command of Stargazer. Perhaps Starfleet follows the Royal (and, I think, US) Navy system wherein you can be the Captain of a (relatively small) ship without being a Captain - notably, Lieutenant-Commander the Prince of Wales, who finished his service as Captain of the small minesweeper HMS Bonnington.

To Anne Peters - I can't agree with your comparison (in N/L 29) between the Salt Vampire and the Horta. Their motives were not 'not dissimilar' at all. When the

Horta killed, she was killing 'monsters' who had murdered hundreds of her children and would kill more unless she got them first. She is an intelligent and benevolent being who, once she understands that it has all been a tragic misunderstanding, is capable of forgiveness for what they did and sorrow for what she did. The Salt Vampire, on the other hand, has not been offered any harm when it kills Nancy, and Crater has been actively kind to it, if for his own reasons. The Horta's motives, whether you feel a mother is morally justified in killing to save her children or not, are wholly understandable. The Salt Vampire's are not - if it is intelligent, then it is malevolent, killing when it knows it need not, that it can have salt tablets instead. It would be as difficult to negotiate terms with it as it is easy to do so with the Horta.

And on the spores - I agree that we all want to be happy. If, however, the price of being happy is to be kept permanently under the influence of a personality-altering drug - which is basically the result of the spores' effects - then I think most of us would rather risk being miserable sometimes and remain ourselves. I would.

I was surprised that nobody in N/L 30 mentioned the new wrinkle to the Bill Taylor debate - the case of the 58-year-old high-flying business woman who is pregnant with twins. It's true the children are not genetically hers, being from donated eggs, but it would only be one small step to allow rich, successful women to have their own eggs frozen and then have their children when it suits them, even if that is after the menopause. Whether you have doubts about this being a good idea or not (and I certainly have them myself) it is possible, and quite likely to happen. It's also possible for a high-flying woman to hire a surrogate to bear her genetic child - and *that* may well have happened already, it would only need an unscrupulous doctor and of course it wouldn't be made public - it could be disguised as a simple adoption. And somebody, somewhere, is probably working on an artificial womb - it would have a quite legitimate justification, too, as a means of helping the many women who can conceive easily but cannot carry to term - which would

have none of the emotional complications of surrogacy.

Katrina Heintz - Bathgate

To Gaille Wood - Yes, there is confusion over H/C stories. I agree that H/C is not always of the physical variety. In the main it is of angst and chest beating and of course the mothering instinct.

To James Connarty - Of course you have to talk to people. How else will other attendees know you are on your own?

To Zander Bruce - The first con I attended was Silvercon, and I found the Committee and Stewards extremely helpful, then and now. The 'Chuck 'em some videos' attitude is certainly not true. The cons have plenty of variety. I have never been able to attend all that is available. I enjoyed my first con even though I was on my own. I spoke to many people, several of whom I still keep in touch with. Now, three years down the line, I do stewarding and help run a sales table.

To Jill Clements - I agree the standard of commercially published books has fallen recently, with only a few exceptions such as Imzadi, Doctor's Orders and The Pandora Principle.

To Neil J Barrett - I read novels in the main and I am not a comic fan, but I have still enjoyed the graphic novels. I don't agree that it is the shortened attention span that has made them so popular, but the fact that some of the story lines are far better than the 'proper' novels.

Re Sky TV - It seems to me that Sky's attitude is if they corner the market on programmes such as Star Trek they will ensure people will buy or rent the system, therefore increasing their sales and profits. With recent developments in subscription charges I would think it would be cheaper to wait and buy the video.

Stephen Daniels - Kelso

To Edwin Yau - Please pardon my ignorance, Edwin, but what's this 'Date of satellite uplink' business at the beginning of

the newsletter?

[Janet: Star Trek is shown on syndicated TV in the US and the syndicated stations are situated all over the States. How do Paramount get the new episodes to all these stations you may ask - well they send them by satellite link. The date the episodes are transmitted is the uplink date. The episodes will actually be seen at various times throughout the following week.]

To Anne-Marie Flowers (N/L 30 p17) - The reason that crew members can exit the holodeck with holodeck creations such as water and lipstick on them is this, while some items like books, etc, are just images, other objects like the water are specifically created by the matter conversion subsystem, just like food and other items can be on ship-board replicators.

To Lynette Attwood (N/L 30 P 19) - I feel that your remarks regarding Marina Sirtis were unfair and unjustified. The first point I want to take issue with is your comment that "...the whole American ethos is based on money..." I think that applies to every Westernised country in the world, including the UK. I know I would like to keep earning a wage for the rest of my life - wouldn't you? Marina's speech (which I didn't hear) was probably very rehearsed, as she was nervous about her first con on her own turf - as Brits are well known for our resentment rather than our admiration of people who become successful. Give her a break (to use an American phrase); she lives and works in the US, of course she's going to pick up some of their somewhat open characteristics.

To Jamie Boast (N/L 30p 45) - I'm sorry for being picky but a compass does not require gravity to work, it requires a magnetic field, and who knows, in the 24th century they may have discovered a galactic magnetic field. Your point about directions though is valid; it's all very well to have N, S, E & W, but what about areas directly above and below the point of origin?

For uniforms call Stargazer, Worcester (0905) 726259 (5% discount for IDIC members).

To David W Parsons - For a cutaway poster of the Enterprise-D, call Stargazer (see above.) Cost £14.99.

Finally regarding DS9. Perhaps I've been a bit too harsh, it's just that when I saw the video box and the classy opening credits and theme tune, I expected a high quality programme, but that's not what was delivered. It was sort of like biting into a beautiful chocolate only to find the creme centre was fusty.

Jason Wells - Stevenage

To Paul Hulford - You asked me in the last newsletter about the colours etc for the Klingon Battle Cruiser. Well, firstly I used Tamyia paints; they are the best you can buy - a little expensive, but good. They are water-based acrylic paint, so you don't need paint cleaner - just water and they don't clog up the detail.

Anyway, the colours I used were pale blue mixed with green. What you do is pour some of the pale blue into an old jar lid (or something) then slowly add the green, brushful by brushful until you get a blue-green colour - but very light and pale. If you send me your address, I will send you a photo of the model - O.K.?

To Vera Regina Schweitzer - Re ST movie insignia etc. The information you require is in Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise by Shane Johnson. In this book there are all ranks, colours and uniforms from cadet to Admiral. Please let me know when they are made - I would be very interested in a uniform top.

I would just like to comment on a possible fourth series. I am all for a new series to keep the Star Trek legend alive; but why don't they just recast The Next Generation, so instead of the expense of an all-new series, just continue with a new crew, eg as stated in the Daily Express article; a female Captain, or promote Riker; a new medical officer - maybe Sela could take over? I'm sure other fans have views on this.

Edwin Yau, Hove - East Sussex

I'm glad to see that my Empire vs. the

Federation question prompted some interesting views. It looks like IDIC members are roughly split down the middle on whether the Empire or Federation would win a battle. With regards to Brian Proctor's article in IDIC#30, if you read your Star Wars Sourcebook properly, it says that a ship has to reach FTL speeds to make the jump into hyperspace, which means that hyperspace is not light speed (rather it is a different space-time dimension), and that SW ships are fast if not faster than ST ships (which travel in multiples of light speed and in real space).

Imperial ships have much better tractor beams in SW and could easily hold onto ST ships. Ship weaponry is something else. Phasers are more powerful than lasers/blaster cannons on ships - ion cannons are used for disabling ship shields, electronics and controls. Turbolaser cannons are huge and I feel could beat phasers in strength, but not rapid fire. As you don't know what type of lasers the Empire uses, you can't tell if they are effective against Federation shields or not. Shielding is the Federation's strong point, which is certainly more advanced. ST ships are more manoeuvrable, but sublight speeds would be the same as both SW & ST ships can reach light speed! TIE fighters are most manoeuvrable, certainly better than any shuttle or starship. TIE aren't a threat in very small numbers, but 20-odd would cause a large problem.

ST ships may be able to destroy the old Death Star, but not the fully constructed new one which would have been twice the size, carry much better shielding and weapon technology/power, and not have the exhaust port problem. The Federation may have the power to destroy a planet, but it would take a lot of anti-matter and anyway, they wouldn't do it as they're not that sort of people! The Empire on the other hand would have no qualms! Have a few dozen super star destroyers and hundreds of TIE fighters protect the Death Star and keep the Federation busy, and 15 minutes later say goodbye to Earth!

As to beaming anti-matter across to destroy things - this is very dangerous and if it's such a good idea why don't they do it all

the time with the enemy - answer, because it's near impossible!

With land combat, Imperial forces easily out-number Federation forces (who rarely shoot to kill, unlike Stormtroopers). AT-AT's have really thick armour, so I doubt they will soon fall victim to phaser fire - maybe after draining the odd power pack! Phasers don't quite have the range AT-AT weapons do and are slow - you don't see people easily dodging blaster shots in SW! Also, the Federation doesn't have any land cruisers, speeder bikes etc., whereas the Empire has a large variety.

ST computers are better and Data is more powerful (but they only have the one), but SW droids are more friendly, can act human/emotionally better than Data ever could, and I doubt if they would act like Lore! Even R2-D2 has "feelings".

I believe that the Force is more to do with physical and spiritual attainment and would work anywhere, and if Vader was your foe, well...

Tactically, the Empire has the edge on the ground in the sheer variety of forces, equipment and training they have. The Federation has the advantage in space, but not on everything. My conclusion is that the Federation MAY WIN, but I'd place better odds on the Empire as they have hundreds more ships than the Federation. The Empire is geared towards war, the Federation towards peace. In the end, the sheer number of Imperial forces could see off the Federation. But then again, if the Rebel Alliance could win... like I said, the Federation have an outside chance.

Gloria Fry - Glasgow

After reading Sheila's answer to Anne-Marie Flowers in NL30 on Picard being 59 on first taking command of Enterprise D therefore being 64 in season 6, I was most surprised. Deciding to do a little detective work I consulted the ST chronology and made some startling discoveries. If the chronology is to be believed, then Kirk is 31 when he takes command of the Enterprise and Spock is 34. During ST:TMP - Kirk is 38;

ST:TWOK - 52; ST:TSFS -52; ST:TVH - 53; ST:TFF - 54; ST:TUC - 60.

If my calculations are correct then there is a highly interesting situation here and it smacks of double standards. What is the big fuss that many critics and a few fans, not to mention Starfleet Command, hold with regard to the ages of the original crew. Why is there no fuss when Picard gains command at only one year younger than Kirk is forced to retire in ST6? Where are the cries of 'Geriatrics! Piloting with his zimmer!' etc that the press are so fond of saying?

Perhaps rejuvenating treatment has improved in the 80 or so years between the two series and the older officers are allowed to serve in their later years. Of course there is an animation episode where the age of retirement is mentioned as being over 70, but that appears to have been ignored. Personally though, I believe the animosity concerning the aging of the original crew lies with the public who have watched the programme for 27 years and seen the cast forever young, that in their minds Kirk, Spock and crew should always remain so and not be allowed to grow older. They cannot accept the aging process as a natural occurrence and is typical of the attitude so prevalent in our society that youth is all. Age and experience matter naught. Ignore, even ridicule the older generation. If you ain't young and beautiful then move over, chum. Why Picard's age is not an issue is something of a mystery, but perhaps it is because we have never seen the young Picard so can accept him as he is. I would be interested in other opinions on this:

Neil Barrett's article on Marshak and Culbreath's stories echoes my own feelings on those writers, but I would add that despite them sometimes being a difficult read, and the endless philosophical discussions etc which Sheila correctly thinks needs a good edit, in the 70s their books reached fans who had no access to fan fiction and they were the closest thing available in the pro-market then. Their interpretation of Kirk always annoyed me though, showing him as weaker than my own opinion of him, almost emasculating his character at times.

It is really nice to see after so many years of bashing Bill Shatner's acting ability that many people are coming to his defence. I think that part of the problem has been memories of the times he hammed it up, (all actors do so at times, even the great Olivier was known for it on occasion) forgetting the majority of episodes when he brought Kirk to life with truly excellent acting. That is now being rediscovered.

Isn't it amazing how confirmed Classic Trek fans love DS9? I have enjoyed it immensely so far and would agree that it is very close in many ways to the original series.

To Jim Robertson - I concur with your feelings on the trend to put down CT, but would dispute your comment on the effects being 'pretty naff', as you put it. ST won Emmy awards for special effects in episodes like 'Tholian Web.' which are still pretty impressive. Remember this was the mid 60's. Although they worked to a horribly tight budget, they had effects which had never been done on TV before, not to mention movies. If some of them are less than believable due to lack of cash, then it's a matter of ignoring them. The story line and characters are the main focus.

David Flack - Romford

Many thanks to Bryan Miller, Neil Barrett & Brigitte Doran for their valuable help with the codes for Star Trek - 25th Anniversary computer game. How do you actually work out 99 to base 3? I looked in my books on maths, and could not find any reference to base calculations. *[Sheila - There is a formula, which I never remember, but counting in base 3 begins 1, 2, 10, 11, 12, 20, 21, 22, 100, 101, 102, 110, 111, 112, 120, 121, 122, 200, 201, 202, 210, 211, 212, 220, 221, 222, 1000.]*

To Andrew Carnegie - Boring!! How can you say Star Trek is boring?! They could show it a thousand times over and it will still have a kick for a true Trekkie.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - My wife has some Star Trek knitting patterns - I expect they could be used for embroidery - the

address is Intarsia, PO Box 138, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 2XR, phone 0734-595047. Good luck!

[Janet: There was an advert for Trek cross stitch patterns in the latest issue of Bjo's Space Time Continuum. \$5 a sheet. For an order form send an SAE plus IRC to Dept STC, Site 2, Box 5, Wyevale, Ontario, Canada LOL 2TO.]

Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

It was interesting to read the comments to Bill Taylor. I didn't expect anyone, and certainly not a woman (Ann Peters), to agree to what he said. I couldn't say it better than Simon Trick, but I would like to add something.

I think there are two kinds of intelligence. One is the intelligence to learn facts, in other words to be a good student. But more important than this kind of intelligence is the ability to use your gifts properly, to make the right decisions at the right time, to be able to deal with people and be willing to learn from mistakes. What is the gift worth to have the ability to learn more and faster at school than others, if such a potential genius wastes his or her life by taking drugs, or does not use that ability, just to give two examples? Others who have been bad students but use their full potential can lead much better lives and can also become successful. People are shaped by their upbringing, their experiences and mainly by their choices as well as the opportunities they are allowed to choose from.

In our society it is regrettably still the case that a woman can only choose between her career and a family. To combine both is sometimes extremely difficult. It is very easy to blame women that they do not pursue their careers, or their 'intelligence' when they have children, when men refuse to do their full share in the upbringing of children. It would be interesting to know if Bill Taylor would be prepared to stay at home with his child because there is no kindergarten and no grandparent where he can leave it and taking it to work is also forbidden.

To John Stubbley - I do not like the Official Star Trek clubs much. My experience with the American one is very bad. Many years ago when I still lived in Germany, I wanted to join and sent them the money by bank order. Months passed - no response. After three reminders and a year later I got a letter from the bank saying that they had credited the amount again because the cheque hadn't been cashed. Also when I asked them something later - with SAEs - I never got any reply. I consider being a member there a waste of money. The service for members and would-be members is obviously nearly non-existent. I enjoy their magazine in spite of the lack of interaction with fans because of the articles and interviews in there. But it can never compete with clubs like IDIC or the German club Star Trek Forum.

Out of curiosity I joined the British Official club anyway. I contacted the 'Marketing Firm' when I found their advert about Star Trek videos in the CIC video boxes without knowing at that time that they intended to open an Official club. I got no reply but when I joined I suddenly got an answer - weeks later. They are a good addition, if you want to read good articles and interviews in a colourful magazine but I would be very surprised if they were to allow discussions about rumours, episodes other than published by CIC or even about so-called piracy in their magazine, all things that bring life into a club publication.

By the way, I heard rumours that the Official club in the USA will not allow foreign memberships in future. Is that true? If so, I wonder why.

Philip Morley - Fleetwood, Lancs

To Scott Rhodes - Yes, perhaps transwarp drive was abandoned in Starships, but the principle was not forgotten. In Descent Pt 1, the Borg vessel uses a transwarp conduit through subspace. When a ship enters that conduit, it achieves a very high warp velocity, at least 20 times faster than conventional warp, as normal subspace limitations don't apply to transwarp variables. Also, the reason why Troi didn't eject the engine core in Disaster was because

the impulse engines were off line, therefore not allowing for enough safe distance put between the Enterprise and the core, so even if she did eject it, when the warp core containment failed, it would still destroy the Enterprise.

To Marysia Kolodziej - Captain Kruge's pet (ST III) was a Klingon dog, was it not?

To Charles McWhan - Stardates for season 6 are as follows; Time's Arrow Pt 2, 46001.3; Realm of Fear, 46041.1; Man of the People, 46071.6; Relics, 46125.3; Schisms, 46154.2; True Q, 46192.3; Rascals, 46235.7; A Fistful of Datas, 46271.5; The Quality of Life, 46307.2; Chain of Command, 46360.8; Ship in a Bottle, 46424.1; Aquiel, 46461.3; Birthright, 46548.4; Birthright Pt 2, 46579.2; Starship Mine, 46682.4; The Chase, 46731.5; Frame of Mind, 46778.1; Suspicions, 46830.1; Rightful Heir, 46852.2; Descent, 46982.1. I'm afraid I don't know the stardates to Tapestry, Lessons, Second Chances and Timescape.

Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham

To Karen Davies and Rebekah Owens - I agree with your comments about the risk of Picard becoming too detached from his emotions and how he continues to suffer through physical and psychological traumas with little or no ill-effects. Only, you mentioned Chain of Command and that in the next episode he seemed to be perfectly fine. That might be true but that's in keeping with Picard's character. He would not let his personal feelings interfere with his professional duties. I think we will only see the true repercussions of his ordeal when there is another Cardassian story. Just like we see the repercussions of the Borg kidnapping in Family and I, Borg.

You also mentioned that he lived a lifetime in 25 minutes. We see the after-effects of this in Lesson, when he tells his now-found love about how important his music is to him because it's the only thing left of that life.

After watching the 6th season of TNG, I'd like to say it's pretty typical of most seasons, some good episodes and some not so good. My particular favourite is Face of the

Enemy. Didn't Deanna look weird with Romulan features! I thought she was great. It was about time Deanna got a substantial part.

The episodes I didn't like much were Rightful Heir and Birthright. I think there have been too many serious Klingon episodes and I like it when Worf gets to show his more humorous side, eg Fistful of Datas.

Regarding Birthright Pt II and the first Klingon kiss. I read in an interview, Michael Dorn and Jeniffer Gatti (the Klingon girl Worf fell for) spent a week discussing how exactly Klingons would kiss. After 'analysing it to death', Michael finally declared, "Let's just film the thing and hope our false teeth don't hook together!"

I'd just like to say a quick Hi! to Brenda Allen and Sally Wilkinson, friends I've made through IDIC.

Michael Sadler - South Wirral

After uncovering Damon Hill as a Ferengi, I have made my new mission to discover whether TU Borg lager is an alien drug.

After extensive tasting, 'last orders' becomes irrelevant, then 'closing time' becomes irrelevant and eventually the *world* becomes irrelevant.

Upon observing the consumption of the drug in question, a noticeable change in character occurred. The following morning the subject complained about a headache and loss of memory.

This is an obvious case of alien abduction and tampering with the memory... or is it more sinister, ie the insertion of bionic implants?

Conclusion - drink too much Borg lager and you will get assimilated.

Bill Murphy - Edinburgh

Re the episode Suspicions, I found it rather strange that Dr Crusher would have such an interest in metaphasic shielding. Surely it would be of more interest to

someone from engineering? Also, in the same episode Picard says to Crusher, "You're the loneliest person in the world right now." An odd thing to say when you're travelling through deep space!

To Alan Stephen - Just because someone is in a position of authority doesn't necessarily mean they are intelligent - politicians being a prime example!

To Harvinder Singh - I would agree with you that Captive Pursuit is the best DS9 episode yet; however your comment 'May the Tosk die with honour' bothered me a little, as I don't see why he has to die at all.

Interested to read Jill Clements' remarks on who you would be in Star Trek. As someone who has a certain trait in common with Captain Picard (yes, a certain cranial deficiency!) it would have to be the UFP President in STVI - all that hair! Oh, boy!

Tracey Saunders - Westcliff on Sea, Essex

To Anne-Marie Flowers - Re your opinion about the torture scenes in Chain of Command II. I must say that I thought that it has got to be brought out into the open. I know things like that are not nice, but they are happening in our present world and your making a point about it proves that it is attracting people's attention.

To Marysia, Troon - Re your comments about Data having a soul, etc. May I just state that I have a belief in spiritualism and we believe that everything in the universe has a soul and a purpose of existence. We also believe that the soul is a form of energy, so maybe if there was an energy entity that wanted to have a 'temple' to experience life as we know it, it could choose Data is it wanted to.

To Victoria Roberts - I was interested to read about your views concerning Spock's and Saavik's emotions. I have to say that I don't think that Spock has been 'trained', as you put it. Spock has had to live with Humans for quite a while, so I think it is more his teaching himself than being trained.

To Commander K'Tan sutai Kuragan - Re your comment about the Imperial Klingons evolving from dogs - I believe you are being a bit dogmatic there!!!

K J Atherton - Ormskirk

Having been loaned a copy of the IDIC N/L I have to say - GREAT! Plenty of news, views and lots of healthy, interesting discussion. But - will the person who perpetrated the Andorian vinaloo joke please append their name, apologise to all lovers of vinaloo or at least own up?

To Judith Taylor - Perhaps the Enterprise shuttle was the victim of a misplaced phaser blast when Worf was practising, or it got blown out of the observation lounge when the furniture flew about in In Theory; or it got disintegrated by the Ferengi. What does it matter?

You mean to say that IDIC members actually write fiction??? Rather than me!

Taruka (Eagle Mirror) Quauhtezcatl (The Bolivian Terrorist) - Preston

To Ewan Chalmers - Re novels. Having just ploughed my way through Pawns and Symbols I can't accept that one as Trek at all. Had I written it, my favourite editor would have instantly flung it out as not being Trek-orientated enough, and I would have agreed. How can professional writers get away with things that we fan writers are severely rapped over the knuckles for?

To Judith Taylor - I thought you did very well as the DS8.5 Complaints Officer. It was me who made a mess of it. Revenge (marching me on stage at phaser-point) at Lightspeed was sweet?

To Lesley Arrowsmith - There was a ST embroidery thingy going round Warp One but I haven't heard anything since. However, my offer still stands to anyone who'd like a chart designed. I've done charts for tapestries and rugs of my own for about 15 years and most look like they're commercially-available designs. I can be found at 'Starship Ch'illik'utu', 8 Brook St,

Higher Walton PR5 4DU or, more directly, at 'Hemswell', 6 Wensley Place, Brookfield, Preston PR2 6UT.

To Jo Christodoulides - Phew - 5 syllables! Me? Yes, everyone asks. You have to hear the pronunciation of my name for the subtleties to come through, but it's roughly pronounced 'Kwatecal', though there is a slight drop on the first 'a', the 't' is clicked and the second 'a' has a 'd' trailed off it running to the 't'. Don't try it unless you've heard it!

To Scott Rhodes - Re ejection of the engine core. What? And ruin a cracker of a story line in which everyone meets their own personal nemesis?

Picard dislikes children - he's trapped in a lift with three of them.

Riker hates being reminded that Data's a machine - he has to partly disassemble him.

Geordi hates fires - he's trapped in a cargo bay with a plasma fire.

Worf is embarrassed by anything outside his experience - he has to deliver a Human baby.

Beverly worries about the vacuum of space - she has to stay in a decompressed cargo bay.

Troi is uncertain about command - she is in charge of the Enterprise.

Data fears disassembly (as much as an android can) and yet asks Riker to do just that.

Ro Laren hates not being in command of a situation...

Tribble this month awarded to Edward Woo for the tribble joke. I was going to send one to the perpetrator of the Horta-culturist joke but then remembered whose brushpen it was!

To John Stubbley - Re the DS9 episode. Er - The Game is a 5th season TNG episode. I think the one you mean is Move Along Home. *[Sheila - That's the sort of thing we ought to catch. Unfortunately, although we're well up with seeing TNG and DS9, none of us is good with the titles...]*

Re the ST/SW debate. Er... you'd need

Q to bring them together, or had you not noted the opening lines in SW - "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away..."

Who would I be in Star Trek, Jill Clements? Hard to say. Probably K'ehleyr or B'Etor, the only two women who've managed to seduce (or nearly seduce) Worf. Failing that, do you honestly have to ask?

Alan Butler - Plymouth

Could I ask why everyone seems to have it in for the DS9 theme? I love it! It has this majestic air that hints at a kind of western flavour which fits its 'last outpost' attitude perfectly.

While we're on the subject, a quick aside to Jean Donkin. How can you be unsure of O'Brien's character? He's probably the most Human character in the Star Trek world so far. A wife, a kiddie, and just his whole approach to life. Who can forget those classic moments such as the kicking of the transporter in Emissary and his "Bloody 'ell" line after seeing Q for the first time on the station (my sentiments exactly).

Another trend concerns some of these ongoing arguments. Now I see the need for lively discussion, but come on, please, everyone, just accept that some of you like Kirstie Alley as Saavik and some of you like Robin Curtis. (Actually, while we're on the subject of this character, could someone tell me if her Romulan heritage has ever been established outside of the novels?)

To Bryan Miller - Regarding Picard and Sisko's encounter in Emissary - how can you call Sisko's behaviour unwarranted? I know the full story of Picard's assimilation but if I was in Sisko's place I would have felt exactly the same. The heart doesn't always forgive - even when the mind knows better. Also Picard just sat there because he's an honourable man and in a way he felt he had to answer for his actions. He knows he wasn't responsible for what Locutus did, but part of him will always feel he was to blame and it was that part that was answering to Sisko.

Maggy Symon - Fochabers

In answer to your request for opinions about the A5 zine - I have never liked them in the past so I don't see me being won over now, even if it is ST. There might be an alternative - if you are willing to spend the time and money - produce A4 copies to order for those willing to pay, either on your ink-jet printer or an old photocopier? [Janet - *We did consider printing a few A4 zines but they would be very expensive as you would still need a full set of plates for them. Ink jet would take 2 - 3 hours to print one zine, the ink is not waterproof, and we would have to charge about £5 a copy. Timewise, however, it's just not on as we are fully stretched running the club and putting out zines. We don't have access to a cheap photocopier and a professional copy firm would probably charge £6+ a copy (to which we would have to add postage & envelope, roughly £1). A laser printer might print a zine in 15 minutes but they cost £1300 for one which prints at that speed with my computer...*]

Sandy Catchick - Wokingham, Berks

I just wanted to say that I think the new A5 size of zines is great! It is so easy to take the zines on the train with you and you don't end up crushing them. For me the size of print is fine too as I can see small print easily (but not the bus coming towards me!)

Mary Proudfoot - Shepperton

I love the new A5 format! I was going to give up buying zines - financially I'm having to cut back on lots of things just now - but when I discovered Make It So had reduced in format and therefore price I just had to indulge myself! I prefer the zine stories to many of the professional novels, so have cut them out instead.

A5 is easier to carry about, the print is OK to read as long as it is not too faint and the price is right; I vote for you to continue to produce them in A5 format. [Ed - *So far, the vast majority of people who have commented prefer the A5 size for ease of carrying, storing and reading in bed - as well as price!*]

A M Clay - Leeds

To Bryan Miller (N/L 30, P48) re getting a copy of Physical Review Letters.

You should go to your local library and ask; if it is a large (very) library, it might subscribe; if not they can get a copy of the article for you. You'll need to quote the details given in N/L 29. There will be a charge of some sort.

The subscription rate is around £1000 (yes!) a year and I doubt individual copies being on sale. It's published by the American Physical Society.

Bill Taylor - Kelty

To all those kind people who took the trouble to comment on my letter in N/L 28. I can only apologise for misjudging your intelligence and hope you have managed to untangle your lower nether garments.

I can now offer you a chance in a lifetime, to buy a share in my new invention, a perpetual motion machine. Send only £3000, c/o IDIC and made payable to the IDIC Guide Dog Fund.

Limited to one share each, except for the 'Biologist', who in deference to her debating skills, can have two shares, as can all those whose comments were unprintable.

To quote from the ancient Ha Ha carvings, "Women without a sense of humour deserve to get their legs pulled".

I was shattered and humbled by the clever personal attacks but amused at the attempts to disprove my hypothesis, which was of course false. The logic was correct, only incomplete. A great number of factors are involved, of which there are 3 major ones which negate the proposal. Brevity (and a lack of desire to teach elementary eugenics and sociology) preclude their inclusion here, although if the contributors care to send £2 each to the above fund and £30 is raised, then if desired I will send them in a later letter.

What did concern me and brought about my letter were the claims of superiority and lust for power - not equality, *power* - that have been creeping into some letters over the past year and were evident in the response my letter provoked. Not the spirit of IDIC.

A NG question; how many children were on the 40 starships in the battle with the Borg at Wolf 359, and how many were killed?

