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Newsletter 34

"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 Okuda, 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. We were at T'Kon in April and held an IDIC meeting. Thanks to those of you who came along, but there weren't really enough to make it worth having another one. The problem is trying to find a time for a meeting so that it doesn't clash with other events on the program.

We really enjoyed meeting Bjo Trimble and John and Kathryn at the convention. We hope you enjoyed the rest of your stay and that we will see you again soon.

Ernie Over is leaving his job as Majel Barrett's Personal Assistant to enter business with his brother. Thanks for all your help, Ernie. We wish you all the best for the future and we'll keep in touch.

RENEWALS

We have over 350 members due to renew with this newsletter - if you are one of them your address label was marked in purple and you will find a renewal form enclosed. We hope you will decide to remain with us, but if you want to receive the next newsletter Janet needs to receive your renewal before 9th July. This is when we have to decide how many newsletters to print.

Usually about 50% of members renew by the weekend we compile the newsletter and some more drift in after that. On average up to 30% of members don't renew - if we knew why they weren't happy we could try to improve the newsletter. We can only afford to print a few extra newsletters each time so it is always advisable to renew promptly.

With so many due to renew you can help Janet by just settling to receive your member's card with the next newsletter, rather than enclosing an SAE for it to be sent out. (Occasionally a card is slipped into the wrong envelope - so if you should have received a card and didn't, contact Sheila.)

POSTBAG

The postbag submissions seem to increase newsletter by newsletter. We had to cut ten pages this time to keep the length down to the optimum 35 pages, so most of you will find that we have had to edit your letters for length. Sorry about this.

To help reduce the problem and to fit as many letters in as we can, we have reduced the preferred maximum length of letters to 500 - 550 words. We may still have to cut letters so don't forget that you may indicate a

section of your letter which you would rather it was not edited out.

IDIC SPECIAL

There has been enough interest in this for us to go ahead. We will compile it over the next couple of months and then give you details of it in the next newsletter.

We are holding articles or quizzes by: Peter Arnett, Neil Barrett, Peter Carmody, Jacqueline Y. Comben, James C Connarty, Stephen Daniels, Patricia Doyle, Kathleen Glancy, Lesley Hatch, Debbie Lee, Marysia Kolodziej, Donna Macey, Judy Mortimore, Marie I J Park, Anne Peters, Kevin Peters, Alex Pidd, Taruka Quauhtezcatl, David Raper, Shirley Read, Michael Sadler, Michael Simpson, Martin Stahl, Carol Sterenberg, Jay Stevenson, Dave Styles, Judith Taylor, Simon Trick, Jenny Turner, Gratiennne Vanderkerhove, Jillian Webster, Edward Woo, Gaile Wood, Edwin Yau if any of these people do not want their article to be considered for the IDIC Special please let Janet know as soon as possible.

EMAIL

Janet now has a modem. She is registered on the Arcade bulletin board which has access to Fidonet and Internet mail. This means she can receive Email from Fidonet, Internet, UseNet, Compuserve, Cix, SPAN and Janet.

Janet is not registered for Email at the time of writing this letter but all being well she should be by the time this newsletter goes out. She thinks the address will be:

jqarton@arcade.demon.co.uk

You can try sending messages but nothing important. We'll confirm the correct address in the next newsletter. In the meantime, send Janet your Email address so that she can practice using the system.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is July 6th (July 4th for anything sent to Sheila). Don't forget - send written postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila, disc submissions 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

If you are using a computer we would be very grateful if you could send your submissions to Janet 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, not justified 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. If you have an Amiga or MacIntosh, just save an ASCII text file onto a 3.5" disc and send it to Janet, letting her know which computer you have. A couple of members have offered to copy files onto DOS discs for us, but please send your disc at least two weeks before the closing date for contributions.

If you want more details write to Janet for an article on submitting by computer - please enclose an SAE.