Jacqueline Y Comben - Rhossili

After Contagion, the so-called 'Official UK Star Trek Fan Club' hereinafter referred to as 'OUKFC' managed to annoy quite a few people by trying to answer questions raised at that convention. They began by writing a letter to Richard Arnold, addressing points he had made. Deciding that this excellent epistle would also cover most of the criticisms sent to them by other fans, or made at Contagion, they proceeded to circulate it widely. However, instead of using a 'mail merge' facility to alter the address and salutation for each recipient, as any modern office does, they sent copies with Richard's home address intact, merely adding a cover note for the fan or club concerned. As they managed to send most people the wrong cover note (ie addressed to a different fan) and as Richard was not totally delighted to find that his address had been distributed to practically every fan in the UK, the overall impression they gave was, to say the least, poor.

At Holodeck, OUKFC tried to undo the harm they had done to themselves. Their speaker learned fast, as he stopped referring to clubs like IDIC as 'regional' and called them 'established' after only one hint from me! His over-all effort seems to have impressed some people and caused them to see OUKFC as, if not actually a boon to society, at least as 'not a bad idea'. However, I understand that at Midcon, opinion swung again, and many fans expressed alarm at OUKFC's activities.

I do not believe that any sort of 'anti-OUKFC' campaign is desirable, as it might actually cause Paramount to view us with distaste. However, I am now alarmed for a whole new reason.

An innocent fan in Swansea 'joined' OUKFC in July. He received their first N/L and tiny badge fairly rapidly. They purport to produce 4 N/Ls per year, yet at the time of writing, nearly four months later, he still awaits the second. Meanwhile, he discovered that Argos sells the merchandise advertised

by OUKFC (and implied to be 'exclusive' to members) and that Argos prices are a lot more reasonable. You might think this is evidence that no campaign against OUKFC is needed, as they are killing themselves off quite efficiently with no help from us, and this is true. However, although the particular fan in Swansea knows me, and knows that IDIC, for example, is properly run, most who have 'joined' OUKFC are not so well informed. How many of those fans, unaware of our clubs, now see Star Trek fandom as a rip-off which promises much and delivers little? Even if they find our about out clubs, will they not think, "*Well, if the Official Fan Club can't deliver, I can't expect these unofficial people to do any better!*" Therefore they will not join us and will never discover their mistake.

I have no answer for this, but it worries me.

[Janet - I received their 2nd magazine on Nov 11th with an apology for the delay.]

Sarah Irons - Northolt

Firstly I'd like to say how much I enjoy your newsletters; my family are totally ignored until I've read it at least once.

I've been reading recently quite a lot of negative stuff about Bill Shatner and J T Kirk and it kind of got me thinking. What if there had been no Captain Kirk? What if Jeffrey Hunter had been available and had decided to do the second pilot? Would there be the same enthusiasm for Star Trek as there is today? Would Bjo Trimble even have bothered with her letter campaign that gave the show another chance? Would it have ever reached the big screen or TNG and DS9?

My answer to these questions is NO, for as far as I'm concerned Bill Shatner as Kirk gave the show plausibility and lift. No offence to Jeff Hunter, but Pike was dull; he lacked the charm, sex appeal and spirit of adventure that came out in Kirk and I'm sure the Spock/McCoy relationship would not have developed without him.

"This girl must obviously be besotted by the man," I hear you cry. Not so. I am in

fact a besotted Scotty fan, which is why I can understand why Jimmy Doohan and others refuse to talk to him. It must have been pretty frustrating for them throughout the series and the movies to be given so little to do, and Bill's arrogant attitude couldn't have helped. Anyway, the above is just my humble opinion - I'd like to hear others.

Zander Bruce - Thornton, Fife

SPOILER ALERT - Having just watched Descent 1 & 2 this week, I must say that Beverly Crusher was marvellous as Captain of the Enterprise during Picard's absence. Instead of doing a Riker and posing about the bridge looking smug, she was fully involved in the running of her ship. Anyway, why shouldn't the CMO be left in command of the ship? Any other officers in the immediate chain of command are department heads, so the CMO already has the experience of running the Medical Department (one of the most essential on the ship), has the rank to assume command, and their Hippocratic oath means that the well-being of the crew is of primary importance to them. Aren't these the necessary requirements for captaincy?

To Gaile Wood - Any traumatic events in our lives change us irrevocably. I just feel lucky that I have good friends who help see each other through the hard times. Thanks for being one of them. I love you, Auntie Gaile!

To Sheila Clark - The author of DS9 No 3, K W Jeter, is predominately a horror writer.

To Dejan Ladika - Please get in touch, and I will try to organise the delivery of some Trek goodies next time my mother is in Slovenia (which is too often, the lucky *****) My address can be found in the club ads section.

To Peter Poole - It's nice to know that it's not just my paranoid ramblings about Contagion. Should you attend next year still searching for insanity, you are more than welcome to attend the Virgins' Revenge, along with all newcomers and this year's virgins. One thing - what is wrong with

Jonathan being cute at Contagion? I know a few Space Central members who weren't complaining!

To Ann Peters - In case it slipped your mind, we all have to pay for BBC anyway, regardless of whether we watch it or not, by way of a TV licence. Personally, I think that Sky has done a lot for Trek. They have provided us with more than the BBC was willing to show, and at least they air the programme at a reasonable time, when people are actually home from work. I used to miss the first half of the show by the time I got home from work.

JUDITH TAYLOR (or the nutcase in the feathers at Warp One)

Hello Sheila, Janet, Karen, Valerie and Helen; it seems that nobody says hello and thank you for the time you put in to produce this Brill, Fab and absolutely EXCELLENT news letter. I have taken the time to do this because you are the most dedicated Trekkers in Britain and I think you deserve the praise. IDIC has allowed all us Trekkers to get to know each other even if we have never seen each other. (You had better put this in as I think there are lots of others out there who think the same).

So here's a big HELLO,,, and THANK YOU.

To Michael Sadler, you've done it again, this time it's the Damon Hill joke, please get in touch. Are you part Betazed, as you keep reading my jokes straight from my mind. (My address is 70 Leadale road, Leyland, Lancs, PR5 1QR, if you want to phone ask Taruka Quauhtezcatl)

To Edward Woo - What do you look like? I caught a fleeting glance at Warp One. Taruka has told me much about you. By the way, here's a joke you might like.

What happens if you cross a Dalek with a Borg?

You will be Extrapolated!

To every DS9'er it's good to see I'm not in the minority, I am though extremely upset to see TNG season six sacrificed to awful and

sometimes ludicrous story lines. DS9 has profited and TNG has lost out. I hope season seven is not as badly done. Gene would be extremely concerned that his 'baby' is going the way it is.

To Scott Rhodes - I too noticed the moving person in the observation lounge. A brilliant piece of effects work, compliments to the effects team.

To Marysia Kolodziej - I don't think Perrin is a spy. She obviously loves Sarek very much and is maybe a bit jealous of Amanda and so is jealous of Spock. She is also angry that Spock treated Sarek like he did with the fights; also the stress of Sarek's illness is getting to her. She has become embittered towards Spock for not coming to his father during his illness.

To those of the mangled name,
Taruka Q. (your name does not compute, the spell checker did a dicky mint but it did give something for Taruka, Terrace)
Jo Christodoulides (Ditto.....?)
Bjo Trimble (it put out, Thimble, Tremble, Triable and Trembly)
Val Piacentini (?)
Michael Farquhar (!!!!)
Gratienne Vandekerkhove, (I think my computerr is crashing)
Zaquia Tarhuntassa (!???&*%\$^&()&%\$^*)

My speel checker has busted and is now no good, thannks a lott.....

Mind you, you should see what it says for IDIC, (Indic, Iodic, adduce and otic)

To Ann Peters - You are right, DNA transfer of languages will not work because DNA has nothing to do with learning. DNA is the gene structure of the person and only affects physical form. It is true that Intelligence can be passed down from parents to children but it is not learning. Languages are a learned response and so DNA cannot be used to 'imprint it on to someone's brain. (There you go, straight out of my science lesson)

Does anyone out there know what a queasenark is. (the spelling may be wrong)? I

and my brother have been trying to find out what it is. Bjo, as you are in America and it is an American term do you know what it is?.

To Sheila, Janet and whoever else it concerns. I live in LEYLAND not Preston, L.E.Y.L.A.N.D !!! It is only in the fifth Preston area. It is Neil Barrett who lives in Preston.

Who started this stupid argument about Star Wars meets the Federation? The Empire does not even know we exist. I quote 'Once upon a time a long time ago' the emphasis on AGO); but if they do 'invade' the Federation sectors their bad guys would fight it out with our bad guys for domination of our sector. All we would do then is team up with their good guys and clean up the mess. Besides, considering Industrial Light and Magic created them both I think they are evenly matched.

To Helen White, WORF IS NOT A SOFTIE.. He is twice the Klingon the properly brought up Klingons are..... I refer to 'Sins of the Father', 'Reunion' and of course 'Redemption parts 1&2'.. **SPOILER ALERT** About your views on Descent, it is a good cliff hanger, but I think it's being played for laughs, because of

1. The way that Data kills the Borg.
2. The look on Counsellor Troi's face when he says he enjoyed killing the Borg.
3. The fact that they leave the Doctor in charge of the ship with only a skeleton crew so that all the others can go look for Data. This we found incredibly stupid and not like Picard at all. He is in a potentially hostile situation with over a thousand civilian women and children on board, and he beams down with most of the crew to find one officer leaving only one of the senior officers on board, and one who is not experienced in battle strategy, and only a skeleton crew.

4. Then with all those people on the planet searching for the Captain, Counsellor Troi and Geordi walk up a hill and lo and behold there is the Borgs' (they are now Borgs because they are no longer a collective) stronghold, looking like one of the public conveniences on Blackpool promenade.

5. They proceed, just the three of them, to enter the strong-hold, which any one can guess is going to put them up against aliens that will not do their health any good. They did not even bother to call back-up from the hundreds of crew searching the planet.

6. Then to top it all after they're surrounded by the Borgs out comes Lore (surprise surprise) dressed in what I can only describe as Kryten's cast-offs and of course the famous line to end all seasons, 'The sons of Soong united... against the Federation'.

Irene Ambrose - Hounslow, Middlesex

A few weeks ago I was listening to Virgin Radio and a competition where people phone in, voting to play one of two dreadful records. I'd only just turned on, but the record that won was William Shatner's er declaiming Mr Tambourine Man. Now, I have great admiration for Mr Shatner's acting, but I hope he didn't make too many forays into music, if this was anything to go by. It was *awesomely* bad!

Do you know if he made another venture into music? I don't how long ago this was recorded, but I hope it was a one-off. Any other Shatner fans (and I *am* one) can argue if they like, but it was one of those records that's so bad it's fascinating!

[Janet: Mr Tambourine Man comes from an LP William Shatner made in the early 70's called The Transformed Man. I like it but admit that it is an acquired taste.]

Barbara Ellams - London

When watching Bread and Circuses, I had the passing thought - why is the Proconsul wearing the Shakespeare coat of arms on his jacket? Any suggestions?

Gordon Smyth - Belfast

I am a devoted Original Star Trek fan, although I do like TNG and DS9. I would like to compare my favourite all-time episodes from the original series with other fans. My 5 favourites of all time are as follows:

- 1) Bread and Circuses
- 2) City On the Edge of Forever
- 3) All Our Yesterdays

- 4) The Enemy Within
5) A Private Little War/Amok Time

I think it would be interesting to have a vote on not only this, but the favourite top 5, top 10 etc. of TNG. I would welcome members to send me their all time top 5 from original/TNG, and their views on my choice and their own. Gordon Smyth, 3 Rathmore Gardens, Finaghy, Belfast, Northern Ireland T10 0FX

Mel Daines - Tywyn, Gynedd

It's now coming up to three years of being a member of the fan club and may I just say, I think its great! There's so many different countries, all enjoying Trek.

I've just read newsletter 30, page 71 on William Shatner - and was surprised to hear of him as arrogant and pompous with no time for his fans.

May I just say that I have met Bill many times at cons etc and have never found him to display any of the above to his fans and friends.

On the contrary on the first time I met him at a con I was lost, and I found him to be one of the most polite, helpful and down to earth actors I've met. He's always recognised me since then and always puts himself out to say hello to me and his fans.

Meg Lahey - USA

Hello everybody! I've been a member of IDIC for just over a year and thought I'd write. I've really enjoyed reading the N/L as it has become a favourite of mine. I live in an area of the US where TNG isn't broadcast on any local TV station although DS9 is. This situation is a quirk of the syndication system that is used to distribute Star Trek in the States. Because of this I see TNG via video tapes and I really sympathise with everyone who is watching Trek in the UK this way. I hope some day that the powers-that-be will find a better way of distributing Trek.

I really enjoy TNG and DS9 and have been surprised at the reaction to DS9 in the UK. Most people I know haven't commented

on its similarity to TNG. Those who have problems with DS9 have commented on the acting or story content. Personally, I think it is getting better all the time. The new season has already shown improvements in the characterisations of Sisko and Dax. The three-part opener is very exciting. Hopefully everyone will stick with DS9 through its growing pains.

I have a question for Dejan Ladika. You said in the last N/L that you think Odo is cool but that Rene Auberjonois doesn't fit the part. How come? I agree that Odo is against type for Mr Auberjonois but I think he's pulling off Odo quite nicely. I really hated his character on Benson, but I like Odo. He must be a good actor to pull this off.

See you in the pages of next time's N/L.

Mandy Leahy - Cork

It's finally happened! After two years of membership I've felt compelled to send a letter to the Postbag!

So, to Anne-Marie Flowers - I agree that season 6 is not 'up to standard', as it were, for TNG. Personally I feel that seasons 1 & 2 are under-rated. I enjoyed those most, though admittedly I am a CT fan at heart, so this may have something to do with it. I like DS9 for this reason too. It is CT, with 'grit', ie it shows the less glamorous world of Starfleet, away from the Enterprise and exciting starship life.

I also have found recent Titan publications to be, well, junk. Older books by Diane Duane, such as Spock's World, etc, are far superior. ST is obviously a licence to print money (and rubbish) in Titan/Pocket minds.

Re Brian Proctor's Star Wars discussion. Having been unfortunate enough not to be born until boring old 1975, I 'grew up' with Star Wars & Trek movies, but Star Wars came first. SW is really fantasy, King Arthur set in the stars, therefore it is not meant to be a 'serious' sci-fier. ST, however, was conceived as a realistic programme,

meant to reflect the creator's idea of what the future will hold, whereas SW was created for fun, really.

Re androids. Why are they so much more attractive than the contemporary male? I mean, plenty people are 'Dataholics' (I know some), and I'm not immune to his charm entirely either - however the ultimate gorgeous android (in my opinion anyway) is the one played by Bob Peck in the excellent sci-fier Slipstream. Anyone agree? (Give him *my* phone, number, please!) Any retort, men?

Finally, is anyone out there from Cork? I'm an arts student in UCC (I originate from 'Planet Kerry') and would love to meet fellow Trek fans. I'm into CT first, but I like TN and DS9 too. Anyone? If so, phone me on (021) 542522 Monday - Thursday after 6 pm. Slan abhaile!

PS - Hi to Anne in Antrim!

Sara Jackson - Leeds

To Scott Rhodes - Re Devil's Heart by Carmen Carter. This novel will be released in paperback on 7th Feb 1994 (info TV Zone No. 47). In Disaster, I don't think it would have been as clear cut as ejecting the engine core. The two options are 1) deliberate manual sequence initiation and 2) automatic computer activation. Since the computer was down (Enterprise effectively dead in the water) that meant it would take manual activation. Again because of the computer problem the bridge engineering station was inoperable, and because of bulkhead seals engineering (which gave no indication of having power) was itself out of the question. Another consideration is the fact that 'manual' pod ejections are "not regarded as workable in a 'crisis' situation due mainly to timing constraints related to magnetic valve and transfer piping purge events" - see TNG Tech Manual. One other problem was the fact that O'Brien wasn't sure that subspace communications were operational. If the impulse systems were also damaged it would probably leave them all completely stranded with the possibility that no-one even knew they were in trouble. Better that than dead?

Well, if Troi opted for saucer separation, it could still mean an inevitable death in the long term if no-one discovered them and energy reserves gradually ran out.

To Michael Farquhar - I don't remember discussing Starfleet wages; although I vaguely recall a reference to 'credits' in some Trek-related material I once read. Also on one of the medical displays in sickbay it reads "Medical Insurance remaining" (according to TNG Tech Manual) - no doubt this is probably worked on the credit system.

Rebekah Owens - Birmingham

To Alan Stephen - Re comic books. I'm afraid I disagree with you and agree with Dave Styles. It is a pretence that comic books are novels. Graphic novels have their value in artwork rather than literary content and are therefore not what you would call 'fine literature'. Comic books are substitutes for literature - it's quite false to imply they are otherwise. And Whitman and Genet being 'worthwhile'? Oh, please! It'll be Booker Prize Winners next.

Are we going to lay off this "good old days of cons" dispute? I'm getting slightly irritated by this business of whether or not fans should watch videos or join in events. Not all of us actually have access to brand new episodes. I'm always keen to see new episodes but, contrary to popular belief, I do not spend my time in video rooms.

For those people who haven't seen it yet - try to see Marina in the Sherlock Holmes episode The Six Napoleons - she's brilliant!

To Jill Clements - If I could be any character in Star Trek, it would have to be Odo. Then I could visit the Enterprise and shape shift myself into Data's girl friend! Oh, a female character! Weeeil... Who deals with Data the most?

Pete Arnett - Wimbledon

To Ann Peters - I'm just old fashioned because I'm a dyed-in-the-wool TOS fan, but having said that I'll certainly give credit

where it's due and TNG is exceptional and I don't for one moment feel that TNG fans would want to outpoint TOS fans and score some moral victory over them as you say. It's a foregone conclusion that TNG has probably garnered more interest than any other TV series at the moment; I think in terms of sets and storylines and SFX, TNG is very polished indeed and the scripts are highly intellectual, so it's got a lot going for it. If TNG is so fine, I can hardly wait to see DS9, which I'm told is a brilliant TV series as well. So many people feel very strongly, and rightly so, that Star Trek (TOS, TNG and DS9) is almost certainly the most successful TV programme ever devised; its cult popularity is world-wide, which comes as no surprise, as we could have told them so years ago.

On the subject of the Mojave City Parkland Nature Reserve, I envisioned a 50/50 balanced ecology with one half of the area of Mojave remaining a desert and the other half landscaped into 50 miles of parkland. Within the radius, a city the size of London with nice little towns or urban villages could support the whole area. Desert reclamation isn't just a futuristic dream; they've already planted gardens in the Saudi Arabian desert, but the cost is enormous, eg literally millions of tonnes of water would be needed and advanced technology would be required, the whole project would cost billions of dollars, but this harmonious balance of nature would be the way of the future according to Star Trek, where earth would be green, park-like and beautiful. By maintaining an ecological balance of part desert and part parkland, the indigenous desert animals and plants that have always lived in the desert can continue to do so, therefore their extinction would be negated and they could thrive in their environment as they've always done. If I gave the impression that such a parkland nature reserve is an improvement on a desert, my reaction is that a co-existence of two extremes, under the right conditions, would wear well in a futuristic setting and this is the point I would like to stress.

To Sally Goodwin - Malachi Throne, an exceptionally gifted character actor, is one of

my favourite actors. I believe he did the voice of the Magistrate-Keeper in *The Cage*, although the Keeper was played by Meg Wyllie. However, because he appears as Commodore Jose Mendez in *The Menagerie*, the Keeper's voice was redubbed by an uncredited performer (does anyone know who that person is?). The other two Talosians credited were Serena Sands and Georgia Schmidt, but I'm sure there were a few more visible scurrying along or standing in the background. I don't know who did the voices for them but it is unlikely that Malachi Throne did their voices as well.

Trek Trivia - Did anyone notice that actor Vince Howard (Uhura's crewman) in *The Man Trap* can clearly be seen wearing blue overalls working on the bridge's engineering station early on in the episode. I wonder why Uhura didn't notice him then?

In the book *A Star Trek Chronology*, there is a small photo of Captain Robert April and it's not an animated cel. It's a real-life photo of a guy in an old-style crewneck sweater. Does anyone know who the actor is portraying Captain April in this photo?

Sue Watkin - Bungay

Thank you for another great year's membership. I really look forward to the newsletter, but they do mean all my office work piles up ever higher as I neglect everything to read them from cover to cover. Please don't reduce the Postbag, it's the best bit of the whole newsletter. Anyone who hasn't read at least one *SciTpress* zine doesn't know what they're missing - go out and beg, borrow or steal one today! For Next Gen fans I would also recommend the *Galaxy Class* zines. I usually get mine from *At the Sign of the Dragon* or John Fitton Books and Magazines. They are mostly collections of short stories, although one or two of the earlier ones consist of one or two longer stories. I also liked *Let's See What's Out There*, which I see was reviewed in the newsletter, and *Hailing Frequencies* carries some very good stories too.

Thanks again for the past year; I'm looking forward to the next one.

Gordon Smith - Broxburn

With all the talk in the N/L recently about cliques and how to meet people at conventions I thought I might make a suggestion. I have always found it extremely difficult to start conversations with strangers; there's a kind of psychological barrier that requires a great deal of effort to overcome. While most ST fans appear to be raging extroverts, I know there are others like myself who find it a struggle to make new friends. To those people and anyone else who's interested I suggest that we have a small get-together at the next convention (Starbase '94) to get to know each other. I think it will help to make the con a more enjoyable experience for us shy types, especially for those like me who will be attending on their own. Anyone interested can contact me at 81 West Main St, Broxburn, West Lothian EH52 5LE and I'll do my best to arrange something.

What do IDIC members think of the new 'Official UK Star Trek Fan Club'? Personally I'm concerned about a large professional outfit trying to muscle in on the piecemeal collection of amateur clubs which have served fandom so well for many years. Each club contributes something different and unique and it would be a crime if the big boys and their glossy marketing strategy were to diminish that in any way. The spokesman for OUKSTFC at Contagion claimed that one of their aims was to increase the power of the fans with marketing companies to stop fans being exploited with inflated merchandise prices. I then read Helen White's letter in N/L 30 quoting OUKSTFC's own prices for merchandise and as she points out these are seriously OTT. I am sceptical!

Waltraud Zucha-Glass - Switzerland

I shall certainly not mind a smaller size zine print as this makes the zines less expensive. Collecting zines is a very expensive hobby, as any addict will soon notice. And since I can read the newsletter I wouldn't expect any trouble reading a zine the same size!

To Marta Caltarossa - Try the Swiss

Channel Televisione Svizzera Romana for Next Gen. I think they did it every Saturday for a while and it might be worth checking whether they will repeat it. They've recently done the ST films I - VI, so I suppose they know about the subject.

To Jim Robertson, Bryan Miller, Edwin Yau, Steven Gibb, Harvinder Singh, Brian Proctor and everybody else eagerly commenting upon weapons technology and tactical advantages in Star Trek and Star Wars: why do you guys automatically assume that a meeting between the two universes would be hostile? Why don't you discuss the different social and political situations, their "Zeitgeist", their "philosophy", for lack of a better word? For example, how would a meeting between Captain Kirk and Luke Skywalker affect the future of both universes? How would Han Solo and Cyrano Jones get along? They're both smugglers - oh, well, freetraders, remember! How would Spock deal with the Force (I assume that he'd be the one to deal with that aspect of the SW universe)? What if the Organians met the Jedi Knights? And so on, and so on...

I also agree with Linda White on the subject of zines; they're much more fun to read than the 'official' novels. The only problem with zines is that they are addictive! You read one, you want to read more, and more, and more, and you suddenly find yourself collecting zines! The beauty of zines is that there is something for everybody. Every writer has his/her own and very personal view of the Star Trek universe; you have to find out which authors share your own interpretation of the characters and events in Star Trek, and you will also find many interesting different views - and, of course, authors you don't agree with at all!

I, too, would be grateful for people contributing a 'recommendations list'. Zine collecting would be a lot easier (and less expensive!) if one knew what to expect when ordering, and this also goes for older, out of print zines. And would people taking about zines PLEASE mention where one can get them!!!

Bernardo Carmo - Oeiras, Portugal

To Karen Davies & Rebekah Owens - Are you trying to say Picard is some kind of robot? I can't imagine Picard revealing his own problems to anybody (with an exception for Troi, of course). He has plenty of self-control, and that's it. In Family we saw that; he tried to fool Troi, and he looked well, and just see what happens when he goes to LaBarre.

You can't compare the Gulf War to the bad times Picard had. Those men you referred to were there for several months. That didn't happen to Picard. He also has two advantages; he is used to stressing situations, and he lives in the 24th century, which means he must be an 'improved' Human.

Admiral Hidalgo said Starfleet chose him because he is a perfectionist and always TRIES not to make mistakes, and he had a good service record. It's quite a jump when you talk about 'superhuman', 'ruthless', 'single-minded', 'disliked and dislikable man', isn't it? And why shouldn't Riker be loyal to him? After all, wouldn't you do the same if you were his First Officer?

On the other hand, writers did exaggerate in some points; Picard's anti-child side was completely theatrical and unreasoned, and they wanted to show that so much that they made mistakes like the one Anne-Marie Flowers noted in N/L 30 - Wesley dripping all over the corridor in Encounter at Farpoint, just to make Picard become angry.

To Jamie Boast - I saw a map of the Galaxy (pictured from the top) with Federation below the galactic core, Klingons to the right and Romulans below Klingons. Perhaps they looked to that map and when they said Bajor was to the west of Federation space, they meant just 'to the left on the map'.

Starfleet is a branch of UFP which, like United Nations has its own military forces. Starfleet's purpose is 'to seek out new life' and... good points of commerce. Ships also serve political and military purposes

(Federation allies' defence, etc.).

I like the A5 format; portable and practical, like Starfleet equipment. Jean Sloan said everything else, with which I fully agree.

Are there any more Portuguese members, or am I the first? *[Ed - You're the first, but we hope not the last.]*

How can I get a jump on the Elasi Pirates in the ST 25th Anniversary Game, 2nd mission (Highjacked)?

Why did the two Klingon sisters of the House of Duras want gold (DS9 Past Prologue)? I thought it would have no value after the appearance of the replicators. Are their products 'impure'?

Edward Woo - called 'Little Ireland' in Victorian times

To Jo Christodoulides & Nicole Comtet - I do agree with you that the more I see of Kira, the better she gets. She plays a major part in the 2nd season tri-parter. The conversation in her quarters in that is just great - and funny! Sisko is yet to shine but I hope the writers will put that right. You forgot to mention Chief O'Brien and Keiko. I wish Keiko could be given a greater role instead of being sent away to see her relatives.

To Anne Marie Flowers - How does the product synthehol get connected with the appearance of the Ferengi? I thought they were separate subjects. Quite a few fans have suggested that TNG has passed its peak. I believe this, and the 6th season has not been as good as - say - the 5th. My friend Jean says they could be running out of ideas - surely not, with so many zines, books, script submissions, etc.

To Marysia Kolodziej - The use of the emergency transporters would depend on the patient's condition. Similarly, in Transfigurations 'John' had to be stabilised by Geordi before he was transported up.

To Jean Donkin - You are correct, the

pirate videos are only watched to see the story - not for quality. As CIC knows, Trek fans will buy their copies anyway - plus TNG and D9 are not available yet except on satellite.

To Karen Davies & Rebekah Owens - Yes, I feel the writers made a mistake in TNG concerning the after-effects of what happened in Chains of Command. There should have been treatment or counselling for Picard over a few episodes while he was recovering from his ordeal.

To Brenda Allen - Worf is a serious character and seems to have little fun. In A Fistful of Datas he had to be pushed to enjoy himself at Deadwood City. Being a Klingon is a serious business, but we know he can laugh. He had fun in Redemption, and in A Matter of Honor Riker found that Klingons have a sense of humour.

As to Riker serving aboard the Enterprise, Hood and Potemkin. He could have spent non-concurrent stints on the Hood and Potemkin, making up the total years spent on each ship before joining Picard.

To Helen White - I love the DS9 theme - I heard it's won an Emmy Award.

To Jamie Boast - How about a Benzite on DS9? We have not seen one since TNG - or even the Bynars to help O'Brien with the computers on DS9.

To Vera Regina Schweitzer - Drop me a line with a large SAE (2 x 2nd class stamps) stating what uniform you want and I should be able to help. 553 Smithdown Rd, Liverpool L15 5AF England.

Going back to Babel. If the virus became airborne why didn't the personnel who had not shown any symptoms go onto oxygen/air tanks? They would have lasted longer before succumbing to the effects. Similarly, the ill personnel should have been isolated from the healthy - we saw Sisko constantly in touch with the ill crew. And how come Odo and Quark didn't contact the

virus? That's something Bashir could look into as an ongoing study. He doesn't seem to have any hobbies or studies going (except thinking about Dax, and even that has sort of faded since If Wishes Were Horses).

In the book The History of the Vessel Enterprise, it indicates that Uhura and Chekov mistook the USS Ranger for the Enterprise. The problem with this idea is that the USS Ranger is a conventionally powered aircraft carrier and had no nuclear reactors, hence they could not have collected the high energy photons they needed.

To Bryan Miller - Try your local library if it has a science section for Physical Review Letters (Phys Rev Lett 70, 1895) dated 29/3/93 on Teleporting; an unknown Quantum State via Dual Classical and Einstein Podolsky-Rosen Channels, by C H Bennett et al.