Our thanks to Brenda Allan, Irene Ambrose, Chris Bailey, Jean Barron, Peter Carmody, Toni Cumming, Stephen Daniels, Barbara Ellams, Margie Ferguson, Peter & Eleanor Fryer, George Haggarty, Mike Hazlewood, Martin Helsdon, James Keating, Paul Lazarus, Gary James, Fiona McDonald, Stewart J McMillan, Ann Neilson, Ernie Over, Rebecca Owens, Harminder Pal, Vicky Roberts, Stephen Rothwell, Moira Russell, Harvinder Singh, Jean Sloan, Alan Stephen, Andrea Sudworth, Dawn Tittley, Jenny Turner, Jamie Watkin, Jill Walker, Ian Webber, Joan Verba and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

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.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

Once the weather improved, Sheila finally got up to Forfar. The collecting box from the

February Away Team meeting held £42.35. We also got £30 added to the accumulator card from stamps. She went again after T'Kon with another £15 worth of stamps and two collecting boxes; one held £40.25 thanks to the efforts of Future Shock (Jim Campbell) and The Ferengi Bazaar (who organised the slice by slice sale of a birthday cake); the other held £39.24 thanks to the efforts of Bjo Trimble's daughter Kathryn, who went to T'Kon as a guest and spent much of the con encouraging people to feed our Guide Dog box. The April Away Team meeting gave us another £22.97.

This all means that we've got our fifth dog! Many thanks to everyone who has contributed towards him and to the enthusiastic 'volunteers' who rattle the box for us at Away Team meetings and cons. (We've even got a start to our sixth dog.)

We've reserved a German Shepherd called Darcy. He's still with his puppy walker and should begin his training in a month or so. We could have got a Lab or Retriever immediately, but opted to wait for a Shepherd, because of our four previous dogs, the two Shepherds passed while the original two Labs we picked failed and had to be replaced. We just hope Darcy is as successful as Aero and Sadie were.

RAFFLE

The raffle winners are: Jean Sloan - a registration for Contagion; Mrs H.M. Bickley - a signed photo of Nichelle Nichols; Toni Cumming - a signed photo of Jonathan del Arco; Neil Christie - a year's membership of IDIC.

We have decided not to have a raffle with this newsletter, but it will return.

USED STAMPS

Any American/Canadian members who would like to contribute used stamps 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 would like to thank Irene Ambrose, Baggy, Chris C. Bailey, Annette Bannasch,

Neil Barrett, Jean Barron, Gary Batchelor, Jennifer Blanchard, Lynne Buckley, Julie Burton, Bernardo Silva e Carmo, Catherine Carter, Matthew Christie, Neil Christie, Derek Clark, Susan Clarke, Contagion, Maria L Costa, Sacha J Cowan, Penelope Cramphorn, C Davis, Veronica Duthie, Heather Fairgrieve, Anne-Marie Flowers, Mark French, Antje Freudenberg, the staff and readers of Glasgow City Libraries, Anne Gregory, Becky Grey, Meg Grossman, Caro Hedge, Martin Helsdon, Sandra Hunger, Bill Hupe, S Irons, Christine Jones, Sue Jones, Julie, Nanaki Kaur, Carol Kean, Peg Kennedy, Antje Konig, Ruth Kurz, Angrit Lower, Anne Mackay, Nancy Mackay, Andy McLean, MOD Contracts Branch, Philip Morley, M Payne, Gillian Rainey, Shirley Read, Ann Robertson, Allison Rooney, Stephen Rothwell, Michael Sadler, Neil Safi, Baerbel Schmidt, Shirley Shatner, Gordon Smith, Amanda Spence, Starbase, Alexis Stokes, Dave Styles, T'Kon, George Hosato Takei Fan Club, Judith Taylor, Rachel Timms, Bjo Trimble, Jenny Turner, Linda Ware, Moira Warburton, Daniel van de Weile, Janet Wicks, Sally Wilkinson, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of 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.

Many thanks to Allison Rooney for trimming stamps for us.

We hope to see some of you at Contagion in July - come and say hello at the table. Any contributions of second hand ST items to sell for the Guide Dogs will be gratefully received. You can send them to Sheila or bring them along to the convention.

We hope you will enjoy this newsletter. We plan to post the next newsletter out around July 27th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 15/5/94



BOB JUSTMAN

The following is taken from Bob Justman's letters to us. We hope that when he has more time he will write a letter especially for the newsletter, but in the meantime he said it was okay to print extracts.

Did you know that Gene wore kilts? I've been to several dinner events at the Los Angeles Police Academy with him when he donned his kilts. He enjoyed wearing them. Quite a sight!

Some other guests at these events were actors Charlton Heston and Howard Keel. The Los Angeles Police Department's police pipers' band entertained us and played many traditional tunes. Gene and I had some great times together, both working and playing.

Jackie (she who must be obeyed) and I did so

much enjoy our all too brief visit to the fens and fen of Britain that we eagerly await the postman each day, hoping for another invitation to another fun-filled and (fen-filled) U.K. Star Trek convention. To date, sadly, all we receive are invoices for "services rendered" and invoices for "services rendered, PAST DUE!" But, hope springs eternal, to coin a phrase, and we continue to keep our bags packed -- thereby satisfying a two-fold purpose: one, someone might still be foolish enough to invite us back and, two, having our bags packed enables us to beat a prompt retreat when the bill collector calls.

I'm writing a book (with my friend Herb Solow) which will be published in the States by Pocket Books next autumn. It should be in the stores in time for Christmas. Perhaps there'll be a UK edition. For now, the book is entitled "To Boldly Go..." and it will tell all about the birth, life and death of the original Star Trek television series.

☆☆☆☆



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



SATELLITE

The 2nd season of Deep Space Nine started on Sky One on April 3rd with the episode Homecoming. We're listing all the 2nd season DS9 episodes in this issue.

DS9 went straight into the Satellite top 10 at no. 8 with 0.51m viewers. Over the next couple of weeks the audience dropped to 0.44m.

The original series started showing 5 nights a week on March 16th and is now well into the second season.

- On 15/5/94 Larry King (CNN) had Michael Dorn, Marina Sirtis, Avery Brooks, Nana Visitor, Rene Auberjonois and Rick

Berman as guests on his talk show. They discussed both TNG and DS9. (*Janet: Does anyone have a full recording of this?*)

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

In the DS9 episode Maquis there is a rebel group called the Maquis, lead by Sisko's friend, Lt Cmdr Cal Hudson (Bernie Casey). Rick Berman says that the Maquis and their ship will be vital to Voyager. (High Trek 22/4/94)

Malibu Comics has announced that it has secured the exclusive rights from Paramount to create and publish a regular comic-book series based on ST: Voyager.

STAR TREK VII

27-28 March 1994: "HOLLYWOOD -- Malcolm McDowell will star as the villain Soren in the upcoming feature 'Star Trek: Generations.' McDowell will do battle with both Capt Jean-Luc Picard of 'Star Trek: The Next Generation' fame -- played by Patrick Stewart -- and Capt James T Kirk, played by William Shatner of the Original TV Series. The feature, due to begin principal photography Monday, brings together two generations of 'Star Trek' casts through a 'unique astronomical phenomenon,' Paramount confirms. Among cast member from the Original 'Star Trek' TV series who will reprise their roles are James Doohan as Scotty, and Walter Koenig as Chekov. There will be no Mr Spock in this 24th century adventure. The 'Next Generation' TV cast members who will make the hyperspace leap to feature film will be Jonathan Frakes (Riker), LeVar Burton (La Forge), Michael Dorn (Worf), Gates McFadden (Crusher), Marina Sirtis (Troi), Brent Spiner (Data), and Whoopi Goldberg (Guinan). The film will be directed by David Carson, whose many TV and legit credits include directing the two-hour pilot episode of 'Deep Space Nine,' a 'Trek' spinoff. Rick Berman produces. Brannon Braga and Ron Moore have pulled scripting duties."

Kathleen O'Steen, Reuters/Variety
from - faql.rec.arts.startrek.movies

Unfortunately Majel Barrett is not in the movie. Starburst 189 says that rumours suggest that Spock and Co will appear in "flashbacks" to stock footage of previous films.