Gaile Wood - Tamworth

To Lynettia Attwood - Marina certainly is coming in for a lot of stick. I don't think she'll be terribly impressed by the subliminal suggestion that she's less than a first-class actor. The creative ego is very easily damaged, and that's likely to get her back up. Can't say I'd blame her either. For my part (ha!) I think she does a good job with the material as it's written; Troi is not a demanding character and Marina has been playing her for a looong time. By now it must be like putting on your coat. Comfortable and familiar.

To Marysia Kolodziej - I think you are confusing evolution with technological advancement. Evolution is the slow process by which an organism fits itself for a particular ecological niche; it is all about adaptation of the organism. Humans are different; they alter their environment to suit themselves which is our evolutionary high-point.

As for the former, the reason why we are becoming more technologically advanced is because we are standing on the back of previous generations. If we did not have methods of recording everything already

discovered we would not be able to move so easily forward. Better methods of retaining and accessing the information ensure the continuation of civilisation as we know it.

A final thought on life... "Nature is but a name for an effect, Whose cause is God..." William Cowper.

To Helen White - Sorry to hear about your depression. I know precisely how you feel. If you ever feel like sharing the Valium, let me know...

To Gary Heron - Thanks for pointing out (and supporting us) where difficulties lie in our culture for women and child care. It's about time some one extracted a digit and did something constructive about it. For men, too.

To Jamie Boast - A very sweeping statement, that, that planets in TNG must all be at different distances to their primary to account for differences in physical strength. Not so. On our own Terra we have a very good example within the Primates. Namely ourselves and chimps. An adult male chimp is, roughly, equivalent or smaller in size to an adult man and the fact is that the chimp could rip his arm out and beat him to death with the soggy end. It is a well-known fact that chimps are extremely dangerous - having intelligence as well - and it accounts for the very solid housing they're kept in in zoos.

Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

To Neil J Barrett - Wait a minute, I thought Star Trek was a TV show! If anything is responsible for a short attention span it's this particular medium. On TV everything is laid out for you. We know what Captain Kirk or a Horta looks like, no effort is required; you just lie back in your armchair and the box does it for you. At least with comics you have to read it - a little effort is needed. As a parent I'm only too aware of the insidious menace of TV and its detrimental effect on the young. Many of my friends have commented that they wished their children read as many comics and books as my children and did as well at school as

they do.

Personally, I think you and Dave Styles have confused the medium and the message. Comics is the medium. The message in the medium can be Star Trek or Superhero stories, and if that is your only exposure to comics then the mistaken impression can be that comics are anti-intellectual and for people with the attention span of a goldfish. I mentioned some comics in the last N/L that are of value and deserve serious consideration. I would suggest reading some comics outwith the narrow confines of Star Trek and Superhero stories before expressing an opinion insulting to comic readers.

As an aside, I think the best form for presenting SF (I hate the term Sci-fi, it conjures up images of those awful Irwin Allen shows Time Tunnel, Lost in Space, etc) is radio. Have a listen to the BBC's adaptation of Isaac Asimov's Foundation Trilogy, or A Canticle for Leibowitz by Walter M Miller Jr, or - do I dare mention it? Superman, Doomsday and Beyond adapted by Dirk Maggs from the recent comic book stories. I think a radio version of Star Trek would be wonderful. What do others think?

I've just remembered there is a Star Wars Trilogy adaptation and recently BBC broadcast a Dr Who story which, along with the Superman and SF story adaptations mentioned are available from BBC Enterprises, which all sound fabulous played on a good stereo.

To Sheila Clark - The name of the Italian who did the original Star Trek comics was Alberto Giolitti; as I wrote to you, he had little or no interest in Star Trek and succeeded in drawing the Enterprise upside down. Also one of the comic artists I mentioned in the last N/L is Milton Caniff, not Coniff (probably my lousy handwriting? Thank goodness for word processors!) *[Sheila - Oops! Sorry. But this does highlight a problem we have with even the neatest handwritten letters. If a name (or a word) is unfamiliar to us we may misread it.]*

Anne Marie Flowers - Glasgow

Re Star Trek faces on TV - Has everyone seen Marie Marshall (Kelsey in Starship Mine) in the ITV sitcom Billy with Billy Connelly?

To any Blake's 7 fans - hope you all noticed Peter David's tongue-in-cheek reference to Avon in his DS9 novel *The Siege*. Kira paraphrases 'one of the freedom fighters in Bajoran history - Ayvon of the Seven' and says, 'I'm not Starfleet, I'm not a coward and I'm not going!' You'll find the original quote in the Blake's 7 episode entitled *Horizon*.

Re *The Host* - what is all the fuss about Bev not wanting a relationship with a female Odan? For me, the fact that she apparently slept with Riker is far more disturbing. In subsequent episodes it appears he has no knowledge of this encounter. Presumably because he was the wrong species to serve as a Trill host he does not retain memories, unlike Dax in DS9. It therefore follows that Bev took advantage of him. If this had been the other way round it would surely have been considered an act of rape.

To Philip Morley - Re *Lessons*. Your idea of brilliance is very different from mine. This has got to be the worst episode ever.

I agree that the basic premise is sound - what would a Captain do if he fell in love with a junior officer? It seems reasonable that one or other of them would have to transfer or resign his or her commission. My problem is with the women they picked out for him to fall in love with. Ella was too cold for my taste. She didn't seem very interested in the Captain's experiences in Rellik and for such a musical person she had a very monotonous, flat voice. I couldn't believe that Picard would discuss her with Troi and the scene where he asks Riker to fence with him had my toes curling up in an agony of embarrassment. The best things about this episode is the roll-up keyboard and the score.

I was recently in New York and visited the Star Trek exhibition in the Museum of Natural History. In addition to the standing exhibits there is a documentary presented by

William Shatner in which he tells a rather poignant story. One day he was driving in a limo when the driver suddenly pulled over to this side and turned to face him. He wanted to talk to Shatner about his experiences as a prisoner-of-war in Vietnam. The soldiers were kept in cages submerged in swamps for days and weeks at a time. Some of them were Star Trek fans and they kept themselves sane by playing what they called the Star Trek game. Every day they would each take on a character role and then 'perform' one of the episodes. This soldier felt that Kirk, Spock and Bones had saved his life and he wanted to take the opportunity to thank Shatner in person. After that he just turned round and continued to drive. Shatner said there were tears in his eyes after hearing this.

By the way, both the Planetarium and main Museum shops carry Star Trek memorabilia.

Marie I J Park - Hull

First I'd like to reply to Valerie Piacentini & Barry O'Doherty concerning my remarks on Deltans in N/L 29. Although I would agree that Deltan females were hairless, the same cannot be said for Deltan *males*. It is worth considering that in ST:TWOK one of the Genesis scientists was a Deltan male (Jedda Adzin-Dall). He *did* have hair. I'm also in agreement with Neil J Barrett in the sense that the novelisations of ST:TVH and ST:TUC do imply that the Saratoga helmsman and the UFP President respectively were Deltans. Also the President's name is apparently Ra-ghoratrei, clearly a Deltan name. May I ask where and when hairless Deltan males have been seen?

To Jean Donkin - Although Commander Sisko may well be promoted to Captain eventually, there is no way that Starfleet could or would offer him the Enterprise. It is more than likely that Sisko would refuse on the grounds that said vessel is commanded by Captain Picard. Sisko would more likely remain on DS9 or accept a captaincy of a different vessel. Should Picard move on, the likeliest officer to take his place would be Riker, with Data moving up to First Officer.

Re the emotional control/training of Saavik & Spock, it seems that Victoria Roberts has misread the point I was trying to make: I agree in the sense that Saavik was half Romulan, but I didn't suggest her emotional control would be as strong as Spock's. However, I made it clear that Spock was *half Human* and his emotional control was not any more faultless than Saavik's even though he had the benefit of being raised/trained amongst Vulcans before entering starfleet. Saavik spent the first ten years of her life trying to survive and learned emotional control as a young woman. Conversely, in ST:TUC Spock had come to terms with and was no longer trying to suppress his Human half. At the end of Unification we see Spock displaying open and unashamed emotion while mind melding with Picard.

Also your statement "Everyone knows that Picard will survive the torture because he's a lead character" is debatable. When I saw those harrowing scenes, I wasn't at all certain that Picard would survive, lead character or not. Picard would be 64 by then - not a young man any more. There were moments when I wondered if the Cardassians would go too far and kill Picard, he was in that much torment. What struck me as particularly harrowing was the moment before he was taken back to his ship; we see him looking at the lights and when he said, "There are *four* lights!" he sounded, not like the Captain but a child in tremendous agony. Although reserved and authoritative, Picard is still a Human male, not a superhuman, unreachable character.

Re Helen White's comments about Beverly Crusher being left in charge of the ship - aren't you being a mite unfair here? It is the Captain's discretion as to who he leaves in charge; in the Classic Trek novel Doctor's Orders, Kirk places McCoy in charge - he states that McCoy has 'had the line officer training... enough to know what to say at the right time'. I would have thought Picard asked Crusher to look after the bridge for that very reason. Since we have not seen Descent II yet, it would be unreasonable to write off Crusher until she is confronted by a potential

crisis. Troi coped in Disaster; why shouldn't Crusher be able to in Descent II?

Finally, to Commander K'Tan sutai Kuragan - It's all very well to say the Klingons who didn't want peace wanted to carry on fighting the Federation, which was indeed the case. However, after the Praxis incident, the Empire would hardly be in a position to do so if they were on the verge of dying out within 50 years. As for Lt Worf, since he had lived among Humans for a good deal of his life, it was only inevitable that he would choose to enter Starfleet.

David J Raper - Keyingham, N Humberside

Having recently seen Chains of Command, I just thought I'd say I agree with Jennifer Blanchard concerning the scenes of Picard's interrogation and torture at the hands of his Cardassian captors. They were quite harrowing, which testifies to Patrick Stewart's ability as an actor. If it is shown by the BBC before the 9 o'clock watershed, I am sure they will cut it out rather than face the resulting barrage of complaints. I am no supporter of censorship, but these torture scenes were more than enough to upset impressionable young minds.

I enjoyed Ship in a Bottle, and as for the 'morality' of Picard's solution, all I can say is what else could he do? Moriarty was holding ship and crew to ransom and demanding the impossible: that Picard won by holographic trickery, turning the tables, was simply a case of using the enemy's weapon against him. What *would* have been immoral (if we accept Moriarty's claim to life) would have been for Picard to ignore the professor in the first place and afterwards 'pull his plug' as a potential danger to his ship and crew.

To Edward Woo - There are a lot more uses for a cloaking device aside from first strike. An undetectable ship makes for a perfect surveillance platform, and the UFP could always do with data about its enemies.

To Marie Park - I am sure that if it was necessary Picard would have volunteered to carry Sarek's katra and risked the possible consequences of Sarek's uncontrolled

emotions, assuming it was possible for Sarek to make the necessary telepathic link, since that requires discipline and control, neither of which Sarek then possessed.

To Brenda Allen - Alexander may be only three years old but he is half Klingon and, according to a number of authors, Klingons mature faster than Humans. As a result, his physical and mental development would match that of a Human child of twice his chronological age.

To Gaile Wood - In comparison to other Klingons we have seen, Worf has always been neatly coiffured. Why? Partly, I believe, because he's a Starfleet officer and partly because there seems to be a shortage of hairdressers in the Klingon Empire (if their hair is anything to go by). A pair of scissors may not be much of a weapon but I doubt that a Klingon warrior would willingly let a stranger so close with weapon. Worf, who has lived most of his life among Humans, has learned to take a haircut for granted and probably dentists too - in comparison to other Klingons he has very good teeth.

As for the screenplay not living up to the novel, too often you're right, though it works in reverse too. In defence of the film *Dune* - one of my favourite SF books - have you read 'Eye' by the same author? In it he explains that the film should have been five hours or so and was filmed as such, but chopped down to two and one quarter. Most of what you missed probably ended on the cutting room floor.

Re Face of the Enemy - shouldn't Starfleet keep a closer track of their off-duty personnel? This is the second time an officer serving on the Flagship of the Federation has been kidnapped by Romulans. Where was Starfleet Security? In *Mind's Eye* the Romulans replaced Geordi with a doppelganger to mask his absence, but in the second case they didn't even bother and nobody noticed!

Gratiene Vandekerckhove - Belgium

To Ian Colbert - You suggest that every planet in the UFP should provide the same

number of ships is acceptable only if you start from the premise that every planet has equal resources, which I think would be highly unlikely. Equality would more easily be reached by asking a percentage of the BNP of each member planet, thereby providing funds for the Federal government of which Starfleet is merely a part.

Re subtitles - Boy, do I hate dubbed films! Try watching *Star Trek* in German - it's bound to spoil your appetite! But in all honesty, if I had to choose watching a dubbed version or no *Star Trek* at all, I would choose (yes, what did you think I'd say?) to watch it, though with sighing and cringing.

To Lesley Jones - Re zines. It's strictly personal, of course, but I have a few names I'd like to pass along: Meg Wright, Sue Embury, Kay Stagg, Gloria Fry, Charlotte Allery, Patricia James, Brenda Kelsey, Ginna La Croix, Eva Stuart, Simone Mason. As I'm only in my second year of collecting fanzines there are a lot of authors I haven't heard of, so if someone has some suggestions I'm all ears.

I know that the following will, in all probability be way too late to mention, but as I'm currently watching season 4 of *TNG*, something crossed my mind. Am I correct in assuming that Troi is an empath, partially telepathic? If so, how is she able to separate the emotional outpouring from people around her from what she herself is experiencing? Does she have shields? Can she direct the receiving end of her empathy, blocking out all others and concentrating directly on the person in need of her help? How is she able to remain sane, preserving her identity? Are there rules laid out for her to abide by?

I don't expect an answer, it was only something which, I think, isn't obvious. Personally I'd feel more at ease with Guinan. I'd consider Troi's interference as a violation of what is most personal to me, my emotions. I'd feel naked, exposed, the choice of who I would open myself to taken out of my hands.

Liz Caldwell - Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd

I have been very interested in the recent debate about fancy dress competitions at conventions and agree with some of the viewpoints put forward. I think the main problem of the drama-type entries is that unless you're sitting right at the front, you can't hear what's going on. Perhaps the answer would be a separate drama competition with a proper sound system.

I can sympathise with Judith Taylor and hope she hasn't been put off entering future competitions by her experiences at Warp One. With the decline in fancy dress entries these days compared with the large number who used to enter (plus the fashion shows too) the last thing anyone should do is put off new fans from entering!

On to DS9. I don't know how anyone can possibly compare it with Classic Trek. For me it has nothing of the warmth and the magic of the original series. And as for all this praise for Major Kira! Am I the only IDIC member who finds her *extremely* irritating? I must admit some of the DS9 characters are growing on me, particularly Dr Bashir, Odo and Quark (although I never used to like the Ferengi). I expect I will eventually get to like DS9 a lot more - after all it did take quite a while for me to get hooked on TNG - but at the moment I can't imagine ever liking Major Kira!

Gary Heron - Falkirk

Unlike Jacqueline Comben I cannot yet claim to be hooked on DS9 but I am certainly moving in that direction. I have seen most of season 1 and the first 3 episodes of season 2. My favourite characters so far are Odo, Quark (I love the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition) and O'Brien. My initial reservation about DS9 was the idea of all the stories being set in the same place and having the same problems as a constant backdrop. However the writing has been very good and I am more interested in Bajoran culture and politics than I thought I would be after seeing the pilot.

To Neil J Barrett - It is quite possible

for a creature to have eyes which are not sensitive to red light but do have sensitivity to the rest of the visible spectrum and ultra-violet. Many insects have exactly this type of vision and many plants have evolved flowers which are designed to look attractive to insects able to see ultra-violet. These insects, if put in a room lit only by red light, would be completely blind.

The episode Lessons has been criticised by some people, including Richard Arnold, as having Picard acting out of character; falling head over heels in love with a crew member is not really the Picard we know. I wonder if perhaps this episode can be seen to some extent as a 'recovery' episode. All the flute-playing scenes hark back to the 'double' life he led in Inner Light. I would suggest that Picard's out of character behaviour is partly due to the experiences of his recent past; control by the Borg, living another life, torture at the hands of the Cardassians. Perhaps his subconscious decided that falling in love was just the thing to help him come to terms with his past suffering and as an excuse for putting aside some of the pressure and responsibility he is under for a little while (not very romantic, I'm afraid). I have only seen this episode once and I would like to see it a couple of times more before coming to a definite view; I would be interested in anyone else's view.

James Connarty - Coatbridge

To Valerie Piacentini - I enjoyed reading the Bjo Trimble bio. As a newcomer to fandom I'd like to see more bios like this, introducing new members to prominent fandom figures, including established names in fan writing as well as bibliographies of their past fiction so that if I like what a writer is producing now I can easily track down their previous work. What do other new fans think?

To Andrew Carnegie - Do you really think the episode Second Chances resolved the Troi/Riker relationship? In my opinion it livened it up a great deal. That particular relationship is one I've wanted to see explored since reading Imzadi, and although the episode was about the growing

relationship of Deanna and Lt Riker, I think it said a lot about the feelings Will has for Deanna. I hope we see the emotional repercussions of the event explored.

To Brian Proctor - Although your article on the subject of the Empire V the Federation was interesting, I think it ignores several points - which to be fair seem to have been overlooked in the debate in general. Firstly, a comparison of weapon capabilities is sheer speculation, as there is no frame of reference to compare the two; the same goes for shield strength and ship manoeuvrability. Also I find it hard to believe that any final victory between the two would be as a result of direct confrontation. The Empire is just too underhand for that. I believe it would infiltrate the Federation Hierarchy, bribing Ambassadors, diplomats and even some Starfleet officers. If someone couldn't be bribed they would probably be brainwashed. And if their weaponry was inferior, the Empire could also buy lethal weapons from the Ferengi or ally themselves with the Romulans Cardassians or even the Borg.

DS9 is certainly excellent and I enjoy it almost as much as TNG; it shows a lot of potential, but suggesting that it is heir apparent to CT, with TNG as some sort of pretender to the throne, seems an exaggeration. If anything, DS9 owes the greater part of its conception to TNG, all its major alien races, its setting, time line and continuity are all developed from TNG. Plainly put, DS9 is a spin-off series which I hope will improve upon TNG when that winds up, just as TNG has with CT.

To change the subject, does anyone have any lines in otherwise good episodes that are so corny they make you cringe? I'd like to propose the all-time corniest line from TNG - "To me you'll always be Jean-Luc." (Future Imperfect). If anyone disagrees or has a line they love to hate, write in - maybe we can compile a top ten or something.

DS9 title sequence - If the wormhole is only visible when something passes through it, why does it open and close at the end of the title sequence? The runabout which is

visible doesn't seem to come out of it. Perhaps I'm mistaken - can anyone else confirm this?

As a keen roleplayer, I'm interested in knowing if anyone is, or even has been, involved in a Trek RPG (especially TNG). Is there a system I can buy, or if not what have other people successfully converted in the past? (NB - I know about Starfleet Battles but I don't play wargames.)

Brenda Allen - Canada

To Sheila Clark - Re ST novels not being 'official' Trek. I thought that Imzadi portrayed a very believable story of Deanna and Will's past. However, the NG episode Second Chances doesn't quite follow it. I will always like to think that Imzadi is 'official'

To Scott Rhodes - Re why Troi didn't eject the engine core in Disaster. I think that the controls from the bridge were inoperative and they couldn't eject the core. That's why they couldn't stabilise the integrity of the antimatter containment field from the bridge.

To Marysia Kolodziej - Re evolving from amino acids. Please don't tell me that we 'evolved' from amino acid strings! I believe in creation, and it is far easier for me to believe that God created us than to think we just 'happened' to appear! I also believe that the soul comes from God and dwells in humankind, which is what separates us from animals. Data is a grand vision of what we would like to think we could become capable of, but in my opinion, I don't ever see us 'creating' artificial people with souls.

To Philip Morley - Re why most humanoid life forms look humanoid. In continuing with my belief that God created 'man' in his own image, this would seem to suggest that if we do find other life forms out in space, they would conform to a humanoid appearance. After all, how many images do you think God has?

Did anyone else think it almost a joke hearing Bev explain to Sorren that men and women are considered equals in the 24th century, but that in the past women were

considered inferior? I got the feeling that Gates was trying to repress a smile as she said, "But that hasn't been true for a long time".

To James Connarty - Re holodeck. In Encounter at Farpoint, we see Data show Riker where the wall of the holodeck is, the same as he did in Ship in a Bottle. Maybe it works like this; if a person is walking towards the wall of the holodeck the treadmill effect will engage, since the program will anticipate where the person is headed. However, if a person picks up an object and throws it at the 'wall', the program would not be able to anticipate this action, and the wall would be revealed.

To David Raper - Re cloaking device making people go nuts? No wonder the Romulans are such an uptight lot! And the Klingons too, though not as much so, since they have not had the technology as long!

To Helen White - You never buy comics? I find that the stories in NG comics, which are written by Michael Jan Friedman, are excellent, and often follow up on the TV episodes. (Read the review for The Worst of Both Worlds in N/L 30.) No, the drawings are not always perfect, but I read them for the good story-telling.

Has anyone noticed how the dress uniform has changed? If Worf thinks they look like a dress now, he's forgotten what they used to look like; the smock fell just above the knee with black leotards worn underneath. Remember Lwaxana commenting on Picard's and Riker's legs?

To all. With the invention of replicators, which can produce anything from soup to nuts, there would certainly not be the type of produce war we see in the world today (Energizer V Duracell). My question is, how would a company receive compensation for the mass replication of their product? Would you pay an incredible fee to have a replicator installed? What about products that are invented later? Comments, anyone?

Michael Farquhar - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

To Neil J Barrett - Just to confuse things a la Sulu that little bit more, in ST II when he's shuttling Kirk and Co to the Enterprise he says "Any excuse to be back on the Enterprise again" (or words to that effect). This implies he wasn't currently serving on Enterprise at that time - maybe he had been out getting the experience required to get the Excelsior as his first command (a first officership, like Chekov, perhaps). Timewise, there's more spare time between ST:TMP and ST II for Sulu to have got that experience than between ST V and ST VI.

Re the DS9 theme - I agree with those who like it. I think it's a stately, atmospheric piece, underscoring both Bajor and the majestic station.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - A general note on Picard and the Stargazer. I think Ron Moore realised the discrepancy in Picard assuming command of a Starship at 27 - which is why he put the line into Tapestry about Picard taking command of the Stargazer when the original Captain was killed. That means Picard didn't start out as the Stargazer Captain (and maybe not even First Officer), and he could have taken command at any time during the 22-year voyage - although I would make it earlier rather than later. Comments? Also does anyone know of any plans to explain those 9 years of Picard's life between the Stargazer court martial and the Enterprise? I'd love to know what he did for that time.

To Philip Morley - I agree with you about the disagreeing with Gene thing. I think that too many people use "Gene wouldn't have approved on such and such" as a way to put down particular episodes (or series, like DS9) that *they* don't particularly like. The man is, very regrettably, dead, and I do not think it is right to make judgements for someone who isn't around to agree or disagree with them. In the end, no-one but Gene could have said whether he liked or disliked something.

To Brenda Allen - I think Worf has had

far too many episodes, full stop. Birthright II was a disaster (part I was only saved by Data's fascinating dream story), Rightful Heir was dubious and now we are to have Gambit - yet another Worf two-parter. I think the two-parters, especially, should focus more on the less developed characters - Crusher, La Forge and Troi for example, and leave Worf and his Klingon honour on the back boiler for a while.

To Jamie Boast - The United Federation of Planets is a grouping of worlds, allied for trading and defensive benefits, Starfleet is the exploratory and defensive arm of the UFP - like the navies of the countries of the world today. Both were formed after the Earth-Romulan wars (2161) to protect like-minded worlds from external threats, and that has since developed into what it is in TNG.

To Brigitte Doran - I think Diane Duane called the Romulan language and people Rihannsu in her novels dealing with them.

Re female Captains in TNG. Although more of the Captains we have seen are male, look at the Admirals. Although there have been *slightly* more (12), the number of female Admirals isn't far behind (10). That suggests that the divide at the Admiral level is approximately 50/50, which implies a similar split at the Captain level (assuming the Admirals were Captains at one time). Maybe all the women Captains are on deep space exploration, so we don't see them all that often.

Re choice of ships for new Captains. I think the main criterion is experience, which is apparent from looking at the three ships Riker has been offered. As his experience increased, Riker's been offered progressively larger ships - the USSs Drake, Aries and finally Melbourne, second only to a Galaxy Class ship. It should therefore be possible for captains on their first assignment to get a 'big' ship, eg a Nebula ship, providing they have done what Riker has - refuse smaller commands and remain on larger ships to gain experience. Is it significant that he hasn't been offered a ship for the last three seasons?

Ray Dowsett - Cambridge

Whilst I have for all practical purposes, temporarily at least, 'dropped out' of fandom, the current N/L raises a few points I wish to comment on. Those of you who have been in fandom more than a decade will recall this is one of my 'hobby horses'... command structure in Star Trek.

To Valerie Piacentini - Correct, my friend, a Medical Officer does hold a rank to indicate his/her experience and seniority - however under no circumstances would a 'specialist officer' appear anywhere in the COMMAND structure. As a specialist, the Medical Officer, be he/she a Lieutenant, Commander, even Rear-Admiral, would be expected to ADVISE the Captain, but not over-rule (you cannot command ANYTHING if someone else can over-rule your authority). The Captain relies upon his 'specialists' to bring their own expertise to bear in the event of it being required.. but as the Chief Engineer wouldn't have the knowledge to perform surgery, so a Medical Officer lacks the know-how and experience to command.

To Andrew Carnegie - The difference between Commodore and Captain is basically one rank! Commodore is an actual rank, one step above Captain, but below that of Rear-Admiral. However, it can also be used as a 'courtesy title' and/or as a TEMPORARY title.

To explain - the Commanding Officer of a ship is called 'The Captain' - right? This can mean he is a Captain in rank, OR be used as a courtesy title even though his actual rank may be below that. The Captain of a minesweeper (20th century Navy) would be a Lieutenant or Lieutenant-Commander in rank - yet he would still be known to all on board as 'The Captain'.

Same with Commodore - the SENIOR OFFICER in command of a sector, or a squadron of ships - or almost anything over and above a single ship - could either have the actual rank of Commodore or be given it purely as a courtesy title to distinguish him/her from the other commanding officers. So it is quite within keeping for a Captain of a

ship to be called Commodore simply because he is responsible not just for his ship, but is also responsible for either a group of ships or a sector.

To Charles A McWhan - From my own experience in the Royal Navy, I agree with virtually all you say about specialist and line (command or executive) officers. However, I would disagree slightly inasmuch as I doubt even if an emergency (unless there was nobody else around at all) a specialist would take command. Command would devolve downwards to the senior person of the line branch, EVEN IF THAT PERSON WAS NOT AN OFFICER.

I am pretty sure I am right in saying that there was an instance in WW2 whereby all the command officers of a ship were killed, and although officers existed on board in the shape of the Engineer Officer, Medical Officer, Electrical Officer, etc, the ACTUAL COMMAND of the ship was undertaken by the ship's COXWAIN (a Chief Petty Officer), being the senior executive branch person on board - even though NOT a commissioned officer.

So in Classic Trek, for example, whilst Spock is the exception to the rule (as he doubled as First Officer/Science Officer he was probably the only person in the entire force ever to be both a command and specialist officer at the same time) it would be perfectly normal 'Chain of Command' for Sulu or Chekov to take command if need be; neither Bones nor Scotty ever would.

[Ed - This raises the question, is the procedure in the American Navy the same as that in the British Navy? The implication from several US TV programmes (and books) is that it isn't, that American servicemen specialise less or, at least, are trained in more than one discipline so that, as or if necessary, they can step into another field. Perhaps one of our American members could comment?]

Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Jo Christodoulides - Now I've seen a few DS9 episodes, I feel able to comment on

it. Yes, I agree Kira is great! I like the way she and Odo seem to have a mutual support thing, despite Odo's 'man alone' front - the way they stick up for each other against Sisko, for instance. I agree Sisko's a bit of an old misery. I like the way people can be grumpy or fall out with the Commander - after all, most of them aren't Starfleet so it's right that there's a more casual attitude to authority. Unlike TNG it seems to have got straight into its stride in the first season and be much more at ease with itself - I recently went back and watched some 1st season TNG and find it rather stiff and as if they're not really comfortable with it, but the DS9 cast seem to have settled in very quickly. There are some very accomplished stories and I'm really starting to get into it.

To Valerie Piacentini - I'm not convinced that Creation Cons wouldn't attract a lot of people. Look at the Dr Who open day the BBC held many years ago at Longleat - they were swamped by the numbers who turned up and had to turn many away. They only catered for a couple of thousand - many times that turned up. If a Trek event was held with a lot of the actors and published as a real spectacle, a lot of the general population would go, not just the hard core of fans. I think such an event would be aiming for a different, wider audience than fan-run cons.

To Ann Peters - I don't think there's any real evidence for intelligence being sex-linked. The reason there are more male geniuses and idiots is down to nature arranging for more males to be born - before the advent of modern vaccines, etc, more boys died in early childhood due to their lesser resistance to a lot of previously common childhood diseases. Nature arranges a slight overpopulation of boys to allow for this - and of course we mess it up by ensuring that more of them survive anyway.