The movie is being called Star Trek Generations at the moment.

The original cast did their filming first and finished in the middle of April. The Next Gen cast were to film next with William Shatner joining them later.

SPOILER ALERT

The papers are still reporting that Kirk is to die in STVII and that Malcolm McDowell will play the villain who kills him. Also, it is confirmed that the Enterprise-D will be

destroyed. An inside source at Paramount revealed that in the zeal to realistically film the destruction of the Enterprise, Paramount literally destroyed the bridge set from Stage Eight. Apparently Marina Sirtis said she shed tears when that scene was finished filming -- because it was the final blow to The Next Generation series, which has ceased production. Her uniform nearly caught fire during this last bridge scene as the set blazed around her.

STAR TREK on BBC/ITV

With hardly any advertising TNG replaced the original series on Wednesday nights, BBC 2 on 13th April. It went straight into the BBC2/Ch 4 top ten with 3.92m viewers, behind Red Dwarf III, Quantum Leap and the Buck Rogers film. The following week it went to number 2 with 4.11m viewers.

Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
74	Cloud Minders	16/3/94
77	The Savage Curtain	23/3/94
78	All Our Yesterdays	30/3/94
79	Turnabout Intruder	6/4/94
TNG		
176	Family	13/4/94
177	Brothers	20/4/94
178	Suddenly Human	27/4/94
179	Remember Me	4/5/94
180	Legacy	11/5/94

STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION

• Gates McFadden directed the TNG episode Genesis. The LA earthquake hit in the middle of production and halted filming for 2 days. Gates says, "I was getting ready for work when it happened. I was fortunate, but many of the crew weren't. There was a tremendous amount of loss for some."

McFadden was involved in every aspect of making Genesis, from discussing the makeup with Michael Westmore to

coordinating the actions of the Stedicann moving cameras and sitting in on editing sessions.

McFadden says she is ready to let the series go but has mixed feelings about the forthcoming movies. "I'm intrigued by the films but must say I think the first one is a little fast. I was hoping there'd be more time before it happened. For me, personally, the process is a bit rushed."

- The final episode of TNG will air in the States near the end of May. It will be a 2-hour episode preceded by an hour-long special featuring out-takes and interviews with cast members. Paramount Television will also present a five-hour TNG Viewers Choice Marathon around the same time. Hosted by Jonathan Frakes the marathon will include the five 'all-time favourite' TNG episodes selected by fans via a phone poll. (Chicago Tribune 24/4/94)

- Christian Slater shows up in a TNG episode as a gruesome alien. Slater, a lifelong Trek fan, also played a cameo role in STVI. (The People 3/4/94)

STNG - 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
19/03/94	#271 Genesis
26/03/94	#272 Journey's End
23/04/94	#273 First Born
30/04/94	#274 Bloodlines
07/05/94	#275 Emergence
14/05/94	#276 Preemptive Strike
21/05/94	#277 All Good Things

A Short Episode Synopsis:-

#271 Genesis: Directed by Gates McFadden, Barclay is back and finds that he is missing a type of cell that fights a virus he contracts. Dr. Crusher 'fixes' the problem, but when

Picard and Data return to the Enterprise, they find that the 'fix' has caused the virus to devolve everyone on the ship! Worf becomes a sex-hungry animal, Riker a Neanderthal-man and Troi a... Fish???

#272 Journey's End: Wil Wheaton returns, this time in a bigger Wesley role than his cameo in "Parallels". Written by Ron Moore, it will involve the Traveller once again. While Picard is forced to relocate a group of American Indians from a planet they have settled, one of the colonists causes Wesley to re-examine his future and questions his duties... will he lead a rebellion against Picard? Unsubstantiated rumours suggest a more sinister Wesley...

#273 First Born: A time travel episode where the Enterprise encounters a ship from the future, and a mysterious family friend arrives to help transform Worf's reluctant son Alexander into a warrior. Lursa, B'etor and Quark also turn up in this episode.

#274 Bloodlines: Daimon Bok from the season 1 episode "The Battle" returns for his revenge on Picard, who discovers that he has a son, and that the young man has been targeted for murder.