Kate Davies & Rebekah Owens - Thought I should just point out that Picard is on the operating table in Tapestry, not Starship Mine.

On to the general articles and Jacqueline Comben's article about the Official Fan Club. I'm not sure if I've been caught out on that. I read some of the advance publicity as meaning they might be issuing one-off videos - say of behind the scenes interviews. I duly sent my money off and got in return a copy of issue 1 of the magazine - not terribly impressive - plus a video box. This looked promising - however, when I opened it, it contained only my badge and plastic membership card! Ever felt let down? There's been nothing since. On the showing so far, I won't be renewing.

Martin Stahl - Marktheidenfeld, Germany

The new A5 (for zines) format looks nice - I even prefer it to A4.

There was a group - Barbarella - that organised ST parties in several German towns, consisting of a disco full of techno music, some ST episodes and a costume competition. All fans were disappointed by those parties, and fortunately SAT 1 realised that this was the wrong way to promote Star Trek and didn't renew their contract with Barbarella. I see it as a victory of fandom as it demonstrated that money is not everything.

We've found another curiosity; a magazine called 'The Other Reality', about esoterics, and in it there was an article about the spiritual background of ST. According to this article, ST is full of spiritual topics like telepathy, beaming (!) and in one episode Data wants to teach his daughter about metaphysics. Gene Roddenberry was inspired to ST by higher beings from another dimension (well, they live in different velocities). Gene spent several sessions with the British medium Phyllis Schlemmer and this way he got contact with 'Tom', one of the beings from the Council of Nine. They try to save Earth by inspiring ST authors like Gene. Then the magazine printed part of a session with Gene and 'Tom'. There is a book in Britain where they got it all from, with the title The Only Planet of Choice. It costs £9.95 and can be ordered from Gateway Books, The Hollies, Wellow, Bath BA2 8QJ. If anyone has bought this book perhaps they can tell us more about it. I don't take the whole thing

seriously, it sounds too ridiculous.

Moiria Warburton - Twickenham

To Neil J Barrett - My apologies, I realised after I had posted my answer that I had made the wrong interpretation of your question. Please put it down to enthusiasm. PS - A59, I know it well!

Question - Can anyone explain to me why Genesis turned into a planet? It was made from the remains of the USS Reliant and the Mutara Nebula so how was it possible?

William Marsh - Atherstone, Warwickshire

Well, I've got to say I think Descent is excellent. I've not heard anyone's opinions on it yet, but I think this was a two-parter which wasn't ruined in part II. I found part II was by far the best episode we've seen in a long time and the episode brings out everything in the Geordi-Data relationship; and what can I say? Part II had some excellent acting by Brent Spiner.

To Nicole Comtet - I'm not French myself but I think you'll find Rene Auberjonois is pronounced Re-Nai-O-Bear-Jon-Wa. I also agree with what you said about DS9 and I pray they never do the TNG crossover stories.

To Edward Woo - I agree with you; when I first went to conventions it was for the videos, and once you do get involved as a steward, etc, you get known rapidly. I agree also, people like to meet people they've corresponded with via the newsletters. I know I like to!

One thing I've noticed lately is a lot of these people who used to think the Romulans are bad and always will be bad are changing their minds after recent stories.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I agree, if people have a video source they tend not to spend time in the video rooms. But after all, everyone pays so everyone must have a choice of what they want to do.

To Lee Sansome - I agree, conventions

have guests to entertain and not to slag off. It's a wonder you don't like George Takei more - when he's asked about Shatner he says nothing and gets on. Some guests do it to create a laugh.

Questions

Linda Pengelly - Can anyone tell me where I can get hold of Brent Spiner's album *Ol' Yellow Eyes Is Back*? I have tried but failed. Also is it really Brent playing the guitar in *Silicon Avatar*? As he has talents I did not realise he had till recently (ie singing and dancing) can he possibly play the guitar as well?

The firm putting out Ol' Yellow Eyes Is Back has gone bankrupt, so it seems unlikely that it will be possible to get copies in future. We suggest you try advertising for a copy.

Can You Help?

Roger Neal - I am trying to construct a Tridimensional chess set. I have made all the pieces but I am stuck for the rules. The

original series Technical Manual has all the dimensions but the rules section is not Included in the book. As far as I can see there is no mention of this game in the TNG Technical Manual although they seem to enjoy playing the game. My friends and I are keen chess players and would like to give this game a try. Does anyone know of, or has seen any rules for this game? Roger A Neal, 2 Slade Road, Didcot, Oxon OX11 7AP.

Cris Coxon - I have seen fleeting glimpses of a Bajoran security phaser and thought I might have a go at making one. I'm told it's basically the casting off an M16 American rifle receiver - handle and all, but so far I have only see a blurred (freeze frame) example in Kira's hand when she proposes blasting open the shuttle's door in the episode QLess. Can anyone help? I would reward anyone who helps substantially by giving away to them a completed model of the forementioned phaser. Cris Coxon, Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E. Sussex TN36 4EY.



RICHARD ARNOLD'S FIRST TALK CONTAGION 93

reported by Kathleen Glancy

So there was Richard, all set to launch into one of his celebrated slide shows - and the projector stuck. He whiled away the time while frantic efforts to fix it were made, by conducting a straw poll, by volume of applause, to find the most popular character in DS9. Quark and Odo tied for first, Kira and Dax for second. The Sisko Kid (and Linda Wood will like to note that *Richard* certainly calls him that, since she predicted that people would several N/Ls ago) came bottom, and his papa didn't do much better.

One lot of slides had to be given up for lost, which was annoying as they would have been of the new TNG season. We did get DS9 slides, but these were eclipsed when Richard, bless his heart, found that some of us couldn't make his second talk and decided to run the DS9 promotional video at both

events.

It was an excellent video, really. Terry Farrell did a good job of narrating it, there were interviews with almost all the cast, there were interesting snippets of story - and if some of the technical details, demonstrations of special effects and dubbing of sound effects and music were lost on me (I am really only interested in the end product) I know they would interest many others present. You can sense a large But coming, can't you? Here it is. (Bursts into song)

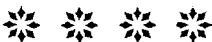
"Oh where, oh where has my Avery gone?
Oh where can Benjamin be?
Both Commander and actor have said so long
It was fairly bizarre to see."

That's not quite fair. Sisko did appear

a few times, but not as much as his staff, his son and his... er... Quark. It was too long to have all been shot on Avery Brooks' day off, so it can only be assumed he didn't want to take part. They would hardly have refused if

he had wanted to be in it.

Unfortunately the wrestling match with the projector left no time for questions, on this or any other subject.



PATRICK STEWART

Taken from an interview of Patrick Stewart by David Rensin in TV Guide July 31-August 6 1993, reported by Daniel H Allshouse.

A year after TV Guide (US) named Patrick Stewart 'The most bodacious man on TV', he was asked how he felt about it. He replied that for a while he was deeply embarrassed, but then he began to realise that he enjoyed it, unexpected though it was.

Playing Picard had, he thought, made him more thoughtful, less impulsive and, he hoped, more patient. He disliked seeing people being treated without respect.

His colleagues in the Royal Shakespeare Company were delighted, and perhaps a little envious, when he got the part of Picard. He was not actually a fan of the original series; when it was shown on Saturday afternoon he saw it occasionally as his children were growing up, and did think it was interesting.

He was called in for auditions after he helped a professor friend at UCLA by reading extracts to illustrate a lecture. Bob Justman was in the audience and turned to his wife and said, "We've found our Captain."

He felt it was only dismissed as escapist entertainment by people who didn't watch it. That even though it was full of fun, it was a very serious show, that that was the way serious things should be presented. Shakespeare wrote entertainment but his plays were serious too. He was angry for a while at the absence of Emmy nominations for directing, writing and acting; the TV industry only nominated TNG for SFX or make-up. He felt it was somehow a curse to be too popular.

He felt British TV was changing, increasingly playing down to a popular market. But Star Trek never underestimates the intelligence of its audience. He felt that if you treat people as intelligent, chances are they just might be.

They were less violent than the original series; Picard always strives to see someone else's point of view and tries not to act aggressively.

He said his day began around 4.30 or 5 o'clock and he spent an hour listening to classic radio and reading books over a cup of tea. He commented on how tea ought to be made (in America they brought a pot of hot water and a teabag outside the pot). Then he showered and shaved, and after that he was ready to face the world.

He was ambivalent about space exploration, feeling it hard to justify the billions of dollars spent on space exploration when there were so many needs on Earth.

He commented on the friendship the cast feel for each other and the things they do together, which, he said, he was told was unusual. For example, he had cast four of them in a play he had directed; it never occurred to him to cast anyone else. He and Brent Spiner have promised themselves that they would become certified for scuba diving this year - despite his being very nervous of water.

For the future, he felt that Jonathan Frakes would have a marvellous future career as a director; he would like to see

Brent Spiner play Stan Laurel; he felt that Michael Dorn would, inside five years, be a member of the RSC or National Theatre of Great Britain; that Marina Sirtis would have a movie career, and LeVar Burton would become a significant movie director or producer.

His only regret about his involvement with Star Trek was that it separated him from his daughter for long periods of time.

He spoke about a TV play he had written for himself, adapted from a section of a novel, about the day of the crucifixion seen

exclusively from the point of view of Pontius Pilate.

He mentioned being recognised in Croatia (where he was working with a film company) about a year ago. He'd gone to a restaurant, ordering everything by pointing, and when the salad arrived, there was a perfect replica of the Enterprise carved out of cucumber and peppers. Apart from that, nothing was said. He said it was the classiest bit of recognition he had ever experienced.

When asked what he expected from the next generation, he said simply, "Curiosity."

☆☆☆☆

GEORGE TAKEI AT MIDCON

or

"How does it feel to be regarded as a legend?"

"It feels like me..."

reported by Jean Sloan

Update on George's activities

George Takei had flown in from Romania where he is filming Oblivion, a sci-fi 'Western'. It is set on an alien planet being colonised by humanoids, other alien beings, and by artificial lifeforms. The scene is a colony town, a Wild West scenario, where George is Doc Valentine, who is good at healing mechanical life forms as well as humanoids. The doctor is an alcoholic; George pointed out that he had researched the role thoroughly. The undertaker is Mr Galt, played by Carel Struycken. Julie Newbar runs the saloon and Meg Foster plays a mechanical being with problematic limbs.

In the first scene of the film, the marshall is killed by Red-eyes, a lizard-like villain. The marshall's son is supposed to take over, but he is a pacifist - played by Richard Paul.

George was not enjoying filming in Romania; conditions were spartan; he joked about it, but he actually looked quite tired and was obviously not looking forward to returning.

Simon & Schuster have commissioned George's autobiography. He had a Jan 1st deadline for completion, but the movie got in the way so they have granted him a month's extension.

George on Captain Sulu

George thinks STVI is the best film and for the next ST spin-off he pitched the idea of the adventures of Captain Sulu, whom he would like to appear in a TV series and at least 10 films! He would be happy to appear on TNG. Though 7 is being mooted as the last season, George pointed out that things have been 'last' before. He thought that Relics was a very imaginative and creative idea, and HE would like similarly creative treatment. He would appreciate ANY help from the fans in support of Sulu's future prospects!

On ST

Richard Arnold had brought a Creation video compilation, in tribute to Gene R. George watched it with us, then commented on what a powerful statement it was about how the human race needs to recognise that diversity is its strength. He believes that you

have to have something of the ST philosophy in you before you discover it in ST. He is grateful to ST because it has given George Takei the currency to be offered movies. He has a life separate and apart from ST, but it has influenced his life.

On buildings

George studied architecture and he is interested in theatre architecture. He agrees with Prince Charles in his views on modern architecture. "An architect's job is to make order out of chaos; in the Barbican, architects have reduced something sensible to bedlam..."

On directors

When the original series ended there was no indication that there might be films. The original bridge set was donated to LA University Arts Dept; they used it for a few productions then it was left outside where it "curled up, peeled, withered, then was scrapped".

Robert Wise came to direct TMP with a legendary reputation. He was a quiet man, introspective, confident, enlightening to work with. Later George did the ST cruise with Bob Wise, and found him a great raconteur, entertaining and generous.

Working with Leonard Nimoy was very different. The cast were apprehensive at first, on the edge of jealousy. Leonard knew he would have to deal with that, so he utilised the past history of his relationship with the cast; he was able to communicate on a non-verbal level, which saved time. Leonard was thoughtful and analytical. He is a true director, and "he can infuse work with a resonance beyond the movie he was making".

Nick Meyer was different again. He habitually smokes a smelly cigar and launches without warning into a Groucho Marx routine. He is very erudite and literate with a passion for Dickens and Shakespeare. He is a fun person to be on the set with, full of energy. He is an anglophile, having a home in Holland Park.

On the animated series

When the animated series was conceived, Leonard, Bill and DeForest were hired to do their own characters' voices, James Doohan to do all the test. However, Leonard would not put up with that; he wouldn't read Spock unless Nichelle and George did their own voice-overs. He pointed out that the company had hired only white males, and it was not good enough.

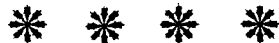
In the event, George did not enjoy the process very much. The voices were recorded one line at a time, in a glass booth, alone. He was disappointed; given that the process of animation allowed greater freedom in that budget considerations were irrelevant, George thought that the animated episodes were lacking in imagination and that the potential of the medium was not realised. He thinks that ST would do well on radio, where the power of the listener's imagination can be utilised...

On TNG

George was asked about the Original cast's attitude to TNG. He said that he would give the true answer rather than the one that was good PR. The original cast were "unanimously and collectively miffed - they thought that there was enough life left in the old team... that an unknown crew would tarnish their image... all motivated of course by jealousy". When the first episodes aired and they didn't do too well, all were delighted, and they criticised The Naked Now for being a poor rehash of an original story. Then as they continued to watch, they began "to glow with paternal pride".

On pantomime

He loves doing it and has great fun... but he is unlikely to have time this Christmas because of the autobiography...



There was no comment on Bill Shatner.

THE FORSAKEN

or

Are you sure this isn't Deep Space 9?

The con of the man-eating Elevators (Diane Duane)

reported by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

Well, before I arrived at the Leeds Hilton (still called by its old name of Dragonara) I had one abiding memory from my last con there - the lifts. My most obvious memory from Lightspeed is... the lifts. Of which more anon.

I had volunteered to steward this time, which due to my being everywhere meant that I succeeded in missing EVERY guest talk. Sorry about that.

Arrival - about two hours late because of roadworks and then getting lost between getting to Leeds and finding our accommodation. Ah, well. Then to the Art Room to put up my competition entry which involved Judith, Sara (Jackson) and a rather high stepladder. All I can say is that it certainly caught the eye of anyone walking into the room - it was 4 feet high and 6 feet in diameter.

There were precious few art competition entries, and the zine library was a real disappointment. If I'd known mine would be the only ones I would have taken more of them!

Descend to the bar in search of food. This was when we discovered the man-eating elevator. Or, rather, the non-working man-eating elevator. The stewards ended up using staircases. Well, it certainly made me lost a bit of weight.

Most of the evening (after the highly brief opening ceremony) was spent in deep discussion of TNG with a group from Ten Forward, Leeds Starfleet and several other clubs, which just seemed to have gravitated to the same table. It became a case of someone tapping me on the shoulder -

"Taruka, in what episode did..." I don't think they fooled me.

For the record, the guests were Peter Morwood, Diane Duane, Dennis Ashton (and I missed his talks, boo hoo) and Therese Eyre and someone else from Titan Books. I did get to see them at an autograph session, so things weren't too bad.

(The young lady responsible for my extra stewarding duties did try to persuade me to part with my signed copy of The Romulan Way but failed miserably. Perhaps that's why I got roped in so often.)

SATURDAY - Reasonably early start because of stewarding duties in the Dealers' Room - and the saga of The Cardassian Spy as he came to be known. Xania (I think?) of Security came creeping in saying "Have either of you seen a man in a grey suit?" He'd walked past me two minutes earlier - he looked out of place at the con, believe me. Apparently he had been behaving 'strangely'. Piecing the bits together from various accounts, he had been saying that he was looking for aliens who had landed, etc. My partner, known to me only by her badge name of Valkris, caught him trying to shoplift a book, I then let Security know when he left the room and ten minutes later John of Security told me the weirdo had been flung out. Sighs of relief among the stewards!

After that I gravitated to the Art Room to see if anything had been added - it wasn't much. But congratulations to the 'Star Trek Soap' idea's originator. I tried to drop my duties at the Stewards' Party (or at least swap them) but it was just my luck that the person I tried to swap with got transferred to

Security. However, congratulations to Dr Marwin Bukhari; he succeeded in giving emergency treatment to an attendee (who for her sake shall remain anonymous) who had a severe asthma attack.

Groaning at the fact that it was unfair I got changed into my Klingon costume so that I could at least attend half the Stewards' Party... until I got roped into the Fancy Dress. Well, it wouldn't have been so bad if my wig hadn't kept falling off.

That evening was when the food poisoning broke out. Yes, you guessed it. No, it wasn't the chicken in the Vulcan Surprise this time, it was the prawns in the seafood pizza. Four cases reported by Security.

That was the day of the Grand Tribble Fight in the foyer. Eight people, ten tribbles and a lot of fun. I think I only got hit once.

Saturday was also the day the lifts started playing up. They ate people. We had about a dozen injuries from the vicious lift doors (that was when they worked). At one point all of the main elevators and one of the service elevators were down, so we stewards were dashing up and down the stairs like nobody's business. Signs like 'Staff only' were studiously ignored. Thank you, staff of the Hilton, for being so understanding.

The disco on Saturday night had two memorable sights. Jonathan the Data lookalike dancing as Data, and a mock fight between Judith Taylor and Bea the Borg.

The con mascot was supposed to be Minty the Sheep. It was more like Gordon T Gopher. He first put in an appearance at the Fancy Dress but by Sunday night he had been mauled by every con attendee. He was part of the entry 'Starship Dunny' which defies description - a slightly drunken crew, an absentee Captain... (I had the organisers for breach of copyright - I thought that was MY idea!) I don't think anyone backstage will forget Gordon the Gopher being propelled through the air by another entrant dressed as Q.

I finally caught up on a DS9 episode I hadn't seen, during the 10pm - midnight shift as steward. (They tried to get me on the 3 - 4 am shift but I quietly refused as I couldn't get back from Killingbeck that fast.)

It got worse. I was aiming for a quick whiz round the Dealers' Room before my first stewarding duties but as luck would have it Xania Whatsit caught Judith and me in the corridor. "Are you on duty?"

"No."

"I need two for the Dealers' Room now."

Bang went our chances!!

From there to Video 1 where I had been scheduled to do another stint. Ah, well. At least I got to see The Forsaken and thought up my title.

Downstairs in search of food. Jacket spuds are wonderful at the Dragonara - and comparatively cheap.

Caught the closing ceremony and didn't win anything - not that I expected to. The guests were presented with crystal goblets - which Diane Duane christened with red wine while she was there.

That's when I gravitated to the Art Room to retrieve my competition entry and to sell one of the zines I'd brought.

Another costume change for the Dungeons and Dragons Theme Party. I should have put it in the Fancy Dress but didn't. Mind you, having to go through doors sideways because of a 4-foot pheasant-feather head-dress is not easy.

To top it all, I was on duty again, this time lurking in Ops. Along with all loose stewards I ended up shifting the PA equipment from the main hall and surprising the Tech Team - they didn't think I could lift some of it.

The D&D disco was memorable for Gordon T Gopher's final demise. We had

three attendees dressed as different incarnations of Death and one of them impaled the Gopher on his staff, where amid shouts of 'Death to the Gopher' he was solemnly paraded round the disco before being equally solemnly speared by me, kicked and generally knocked about. I think he's still on the end of the pole.

Other memories - Trish's quiz in the handbook - you'd need to be a science graduate to answer it. We went for laughs -

Where is Aphrodite Terra - Lursa and B'Etor's bedroom

Give its approximate dimensions - 8 x 12 - I don't know it in kellicams

What is the length of a light year? - A third of the distance to Alpha Centauri

Give the balance equation for ethanol and water - I don't know but I do know that $H_2O + H_2SO_4 = \text{Romulan Ale}$.

There was a tribble awarded as booby prize; but there was never actually an announcement of who'd won. I'm not

surprised.

A special award in the Fancy Dress went to A Day in the Life of Odo and comprised -

Odo goes shopping - a jelly in a carrier bag
Odo at the beach - same jelly in a seaside bucket

Odo gets trapped in a lift - a wig flying in the air

And so to bed - same jelly complete with nightcap.

It had everyone in hysterics.

Quote of the con - "It's black, it's nylon, it must be yours." (Referring to bits which kept falling off my Klingon wig.)

As a con, great fun, and what a change after Warp One. This was more informal, less rigidly organised and generally more like a con should be. My congratulations to the committee. When're you doing another?



Was a leprechaun listening to my daydreams?

by Jacqueline Y. Comben

Whether all writers daydream, I do not know, but imagining the unlikely is one of my besetting sins. Opening a letter and reading, *"We would like you to be a guest at our Convention in Ireland."*, I pinched myself to make sure I really was awake. Me? A guest?

Of course, it soon became clear that the letter was one of a number sent to assorted fanwriters and, being realistic, I could see that my chances of being chosen from among the eager acceptances were not high. I have not, after all, published anything since I early-retired and I am not exactly the favourite author of TNG fans! However, I adore Ireland and the chance of a free trip, the chance of being a guest at a Con... I hurriedly wrote an extremely enthusiastic reply. I would be happy to answer any questions, join any panel, talk on any subject, sign anything (except blank cheques), etc. etc..

I suppose only three of us could actually spare the time to go to IreCon3; most people, after all, have to work or have family commitments. Or maybe that leprechaun really was taking his holidays in Wales and was rooting for me? Brenda Kelsey writes great stories, is still publishing them regularly and has been to the States and on Sea Treks. Sue Jones was nominated for an award in the U.S. for her zine. I guess I was the makeweight, or on garbage disposal duty after their Lord Mayor's show, but I was to go, which was all that mattered! I was even willing to abandon Truffle into the kennel at Llansamlet, as the Con hotel did not take dogs!

Since IreCon3 was to be at Jury's Hotel Cork and I live 17 miles outside Swansea, the Swansea/Cork Ferry was my obvious means of transport; most enjoyable, with quite comfortable cabin and all the facilities aboard one could wish for. The only unfortunate

factor was a docking time of 7.30 a.m., but getting woken at 6.30 a.m. was not so bad. I was met by a sweet girl, who had been asked, "As you have a car, would you meet Jackie?", and only told the time of my arrival after she had said, "Yes."

Being chauffeur driven to the Con was just the start of the novelty involved with being a guest. Hotel checkin was organised for me and I was ushered off for a leisurely breakfast, while Jury's got my room ready in time for me to have a bath before the Opening Ceremony.

I felt a terrible fraud entering a Hall to applause from the assembled attendees. Oh, the experience could easily go to one's head, but I was only too aware how little I deserved such acclaim. It was unnerving to realise that most of the audience were young enough to be my children or even grandchildren. In fact, all three of us worried about the planned 'Workshop on Spock', since, to these people, Spock was some old guy who had appeared in two TNG episodes and practised cowboy diplomacy! Most of the questions centred upon the various actors we had met at Cons, or on Brenda's Sea Trek, or were about Paramount's future plans. (Thanks, Richard Arnold, for most of the information we were able to relay!).

The rest of Saturday seemed to consist mainly of Press Interviews. If anyone reading this has copies of the various Irish newspapers involved, I would love to see the results. I was very sorry for those actually interested in writing for fanzines, as the panels on this were invaded by a particularly pushy reporter, who drove our audience away! I was part of a panel on 'Running a Star Trek Club', which kept to its subject and seemed quite successful. However, Irish Clubs seem to be Local Groups run under a national umbrella organisation. The idea of clubs like IDIC seems unknown there.

We were taken out for a wonderful dinner in Blarney on Saturday evening. Only the Irish feed you that well. I have never yet managed to finish all the courses of any meal in that country. In fact, if you clear your plate

of any one course, you are immediately offered a second helping!

Sunday's panels were quite successful. I had mentioned my lack of any real qualification to discuss 'Medicine in the 24th Century', but was able to waffle and invent enough to provoke lively discussion. Our panel on Spock revealed that a few attendees had actually watched Original Trek before TNG and were interested in our favourite Vulcan, his family, his species cross etc..

Before crossing the Irish sea, I had asked Anny, the Con organiser, if there was to be a Charity Auction. It transpired that the Irish had never had one, so I volunteered to act as Auctioneer! Sue and Brenda actually collected more items for sale than I did, and Anny also provided a lot, so I was able to have great fun doing my 'Richard Arnold act' for about an hour and a half! We raised about 380 Irish punt, only to find that this would bring two children from Chernobyl to Ireland for a month and that medical opinion agreed that this would regain for them two years of life. I have never felt so chastened. Those kids are suffering because of modern technology mis-used and underfunded due to the arms race. I would like to get more of them a decent holiday in clean air and Con organising committees will probably have to physically restrain me from auctioning off my memorabilia for this cause in future.

Coming home was... interesting. Storms blew up, causing my ferry to be cancelled. We were allowed to sleep on board on Monday night, finally sailing on Tuesday with free breakfast provided by the Ferry line. We sailed past my cottage on a calm sea in brilliant sunshine. It is like that now, as I type this, and, looking from my window, I see the water rippling gently to the horizon.

How can a little dog know when you are due back? Certainly mine told me off roundly for being late and I was assured she had begun complaining from the moment I should have collected her on the Monday! I am likely, in future, to arrive at Cons with two Cavalier King Charles bitches, as I was introduced to a potential companion for

Truffle, with whom I fell instantly in love.

The Con? It went by in a whirl. Most of the time, I felt a terrible fraud, signing autographs, for instance, and being applauded and thanked. I shall have to start immediately on the followup to *Green Fire* and *Afterglow*, and also make serious efforts towards being published professionally, so that all those lovely Irish folk eventually get

to see my name in print! We did stress that a lot of people like fanzines better than the Pocket book novels, so maybe IDIC/ ScotPress will gain a few sales?

Overall, I thoroughly recommend the experience of being a guest at a Con. If you think this will never happen to you... keep on dreaming and hope for a listening leprechaun!



"I WONDER WHEN AL WILL SHOW UP?" IRECON'93

By Sue Jones

Don't you believe it! The next time you hear someone rich and famous complaining about the problems of being recognised, don't believe a word of it - it's wonderful! Terrifying, but wonderful. How do I know? Well I too have been famous for five minutes.

Not strictly accurate. Actually there were three of us, it lasted for a whole weekend and we weren't precisely famous, (who said notorious?!) but we were guests at a Star Trek Convention.

It all started back in May with a copy of a letter forwarded on to myself and several other fan writers via Sheila Clark, from the National Irish Star Trek Association saying that they were looking for two fan writers to be guests at their convention Irecon 3 in September. Was I interested? Was I interested??!!

I have a theory. If you allow yourself to want something really badly, it's a sure-fire way of making certain that it doesn't happen, so I wrote back and promptly put the whole thing firmly to the back of my mind. I know who the good fan writers are and I don't reckon I'm in the same league.

At the end of June, I got a phone call from Brenda Kelsey. "Have you had a letter?" she asked. "Oh yeah, that one." I said "I wrote back and then wrote the whole

thing off." "No, not that one." she said "The one that says you're going to Ireland."

I presume she must have been holding the receiver away from her ear at that moment, because she assures me that her hearing suffered no lasting damage. I was just a touch excited. There was, however, no letter. Nor was there one for the next three days.

By this time I was starting to twitch. After all, Sue Jones is hardly an uncommon name. I am one of six to my certain knowledge, in my immediate district alone. I had never met another one at conventions, but that didn't mean she didn't exist... Isn't paranoia wonderful?

On Saturday morning, just as I was loading the car to go on holiday, the post arrived and with it my letter confirming that Jackie Combén, Brenda Kelsey and I were bound for Ireland.

Along with the letter, Anny Wise, Chairperson, Fix-it Lady and navigator extraordinaire, had sent a provisional programme of events. We viewed it with some trepidation. At least, Jackie seems to take things like that quite calmly. Brenda and I got on the phone and gibbered at one another. It's one thing to be the hors d'oeuvres or the dessert so to speak at an

event like this; quite another to find that you are in fact the main course, the Major Event, **WHAT THEY HAVE ALL PAID THEIR MONEY TO SEE.** In my experience of con-going, most of the attendees want guests who have at least been brushed with a little of the glitter of Tinsel Town. What Irecon's attendees seemed likely to get were three fans, just like themselves, who were definitely several twinkles short of the full glitter and it was up to us to make sure that they weren't disappointed.

Fortunately, Holodeck '93 was scheduled for a fortnight before Irecon and we unashamedly used it as a opportunity for a spot of "battle planning". Jackie had already volunteered to run a charity auction, apparently something of an innovation at an Irish convention, so Brenda and I staged our raid on Pizza Hut to purchase multiple sets of souvenir Trek cups. (They don't have Pizza Huts anywhere other than Dublin.). I engraved some glasses; Brenda, her sense of timing honed to perfection, contrived to visit W H Smith's just as two sales assistants were debating the covert disposal, before their boss returned, of the heap of DS9 posters they should have issued with the videos but had forgotten and offered them a dignified and constructive escape route (the Kelsey Manoeuvre?) and Jackie just about saved the day by generously donating many of the autographed photos she had obtained at conventions over the years. Thus laden we advanced upon unsuspecting Cork.