#275 Emergence: Another Beverly episode where a new life form is created in the holodeck, and the Enterprise develops consciousness and acts on its own, but its actions may doom the crew.

#276 Preemptive Strike: Directed by Patrick Stewart. Ensign Ro, played by Michelle Forbes, is back and on an undercover mission.

#277 All Good Things: Q and Tasha Yar are back! It takes place in the past (to Farpoint, when Tasha was still alive and Riker had no beard), the present, and the future (where Picard is dying). Riker steps aside for Worf and Troi to further their relationship. Guest stars include John DeLancie as Q, Colm Meany as O'Brien, and Denise Crosby as Tasha Yar.

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

April brings a DS9 episode featuring William Campbell, Michael Ansara and John Colicos, who reprise their classic Trek roles as Koloth, Kang and Kor respectively. The trio of old Klingons attempt to overtake DS9. (info High Trek 18/2/94.)

Starburst 189 says that rumours suggest that the season final will mark the end of the road for one of the show's regular characters.

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
01/01/94	#431 Rivals
08/01/94	#432 The Alternate
29/01/94	#433 Armageddon Game
05/02/94	#434 Whispers
12/02/94	#435 Paradise
19/02/94	#436 Shadow Play
26/02/94	#437 Playing God
19/03/94	#438 Profit and Loss
26/03/94	#439 Blood Oath
23/04/94	#440 The Maquis, part I
30/04/94	#441 The Maquis, part II
07/05/94	#442 The Wire
14/05/94	#443 Crossover
21/05/94	#444 The Collaborator
11/06/94	#445 Tribunal
18/06/94	#446 The Dominion

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 and Sisko finds himself relieved of command! Guest stars Frank Langella.

#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. In this episode there will also be a close encounter with the Borg...

#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).

#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.

#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.

#431 Rivals: Quark's empire is threatened when Martus, a charming and shrewd swindler, arrives on DS9 and opens up Club Martus in an attempt to put him out of business. Can Quark con a con man?

#432 The Alternate: Odo's mentor arrives on DS9 intent on resuming his search for Odo's true origin, but why does havoc follow him?

#433 Armageddon Game: Bashir and O'Brien help two alien races destroy a dangerous biological weapon, only to become the next victims to be sacrificed as part of the peace process. Now they must fight for their lives, but is it a struggle they are doomed to lose?

#434 Whispers: O'Brien returns from a security mission to notice that the entire crew has seemingly turned against him.

#435 Paradise: Sisko and O'Brien are stranded on a planet inhabited by Humans who have rejected any form of technology, and the leader of a Utopian society there attempts to seduce Sisko into embracing her way of life.

#436 Shadow Play: Odo and Dax try to solve the mystery of a alien planet whose

inhabitants are disappearing without explanation, but are they next?

#437 Playing God: While hosting her first Trill initiate, Dax discovers a tiny, developing universe, which threatens to destroy the station as it expands.

#438 Profit And Loss: Quark episode that also features a female Cardassian. When Quark is reunited with the love of his life, a Cardassian who is now a fugitive, he is ready to sacrifice everything to win her back. 'Plain simple Garak' the Cardassian tailor is back as well.

#439 Blood Oath: Three TOS Klingons are back to fulfil a blood oath that they made with Curzon Dax, but are understandably not quite convinced that Jadzia Dax is the same person! She risks her future with Starfleet to fulfil her oath and avenge her godson's murder. Guest stars include William Campbell as Koloth (reprising his role from The Trouble with Tribbles), John Colicos as Kor (Errand of Mercy), and Michael Ansara as Kang (Day of the Dove). They will be in TNG Klingon makeup.

#440 The Maquis, part I: Sisko uncovers a Federation terrorist group who retaliate against the Cardassians (these people are possibly the group that the Voyager will be chasing in the pilot to Star Trek: Voyager). Their actions could start another war with the Cardassians.

#441 The Maquis, part II: Sisko and Gul Dukat join forces in an effort to avert a war between the Cardassians and a group of Federation colonists led by Sisko's old friend.