Confirmed aerophobe that I am, I resisted the urge to kiss the ground as I left the plane. I met Brenda in the airport lounge (Jackie having sensibly arranged to travel by boat.) We were met by Anny and her husband, Peter, who had driven down the day before and set off for the hotel.

Cork is a lovely city, however its one way system was clearly designed by Machiavelli in between knocking out chapters of *Il Principe*. Remembering how you arrived at a place was obviously of no use when trying to find your way back and since neither Anny or Peter were that familiar with the Cork traffic system, we found ourselves "geographically challenged"

(trans. lost).

Cork also possesses a fine and stately cathedral, St Fimbarr's. We had the opportunity to admire it from several different directions as we hurtled past in pursuit of the hotel. "This bit of road looks familiar." "Oh yes, there's St Fimbarr's cathedral....again."

In the end, Anny resorted to the use of a sketchy tourist map on the back of a brochure, whilst the rest of us bellowed out street names in the hope that one of them would correspond to something on it.

We swept up to the hotel with the triumphant air of a jungle expedition rediscovering King Solomon's mines, any feelings of shyness long forgotten. Navigation by committee is a wonderful icebreaker.

Anny checked us in like VIPs and we dumped our bags. At some point during this process, Anny commented that it was nice that we had come a day early because we would be able to help with the radio broadcast. - Sure why not? (What did I mean why not?? Help!) By this time I was getting quite blasé. The fact that neither of us had ever done a radio broadcast before didn't really seem to matter. After all we weren't famous and nobody seemed to mind about that either. This wasn't reality, this was fantasy. When in Wonderland you might as well play croquet. - Somebody pass me a flamingo!

Peter drove us to the radio station, where we met Damon, Anny and Peter's son who escorted us in. As we walked through the doors as though we really belonged there, Brenda murmured, "You know that bit in Quantum Leap, when Sam's done his jump and he's waiting for Al to come along and tell him what it's all about? Well I keep wondering when Al is going to show up." I know what she meant.

We had thought we might be a bit late, but in fact we had plenty of time to sit in the anteroom and worry. Fortunately Damon has done more radio broadcasts than I've had

hot dinners and was so laid back about the whole business that he was practically horizontal!

It was the point at which we met our interviewer that it dawned on us how big Star Trek had become in Ireland. Brenda and I were braced for the customary media treatment harmless loonies on a par for newsworthiness with the skateboarding duck and if in doubt keep the duck! Panic draws a merciful veil over much of the details of her questions and our answers, but I do know that she never attempted to say that we had "beamed down" or asked whether we all thought we were Dr Spock. Instead she asked sensible questions, seemed genuinely interested in the answers and even said she thought a convention sounded like a lot of fun. Well, like I said before, this was fantasy.

Following our radio party piece, we headed for the exit. We had all been much too busy to eat before, but now, my 6.00am breakfast was beginning to seem rather a long time past. Damon chatted to several people on the way out, all of whom obviously knew him well, until Brenda and I each seized an arm and told him he could either take us to find food or be eaten!

Following a restorative burger, Anny, Peter and Damon went back to the hotel. Brenda and I went shopping and made the happy discovery that the people of Cork are old fashioned; they still believe in the basic honesty of mankind. In Cork it is still possible to go into a shop and not immediately become a star on their closed circuit TV show. It is still possible to go upstairs to a sales floor where there is no-one currently on duty without a sales assistant rivalling Sally Gunnel in her sprint after you, to fiddle ostentatiously with nothing in particular until you yield to the psychological pressure and leave. They are prepared to phone up to the second floor to check whether there is an item in stock for you, even though there is a working lift and a perfectly good escalator. They even wish you a pleasant stay, AND THEY MEAN IT.

We returned, suitably laden, to the hotel, to find that conference preparations

were under way. It was also "spot the difference from British conventions" time. I knew that an Irish conference (as they prefer to call them) tends to be a smaller animal than its British counterpart, (200 attendees constitutes a well-attended con) what I wasn't prepared for was the age of the attendees. Whereas British cons attract people from 9 months to 90 years, with the majority of people in their 20's and 30's. Here, the youngest seemed to be 8 - 10 and topped out at about 25, with only a handful older and the majority in their teens. We literally had a "boatload of children", which necessitated a quick re-think on how we were going to run some of the workshops and I felt I needed a badge reading "Respect me - I'm old!"

However, age, (or lack of it) wasn't impairing the enthusiasm with which the committee helpers were getting ready. Everyone was terribly friendly and welcoming, but Brenda and I thought that maybe we were proving too much of a distraction because people felt that they ought to stop and chat to us and were thereby impeding progress, so we removed ourselves for a while and came back later with the copy of "Descent" which the helpers were unlikely to have the opportunity to watch over the weekend. When I had spoken to Anny on the phone before leaving, she said that it was doubtful whether their copy would arrive in time. I have kind friends (thank you Paul and Judie) who trusted me with their precious copy, so we all sat and watched that, then went to bed.

Saturday saw the start of the conference proper. Because Jury's is a large hotel, the conference did not fill it and there were still a lot of mundanes around. Perhaps for that reason and the fact that the attendees are much younger and the majority do not stay in the hotel itself, costumes and uniforms were much less in evidence than over here. However, there were plenty of posters up on the walls and loads of people wandering around clutching carrier bags from the dealers' room, so some things are definitely the same.

Jackie, Brenda and I were scheduled to do a series of workshops on a whole variety

of topics during the weekend, but the opening session was, I quote, a chance to "Meet the Guests".

It might have been a small convention by British standards, but there were still an awful lot of eyes looking at us when we walked in and sat down. A quick burst of adrenalin got me through the first five minutes, after which I realised that these were simply Trek-friends whom I hadn't met yet and settled down.

Although we were there ostensibly to talk about fan-writing, I don't think any of us really imagined that we would stay on that subject for long and we were right. The questions throughout the various workshops covered just about every aspect of Trek that you could possibly imagine and then some. We felt we had to keep on pointing out that we were not connected in any way with either Paramount or CIC, but between the three of us I think we must have retold just about every anecdote from every talk at every convention we'd ever been to.

It was quite a learning experience in both directions. We were truly dealing with the "Next Generation". To most of these youngsters TNG IS Trek. James T Kirk and his merry band are to a large extent quaint historical figures, a side-show to the main event. In the case of some attendees, we have been Trek fans longer than they have been alive. At times it was a little like being a walking history lesson. One person commented that she didn't like Classic Trek because she thought it rather racist in its outlook because Uhura "never has anything interesting to do." She was amazed and dare I say "fascinated" to realise that, put into the context of its period, Gene was actually using Trek to make a fairly bold anti-racist statement.

In between sessions, we got approached by at least three newspapers and one radio reporter for interviews, but more importantly the breaks gave us a chance to meet some of the audience as individuals. Although we kept insisting that we were simply fans, just the same as they were, I was definitely aware of some people sidling up to

us to chat, in the same way that attendees sidle up to big-name guests. We even got asked for autographs. All one can do under those circumstances is to be as friendly and approachable as possible and try not to let anyone down, but it is a fantastic and humbling experience. It is also the destruction of breaks and lunchtimes. Yes, it is possible to order, pay for and eat coffee and sandwiches in ten minutes flat. By the end of the day, I felt as though I had had a close encounter with a warm, welcoming friendly mind-sifter in overdrive!

As I said before, unlike UK cons, most attendees do not stay in the hotel, so the programme shut down by about 6.00pm and Anny treated us to a wonderful meal out at Blarney. It is obviously another important tenet of Irish life, that if you manage to finish all the food that they give you, they have failed miserably as hosts. I went down fighting, but I lost the battle.

Sunday started in a more leisurely manner, (like I said, that was a BIG meal) since Jackie was doing a workshop on Medicine in the 23rd Century, to which I felt I could contribute very little.

In the afternoon, Jackie ran the Charity Auction, with Brenda and I as helpers and all I can say is that I hope those folk enjoyed themselves as much as we did. Not only are they kind, friendly people, but they are generous too. All in all, they contributed £328 to the charity, Children of Chernobyl - enough to bring two children to Ireland for one month and because they are away from the radiation which is slowly poisoning them, that is enough to give them another two years of life. A sobering thought in the midst of all the fun.

There was some question as to whether Colm Meaney might drop in in time to do the grand draw for a trip to Hollywood, since he was filming just down the road. He had been invited, but elected not to, to which I can only say "His loss," so Brenda did the honours instead and after that, the con was almost over. We did stay to chat and unwind with some of the last lingerers in the bar and then, because the rain was bouncing down, a side

effect of a healthy young hurricane somewhere over the Bay of Biscay, we treated ourselves to a meal in the hotel and fell into bed.

There were no ferries running on the Monday due to the appalling weather

forecast, so Jackie was marooned for another day and I must confess that I was dreading the flight home. However, all went well, I returned to reality, packed up my glass slipper and went sadly back to work.



TORONTO TREK VI

or Scottish Klingons' Invasion of Kanada 93

reported by K'Tan sutai Kuragan

Imperial date 930719/930720; Having survived Contagion (The Scottish ST con) I arrived home, unpacked my bags, repacked and after a good night's kip headed back to Glasgow to meet Toqhdudj Jonwi to plan our invasion of Kanada. We were supposed to be flying out on the 20th of July but were informed that our aeroplane was now a submarine (it was under 10 feet of water somewhere in the USA). Some start! We were informed we would be flying out the next day with Air Canada, so went back to Toqhdudj's house for the night.

Imperial date 930721 - Up at 7.00 am, quick breakfast, shuttle to starbase and after declaring our disruptors, levels and communicators at Customs we sat and wrote out a few postcards just to let certain people know that "The Klingons had set sail for the Promised Land".

We were off to Toronto.

At 1.15 pm we landed, picked up our cases and stepped into beautiful sunshine (it was in the 90s). Caught a bus to our hotel. We checked in, dropped our cases in our rooms; and at 3 o'clock Kanada time, I phoned the Chain Gang at Sheila's house just to let them know I'd landed. Sheila was away getting the newsletters from the printer; it was Janet who answered. I said hello and asked for Frances (the Borg) or Carol (Data) Kean, spoke to both, and told them I was standing next to Brent Spiner and Jonathan Frakes (only kidding). Then it was off to Toronto City Centre to do the sights; we spent the next seven hours being tourists.

We sent more postcards.

Imperial Date 930722 - Up at 8.00 am. Shower (Yes, Klingons *do* shower!). Breakfast. Went to try to book a car for the day, intending to go to Niagara Falls. We were told it would cost \$500 *plus* our airline tickets and our passports as a deposit for the hire, since neither of us had a credit card. (If you're going to Canada or USA and don't have one, *get a credit card* - it makes life a lot simpler.) We said politely that we wouldn't bother.

We went for a walk then headed back to the hotel to meet up with Admiral K'Tan from Kanada. He arrived as we were having lunch, and we got into discussing KAG business. More KAG members arrived about 3.00 pm. (One of them had a car like a Klingon battleship, small turret in the front with a Klingon head that moved when the guns moved. These guys are nuts!) We helped them unload and take their gear to a bedroom, and made arrangements to meet later. Toqhdudj went to visit friends. I ended up in the bar drinking with the Klingons. (Canadian beer is *%&!)

Imperial Date 930723 - Up early, breakfast, off to the KAG table. The con actually started at 4.00 pm, so we had time to meet other KAG members before the start.

The guests included George Takei, Marina Sirtis, Barbara Hambly (author) and Ken Money (Canadian Astronaut). They were expecting 4000 people over the weekend (the actual attendance was 3415).

Registration was a shambles - the only bad part about the con. People who had pre-registered waited longer in the queues than people who registered on the day.

Once registered I took my first trip to the dealers' room. WOW! About 60 dealers and loads of new Star Trek merchandise. I managed to pick up a few of the new Playmates figures and a few comics, also a very nice set of small cards. (The cons in Britain, I think, are far better than the ones in Canada, but you have to experience one before judging.)

In Toronto they have built a replica bridge set of a Constitution Starship, and you could get your photo taken at various times of the day (very impressive).

At 10 o'clock the fun began - the Klingon Karaoke in the bar. Great laugh.

Imperial Date 930724 - Up at 7.00 am, breakfast, then down to the dealers' room again, dressed in uniform with kilt on. Yes - Scottish Klingon in a kilt! Made my way to the KAG table, met a few more KAG USA and Kanada members, some with very sore heads (too much Romulan ale). (Speaking of drink, Contagion Committee take note - at Toronto Trek there was a room set aside where you could go and have a few beers - six a day - and fresh popcorn or crisps for nowt. How about the same?)

At 11 it was the KAG Regional Assembly, where all the Klingons and a couple of Feds met in one of the rooms and boasted about all the things they had done for charity over the past year, and what they intended to do in the coming year. Each ship Commander was given his turn to speak. Promotions were given to various Klingons. A well-run business meeting.

At 4 I queued for George and Marina's autographs. I got George to sign a plate with his photo on it. (And dropped it - oops! It didn't break - lucky Ferengi!) Marina - I got loads of pictures, cards etc autographed, some to be donated to charity. The scene goes like this:

Auto 1 Marina - Oh! You were the Klingon in the kilt?
Me - Yes.
Marina - Do you come from Scotland?
Me - Yes, we came over for the convention.

Go to end of queue (this happened after every autograph)

Auto 2 Marina - Pity your football team (ie Scotland) won't make the World Cup finals.
Me - England hasn't qualified yet.

Auto 3 Marina - I used to go out with Graeme Souness.
Me - Yes, I read about it in the paper.

Auto 4 Marina - Not you again?
Me - Yes, I'm your worst nightmare.

Auto 5 Marina - Hello again?
Me - At least our football fans behave themselves when they go abroad!

(Klingons 1 Feds 0)

Marina was very polite and very good to chat to. (To Marina - your team didn't make the finals after all!)

Between 8 and 9 was the Masquerade. Some of the costumes were fantastic - Klingon werewolf, Ferengi, Cardassians. After that was a dance. I went and got on my full Scottish outfit but kept my Klingon headpiece on. It went down a storm.

Imperial Date 930725 - Well, the last day of the con. Down to the dealers' room again, bought a few photos and some other small things (I couldn't carry any large items due to the lack of space in my suitcases.) Went to the charity auction (didn't bid for anything) then back to the KAG table where we said goodbye to our fellow brothers and sisters who were leaving early. One last time round the dealers' room, then upstairs to pack.

Epilogue - I liked Toronto Trek very much. It was a fan run con and we had the opportunity to meet fellow KAG members

from the USA and Canada, and made a lot of new friends. Kai to them all! I hope to meet you again some time. I didn't actually attend any guest talks or panels, but had a great time meeting these new friends.

Toronto Trek VIII is on 22 - 24 July next year, with Majel Barrett as the main guest. Alas, it's the same weekend as Contagion. Maybe 1995?



TERRY FARRELL

compiled by William Marsh

Born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1964, Terry Farrell grew up with an ambition to be a model and at the age of 17 she was signed by the prestigious Elite modelling agency. Farrell then moved from Iowa to New York City where she appeared on many magazine pages. After three years Farrell decided she'd had enough of modelling.

She then decided to have an attempt at acting. She began to study acting and moved to Los Angeles, where she got her first role in a short-lived series called Paper Dolls in which she acted alongside Jonathan Frakes from ST:TNG.

During these early years she did many things and has appeared in such hit series as Family Ties and The Cosby Show. Farrell has starred with Faye Dunaway in an NBC

television, LA Madame, and in the film Deliberate Stranger. Her major break came when she starred in the box office hit Hellraiser III: Hell on Earth. Her sci-fi parts came with guest roles in Quantum Leap and in the ill-fated American Red Dwarf, where she played the role of Cat.

She has always been good friends with Michael Dorn and LeVar Burton from ST:TNG, and she went to LeVar's wedding. LeVar was responsible for getting her the part of Jadzia Dax in ST:DS9 as he got her an audition with Rick Berman. She was the last major character in DS9 to be cast.

She has signed up for seven seasons of DS9 and now lives happily in Los Angeles with her dog Freckles.

☆☆☆☆☆

GENE RODDENBERRY

A Resume of an Interview in The Humanist, March/April 1991, by David Alexander.

Gene Roddenberry was a member of the American Humanist Association since 1986, and on May 10th 1991 at its 50th annual conference, he was presented with its Humanist Arts Award in recognition of his contributions to humanism and humanist thought.

Gene admitted to deciding in his early teens that the link between religious teaching and reality was tenuous, and he stopped going to church as soon as he could. When the question of a chaplain on the Enterprise was brought up, the pressure on him to have one eased when people realised it was impossible given the number of religions in

the galaxy.

He felt that many people got by in life by pretending that unpleasant things didn't exist, because being honest about things caused them problems. Expediency - the white lie - is rife. People found it difficult to deal with Lwaxana Troi because she was so blunt; but then she belonged to a race who couldn't be dishonest because everyone's thought could be read by everyone else.

Gene thought that superstitious explanations for things people didn't understand didn't make sense.

His father rarely went to church but was very kind-hearted; Gene spoke at length about the effect his father (who died in 1969) had on his life.

Gene felt that the type of writing he did was similar to Jonathan Swift's. He was less than happy about censorship and character stereotypes; "twenty-five years ago (thoughtful writing about reality) was next to impossible..." He admitted however that eventually a writer learned to censor himself; by knowing what the censors would jump on, a writer knew what to avoid. In the early days things like kisses were censored but this was now eased; serious things like the military-industrial complex and advertising were still subject to censorship. He felt you cannot write television and be completely honest because there are still too many things you cannot discuss, some because the audience is not ready. There were some things he wanted to tackle on TNG that still had to wait until a certain level of thought was attained to allow them to be discussed. He said he had never been taught that one race or colour was superior, so it was natural his writing went that way too.

On his relationship with Paramount, he said that it had become wonderful; and Paramount were even agreeing that they were making money out of Star Trek.

He felt that he was still growing; that he had matured a lot in the years since 1966-1969. He admitting to having been difficult to deal with in the past.

Gene was worried that when we do contact other races, will we recognise them as sentient? Many people don't accept whales and dolphins as intelligent because they don't interact as Humans do. However, he felt that drama - television and communications - were doing a lot to change attitudes.

Reminded of a statement he had made 15 years previously, "I think television is one of the most dangerous forces in our lives today", Gene replied that what he had probably meant was "Let's be careful of it". He commented that syndication was better than network TV because it allowed the

people making a programme to control it. The end result was much the same, but because he did not have to answer to a hierarchy, he could "press the line towards being liberal" much harder. Paramount supported him, but this could be because what he does earns them money! Money is the bottom line in Hollywood, but it was not *his* bottom line.

On the subject of television programmes, he felt that given 50 channels, some of it was bound to be bad because there wasn't that much creative thought available; but over all he thought television had improved.

He recalled how, when Trek was first cancelled because of low ratings, someone from Demographics came to NBC and congratulated them on having got rid of their most successful programme. Ratings just counted heads; demographics counted the people watching who were actually buying things, and Star Trek was reaching *that* audience.

"It isn't Star Trek" was a sentence important to Gene. He admitted freely that the team making the programme was important; that these people knew more about the technicalities than he did, and making the show was a co-operative endeavour; but *he* knew what Star Trek was.

He felt that the world was not necessarily poorer because there were limits to what could be done. There were things he did on TNG that he could not have done on the original show. He hoped that what he had done would encourage young writers coming along to take things a step further.

In reply to a comment about an SF writer who started his own religion (L Ron Hubbard) Gene said that for him Science Fiction was "a way of thinking... that bypasses a lot of nonsense. It allows people to look directly at important subjects." But he felt that Star Trek was not about science fiction but about people, and this was the main reason it was successful.

People had to watch and be

enthusiastic before he could get across any message. If the product - Star Trek - had not been successful, he would have been unable to do certain of the scripts. He could do them because the ratings were right - on the other hand, he thought he got the ratings by doing the programme well. He would have *liked* to forget the censor and the need to make a successful show, and say what he really felt, but that would lose his audience very quickly. To do stories TV wouldn't look at he would have to enter another market, like books, where people are happy with a small audience.

Asked if he had a favourite character, he replied that he had a fondness for every character at various times. He did specify Spock and Data, however, and mentioned Worf, McCoy (the voice of humanity) and Kirk. If he had pressure put on him to change things and say things he didn't particularly want to say, he found the easiest way was to put the subject aside until he had a chance to think clearly about it. The best anyone could do was stand by things that they believe in.

For 6 or 7 years in the early 1950s Gene was in the LA police, and had been speech writer for Bill Parker, chief of the department. Gene's comment was that Parker was an honest cop, and the speeches he wrote for him were close to pure philosophy. During that time, Gene had come to the conclusion that the solution to the drug problem was decriminalisation, and making drugs a medical problem. And on the subject of law, he added "...we tend to believe that law can cure anything. But, of course, it can't."

He believed that television got off to a bad start regarding violence. In the early days in Westerns, for example, there was a man who was fast with a gun. He had long been puzzled why people who should know better believed that violence was the answer to many things. When he wrote for *Have Gun, Will Travel*, the central character wasn't always involved in a shoot-out, and he was pleased with those episodes.

Part of the trouble with television violence is that it isn't real. TV violence is

"sanitized". Real violence is ugly, and there should be a comment on that.

Gene's method of casting was unlike the usual casting calls. Actors would go in prepared for the usual run of questions, but he liked to discuss a whole range of subjects that had nothing to do with the part; that way he got a feel for the actors as people, so that he could find out if they fitted his image of the character.

He discussed the way series used to run. At one time a successful series could go on for many years - he mentioned *Gunsmoke* and *MASH*; today 6 - 7 years is the maximum because of the reruns, etc.

Gene (and Majel) pioneered the merchandising of what the studio called 'junk' - the sort of things that Paramount threw out when filming was finished and many fans like to collect. When Majel took over Lincoln Enterprises, the studio objected to what she was selling; putting out scripts, etc, to the public just wasn't done... until she did it.

He said that it was a master stroke getting Rick Berman on the staff of TNG, and that they also had a good staff. Because of this he was doing less than he had done; although he still looked at every script he trusted Rick Berman and Michael Piller to the point where he then let them deal with the rewrites and he only checked the final draft.

Letters of complaint occasionally came in, usually referring to someone fairly scantily clad at a convention. Gene's answer usually expressed surprise that the letter-writer had not complained about the various (listed) weapons which had been seen at the convention, and which he thought were worse than under-clad women.

His found it difficult to get work after the original series was cancelled, partly through being too closely identified with *Star Trek*.

Asked about not having many of his awards, etc, on view, Gene said that once someone had collected all his awards from

his garage and put them on display. It looked awful. So he limited what he had on display. (The Peabody Award was one of them.)

He had lived through a lot - the Depression, World War II, police work, airline work... and he also read a lot. This helped shape him for when he began writing.

He expressed surprise that anyone could reach his age totally sane because people were so often knocked down and laughed at and rejected - and yet nobody could learn anything from constant success.

Gene thought his philosophy was

based on the great affection he had for the human race. He said he would like to be remembered for having patience with and affection for the human race; that he did not believe problems needed to be solved immediately; that 'tomorrow' might be 500 years away. That Humans are a remarkable thing. He felt there could be a lot of wisdom in the statement about looking at the world lovingly; because if we can, perhaps the world will have time to resolve itself.

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DR SOONG

by Rebekah Owens

*How can I move thee? Will no entreaties
cause thee to turn a favourable eye upon thy creature?*

[Quotations and page references from Shelley's *Frankenstein* are from the Mary Shelley Reader, OUP 1990]

The issue of whether or not Data is 'alive' is an obsolete one. The question should be concerned with Data's origins and the motivations of his creator, Dr Soong.

Soong can be seen as a 24th century Victor Frankenstein. In Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein creates a monster and thus usurps nature. Rejecting his own creation, Frankenstein is pursued by it to ultimate destruction. What he says can be curiously related to Soong himself and the creation of Lore.

"In a fit of enthusiastic madness I created a rational creature, and was bound towards him, to assure, as far as was my power, his happiness and well-being." (P 160)

However, Frankenstein becomes aware of his responsibility towards his 'fellow creatures' and disregards his responsibility

towards his creation. In fact, he considers that 'he (the creature) ought to die'. Soong's moral degeneration can be demonstrated by his action in disassembling Lore *and going on to create another*. Twice Soong indulges in a male fantasy of omnipotence - one male Creator, two male Sons - whereas Frankenstein refuses to create a second.

A feminist interpretation of Soong's actions also serves to highlight Lore's subsequent behaviour and provides reasons for it. Soong is trying to have a baby without the involvement of a woman and trying to evade the knowledge that life like his own was created in the female body (1). In trying to create life without the female 'ethic of care' ((2) priority given to the well being of family groups and communities) Soong gives Lore no nurturing. He views his creation according to a more male-orientated 'ethic of justice' (priority given to the individual - everyone is alike and treated the same). He gives his creature priority over the community. The colonists petition the doctor to disassemble his creation. His disassembling can be seen as a form of infanticide - a refusal to 'mother' him. That Lore feels rejected by Soong is apparent in

Brothers ("I would've proved myself worthy to you if you'd just given me a chance" and his use of the language of rejection; he asks Soong why he felt he had to "turn your back" since it was "within your power" to set things right; he calls himself the 'uninvited guest' and challenges Soong with 'you owe me').

Soong himself cannot understand why Lore behaves as he does (Lore's emotions became 'somehow' twisted) and yet, like Frankenstein's creature, Lore feels rejected by his creator. "I had feelings of affection, they were required by detestation and scorn." (P 124) Lore's early development can be paralleled with Lal's experiences in school in The Offspring in which she, too, is rejected by the community of pupils. However, Lal has care in the form of Data - Lore did not. Thus lacking close, female care, Lore becomes unfit for social integration, is rejected by the community and finally, most devastating of all, by his father. Like Frankenstein's creature he finds that 'despair (had) not yet taken possession of him'. Lore feels only 'rage and revenge' (p 100) and is even more contemptuous of motherhood (see Datalore). When appealing to his creator, Frankenstein's creature tells him "thou hast made me more powerful than thyself" (P 74). Ultimately, like Frankenstein's creature, Lore comes to reject his own creator and only 'revenge remains' (p 124).

And what of Data? Data provides a classic example of nurture through female ethics. He is found by Starfleet officers and thus chooses his career. He refers to Starfleet several times as his 'family' and tells Troi in Tin Man that he has found where he belongs. He is integrated solely into an organisation that has its foundations in care of the Other and whose philosophies are constructed around the need to nurture and protect life. He works with people who see the 'ethic of care' as essential and this, in turn, is how Data develops. Picard refuses to release Lal from Data's care, knowing that guidance and development are essential to her well-being. This positive, supportive environment means that Data can develop fully *as a Human being* - he is part of a community, of a family. Hence Data is himself a 'mother' to Lal and is able to 'mother' Timothy in Hero Worship. It is this

that will lead to his growth and development because that community of the Enterprise is grounded in a positive feminine ethos that cares for him and he for them. It is for this reason that he is truly alive. Picard defends Data in Measure of a Man according to his status within the community and appeals to the principles of Starfleet in Data's defence. (It could be argued that it is Data's 'uniqueness' that led to his near destruction.) The kind of 'mothering' that Data receives from Starfleet enables him to explore new experiences, cope with them, learn from them and gain strength from them. It is this that gives him his humanity. When he finally meets Soong in Brothers he first calls his creator 'Father'. When he meets Soong again in Birthright, his father is symbolically presented as an isolated figure on a ship that normally teems with life. Thus the familial link with Soong becomes related to a single, solitary being preoccupied with metaphysical issues and criticising his son for being 'grounded in the mundane'. Yet it is precisely this so-called mundanity that has 'saved' Data. The same mundanity that is, in reality:

"The over-riding value of ordinary, daily interactions with other people, of a self experienced in relation to other selves, of social interactions that are not available to the self absorbed..." (3)

That is, the 'ethic of care'. Thus, when the potential for emotion is symbolically released in the dream sequence it leads to Data's aggression in Descent - it is an echo of the effect that Soong *would have had on Data* and already has had on Lore. The dangers of the masculine ethic promoted by Soong's extreme egoism has its ultimate expression.

This is not, in any way, to undermine the role of fatherhood. As above, Picard could be said to represent a 'father' to Data in his actions to defend and stand by him. What Soong should have possessed, and what Picard *does* possess, is a:

'...female consciousness or primary commitment to the preservation of human life historically possessed by women.' (4)

The kind of consciousness that requires

the sacrifice of the individual's self-serving interests to serve the greater good of the 'family'.

(1) See Susan Gubar's "The Blank Page" and the Issues of Female Creativity' in Showalter, E *The New Feminist Criticism*; also Mellor, A K *Mary Shelley: Her Life, Her Fiction, Her Monsters*

(2) See Carol Gilligan's *In a Different Voice* Harvard University Press 1982

(3) Mellor, A K *Romanticism and Gender* P19 concerning women writers.

(4) Mellor, A K op. cit., P 211



HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

by Jennifer Cobbing

Once upon a time there was Star Trek - no Classic, no TNG, no DS9 - just Trek. There were fewer conventions and the big annual one was attended by around only 500 fans. There was very little official merchandise, few books available and the Dealers' Room was full of home made merchandise. The video rooms were full of people watching Kirk & crew - no-one had video tapes and cons were the only time fans saw the episodes. There was lots of fan fiction around - fans made their own stories for there weren't any others. One day at a convention Richard Arnold announced that Paramount was making a new series. The studio had sold the series to the American TV stations just by showing them one slide with 'Star Trek - The Next Generation' on it. Such was Trek's reputation that the TV stations didn't need any more. In fact the pilot hadn't even been made when the series was hacked around the TV companies. Some fans were thrilled, some wary, some indifferent - not one of them realised the difference it would make to fandom and conventions.