#442 The Wire: Reportedly an Garak/Bashir episode. More background on both these characters is given and Bashir fights to save Garak, who is slowly being killed by a brain implant to which he is addicted.

#443 Crossover: An "alternate universe" episode. A mishap in the wormhole sends Kira and Bashir into an alternate universe where Bajor is a tyrannical power and Humans are slaves. Can Kira stop her ruthless double from killing Bashir?

#444 The Collaborator: Vedicks Wynn and Bareil fight it out once more. Rumours speculate that in this episode Kai Opaka will make an appearance. It was also speculated that the election for the Kai would finally take place.

#445 Tribunal: O'Brien is arrested by the Cardassians and shipped to the Cardassian homeworld for trial. Directed by Avery Brooks.

#446 The Dominion: Season finale where The Dominion are finally introduced. Also, another new villain joins the fray.

MISC

- BIG Entertainment has obtained the rights to a never-before published character and a universe created by the late Gene Roddenberry. The announcement was made by Majel Barrett to thousands of fans in attendance at the Annual Star Trek Grand Slam II Convention in Pasadena, California.

Roddenberry created a never-before published futuristic character and universe that BIG Entertainment plans to develop for comic books, paperback books and other media.

Additional characters and storylines will be added by Majel Barrett and D.C. Fontana.

Majel Barrett, addressing fans commented, "I look forward to having BIG Entertainment bring Gene Roddenberry's characters to life... I personally am delighted as well to have this opportunity to create my own characters ..." (info Ernie Over)

The character is Ranger, a heroic DNA clone whom Roddenberry created in the early 70s but never thoroughly developed. Barrett and Fontana have placed Ranger on a dinosaur-filled planet in the Andromeda Galaxy and given him some pretty odd travelling companions, including an asexual test-tube child and an 18-inch-tall troublemaker who is a cross between a Crip and a Blood. (info) TV Guide.

- **"Bill's Last Legacy"** by Bjo Trimble, Space-Time Continuum Jan/Feb 1994. Bill Theiss's Star Trek costumes were auctioned last December. Many items went

high: William Shatner's Kirk shirt: \$16,000; his Court Martial tunic: \$10,000; his Plato's Stepchildren costume: \$5,000. Leonard Nimoy's 2 tunics \$8,000 and \$ 7,475. Deforest Kelley's Court Martial dress tunic \$9,000; Nichelle Nichols 2 Mirror, Mirror outfits: \$6,000 & \$4,000 and so on. A ST communicator went for \$4,500 and a phaser for \$3,500.

Profits from the Theiss collection went to Project Angel Food, a service group which prepares and delivers food to AIDS victims.

- Daily Telegraph 3/2/94. Stephen Leahy, the man behind such hits as The Krypton Factor and You've Been Framed, is behind a show called To Boldly Go, a show based entirely on knowledge of events and characters in Star Trek. It is not clear from the article which country is developing this show but I don't think it is Britain.

- The War Cry 5/2/94 had a cover article about the bible being translated into Klingon.

- **"If Star Trek can grow up, why can't the nation?"** The Atlanta Journal 8/2/94. Debra Saunders prefers TNG over the original series because TNG offers equal opportunity to women and also because conflict resolution has replaced fists as the arbiter of first resort. But while she feels that Star Trek has grown up with TNG she feels that the US government lags behind.

- **"Inspired by the Enterprise"** Star Tribune 21/2/94. Star Trek lauded for promoting science, research. Article about how Star Trek promotes science. Frederik Pohl told a gathering of scientists at the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual meeting in San Francisco that the Star Trek series has become the most famous work of science fiction in history. The reason for the show's remarkable success, said Naren Shankar, a writer for TNG, is the original vision of Gene Roddenberry. At its core, his vision wasn't about technology, it was about people who use technology.

- **"Jabber the Hunt"** Evening Standard 23/3 **"Quob Klow!"** Today. The BACC (ITV's monitoring body) demanded an English translation of the Klingon script in the TNG

Pizza Hut advert before they would pass it. The advert is set aboard the Klingon space ship and the USS Enterprise is giving chase and closing in fast. The dialogue goes as follows:

Klingon Leader (anxiously): Quob Klow?