Attendance at cons has now trebled, there are more of them, and the atmosphere is one of fun, as it always was. But now there is an undercurrent of mockery. I was one of the fans thrilled at the idea of a new series. I've always liked TNG and now like DS9 - but I dislike the sometimes startling rudeness of some TNG fans when they see that I'm a fan of Classic Trek, and Kirk in particular. I understand that most of the rudeness is due to the arrogance and ignorance of youth - when we are young we all think that when

we discover something we invented it. With the tolerance of middle age I am happy to live and let live - but apparently I cannot expect this from all of the TNG fans. How dare these people treat me and other Classic fans the way they do.

I would ask these particular fans to remember that without Classic Trek there would be no TNG - the original cast made Trek what it is. TNG carries the same messages as Classic Trek - the tolerance of fellow human beings, no matter what their colour, race and beliefs, and the fact that, if we try, we can all live together in harmony. I would ask the intolerant TNG fans to watch TNG more closely and try to emulate that message. How can they purport to be fans and yet not follow the simple maxim behind the series they like so much? Please remember what IDIC means.

Since TNG started there has been a constant battle to stop Classic Trek being ousted altogether. Midcon this year was advertised as being the 1974 - 1993 British Star Trek Anniversary Convention - ha, so much for that. During the entire weekend there were only four Classic episodes shown and all at the time when we were all at breakfast, and one film which was shown late at night. There we have total contempt for the Classic fans who were attending conventions in the 70s and 80s.

I've always wanted the different series and fans to live in harmony but it seems I'm in a minority. We 'older' Classic fans were

the ones who kept Star Trek alive during all the years when Paramount wanted nothing to do with it, and we do not deserve such cavalier treatment. In fact, for years Paramount treated us with utter contempt, and it took them a long time to realise what a money-making venture they had on their hands. Just about everybody knows who Captain Kirk is - very few know who Captain Picard is. Classic Trek is a part of television history, and has become a part of our culture and vocabulary. I object to it being treated with such contempt by some fans.

A young man in the Dealers' Room at Midcon was quite derogatory about Captain Kirk, and yet he had no idea that in the second season Kirk wore a green crossover uniform top. He had not seen the uniform before - if he has watched so little Classic Trek how can he consider himself able to criticise? Unfortunately, he is just one of many fans who have jumped on the 'Let's

laugh at Classic Trek and its Fans' bandwagon. A young woman at Midcon couldn't understand why anyone would want to watch episodes again and again (either Classic or TNG). Once was enough for her. We can't count on her being in fandom very long, can we? There are many new faces at cons these days and I wonder how many new fans attend cons for only a couple of years.

The most amusing comment made at Midcon was made by a girl talking about DS9. "You don't mention DS9 here," she said, looking around to see who could hear her. Apparently some TNG fans don't like DS9 and consider it the interloper - now they know how many Classic fans feel about them.

I ask all fans to treat me, and my fellow Classic fans, with more respect - and to cut out the utter rudeness with which we are treated because of our particular interests.

* * * *

GRAPHIC NOVEL? - COMIC!

OR

A VISION OF THE FUTURE

by Dave Styles

This started as a letter to the Postbag, but grew and grew so I turned it into an article; I hope my arguments make sense. I would like to stress that IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO INSULT OR OFFEND ANYONE.

In NL 29 I had a letter published; one small paragraph upset a lot of people. I will repeat it.

"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."

One person supported this view of Graphic Novels. However, many did not.

Peter Poole invited me to expand on my theme, and so if the editing team will give me the newsletter space, and if anyone is interested, I will.

I maintain that there is a decline in literacy in our society which is an unfortunate sign of the times. Our own newsletter demonstrates examples of agreement with this view.

Take Neil Barrett's letter of NL 30 where he explains the popularity of Graphic Novels because of "the lessening desire to rely on one's own imagination to conjure up an image". I would agree with you, Neil, were you to substitute the word 'desire' for 'ability'.

Take Marysia Kolodziej's letter of NL 30. She said that there are many film and TV programmes where certain characters should not have spoken in English but in their native language. Subtitles could then be used to let the viewer know what's going on. Marysia then says that she wishes that the film and TV producers would understand that having to do a little reading would not spoil our enjoyment. However, have you ever watched a subtitled film at a public showing? A lot of people rely on their friends to read out what the subtitles say. I am sure that Paramount and their like have done their homework and found out that the general public simply cannot cope with subtitles.

And now with the audio novel one doesn't have to read anything, provided one can figure out how to get the cassette out of the box and into the machine.

But really this is all just an aside; let me get to what really inspired me to write this little diatribe. Literacy, as defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, is the ability to read and write. To me, literacy is the ability to read and understand what is written, and to be able to express yourself clearly in writing.

Regular readers of the Postbag, and anyone wading through this monologue, will realise that by my own definition I am illiterate, as I seem unable to convey an opinion without upsetting people needlessly. In the editorial before the Postbag we are asked to avoid negative or aggressive letters. I wondered why it is necessary to ask this until I saw just how many letters were both negative and aggressive.

I seem to have upset Alan Stephen quite a bit; sorry, Alan, but where or when did I call you a 'slope brained moron'? What makes you think I am attacking anyone? I have tried these Graphic Novels but I do not like them for several reasons. The characterisations are non-existent, the plots are simplistic to the point of puerility, the artwork is of poor quality, and whereas a decent ST novel would last me an afternoon, a Graphic Novel keeps me quiet for about one tenth of the time for double the price.

However, I have nothing but respect for those who do enjoy Graphic Novels; many of my own Trek group in Ashford are fans of the Graphic Novel, and I certainly intended no attack on anyone.

Bill Taylor's view on intelligence in women being an evolutionary blind alley has also illustrated my point. How many people have given a reasoned argument against what he said in NL 28? Most people, and I was one of them, leaped in with a bitter personal attack. Sorry, Bill. However, Bill isn't the only one who gets this injustice; there are so many letters in the Postbag in which the writers, unable to express themselves clearly, resort to a personal attack. I've had this against my letters once or twice. It can be quite hurtful and does not encourage one to write again.

Now, having unintentionally upset quite a few people, let me look at the world around me.

One week ago (from the time of writing) my bicycle was stolen from my own back garden. The police have implied that this is an everyday occurrence.

Fifteen years ago at the Boys' Brigade summer camp, my friends and I used to sneak cigarettes and cans of lager when we thought the leaders weren't looking. The leader of the same organisation tells me that the boys of today are sneaking marijuana.

The local radio station claims that 50% of the children leaving school have tried at least one illegal drug.

The headmaster of my son's school has warned parents that there are sad individuals who have been giving pupils pills (ecstasy, etc.) My son is only six years old.

Bugger literacy! Our whole society is going to pot. Perhaps you're right, Gaile Wood; when I first read your phrase "Bollocks it up" in NL 30 I thought maybe that was a bit strong, but sometimes only an expletive will do.

So what do I do about it? Barricade my

house and cut myself off from humanity? So many of the older generation are doing that these days. It is sad but one often hears of old people who have lain dead in their homes for days or weeks before anyone notices. It's not the way for me.

Many turn to religion. I tried this but found through bitter experience it was a case of the inadequate calling the non-existent.

Eventually I realised that there is

always hope for the future. I expect the prehistoric cavemen despaired about their fellows. For me that hope is best expressed in Star Trek, Star Trek: The Next Generation and Star Trek: Deep Space 9, in all of which I see a society which is better than ours, but not beyond ours.

And so, Peter Poole, my theme is this. We could as individuals, as a society, and as humanity do so much better than we are currently managing. Don't you agree?

☆☆☆☆

SHATNER AND SUPERMAN

by Kathleen Glancy

As some of you may have noticed, DC Comics recently killed Superman. His death is likely to be as permanent as Spock's, but just after it they brought out a spoof 'magazine' in the 'Time' or 'Newsweek' format, devoted to the aftermath of Superman's demise.

One bit had contributions from a mixture of real and fictional celebrities and there, nestling between Bruce Wayne and Lex Luthor II, is William Shatner, actor, director, writer. He says,

"When I was 6 I thought I could fly. I mean, why not, Superman could. So I took my towel and tucked it in the back of my T-shirt - that was my cape - stood atop the dresser in my parents' bedroom and leapt for

the skies. When I returned from the hospital reality had crash-landed. I'm sorry to hear that reality crash-landed on Superman as well."

I don't know if this is a true story. And before Shatner's sensitive fans rush to berate me for impugning his honesty, I had better explain that one of the other real-life contributors claims to have met Clark Kent, which casts some doubt on whether they were asked for a true story of a piece of short fiction. Certainly it sounds as if it was a true story - the Superman radio show would be in its heyday when William Shatner was 6, and quite a few children ignored the warning that you needed to be born on Krypton to be able to fly.



THE CHANGING FACE OF THE ENEMY

by James Connarty

When you ask people, not necessarily die-hard Trekkers, what they think the main differences between Classic Trek and Next Gen are, two things tend to recur: 1) In Classic Trek there was more action, fights etc (or, as someone once told me, "Kirk never cared about no Prime Directive, he just shot them with his phaser!") and 2) The Klingons have bumpy heads in Next Generation.

While this may seem trivial and light-hearted, it highlights the points which are the core of this article; the way the 'enemy' aliens in Trek have changed since the show's original conception, and the way the attitude towards the 'enemy' has changed in general in Star Trek.

In recent years, writers on the staff of

Next Gen have become increasingly vocal on the difficulty of introducing conflict as a story catalyst without contradicting Roddenberry's vision. While the writers see conflict as necessary it *does* often run contrary to the way GR perceived a progressive future, one in which races would, eventually, solve their problems peacefully. Over the years Trek has embraced this philosophy, and so the aliens of Star Trek have progressed also, perhaps losing some elements of what made them menacing in the first place.

The recurrent enemies of Classic Trek were, of course, the Klingons and the Romulans. The Klingons have perhaps changed most since their first Trek appearances. The Klingons who made their debut in *Errand of Mercy* seem wholly different from those we know from the ST films and Next Gen. As well as the obvious cosmetic differences, the Klingons do not seem to have yet developed their rigorous code of honour or fierce warrior mentality, and employ tactics to which only one of Duras' family would stoop!

The Romulans have changed to a much lesser extent. They have retained the professional, warlike manner which made them seem so honourable in their debut episode *Balance of Terror*. The season three episode *The Enterprise Incident* also showed the more passionate side of the Romulans, a direct contrast to the emotionless Vulcans, their brother-race. This trait, once established, survived also into their present form.

With the arrival of the Trek films and the dawn of the Next Generation these two established races came along for the ride. Although the films, especially ST VI, continued to develop the Klingons as a race, the Romulans were neglected apart from a few references and the odd minor diplomatic appearance. It was the Next Generation which heralded the real changes.

The Next Generation seemed to change not only these races but the way the role of the 'enemy' was perceived in Star Trek altogether. Perhaps reflecting the changes in the way that Western nations perceived other

cultures, the Star Trek mythos began to explore alien cultures in more detail. No longer was 'different' synonymous with 'dangerous' - a philosophy; which was later adopted by the films in STVI:TUC. The Klingons were the first to benefit from this shift in philosophy, they were no longer enemies but allies. The inclusion of Worf as a crewmember meant the continual development of the Klingon culture into a proud and noble warrior race with a rich history, language, political backdrop and religion. The Klingons may still be dangerous, but they are no longer the enemy.

The Romulans, however, have retained much of their unrelenting threat. The continuing existence of the neutral zone is a constant reminder of that. But even as their CT debut fostered respect for the Romulans, their development on Next Gen has fostered understanding. Third season episodes like *The Enemy* or *The Defector* allowed us a valuable insight into the motivations of the race, bringing home the point that not all Romulans conform to the established stereotype. In the fifth season episode(s) *Unification*, we finally see 'ordinary' Romulans and discover the existence of a Romulan resistance movement in opposition to their leadership. As Picard notes in the second part of the episode, "...these people are nobody's enemy".

The sixth season continued in this vein. The episode *Face of the Enemy* displayed the fear and paranoia which drives the Romulan military and the episode *The Chase* (a perfect example of how the concept of 'the enemy' has changed in Trek) included a hopeful comment by a Romulan commander along the lines of "Captain, it appears that our two races have more in common than we have believed." - a statement perhaps heralding peace?

Besides further developing 'Classic Trek's two major hostile races, ST:NG was responsible for the introduction of several recurring alien threats. But even with the novelty factor of such new races, the change in attitude towards alien races seems to have deprived them of much of their menace.

The first 'enemy' race was the Ferengi (I'm counting Q as an individual, not a race). Although they were built up to be *the* major threat of the new series, even to the extent that suggestions were made to the effect that they were cannibals, the Ferengi never quite pulled it off as a threat to the Federation. They were just too silly! Their debut made them about as threatening as the Seven Dwarfs, and the crew's reaction to them over the years has tended towards annoyance more than actual concern. To a certain extent DS9 has legitimatised the Ferengi as a 'serious' race, perhaps even a little sinister, but any conquest of the Federation by the Ferengi is more likely to involve a takeover bid than an invasion force!

Then implacably, inevitably, came the Borg. From the very first they were dangerous. On their first appearance they killed 18 crew members. When they next appeared it was to capture Picard, violate his mind and use him to kill. No doubt about it, the Borg were *the* threat of TNG. But even they lost a modicum of their threat factor with the episode I, Borg. When 3rd of 5 became Hugh it was the beginning of the end of the Borg's value as an enemy race. The humanisation of the Borg, the ability to see them as more than an unstoppable killing machine, emasculated the Borg in a way. Their value stemmed from the fact that, to use Q's words,

"You can't outrun them. You can't destroy them. If you damage them, the essence of what they are remains - they regenerate and keep coming... They are relentless."

When the Borg became individuals they lost what made them not only a threat but a living nightmare; technology out of control, the antithesis of the Roddenberry dream.

The Cardassians seem to be the heir apparent to the title of major Trek 'bad guys' currently. Their threat seems mainly political, although we have seen their penchant for torture and cruelty, and know of their oppressive regime which dominated the Bajorans for decades. But their menace has also been tempered with an insight into *why* they are as they are - economic and natural disaster led to widespread poverty and famine, which they responded to by conquering other worlds and taking what they need. Although I don't suggest that this lessens their threat factor, it does add a much-needed aspect of realism; too often we dismiss those who commit such acts as simply 'evil' without asking what drove them to it!

So as all the former 'enemy' races lose their threatening characteristics, where will the much-needed conflict come from in the future? Realistically it *could* come from within. Perhaps the Federation has become too complacent about their Klingon 'allies'? Possibly the Vulcans could pose a threat - the 'villainess' of ST VI was a Vulcan. And even the Bajorans, as religious extremists and former terrorists, could be dangerous - surely the rule of the Prophets supersedes Federation regulations? Whatever the future holds, one thing is certain; as they continue to reach beyond the final frontier, there will be new allies and new enemies.

☆☆☆☆

ZINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Waltraud Zucha-Glass

First, I'd better say what I like in a zine so that there are no misunderstandings. I don't pretend to be a judge of zines, I can just say what my favourites are; zines with a plot, a lot of action, an occasional romance, a well-written h/c, humour, wit, charm, not overly romantic and a lot of Kirk, preferably with

Spock too. So what are the zines I would recommend?

Anything written by Kay Staggs. She is great for straight-forward, fast-paced, down-to-earth storytelling and can write dialogues that seem to come right from the Classic

episodes. She writes wonderful friendship stories and definitely knows her Kirk and Spock. Plus there's a lot of humour and realism. Her 'Too Many Avenues' made me fall in love with zines and it will always be my favourite.

Sue Jones' 'Capriccio Italien' and Brenda Kelsey's 'Lovely - a Little Problem' (ScoTpress, £3.90 each). Extremely well-written zines, delightfully true to the original series.

The 'Stardate Unknown' zines (reprints available from Bill Hupe)

'Bloodstone' by Carol Frisbie, Susan K James and Merle Decker - and you need a lot of luck (and good friends) to find that one! Kirk and Spock are trying to survive in a

medieval-like society.

The 'Mind Meld' zines. VI came out in 1991 and might just still be available; the others are most difficult to hunt down.

'Edge of Forever III' - laughed myself silly over Sandy Bookman's 'Gumshoe Incident!' Europe, \$20 airmail from Forever Publications, Dept 1D, PO Box 75, Cooper Station, New York, NY 10276, USA

Stories by Glen David, especially 'Triad'. To my knowledge it's out of print, so good luck in searching!

The three 'Trek Encore' volumes, a collection of Ginna LaCroix's stories. She is renowned for good h/c stories; again, these are out of print.

☆☆☆☆

PSST! WANNA FREE GROPE...

I was a bit surprised to read in the pages of IDIC that fans are not reading zines any more. Then I went to Midcon for a 20 year reunion and I am no longer surprised. I haven't been to a Trek con for about 9 years but it seems that fandom has changed out of all recognition - and not for the best.

The programme was the first shock. What programme? Nothing except videos and a guest of honour speech. Jenny and Terry Elson, friends from the early days of fandom, patiently explained to me that this was all that the new generation of fans wanted. Nobody, it seems, wants to do anything any more. Fans are quite happy to sit in a darkened room and watch episodes. But we can quite happily watch episodes at home. Why spend money going to a convention? I've nothing against videos - in fact I was the first person in this country to video Trek episodes. Janet and Sheila (our IDIC friends) will remember travelling hundreds of miles to watch episodes which I had sneakily recorded on the school video. (Oh, the joy of being able to constantly rerun choice bits! Janet saying, "Shut up, it's not funny" every time we squawked at Bill's bad acting.) It's great to watch episodes together

and to laugh and cry together. But not all the time.

Seventies fans spent a lot of time talking, writing, making costumes and entertaining themselves. Now we have a largely passive fandom. It watches videos and films. It reads, if it reads at all, Star Trek novels written not for love but for money. It buys ready-to-wear Trek costumes. It provides easy prey for professional merchandisers who see fans only as consumers.

We have all been through that stage of fandom where we will indiscriminately buy anything associated with our beloved show. This spending madness usually strikes the new fan and, in particular, the young fan. I was disturbed to see at Midcon some people calling themselves the "Official" UK fan club. At one stage one of these men actually referred to fans as "consumers". Genuine fan clubs are run by fans for fans. If there is a profit it goes back into fandom or to charity. This "Official" fan club is a business. Any profit goes to the organisers. The magazine exists primarily to sell merchandise to fans. These men claimed to be fans but their

comments showed them to be remarkably ignorant of fandom. When pressed they reluctantly admitted that they were not and had never been members of any Trek club. Obviously, they see fandom as easy pickings. Before going to Midcon I would have thought fans would have more sense than to be taken in by a glossy sales pitch. But now I'm not so sure. In all fairness, there were probably passive fans around in the old days. They just didn't seem to be so obvious. Also we weren't under the same commercial pressure - for us it was home-made entertainment or nothing!

I've digressed. I promised a free GROPE.

"GROPE" was the first UK adult Trekzine. A zine for adults with a sense of humour. Not all the stories were funny but you needed a sense of humour to appreciate the ones that weren't. During the '70s eight

issues of this seminal zine were produced, all guaranteed to bring a lump to the throat, a tear to the eye and up yesterday's dinner. I sold 4000 copies of GROPE, mainly to the States where it was a notable success and got me a free trip to a Stateside con courtesy of the Star Trek Fan Fund. When changing domestic and financial circumstances led me to drop out of active fandom I put any unsold zines in the cupboard and forgot about them. Now I need the cupboard space. I would like my babies to go to good homes if possible - it seems a shame to dump zines on the local tip. A GROPE could be yours for the price of the postage. Share in a bit of fannish history. Just send three 1st class stamps and an address label to Ann Looker, 12 Russell St., Swansea, SA1 4HR. If stocks run out I will use one stamp to return the other two. (P.S. Age statement required - although mild by today's standards, I prefer not to give Grope to juveniles.)



QUESTION - WHEN IS A FAN CLUB NOT A FAN CLUB? ANSWER - WHEN IT IS CALLED USS ENDEAVOUR

by Kay Staggs

The following is a reminder to all fans that not every fan dressed in uniform is to be trusted and that not every fan club, no matter how sincere they sound, practices the true spirit of IDIC.

I sincerely apologise to 99.9% of fandom for saying this, but the following has made me so damn mad that anyone dare do this sort of thing in fandom, I felt I must put pen to paper. In a way it is a warning not to trust the above club (if it can be called that) but also to warn would-be new members.

In December 1992 the above group, USS Endeavour, advertised in a comic shop in Guildford, indicating that they would be opening a new group in our area. They said they would have regular meetings at the shop, and they were friendly, and well, the whole idea sounded great. At the first meeting I met Jo and David (who intended running the Guildford group) and also spoke

to someone called Mandy. After talking and reminiscing about many of the conventions we had all been to, I decided to join. They were, after all, dressed in uniform (Classic and NG) and knew many people in fandom; so I had no reason to doubt their integrity. I paid over £7 in cash for a year's membership. Mandy gave me a receipt, but there was no contact name or address on it, and when I queried that, Jo made it quite plain that she thought there were some very 'odd' people in fandom and she didn't want them turning up on her doorstep, so they had decided there would be no surnames given and no addresses. The only contact place was the shop. However, as I knew certain people in fandom and had been to conventions they had been to (and I assume that to her I didn't appear 'odd') she gave me her home phone number.

To be honest it wasn't until later it occurred to me how stupid that attitude was.

I have been advertising through IDIC, BSFR, FIB and STAG for many years and I've never had as much as a rude telephone call let alone having anyone uninvited turn up on my doorstep.

By the end of February (3 months) I had received nothing, no mention of another meeting, no newsletter... nothing. So I phoned Jo using the number she had given me. I don't know why I was surprised to find it unobtainable.

So the following Saturday I visited the shop in Guildford. It was empty except for one very irate landlord. The tenants (comic shop) had left the premises during the night, taking their stock and not paying their rent. He was justifiably annoyed about this, but he was even more annoyed at the number of people who were coming in to the shop and asking him about a Star Trek fan club of which he knew nothing.

I was furious. How dare these people start up a fan club in my home town, make all these promises and then literally abscond with the money leaving everyone with no contact name or address? (By the way, USS Endeavour apparently do NOT advertise - which is strange in itself - in any newsletter. I wonder why? It is very difficult trying to track them down.)

By mid-March I was considering writing a letter to IDIC to find out if anyone else had had problems with them, and then as luck would have it I attended Unification Con at Easter. And lo and behold, there was an advert for USS Endeavour - this time with an address; c/o Mandy Mills.

I wrote to her and had a letter back saying that Jo and David had pulled out in January due to ill health and since then the group had been handed over to Bo Maxwell. Now I admit I have heard of Bo Maxwell. What I didn't know is that he runs USS Endeavour in Milton Keynes.

What I cannot understand is, if Jo and David did not want to run the Guildford group, why the hell didn't Bo or Mandy write to everyone and explain what was going on?

Why just leave it?

I arranged with Mandy that I would speak to her at Warp One. She knew I wasn't happy with the way the group was run and that I wanted my £7 back. However, at Warp One, Mandy proved to be very elusive... and I mean elusive... as in 'not wanting to be found'. Through the help of a third party I finally managed to corner her but the talk got me nowhere. There is obviously a problem with USS Endeavour - a lot of club politics and a lot of very large egos all trying to take power. There were promises about refunding my £7 and a lot of false smiles and apologies. I asked for Bo Maxwell's address. Mandy said she didn't know it - a statement I find very hard to believe. I spent the whole weekend trying to discover his address and all of a sudden everyone was amazingly suffering from amnesia, until a friend (whose name I would never give away) managed to get it for me.

I gave Mandy time after Warp One to refund my money but by the beginning of June, 6 months after I had joined, I still had nothing to show for it. So I wrote to Bo Maxwell and asked him what was happening.

He phoned me back and explained that there were problems; that the Guildford group had been started without his knowledge and that it had all been dumped on his lap to deal with. Allowing for the fact that this quite probably was true, I still expected him to deal with the matter. He was apologetic, promised to refund my £7 and even offered a year's free membership... which when you think about it doesn't amount to much. Let's face it, what do you really get for free? Nothing. And that is all I've had from them and it is nearly a year.

By the way, I declined the year's free membership... it seemed sort of empty and anyway I had lost all desire to become part of such a group. I'm just not interested in club politics and egos.

So I wasn't really surprised to find by the end of July that I had heard nothing from him. I wrote again and this time didn't even

get the courtesy of a reply.

And so now it is November - 11 months - and I still have heard nothing. To be honest, it isn't even the money any more, it's the principle and the fact that they have given Star Trek fandom a very bad reputation. I cannot believe that I am the only fan in Guildford who joined that day and has since lived to regret it.

In fact, all I have done is put £7 into the

coffers of USS Endeavour, a group which I know is still in existence. I believe there are a lot of new fans in Guildford who have nothing but contempt for Star Trek fandom. Unfortunately, I cannot give them Bo Maxwell's address as I do not know who they are, but I can give it to you - 138 Crosslands, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes, MK1 46DF - just in case any of you out there need it.

And as for Bo Maxwell and USS Endeavour, I still want my money back.

☆☆☆☆

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



WINDOWS ON A LOST WORLD by V E Mitchell. Reviewed by Jean Sloan

The Enterprise is on a mission to the Dulciphar Star Cluster, with a group of archaeologists, to make an inventory of ancient ruins. The uninhabited planet Careta IV proves interesting; some anomalous readings turn out to be caused by a sensor blocking device which is hiding ruins of great antiquity. An artifact is found, like a large window, which is in effect an alien transportation device. In passing through the transporter, crew persons are reassembled in the form of the aliens who built the device. These aliens resemble giant crabs. Their brains have two parts; the lower brain contains the creatures' instinctual responses; the higher brain is host to the resident Enterprise crew person. The aliens are called the Kh!lict.

Several security guards are transformed, one of the archaeologists, Chekov and James T Kirk. The Enterprise people have difficulty in controlling their new forms; the security guards are, of course, expendable; the story focuses on how the others survive the experience, and how Spock handles the mystery.

I read the novel in one sitting, and quite enjoyed it, but did not find the resolution of the problem at all convincing - it was all too easy, given the complexity of the problems presented to Spock. As far as

the Vulcan is concerned, the Enterprise personnel have disappeared. It is left to James T to make contact to reveal that he has turned into a crab. Now, the Kh!lict do not utter sound; the communicate through colour - their shells change colour to convey thought. So Kirk learns to alternate colours so he can send messages in morse code to Spock.

Also there are one or two discrepancies in the story, eg a phaser on stun kills a Kh!lict early in the novel, yet later on the crabs are stunned with no ill effects.

There are one or two highlights; Chekov playing mentor to Talika Nyar, a Djelifan, an archaeologist from a matriarchal society which despises men, and the Humans for being puny. Chekov has a bad time! Elsewhere Kirk loses control of his crab body when it decides to chase a female, in a mating frenzy.

One thing irritated me tremendously; the artifacts which turn out to be transporters sound in description, and look on the cover of the novel, very like the monoliths from 2001.

I would be very interested in other readers' reactions to this novel. I was caught up in it while reading, while at the same time thinking it was very silly. A mark - well, about 5 out of 10.

THE GREAT STARSHIP RACE by Diane Carey Pocket 67 \$5.50
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Rey are a recently discovered race who, to celebrate being contacted by the Federation, decide to host a race - a Starship Race. We're never told exactly how many entrants there are, but there appear to be some three dozen entrants; 4 of these are Starfleet vessels which are handicapped - the efficiency of their systems is reduced by 20% - and one Romulan, its systems also reduced in efficiency. All ships except the Romulan carry one or more of the Rey as observers. And the space in which the Race is being run is very treacherous.

Early on in the Race, McCoy, called to one of the other ships to check what the crew thinks is a fatal accident, quickly discovers that it has been a murder; the Rey observer has vanished and there are signs that the Romulans have been on board.

It might have just been the mood I was in, but I found myself struggling with this book right from the start, even though I read it at a sitting (it was a wet day). For the most part I didn't find myself reaching for a mental editorial red pen to correct grammar and punctuation. However, I would expect Spock to know the difference between 'illicit' and 'elicit' (p218). This is the second time recently I have come across that particular mistake. I wonder if it was Ms Carey's or perpetrated by one of Pocket Books' editors? Either way, it is a mistake I would not expect to find in a professionally published book.

I had, I think, one major problem, dating from even before the book was available. From the moment I read the title (as a forthcoming book) and advertising blurb, I had doubts about the viability of the theme. I found the concept of the Race difficult to accept even after starting to read about it, if only because 30+ ships jostling for position, especially in the early part of the race, seemed to me a recipe for instant disaster (later they were more strung out, depending on how the Captains interpreted the often confused data the sensors picked up). About half way through it seemed to

improve and move more fluently, once we got into the nitty-gritty of the Romulan 'why' and how Kirk was trying to counter it, and I began to enjoy it. And then I lost it all again on one bad, bad 4-page scene (p240-3) which started with one of the characters speaking to someone who wasn't there and went on with McCoy gesturing someone over to him in a 6 x 6 space, three lights coming on at 'the far end of the ceiling' in that space, and saying that of four people (three if you consider it was done from McCoy's PoV), 'some looked queasy, others sharply suffering'. It felt as if the scene was originally written for at least eight or nine participants and had been rewritten for only four, but if so it was carelessly done.

Basically, I'd say this book is like the curate's egg. The Race is really only a plot device to get all the ships involved into a difficult region of space close to dguibbealeaichaieureuw (pronounced Gullrey), but for me it was a device that wasted 100 pages. The main theme, although it only occupied about two thirds of the book, could have been more fully developed and handled without the Race and in my opinion this would have improved the story tremendously. In a way, the idea of the Race is the sort of thing I would expect to find as a 50+ page story in a zine, and at that length it would probably work.

In fairness, the book has its moments. Ms Carey's own characters are nicely developed and well handled, and Valdus has a valid (to him) reason for his actions other than sheer conquest or pure badness. However, I think it unlikely that I will ever be drawn to reread it.

DESCENT by Diane Carey Pocket Books \$5.50 (£4.70)

This is the novelisation of the TNG 2-part episode by Jeri Taylor (teleplay by Ron Moore) and Rene Echevarria.

The Borg are back - but with individuality, and nasty with it. And Data is experiencing genuine emotion - but only anger.

I don't want to say too much about the story here for the sake of the people who prefer not to know anything until they've seen the episode; indeed, I've read the book before seeing *Descent* part 2 (but then I prefer to know what happens).

I didn't think the book did justice to Part 1 - obviously I can't say whether it did justice to Part 2. However, considering the premise, I found it pretty lightweight throughout. The events were narrated; the characters' reactions were narrated. Nothing seemed to have any *depth* - we were *told* what the characters felt and thought, but I didn't feel I *experienced* those feelings and thoughts - the book didn't make me *care* whether the Borg won or not. I would have thought Ms Carey too experienced a writer to fall into that particular beginner's trap, but she has. I suppose the problem, at least in part, is that only the crew is involved; after all, you *know* the good guys are going to win. There's more drama when the character(s) in jeopardy are 'guests' who might just be expendable.

A 'book of the episode' can work; however, I didn't feel that this one did. And the BONUS! Special Episode Photos! blurred on the back cover was nothing more than three fairly routine publicity-style black and white photos printed on the inside covers.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - AUDIOCLIPS £29 BBC Distribution, Tel (0282) 31108. Reviewed by Stephen Daniels

This product is a piece of software for IBM/PC compatible computers with MS Windows 3.1; a sound card is not required but would enhance the sounds. There are two volumes and the one I got is volume 1, *Encounter at Farpoint*. It contains 74 different sounds sampled from the pilot episode. They vary in length from 0.5 seconds to 25 seconds; examples are door opening, doorbell, the noise when you touch your communicator, computer bleeps and clicks, to dialogue like 'Space, the final frontier, these are the... ', 'Make it so', 'Engage', 'Energize', 'Welcome aboard' and the more curious, Data, 'Watson, we are about to have guests'. You can assign any of

the sounds to various system events like when you enter or exit Windows, or when you re-size a window, or when the computer puts up a warning sign or asks you a question.

The computer allows you to edit and mix different sounds; on mine you hear Riker saying 'Power down and disengage' followed by some computer noises when I exit Windows, and the Red Alert alarm sounds when a warning message is displayed.

Volume 2 is entitled *Best of Both Worlds* and has 68 sound clips. Classic Trek sound clips are also available.

A fun bit of software to customise your computer.

THE BIG GAME by Sandy Schofield DS9 No 4 Pocket \$5.50. Reviewed by Zander Bruce

After the first two original novels for DS9, my hopes were raised for this new addition to the collection. My first reaction was one of disappointment when I read the back cover. "Not another mysterious killer loose on the station!" I cried. However I persevered and was rewarded with another fine piece of Science Fiction. Contrary to the implication on the back cover, the book does not centre around the murderer, L'sthwan, but rather the strange energy that is slowly destroying DS9. Its cause is a race referred to as the Ghost Riders, who hunt the mysterious Espiritu. Both these races are 'phased', using technology stolen from the Romulans after their experiments failed (see TNG 5th season episode *The Next Phase*).

Many guest-starring characters reappear in this novel from both TNG and DS9. Berlinghoff Rasmussen (TNG, *A Matter of Time*), Etana (TNG, *The Game*), Lursa and B'Etor (DS9, *Past Prologue*), Garak (DS), *Past Prologue*), as well as Grand Master Nagus Zek.

The main problems I found with this novel were continuity gaps due mostly to their use of characters from the series. An example is that of Rasmussen, who we last saw being apprehended from the bridge of

the Enterprise. The book mentions that he has been held in Federation detention colonies, but did not indicate whether he escaped, was released, or any clue as to what happened after his encounter with the Enterprise crew. The same applies to Etana, and I find it strange that the authors should choose to use characters whose lives have been left open to the possibility of again appearing in TNG. Of course, I know that the novels are not considered part of the Trek continuity, but I prefer it when both book and the series don't clash.

Another problem I had was the Ghost Riders. Not much information was given on them. How did they encounter the Romulans in order to steal the prototype phase cloaking system? And could the authors (this is a collaboration) please learn how to tell colours. One page they list the Cardassian warships as being grey, the next they revert to the original sandy colour.

Aside from the small discrepancies, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The scenes between Odo and Quark were as comical as the show, especially Quark teaching Odo how to play poker. The return of my favourite guest-character, Garak, made it all the more fun. I can't help but feel that the authors wasted chapters on Jake and Nog, as these pages do not contribute much to the plot. All round, I found *The Big Game* to be worth my time reading. It has a much coveted place on my shelf. Definitely 8 out of 10.

One thing bothers me, reading Sheila Clark's reviews, is how much these US import novels are costing. This copy only cost me £3.60 from Dead Head Comics, Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.

[Sheila - If you convert \$5.50 exactly, it does come out at £3.60 - £3.70. The extra £1 is to cover the cost to the bookshops of getting the books from the States - which I feel is acceptable for those of us who want the book ahead of UK publication. Your supplier is presumably covering it in some other way.]

THE BIG GAME by Sandy Schofield DS9 - 4 Pocket Books \$5.50 reviewed by Sheila Clark

Quark, ever looking to make more money, has decided to host an intergalactic poker game. Participants are of all species, and include several who have appeared as guests in various TNG & DS9 episodes. Will Riker has to cancel and Dr Bashir takes his place. Another unlikely participant is Odo, who joins in after one of the original players, a Romulan, is murdered.

Meanwhile, the station is suffering a series of power fluctuations - as are Bajor and a nearby Cardassian ship - and the Ferengi ship bringing the Grand Nagus to the poker game is disintegrated by whatever is causing the fluctuations. The Bajorans blame the Cardassians, the Cardassians blame the Bajorans, and Sisko is left trying to maintain peace between them.

Basically, it's these power fluctuations that provide the main plot; the poker game is included to lengthen the story - apart from one incident, it doesn't actually do much to advance the plot, though it does provide a change of pace now and then.

'Sandy Schofield' is a pen name for a husband and wife writing team.

I enjoyed the story; it reads well and you get some insight into various characters. The writers' own characters are well developed and the established ones are in character, but expanded a little. Indeed, it's keeping up the good DS9 'tradition' - so far, all the DS9 books have been rather good! Well worth reading.

STAR TREK MEMORIES by William Shatner with Chris Kreski Harper Collins \$22 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The book starts with a brief biography of Gene Roddenberry, then goes into the history of Star Trek, beginning with Gene's attempts to find someone interested in making the series. Various of the actors and back-stage staff have been interviewed and are quoted throughout.

There is actually very little in the book that a long-term active fan doesn't already know, either from its inclusion in other books or from hearing in guest talks at conventions. What 'new' information there is (ie things I hadn't heard before) mostly concerns the third season.

Mr Shatner is refreshingly honest about himself and the attitude of the other actors towards him, devoting a (short) chapter at the end of the book to comments made by them; it's not an "I did this" and "I did that" type of presentation and here and there he quietly takes the mickey out of himself.

Despite the shortage of new info, it is interestingly written (far more so than Shatner - Where No Man) and is well worth reading, especially for newish fans.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION SPECIAL No 1 pub DC Comics ed Alan Gold £2.50 Reviewed by James C Connarty

"Nearly everyone in comics is a Star Trek fan, if not exactly a Trekker;... And just about any comics talent you can name has a Star Trek or ST:TNG story in the drawer."

With these words Alan Gold, editor of the new DC comic book special dedicated to the Star Trek mythos explains the history of the new title. The quarterly special which debuts in October seems just like that; the comic book equivalent of a fanzine. For those of you familiar with DC's monthly Trek titles, this book promises to be entirely different. No epic five-part sagas for this book! Instead it takes the zine approach, with short tales often devoted to those characters who aren't developed to a great extent by the shows, or by the regular monthly comics titles.

Issue 1 features three such stories;

Good Listener, a story spotlighting Guinan and her attempts to help an old friend set up a saloon on a mining colony. Written by Tony Isabella and Bob Ingersoll; rendered graphically by Deryl Skelton, Steve Carr & Jim Amash.



A True Son of Kahless, a rites of passage tale starring Worf and Alexander and featuring the rest of the crew. By Ken Penders, Anne Wokanovicz and Romeo Tanghal.

Spot's Day, a quirky tale (sorry!) featuring everyone's favourite android's pet cat and his exploration of *his* ship. By noted Trek novelist Diane Duane, as well as Rod Whigham and Mike Sellers.

The stories all offer brief insights into characters we don't often see, except in the zines, and promises to explore not only minor characters but aspects of main characters' lives we wouldn't normally get a chance to. For the Trek comic-buyer jaded by the monthly feast of action and adventure, this title offers a much needed change of pace, showing those quiet, often tender moments we seldom see. It also includes pinups by featured artists, issue 1 including a portrait of Tasha Yar and her fatal encounter with Armus, and a striking montage-type visual.

Published quarterly and featuring a range of talent each issue, the plan is to alternate between ST:TNG and Classic Trek each issue. For the Trek fan already interested in comics this is certainly recommended; for those who are curious but not willing to commit themselves to buying a monthly title regularly, this could be just the thing for you.





ZINE REVIEWS

MAKE IT SO 15

Reviewed by Marysia Kolodziej

This is the first A5-sized issue of Make It So. It contains 6 stories and 2 poems. The first story is Warriors by Gail Christison, which is only three pages long. Worf and Tasha exercise together on the holodeck and get to know one another a little better. Short but sweet. The second story is The End by Lisa Dearnley-Davison and is four and a half pages long. Geordi wakes to find the crew of the Enterprise missing - but is it a dream or not? A little empty and esoteric. Then there is Truth Unveiled by Bonnie Holmyard which is 8 pages long. This is a very enjoyable short story where Troi reads the fortunes of the rest of the bridge crew in the Tarot. Very amusing.

Next is The Hunter and the Hunted by Lisa Dearnley-Davison, which is twenty seven and a half pages long. A feline species is being decimated by a virus. In a bid to help, an away team beams down. Through an accident Riker contracts the virus. Most of the story is taken up by finding a cure. There is nothing technically wrong, but I found the story lacking in interest.

Survival by Gail Christison is thirty three pages long. Lt Yar decides her security team is lacking in practical experience and takes a group on a survival exercise. Things go very wrong once they are alone on the planet. A good story, well written, exciting and also food for thought. Last is Full Marks by Gaile Wood, which is twenty one pages long. An Ark of technophobes runs into technical difficulties. The Enterprise lends a hand, only to run into a technical problem of their own - a contagious itch. An amusing story.

The two poems are Behind the Tear by Jenny Howsam, concerning how Picard felt when he was Locutus, and K'ehleyr's Point of View by Margaret Connor.

Survival is the best story, followed by Truth Unveiled and then Full Marks. The ones I liked least were The End and The Hunter and the Hunted.

Make It So 15 is £2.50 from ScoTpress.

MAKE IT SO 6

Reviewed by Debbie Lee

This features six stories and one poem, and is an entertaining collection of reading. My personal favourites? They have to be Masquerade by Jackie Marshall, A Little Romance by Lori Scott and Illusions by Gail Christison. I must confess that the first time I read this zine I did not read Masquerade... it was on the second pass that I actually corrected that mistake, and discovered that I had missed a really good story; a colourful tale of intrigue and alien cultures in which Yar and Picard attempt to locate and retrieve an abducted Deanna Troi. Well worth reading.

A Little Romance is blatant Picard and Crusher, and I love it. The characterisation is very good, and the humour had me chuckling all the way through... and some bits involving Commander Riker were great... and others involving Crusher even better ("I have just been ordered to stop chasing a man I don't even want by some little brat in a see through dress").

Illusions by Gail Christison is the longest story in the zine and features Data and Riker in an undercover operation to determine what the Ferengi are up to on the planet Shalamar in the Theta Majoris system.

Neutral Justice deals with a very awkward topic within the context of the Star Trek universe, where Dr Selar is assaulted by a Romulan. It works well, and is nicely handled by P J Poole. Nicknames by Marcia Pecor and On Returning from Where No Man Has Gone Before by Teresa Abbott are also eminently readable.

Make It So 6 is available from ScoTpress, priced £4.

ENTERPRISE LOG ENTRIES 87

Reviewed by Karen Sparks

"Amok Time Plus One" has Spock deeply troubled by his behaviour towards Kirk during and after Pon Farr, and he decides he must leave the Enterprise to prevent such emotional excesses from re-occurring. This is an enjoyable re-affirmation of their friendship - and even more so is "The Guardian" by Sheryl Peterson. This little cameo of The Relationship is only 3 pages long, but beautifully written, and I love the analogy of Spock as a hawk protecting its master.

"Captain's Pets" by Fiona Crawford is an amusing tale of McCoy and Spock getting into trouble on a mission, bickering all the way but being there for each other when it counts.

The longest offering is "Absent Friend" by Maggy Edwards. Spock is abducted and tortured by the Klingons in order to blackmail Sarek. A quite enjoyable story, perhaps let down a little by the improbability of Spock's successful escape plan when he is so ill, but that could count as artistic licence!

The 6 stories and 4 poems contained in ScoTpress's ELE 87 provide a good variety of action, character and humour.

SPINERISMS edited by Joyce McDonald

My copy from John Fitton (Books and Magazines) £7.99

Reviewed by Jennifer Blanchard

This A4 fan publication, illustrated with good artwork and cartoons, covers Brent Spiner's career up to Dec 1989.

Reviews of his stage plays date from 1975, giving a fascinating insight into his early work. His films and TV appearances are listed, with credits, and there are rare newspaper interviews from 1987.

There is an amusing round up of initial, doom-laden reactions to the 'new' Star

Trek, interspersed with other 'famous predictions', eg "Everything that can be invented has already been invented" - C H Duell, Director of US Patent Office, 1899.

Also included is a long report of Mr Spiner's Creation Con '89 appearance before what sounds like an enthusiastic and rather excitable audience!

Comprehensive and well researched, this is indispensable for all Dataholics.

MAB by Debbie Lee Nannyte Press £4.75

Reviewed by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

A figure from Ro Laren's past returns to the Enterprise, intent on Ro's silence or co-operation, by any means. However, he has an unseen ally in this, desperate to return to her own universe...

Paris Acheledes is a toe-rag. From the beginning he treats everyone he meets as lesser beings.

His 'aide', a multi-dimensional being called MAB is just as immoral and at one point 'borrows' Troi's body to attain her ends.

The finale is well-thought-out poetic justice - one of Debbie Lee's strong points.

The story owes its inspiration to an earlier one which dealt with the relationship between a physical and a metaphysical being, and develops the idea very well, though there could have been more of an idea of MAB's impermanence - she 'tied time in a knot'.

If you're a fan of Debbie Lee - and unfortunately I am - this is one for the collection.

(Reviewed from pre-publication copy.)

SHIELDBEARER An independent short story zine written and produced by Gloria Fry. Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

The title story, Shieldbearer, is the strongest story in the zine. Set in an alternate universe, it considers what would have happened if as a result of the events on

Dimoris, Gary Mitchell had assumed command of the Enterprise with Kirk as his First Officer. Without giving away the plot, this is a real treat for relationship fans, and employs some interesting variations.

Strike Force, co-written with Gillian Fry, is a humorous sequel to Changeling - Nomad has had an unexpected effects of the Enterprise servo-drones. There are some nicely-observed situations, with a definite tendency to arouse the sympathy of the reader for the drones.

Like Steel to a Magnet depicts the effect of the link between Kirk and Spock, and shows it in use to save the lives of a landing party. It is not an unusual theme, but is satisfyingly handled.

Time Trek is a Star Trek/Time Tunnel crossover; as such it won't be to everyone's taste, but I'm told by someone who knows Time Tunnel that it is faithful to that series. It is well crafted in its own right, so from that point of view it works.

Two poems by Alan Boag complete the zine, with artwork by Raymond Sless and Maggie Symon. Strike Force and Like Steel are both convention fiction winners.

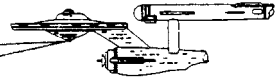
The zine is A4 format, clearly printed and easy to read, with a wrap-round cover. It is an excellent first independent zine by a very enjoyable author.

Shieldbearer costs £5.00 for 80 pages, and can be ordered from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort St, Glasgow G41 3XG, Scotland.

☆☆☆☆



NEW ZINES



Gloria Fry

'SHIELDBEARER' (and other stories)

Shieldbearer - An alternate universe variation of Where No Man Has Gone Before. While Kirk recovers from a near-fatal poisoning, Gary Mitchell is given command of the Enterprise. What is Mitchell hiding from Starfleet Command and Kirk, his new First Officer? Strike Force - Who will clean the ship when the servo-drones go on strike? (Prize-winning story) Like Steel to a Magnet - The Bridge Crew are abducted by Klingons. (Prize-winning story) Time Trek - A Star Trek/Time-Tunnel crossover. Time travellers, Doug Phillips and Tony Newman land on the Enterprise. Available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW G41 3XG Scotland. Prices incl. P & P. U.K £5.00; Europe £6.00; (cheques sterling only)

Scotpress

MAKE IT SO 17 A crewman falls in love with a holodeck girl, by Martin Stahl; the planet of Vallarus has asked for Federation help - but there are those who want nothing to do with the Federation. There is sabotage

leading to a surprising incident, by Sally Woods; The King of Deltori is very ill and Dr Crusher, accompanied by Riker, beams down to attend to him, by Alan Butler; The crew's reaction to Tasha Yar's death, by Gail Christison; Picard (still recovering from having been Locutus) and Worf go on a diplomatic mission, but this mission is not as simple as it appears to be, by Lee Sansome. In the new A5 size. £2.50. See zine ads for ordering info.

MAKE IT SO 18 - Stories by Marshall, Kelsey, Poole, Stenberg, Golding, Wood; Kiker goes on shore leave with Picard after the Borg incident; a short short about Sela; Picard tries to come to terms with the Hitaan memories... and the Borg ones; from Lore's activation to the destruction of the planet by the Crystal Entity; Riker and Worf and two holodeck programs; Guinan and Picard meet; a child of an alien race has been kidnapped. It is vital that this child be retrieved before it matures... but finding it is not so easy. In the new A5 size. £2.50. Due December. See zine ads for ordering info.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

See Zine Ads for ordering info.

ABODE OF STRIFE 22 'All The Time in the World', a novel by Thomas Palmer, edited Betsy Fisher. From the battlefield at Gettysburg to Korea's frozen landscape, to the steaming rainforests of Borneo; Captain Kirk, Mr Spock and Dr McCoy defy the odds again. When they are just within reach of a badly needed, recently discovered Fabrini medical archive, the records are destroyed in an accidental explosion. Attempting to go into the past just far enough to retrieve the vital information before it is blown to kingdom come, the Enterprise team is successful. But when they return to their own time, the Earth is surrounded by warring Klingon and Romulan forces with humanity a pawn between the two.

HEARTREKS Colour cover by Gamin Davis; written and illustrated by J M Lane, A collection of stories delving into the feelings of love and friendship between Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Chapel & Uhura.

BETAZINE From Tytanima Press, a fanzine focussing on Deanna Troi. Captives! by Atkinson & Oxley - when Deanna's sister joins the crew of the Enterprise it becomes the perfect opportunity to get reacquainted. Unfortunately an evening of fun at a bar develops into a nightmare when Deanna and Beverly Crusher disappear. Also Fundamental Powers by Chilton, Trials of an Officer by Ketterer, and more by Chang and

George. Full colour cover.

BEYOND FARPOINT 3 A Few Days in the Country by Jo-Ann Lassiter is great Picard-Crusher fun on a planet where they can cease being Captain and Chief Medical Officer.; Where the Winds of Limbo Roar by Brenda Shaffer is a chilling foray into Picard's darkest memories from Cardassian torture to his succumbing to mind addiction with The Game. Q is interested in the Indomitable Human Spirit and like all researchers, takes care and painstaking relish (as only Q could) to have Picard relive past indignities that he'd best wish remained memory. Also many others.

MATTER OF HONOR 2 Double For All Her Sins, written and illustrated by Nan Nelson; Geordi uncovers an anomaly in Data's positronic brain but balks when Starfleet demands his disassemblment. Defenders of the Faith by Michelle Lellouche; the Enterprise is sent to investigate a mystery on a medievalistic planet. Pain by Numbers by Michael Emond, illustrated by Warren Oddson; Data gives Worf a very special birthday present; and more.

TIME WILL TELL In this tale, Riker meets the new challenge of being a diplomat as well as experiencing the loneliness of being separated from those he cherished. And as the Venetian Conflict reaches a climax of disastrous results, Deanna must deal with the possibility of losing her Imzadi.



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 15 - The Daystrom labs appear to

be haunted; Chekov begins to behave out of character; and others U.K. £4.00

IDIC LOG 14 - A SPECIAL NEXT GENERATION ISSUE. A crewwoman with a marriage planned for her seeks Barclay's help; a follow-up mission to Travaï has problems; and others. U.K. £4.00

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 90 - NEW A5 FORMAT. Spock has a problem with a

crewman; Kirk tries to learn the Vulcan neck pinch; Spock and McCoy answer a medical emergency on a planet where Vulcans are regarded as machines... and machines are illegal; and others U.K. £2.50

@MAKE IT SO 18 - NEW A5 FORMAT. A collection of TNG stories by various writers. Due December. UK £2.50. Price includes P&P.

@MAKE IT SO 17 - NEW A5 FORMAT. A collection of TNG stories by various writers. UK £2.50. Price includes P & P.

MAKE IT SO 16 - NEW A5 FORMAT. A novel, The Distaff Side by Debbie Lee. The female crew members get a chance to show what they can do. U.K. £2.50

MAKE IT SO 15 - NEW A5 FORMAT. The Enterprise answers a distress call; Yar takes a group of young crew members on a survival exercise; a colonising ship gives Picard's crew a problem; and others. U.K.£2.50

Other issues of E-Log Entries, IDIC Log and Make It So available, also a number of novels. SAE for full list to Sheila Clark.

SALE

E-LOG ENTRIES 81 U.K. £2.50.

ATTUCLAC by David Gomm - Why have ships - Federation, Klingon and Romulan - been disappearing in one area? U.K. £2.50

A CITY WITHOUT WALLS - by Alinda Alain. Although he has already been defeated, Mitchell's jealousy of Kirk and Spock forces him to keep on trying to destroy them. U.K. £2.00

GZAZARA by Alinda Alain - A strange woman helps the Enterprise crew. U.K. £2.00

ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin - Kirk as a naval Captain circa 1939 investigates the loss of the Royal Oak in Scapa Flow. Has there been interference from the future? U.K. £2.50

SPINNER OF NIGHTMARES by Pam Baddeley - Who are the hostile aliens on Sigma Orionis IV? U.K. £2.50

STAR TREK CREDITS - the complete credit listing from the series, compiled by Janet Quarton. A very useful reference manual. U.K. £1.50

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 50p per zine for A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; 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

For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage table.

Weight	Air	Surface
Up to 2 lbs	\$16.35	\$8.60
Up to 3 lbs	\$22.40	\$11.40
Up to 4 lbs	\$27.40	\$13.90
Up to 5 lbs	\$33.75	\$17.25

For higher weights, add \$4.50/lb air, \$2.25 surface.

GOOD GUYS WEAR FANGS; modelled in the tradition of 'Good Guy Vampires' such as Nick Night and PN Elrod's Jack Fleming series, issue 2 features 7 Nick/Forever Knight stories, Miami Vice, New Dark Shadows, Star Trek, ST:TNG, Robin of Sherwood, Stingray, Blood Ties, To Die for 2, and Phoenix. Edited by Mary Ann McKinnon, full colour front and back covers. 400 pp. \$23.50 + 2 lbs postage

ABODE OF STRIFE 22 'All The Time in the World', an action/adventure novel of time travel by Thomas Palmer, edited Betsy Fisher. \$16 + 1 lb

HEARTREKS Colour cover by Gamin Davis; written and illustrated by J M Lane. A collection of stories delving into the feelings of love and friendship between Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Chapel & Uhura. \$12.50 + 1 lb

BETAZINE from Tytanima Press, a fanzine focussing on Deanna Troi. \$9.50 + 1 lb

BEYOND FARPOINT 3 ST:TNG collection of stories, including a stunning full-colour cover of Locutus by K Maynard. \$18 + 2lb

MATTER OF HONOR 2 All ST:TNG fiction

including a Data novella by Nan Nelson. 280 pp \$15 + 2 lb

MATTER OF HONOR 3 ST:TNG submissions are now being accepted, as well as novels.

TIME WILL TELL In this tale, Riker meets the new challenge of being a diplomat as well as experiencing the loneliness of being separated from those he cherishes. \$5.50 + 1 lb

We are authorised to reprint the following fanzines - out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5; R & R; Archives; Showcase; Masiform D; Grup; Quartet + 2; all T'Kuhntian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. Authorised US agent for ScoTpress, IDIC, BSFR, Kay Stagg, Pat Mitchell, Gloria Fry, Linda Wood, Janet Ellicott, Airwaves Special Editions, Naked Now (South Africa). Our British agents are Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shephed, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 9HG and Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE to either for British prices.

Greycloud Services

Large quantity of Star Trek and other fanzines always in stock. Includes new US and Australian zines, second hand zines and reprints of classic Trek zines. Send large (at least A5) SAE for full list. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney, London E9 6RN, England.

ALNITAH - Free copies available, while stocks last. Several times winner of "best British fanzine" award in the '70s. ALNITAH is available for postage only (Joyce needs the cupboard space!) three 1st class stamps plus an address label. Fiction zine. Original series. From: Joyce Cluett, "Alnitah", 40 Lordsfield Gardens, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 3EW.

Gloria Fry

'SHILDBEARER' (and other stories) Shildbearer - An alternate universe variation of Where No Man Has Gone Before. While

Kirk recovers from a near-fatal poisoning, Gary Mitchell is given command of the Enterprise. What is Mitchell hiding from Starfleet Command and Kirk, his new First Officer? Strike Force - Who will clean the ship when the servo-drones go on strike? (Prize-winning story) Like Steel to a Magnet - The Bridge Crew are abducted by Klingons. (Prize-winning story) Time Trek - A Star Trek/Time-Tunnel crossover. Time travellers, Doug Phillips and Tony Newman land on the Enterprise. Available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW G41 3XG Scotland. Prices incl. P & P. U.K. £5.00; Europe £6.00; (cheques sterling only) I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell this zine in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send him for price, enclosing SAE. Others please send me SAE for price.

ZINES by Kay Stagg

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class). Please ask for price if ordering from Europe ... include an I.R.C.

NEW ZINE - LIFELINE; GATHERING STORMS; THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; THE SILENT CRY; A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE URSUS MAJOR MINERS. 138 pages, U.K. £4.60 inc P & P.

LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zucha-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing. 93 pages, U.K. £3.75 inc P & P.

Still available: **SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME** (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/ JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (ScoTpress)) 95 pages, £3.60. **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £4.80. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £4.80. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £4.80.

For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Merry Men Press

FIRST TIME zines contain K/S stories, art and poetry. Age statement required.

FIRST TIME is always on time. All inquiries and orders are promptly filled, no-one's left to hang on the line. SAE (addressed envelope and 2 IRCs) for more info. Please send for flyers if you want to order older zines as not all of them have the interior art reproduced.

FIRST TIME 1 - 38 available. **HEARTS OF FIRE** a K/S novel by Elizabeth Scott - an intriguing mystery, and lots and lots of love.

SHARING THE SUNLIGHT - K/S novel by Jenna Sinclair. 200 pages fully illustrated by Chris Soto. Plot, love and Trek. What else can you ask for? **GAMBIT**, a Mirror/'our' universe K/S novel by Kay Wells. **WITHIN THE MIRROR 1 - 8** - an all mirror-related K/S zine, series and movie. Full of first time stories, and on time. **BESIDE MYSELF 1 - 3** - well-illustrated K/S zines exclusively written by Robin Hood and her assorted pen names.

FETISH - a K/S novel by Jenny Starr. Winner of 1988 Best Novel. **PORTRAITS** - A K/S novel by Charlotte Frost. **SCATTERED STARS 1 - 5** - an alternate universe K/S

fanzine where wild imagination and first time plots collide. **PLAYFELLOWS 1 - 6 - MULTIMEDIA '/'** If you know what slash is, you don't need any more words. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. We are also looking for quality submissions of prose and art. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Rosetta Productions (formerly Empathy Press)

LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE. 1 A new Classic/Next Gen genzine. Featuring Contagion and T'Kon prizewinning writers, also poetry and artwork. Approx 100 A4 pages. Picard prepares for a seminar; Chekov goes AWOL; Spock stands watch over an injured Kirk; Troi tries to help victims of Terrorism; Chapel makes a decision; Alexander and his new friends get into hot water; and lots lots more. Cheques/POs for £4.95 to K Heintz, 23 Birnie Hill Ave, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 2RR Scotland. Overseas orders send sterling and add postage. Seeking contributions for future issues. All profits to Childline.

VILLAGE PRESS

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 - Marriage, media mayhem, infidelity, and the perils of pursuing a wet Vulcan pack the pages of ITW 3, the new all story zine. 130 pp of stories by Eva Stuart, Kate Daniels, Jane Carnall and Atropos and introducing Patricia Roe. Price UK £7.00; Europe £9.00; USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00; Australia £10.50 (inc p&p airmail).

IN THE WILDERNESS 1 - Highly original writing from some of fandom's best talents. UK £7.00, Europe £9.00, USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00, Australia £10.50.

IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Why didn't Spock say his father was the Vulcan Ambassador? How does Amanda put up with husband and son? And much more! Prices as ITW1.

THE EXTREMISTS a novel by Eva Stuart. Adventure, romance, music and waste disposal aboard the Enterprise! Kirk and the crew must learn to live with the Klingons if the new peace is to succeed. Complex plot, fascinating characters. UK £7.00, Europe £9.00, USA \$23.00; Canada £10.00, Australia £10.00. K/S and adult relationships; age statement please.

IN THE WILDERNESS 4 (Due Feb '94) - I need one medium length story - or more if I'm greedy and go into reduced print. Village Press has just taken delivery of a real computer with laser print so that ITW4 should look good. It will be a glamour issue with artwork from Caren Parnes and others. Stories are by a mix of old and new writers.

I'm always interested in seeing stories and never, ever unkind!

All prices air. All cheques accepted. **PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO ROSEMARY WILD** (new bank regs). All zines contain the K/S premise. Age statement please and from new readers a note that you understand the premise. Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croeser', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants.

THE SMALL PRINTERS

Sadly, because of rising costs, we have had to stop production of most of our zines. The exception is **NO ALTERNATIVE** by Glen David, a Star Trek - Blake's Seven crossover story, still available from L. R. Muir, 1 Moor Park Avenue, Leeds LS6 4BT, £4.75 inc p&p in UK. Please make cheques payable to L.R. Muir. However, several of our old titles,

including "The Small Print" (a *Professionals* genzine, 4 issues) and several reprinted *Star Trek* stories by Meg Wright, are now available from: At the Sign of the Dragon, 131/133 Sheen Lane, London SW14 8AE. Please send an SAE to this new address for details. Thank you for your past custom.

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. 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 include 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.

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.

FARPOINT PRESS

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 1 - New print run. New stories. A birthday gift from Spock reminds Admiral Kirk of a past mission; Spock is spotted by McCoy in a sex shop and he wants to find out more. £2 inc P&P.

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 2 - £2 inc P & P. Please enquire for overseas rate.

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS 3 - £2 inc P & P. £1.50 for those who bought issue 2 due to story overlap.

ENCOUNTERS THE NEXT GENERATION 1 - after a rescue mission strange things are happening to the computers of the Enterprise; Geordi makes a decision that will shape his future. £1 inc P & P. Please enquire for overseas rates.

P C Timms, 9 Grangeside, Bonchurch, IOW, PO38 1RW.

Zines now available from Pat Mitchell:

NEW - 'A Touch of Tish' (K/S) An

anthology of new and reprinted short stories, all by Tish. UK price £9

GEMINI - THE FLAME AND THE FIRE (K/S), the K/S sequel to *Brother's Keeper*. UK Price £6.00

Orders for the above must include an age statement and a statement to say you understand and accept the K/S premise.

Also still available; **BROTHER'S KEEPER** (genzine) a hurt/comfort story featuring Kirk and Spock. UK price £4.50. **MOMENTS IN TIME** (adult) Short stories featuring the TNG crew. UK price £5.50. Age statement required.

All prices include P&P. Foreign enquiries please send IRC for price. Flyers available for all the zines (send SAE). USA readers note the zines are all available from Bill Hupe. Cheques payable to Pat Mitchell, orders to 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England.

Deep Space Nine - we are now seeking contributions for our new DS9 fiction zine "SPACED OUT". Artwork and fiction welcome. Publication for UFP '94.

Zines available now: *Robin of Sherwood*, *War of the Worlds*, *Tomorrow People* - SASE for prices and details. Also coming soon: *The Agony Column #1* - multi-media h/c fiction. Contact Helen Leithead, Shatterzine, 191 Hillcrest Drive, Southdown, Bath BA2 1HF.

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.

The Nannyte Press

MAB by Debbie Lee. A face from Ensign Ro's past poses a threat to Counselor Troi's future. Riker and Crusher have their suspicions, but no proof! Will Ro Laren say something before it's too late? And why does Captain Picard seem so reluctant to interfere? 130 reduced print pages, A5 format. Available mid October 1993. UK price £4.75 incl. p&p. Please ask for the price before ordering from abroad. All cheques, etc. in sterling only. Please make cheques and POs

payable to D. Willcox, 17 Cameron Lodge, Stanley Road, Hounslow, Middx. TW3 1YX.

DUET

For Attention of all former contributors to the zines Duet 1-20, plus all the 'one-offs' published by Doreen DaBinette. We, Eileen Mitchell and Carole Weatherill, wish to reprint the Duet series in its entirety. If you contributed as a writer, poet or artist but do not wish for your work to be included please let us know as soon as possible. However, we hope you are agreeable to our efforts and thank you for your assistance. Please contact Carole Weatherill, 8 St Margaret's Grove, E. Twickenham, Middx TW1 1JG or Eileen Mitchell, 25 Winchester Road, E Twickenham, Middx TW1 1EL.

HULL STARFLEET

STAR TREK QUIZ BOOK Quizzes and puzzles. £3.00 inc. postage. Nina Lynch, 54, Claremont Ave., Hull, North Humberside, HU6 7LZ

KAG

THE BEST OF KAG... SO FAR. Available now. All the victories of the Klingon Assault Group - Europe documented in one monumental volume; plus costume building, language lessons, a short story, cartoons, scrapbook, and much, much more (last few copies) £3.50 (£3.00 to members) plus 50p P & P. Cheques/POs to KAG-UK. KAG Europe, PO Box 1015, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JW.

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, P.O. Box 6858, Kingswood, TX 77325-6858 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. **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 - 110 pages per issue. 28 issues currently available, new issues out on a quarterly basis. Also available: **THE HOODED MAN** (Robin of Sherwood - 3 issues, more planned); **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 - 180k) or PCW 9265, 9512 or PCW 10 (3.5" - 720K) can submit their work on disc to save postage. 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.

THE WIZARD'S KNOB - a non-profit-making fanzine devoted to fans of Terry Pratchett and Josh Kirby. Anyone wanting a copy should send a cheque for £2, made payable to 'The Wizard's Knob Magazine', to TWK Subscriptions, Spinneys, Post Office Road, Woodham Mortimer, Maldon, Essex CM9 6SX, or send an SAE for info to John Penney, 'The Wizard's Knob', 50 Sunnybank, Kirkham, Preston, Lancashire PR4 2JF.

Shirley Read

THE ENTERPRISE CREW ZINE has biographies on the Classic Star Trek crew, Leonard Nimoy, Walter Koenig, George Takei and more. £3 + A4 SAE with 45p in

stamps (please make £2 postal order out to Shirley Read and £1 postal order out to The Guide Dog Association) Out every two months.

THE BEST OF BRITISH COMEDY ZINE - A new zine with biographies of Kenneth More & photos. Kenneth Williams & photos. Bill Pertwee & photos. John Inman & photos. Barbara Windsor & photos. You Rang M'Lord cast & photos. The zine will be A4 and have biographies of comedy stars and be out every two months. £2.50 + A4 SAE with 45p in stamps (please make £2 postal order out to Shirley Read and 50p postal order out to The Guide Dog Association)

Send to Shirley Read, 52 Stanton Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands B90 2DY.

☆☆☆☆

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



THE GENESIS II CHRISTMAS PARTY. 4th-5th December, 1993. The Royal Angus Hotel, Birmingham City Centre. £20 per person for full weekend (a £5 deposit will reserve your place. Room Rates: £22.50 per person including full English breakfast. Events: Showing of DS9, TNG videos, Games, Competitions and Quizzes plus five course meal and disco to be held on Saturday evening (meal included in registration). SAE to Mo Rowley, 36 Kingscote Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Worcs. B98 9LJ.

SOMETHING ELSE NEW YEAR'S BASH Trek/Sci-Fi Party. The Youth Hostel, Swanage, Dorset. 30th Dec 93 - 1st Jan 1994. Why stay at home on New Year's Eve when you can party with us? Details from Something Else, PO Box 16, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 8YZ. Please enclose an SAE.

STARBASE 94 28th - 30th January, 1994.

Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Guest 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. There are no more weekend places available. If you are interested in a cancellation or day registration write (enclosing Stamped Self Addressed Envelope please!) to; Carol Looby, 152 Otley Road, Headingly, Leeds LS16 5JX.

LALCON One day event 13th February, 1994, featuring TNG, Classic and DS9 in 3 video rooms. Dealers' room and quiz, with food available. All £10 entry fee to benefit Moat House Special School Children. Parking free, excellent access and facilities for disabled. No creche. Basildon is 25 mins drive from the Dartford bridge and 3 British Rail stops from Upminster tube. Send SAE to Lalcon, Moat House School, Church Road, Basildon, Essex SS14 2NQ. Dealer enquiries welcome. Wear uniform for pub collection round if you feel bold enough!

T'KON 1994 - 1st - 4th April 1994 at Norfolk Gardens Hotel, Bradford City Centre. 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 (please note that all single rooms have been booked at the Norfolk Gardens Hotel). Cheaper accommodation is available at Bradford University. Programme - Federation Ball, 4 Video Rooms, 2 Sales Rooms, Art Room, Medieval Adventure, Zine Library, Club Room, Quizzes, Fancy Dress Show, Drama Competition, Games, Horror Night, Japanime, Role Playing. Contact T'Kon 1994, 167 Kingshurst Rd, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LL. Please enclose an SAE.

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.

UNICON II A Star Trek/Science Fiction Convention. 24th-26th June, 1994. Hilton International Hotel, Bristol. Registration: full £25, Saturday only £17.50. Reduced rates for under 14's. Room rates, £30 per person, per night. SAE for form to Unicon, 55 Kildare Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1PR.

CONSTITUTION II 8th-10th July. 1994. The Tollgate Motel, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent. The Intrepid Star Trek club's second mini-convention. Videos of Star Trek in all its forms, talks, quizzes and discos. Registration: Full £15, one day £10. Hotel rates: £35 pppn in a single room; £30, pppn in twin/double rooms. SAE for further details to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

CONTAGION: The Fourth Scottish Star Trek Convention. 23-25 July 1994. Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. Guests to be confirmed. Registration rates: £30 (until 31.12.93); £35

(1.1.94) onwards). Hotel rates available on request. Send SAE to Contagion, P.O. Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR for full details.

ARCHON '94 The 38th British Star Trek Convention. 26th-29th August 1994 at the Edwardian International Hotel, Heathrow, London. Guests TBA. Full registration until 1st May 1994: £27, thereafter £30. Room Rates Twin/Double £31 pppn, single £27 pppn. Closing date for registrations 10th August, 1994. For more information please send a 9"x4" SAE to Archon Registrations, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

MIDCON Full registrations 7th - 9th October, 1994. Holiday Inn, Leicester. - **The Midland's 13th Annual Star Trek Convention & 21st British Star Trek Anniversary Convention.** (Don't confuse us with any other Convention @ The Holiday Inn-October 1994). **Remember there is only one Midcon** this is our 8th consecutive year @ this venue from the team you can trust. Full registrations: £30.00 (children pro-rata) also daily available. Send a S.A.E. to Terry Elson, MIDCON '94, 8 Ennerdale Close, OADB, Leicester LE2 4TN.

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.

SOL III '95 - the 39th British Star Trek Convention. 26-29 May 1995. Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Charities: Shelter, Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Registration Fee: £30 Adult; £15 5-14 yrs; under 5's free. For further information and registration forms, write to Sol III, c/o Jean Barron, 39 Dersingham Avenue, Manor Park, London

E12 5QF.

STARSHIP VOYAGES presents a Star Trek cruise to Norway on 3rd June 1995. Join our 7 night mission of fun with John de Lancie (subject to '95 commitments) and other guests from ST; ST:TNG; DS9. This cruise is organised by fans for fans. For more information send a SASE to Starship Voyages, 5 Plough Rise, Cranham, Upminster, Essex RM14 1XR.

OTHER EVENTS

WILD WEST THEME PARTY - Presented by the London Star Trek Group. 22nd January, '94 - Noon 'til late. International Hotel, Canary Warf, London E1. Classic, TNG & DS9 videos, professional Cabaret and disco. We will also have Western Decor, Buckin' Bull machine, firing range, Quick Draw and Horseshoe Throwing Contests, and prizes for the best Western outfit. £15 per person or £20 with a basket meal. Overnight accommodation from £27.50 - £30 per person, including VAT & full English breakfast. For tickets and more info, send SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

STARBRIGHT '94 12-13th Feb 1994 at the Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Shepperton. The second UK Quantum Leap Con. Registration - Full weekend £20, One day £12. Send SAE for full details and registration form to: Starbright '94, 338 Bleckfen Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 9NY.

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 SASEs for further details to Trek/Dwarf, 47 Marsham, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough PE2 5RN

ELYDORE The Easter Event. Meeting at a UK airport the Thursday before Easter, Elydore will fly you to Guernsey for a combined half-board holiday and full two day Convention (Confirmed guest Terry Pratchett). SAE for details to Elydore '94, c/o 16 Tonbridge Road, West Molesey, Surrey KT8 0EL.

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.)

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

FEDERATION CON II 1-3 April, Arabella Hotel, Munich, Germany. Guests George Takei, Robin Curtis, Richard Arnold. Registration £75 until 31/12/93, then £85. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Federation Con II, Monika Schomann, Schopplerstr. 24, 86154 Augsburg, Germany.

STARDREAM I CONVENTION 8th - 11th September, 1994 Mannheim Congress Centre, Rosengarten. Guests include: Richard Arnold, James Doohan, Mark Lenard, George Takei, Robin Curtis, Gates McFadden, John

de Lancia, LeVar Burton Full registration: 280,-DM till 31st December, 300,-DM till 31st March, 320,-DM till 30th June, 340,-DM till 31st August, 1994. For more info and registration form send SAE plus IRC to Star Trek Fanclub, Enterprise, c/o Sylvia Strybuc, Hans Sachs Ring 17, 68199 Mannheim-Niederfeld, Germany.

PERSONAL COLUMN

I have become interested in the Klingon race as of late, and I'd really like to know more about them; their religion, their evolution and language, etc. If there is anyone out there who has suggestions about how I can do this, then please write to me. Basically, this means anyone who has some spare time! Kerry McGuire, 50 Willowfield, Woodside, Telford, Shropshire TF7 5NT.

Jonathan (Brent Spiner) get that positronic brain of yours into gear and write to Neil (Sherlock Holmes) from the 20th Anniversary Convention in Leicester. I promise that I'll never dress up as Data again! Neil Safi, 4 Stubbington Close, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3QF.

I am looking for people to write to of any age, any sex, and from anywhere who are fans of TNG and DS9. My favourite characters are Spock, Data, Troi, Quark and Odo. My interests include computing, I like going to the pictures, I'm a Man Utd supporter (but Liverpool fans are welcome), amongst other things. Please write to Philip Morley, 407 Fleetwood Road, Fleetwood, Lancs FY7 8HN.

Beate Eisenecker - Can anyone give me an address where I can write for David Warner's (St John Talbot, STV) autograph? Beate Eisenecker, Am Zeughaus 17, 89073 Ulm, Germany.

I am looking for pen-friends from all over the world who love TNG and DS9. I am 18 years old and have been a Star Trek fan for more than five years. I would also love to hear from fans of fantasy and Gothic horror novels. Please contact: Sarah Green, Mason's Arms, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 0JY

To Sandra Edge: I live in Winsford, just a few miles from you. Please contact me, if you wish, at 18 Grampian Way, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 1QG. Or call Shirley Shatner on 0606 559239.

Can you help? Is anybody going on Cruise Trek Alaska? If you are, would you consider a very worried first time traveller 'tagging' along. Would prefer to go from Manchester but can get to London or Glasgow! Please write soon. Karen, 186 Whittingham Drive, Ramsbottom, Bury, Lancs BL0 9NY



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 breaks copyright.

FOR SALE - 2 sew-on patches £1.50 ea. 3 various cloisonne pins £3 ea. Set of 10 5"x7" ST3, Classic Trek and ST:TMP stills, £3.50 ea. Set of 16 Classic Trek postcards, £5. GIANT NOVELS, £3:- Metamorphosis, Enterprise - First Adventure, Strangers From The Sky, Final Frontier, Shadow Lord. HARDBACKS, £6:- Reunion, Devil's Heart, Prime Directive, Lost Years, Probe, Best Destiny. £2.50:- Flag Full Of Stars, Dreadnought, Kobayashi Maru & all 6 movie novels. THE CLASSIC EPISODES (3 volumes, 25th anniversary edition; £15 the lot or £6 ea.) World Of Star Trek, £5. IDIC LOG 9, £2.50. TNG CD "Encounter At Farpoint" £6. VARIOUS TREK VIDEOS £5. Phone Edwin on (0273) 734860 after 7pm for more details.

FOR SALE - Star Trek Master series trading cards (set of 90) £15 + 50p postage. Single cards available 15p each, send SAE for wants list. Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn

Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE - 1) Babylon 5 Earth Alliance breast badge £4.95 (bi-coloured resin); 2) TNG Communicator badge £3.50; 3) Bajoran Communicator badge £3.50, deluxe bi-coloured resin type £3.95; 4) Bajoran Ear-rings - from £8.50 ea. depending on rank and social station eg: dress ornate type - 3 chain, 2 drop pendants (one @ each end) with mock ruby & gold beading to pendants £12.50. I will also make customer's special requests "to order", write for quote. Where applicable badges use self adhesive velcro backing strips (included) which can be stuck and/or sewn to the relevant garment. Profit disclaimer: these are fan produced items, they are not sold for profit and there is no intent to deny Paramount Pictures or its licensees financial gain from the sale of these goods. Cris Coxon, Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E. Sussex TN36 4EY.

FOR SALE - K/S Zines Pavane (short stories) £8.00, Shades of Grey (short stories) £8.00. Price includes p&p. S Lamb, 13 Sheridan Green, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9DY.

FOR SALE - Zine Auction. Second hand zines for sale. Charisma, Daring Attempt, Companion, Counterpoint, Broken Images, Nightvisions, Nome, First Time, One Night Stand. Mostly K/S but some genzines too. Please send SAE to: Janet Hunt, 2 Springfield Lane, Smeeton Westerby, Leicester, LE8 0QW for latest list.

FOR SALE - Classic Trek and TNG books. Also Star Trek magazines and other Science Fiction related books and magazines in very good condition. For list send SAE to Gordon Smyth, 3 Rathmore Gardens, Finaghy, Belfast Northern Ireland

FOR SALE - ST:TNG videos - only £5 each incl p&p. Cassettes available: 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 54.. Also dozens of films and TV videos - Dr Who, Blake's Seven, Twin Peaks. SAE for list. Discount on bulk orders. Write to: Craig R Lemon, 78 Mountbatten Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 6TP.

WANTED - K/S zine GEMINI (not Gemini the Flame and the Fire). Will pay any reasonable price. Contact J Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX.

WANTED - Star Trek Master Series cards by Skybox to complete collection. Will buy or swap ST:TNG trading cards (series I & II, also Inaugural). Lisette Ellis, 39 Clydeway, Rise Park, Romford, Essex RM1 4XT

WANTED - Can anyone out there let me borrow a copy of "Courts of Honour"? I'll take good care of it and pay for your trouble and p&p of course! S Lamb, 13 Sheridan Green, Rickleton, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 9DY.

WANTED - in good condition. ST5 Galoob boxed figures; Spock, Kirk & Klingon. ST:TMP Mego 12" figures. ST Mego 8" figures. (Reasonable prices paid. Geoffrey A. Shaw, 32 Allanson Road, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4HW, or phone 061 998 0213 after 6 pm.

WANTED - "The Professionals Episode Guide", published by Boxtree (I think). Postage and any reasonable price paid. Gill Marsden, 77 Horsley Road, Barmston, Washington, Tyne & Wear NE38 8HQ.

WANTED - Man from UNCLE zines and books. Anything considered. Also information on any UNCLE fanclubs. Please contact Therese Holmes, 28 Braemar, Kersfield Road, Ritney, London SW15 3HG.

WANTED - NOME (US) zine. Any reasonable price paid. G Vandekerckhove, 78 Oostmeersdreef, 9800 Deinze, Belgium.

WANTED - I would like a laser disc with Starburst pattern and the TV Enterprise on. Also Patons DK wool, flesh-coloured shade no. 6821. Can anyone help? Angela Killelay, 103 Ropery Road, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire DN21 2NU.

WANTED - audio recording of Leonard Nimoy: You are Not Alone, Mr Spock's Music from Outer Space, Two Sides of Leonard Nimoy, The Way I Feel, The Touch of

Leonard Nimoy, Space Odyssey, Outer Space/Inner Mind. Peter Hughes, Bryn Myfyr, West End, Glan Conwy, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL28 5SY

WANTED - Does anyone have any classic Trek glossy photos for sale? If not does anyone know where I can buy them (S+P Parker no longer stock ST.) I am especially interested in Scotty. Please ring Sarah on 081 422 0769 during the day if poss.



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 25p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC.) Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

GENESIS II: For a club that's fun, join Genesis II. 4 newsletters per year and regular meetings are held at The Royal Angus Hotel in Birmingham City Centre every other month as well as various outings being organised. Memberships are £4.50 per year, £8.00 for two years. Contact Mo Rowley, 36 Kingscote Close, Church Hill, Redditch, Worcs. B98 9LJ enclosing an SAE.

U.S.S. INTREPID: Based in Dartford, the Intrepid provides a forum for like-minded people to meet and share in their enjoyment of all aspects of Star Trek and other SF & Fantasy. The Club publishes a quarterly Newsletter and holds regular meetings and events. Dues £6.50. SAE for more info to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

BEVERLYOPHILES - The address for this club is now Daniel van der Weile, 215 Spruce St No. 215, Vermillion, SD 57069, USA. NB -

Kim Junius is no longer connected with this club.

The Star Trek Welcommittee (STW) is an information service which answers questions for Star Trek fans. Our central mailroom in Saranac, Michigan, USA gets letters from fans all over the world. In order to meet this need, STW has representatives in the USA, Canada, Great Britain, Japan, Australia, and Brazil. With Star Trek's increasing popularity and availability, STW is looking for representatives in other countries as well. These representatives need to be ready to answer letters on all aspects of Star Trek (anything about the show as well as information on local clubs and activities), and must send in a report once each month (a report, however, can consist of a postcard with a brief note). If you are from a country not listed above, and are interested in becoming an STW representative, please write to Joan M. Verba, P.O. Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345 USA for further information.

THE KLINGON ASSAULT GROUP - Join the new way of Trek fandom for those who hear the cry of the warrior. Newsletter subscription £4.00 per year. SAE to KAG-Europe, PO Box 1015, Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland KA16 9JW

SOMETHING ELSE (The Klingon Strike Force) The club for fans of all Trek aliens and sci-fi minded people. We have monthly meetings around the country, national and international roleplaying plus penpal network, quarterly newsletter. FREE membership. Send SAE stating species of interest to: Something Else, PO Box 16, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 8YZ.

UNITED FEDERATION OF PLANETS 4 Rose Cottage, Canal Lane, West Stockwith, Nr. Doncaster, S. Yorks DN10 4EU. Bi-monthly magazine full of news, features and your letters etc. UK dues £7.00.

QUARK'S BAR is open for business!! Issue

One has just been issued, and number two is due in December. Join Britain's 1st DS9 fan club now! Also, let us know what you want to see, and Jim will try and fix it for you. Write to Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr. Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH or Miss Dawn Tittley, 117 Dolwich Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0EW. UK membership is £6.00 per year only at present.

NATIONAL STAR TREK SOCIETY. SAE for info to Damon M. Wise, NSTS, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland.

CCSTSG Enterprises is a monthly compendium of news, views and analysis, with articles that inform, entertain, and challenge readers who like to think critically about Star Trek. Columns include Rumor Mills (the latest hot news), Culture Watch, IDIC Watch, Technology Watch, Ferengi Awards, Scenes We'd Like to See, and more. Recent feature articles have touched on language, political correctness, overpopulation, religion, gay rights and technological developments - as played out in Star Trek and in the world at large. There's lots of silliness too. Published by Jeff Mills, founder of the Central Connecticut Star Trek Support Group and teacher of "The Cultural Relevance of Star Trek," CCSTG Enterprises is available to U.S. subscribers for \$9/6 issues or \$16/12 issues (Canada: \$10/\$18) (Foreign: \$15/\$27.50). Sample issue: \$1.50 (\$2.50/foreign). (Checks payable to "Jeff Mills"). Send to CCSTSG Enterprises, 7 Quarry Street, Vernon, CT 06066-2614, USA.

TREXPERS: ST fan club for fans everywhere. 28-page monthly zine featuring con reports, artwork, episode updates, ST news, fan fiction and much more. Dues \$20 US, \$24 Canada, \$28 overseas. For more details, write to Valerie Herd, Trexperts, 7459 Nasrullah Crescent, Niagra Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 2M4.

SEF Fan Network for fans of Siddig el Fadil, Marilyn Wilkerson, 1008 S. Parker, Evansville, IN 47714, USA. Marilyn will send a newsletter for a self-addressed envelope and postage (3 IRCs).

OTHER CLUBS

THE NETWORK - Quaterly letterzine about The Man From U.N.C.L.E., annual subscription £4.00 UK, \$10.00 US. Write with SASE/2 IRCs for further details to Miss Jay Felton, 'Cloudbase', 54 St Mary's Road, Leyton, London E10 5RB.

SPECTRUM STRIKES BACK! - Discussion newsletter about Captain Scarlet and related shows, now becoming operational again. Write with SASE/2 IRCs for further details to Linda Chapple, 'Cloudbase', 54 St Mary's Road, Leyton, London E10 5RB.

QUANTUM QUEST A British Info/Letterzine for fans of Quantum Leap. 5 Sandfield Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8AW. Dues £3.00 (Europe £4.00, USA & Australia £5/US \$10) for 4 issues. Cheques/POs - payable to Ms. H C Broadribb.

DRONE is a bi-monthly film & TV modellers newsletter run by enthusiasts. Each issue contains hints, tips, reviews and prize competitions. Subscription runs December to December and if you join mid year you get all of that year's back issues too. Subscription is £8.00 per year. Cheques, P.O.s made payable to Andrew Hall (Editor), 172 High Hope Street, Crook, Co Durham DL15 9JA.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

I am a member of Starfleet Command and I am looking for people in the Cheshire area, with the aim of creating a sub unit of Starfleet Command. Please contact Shirley Shatner, 18 Grampian Way, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 1QG. Tel: 0606 559239.

ENERGIZE - the ST group in Ashford. Weekly meetings involve chat, tea, coffee, Romulan ale and videos. Contact Chris King on 170 580 4741 ext 196 during office hours or Dave & Tina Styles on 0233 642687 any time.

NORTHWEST AREA: Anyone interested in starting a local group for socialising, please contact Samantha Tuley, 11 Heys Close, Blackburn, Lancs. BB2 4PF or Adele Hilton, 104 Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton, Lancs BL1 3ET.

NORTH WALES Local Group. Contact Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

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.

THE AWAY TEAM: Scotland's Largest Star Trek Local Group. Regular meetings (10 am - 10 pm) every 6 weeks or so. Video orientated group with over 650 members showing the latest episodes of TNG and DS9. Star Trek merchandise for sale in Dealer's Room. Upcoming dates: 12th December (at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall). From January onwards all meetings held at City Halls, Glasgow. 8th January, 19 February, 16 April, 7 May and 11 June 1994. Send SAE to Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR for full details.

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. Sundays 12 noon until 5pm, admission £1. Oct 17th, Nov 21st, Dec 19th. For more info contact Tracy Beadle, 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE. Please enclose a SAE.

IPSWICH STARFLEET Star Trek Fan Club encompassing all forms of Star Trek. SAE for info to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF.

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. 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. SAE for info to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF.

SPACE CENTRAL The West Midlands Star Trek Group. Monthly meetings at Tamworth Arts Centre Theatre, Saturdays. Latest episodes on large screen, refreshments and occasional guest speakers/live events. Social evenings. Over 16s only. £1.50 per session. For dates/further details, SAE to Lee Owers Sansome, 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. SAE for details 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. SAE for info 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).

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Dues UK £7.50, USA/Middle East Air \$23.00 (£13.25), Australia £14.50, Europe £9.50.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for

your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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