The crew: Klow doha Ritke Bech Plic!

And the translation:

"What now?"

"Now we hit the Hut?"

- DC Comics and Malibu have announced a TNG/DS9 four issue crossover series, the first two issues will be released in October. (Comic Buyer's Guide 25/3/94)

- **"Captain Kirk beams into science"** Glasgow Herald 5/4/94. There has been a recent announcement that the crew of the Enterprise are to make an educational video to encourage children to study science subjects - and that project may extend to Britain.

- Evening Times 5/4/94
A splinter group of writers from ST and DS9 have teamed up to create Shatterworld, a TV pilot about a spaceship set 100 years in the future. Shatterworld is run by a woman.

- **Denise Crosby on QVC**

Denise talked about why she left TNG. She wanted more to do but admitted that it is difficult with a nine-person cast to feature all members equally. With this particular show, Gene explained to Denise quite honestly and kindly that it would always be about the captain and perhaps the first officer and Data. It's a formula that works and they were going to stick with it... (info CCSTSG Enterprises)

- To anyone who saw Entertainment Tonight's ST Edition 8/5/94 and saw a Star Trek Theme Bar in London - it's Pages Wine Bar, 75 Page Street, Westminster SW1. Tel: 071 834 6791. Star Trek nights are on Saturdays between 7-11pm. (info Barbara Ellams)

- **The TV Voyage Ends** TV Guide 14-20/5/94. This magazine includes a number of articles to commemorate the screening of the final episode of TNG on May 23rd.

"The Magnificent Seven" covers some of the

cast's feelings about the cancellation of TNG and the end of filming and the cast give their Star Trek Memories.

Jonathan Frakes: "If there's any truth to the rumour that our show makes Paramount 580 million a year, why in God's name do they take off the cash cow? But they don't ask us, do they? One wonders if they aren't going to the well one too many times. I hope not. But it's certainly got to be a fear the creators have."

There was no official farewell for TNG, in fact the last time all seven regulars appear on camera together actually occurs five days before the series wraps.

Michael Dorn tried to have a conversation with one of the TNG producers about the frustrating lack of a farewell. "But," he says, "she was [more interested] in talking about going on to Voyager. She's on her way and I felt like an old shoe. It's sorta like [they are saying], 'Hey, we've got a new group showing up, it's been wonderful, see ya later, have a good finale.'" "There was a different feeling when we first came aboard. If there was an answer you needed, you could always go right to Gene - and the answer made sense. It was well thought out because it was *his* vision. And we're a kind of conglomerate now. We're lost in the machinery."

As the final setup begins, the players gather one by one in Riker's quarters, determined to turn the atmosphere buoyant.

Frakes, taking a chair, begins to hum the TNG theme song. A moment later, Spiner joins in. So, then, does Stewart. And Burton. And then... it's a free for all. A glorious chorus of swaying, arm-waving Enterprisers booms out round after round after round, interrupted only by the plaintive cry of Sirtis who is staring, dazed and confused, at her out-of-date script.

"Why are everybody else's pages yellow when mine are cherry?" asks the tear-stained beauty. Dorn pretends to sob.

"Since this is our last day, there's something I've been meaning to tell you all," says Stewart, as he puts his arm romantically around a burly, mustachioed stagehand. Frakes laughs. So does Dorn. So does Burton. Another chorus of the TNG theme begins... but it is interrupted by finale director Winrich Kolbe. It's time to get

serious.

Sirtis (who has since been handed the new, yellow pages) quickly runs her lines in a goofy Cockney accent. McFadden, as if saving herself for the take, delivers hers in monotone. The boys giggle through theirs. Before the cameras roll, Kolbe tries to achieve a smoother sense of pace with the dialogue, but he can't because Frakes flubs a line. Then he flubs it again. Then he flubs it *again*.

Finally, the exasperated Frakes shrugs, throws his hands hopelessly in the air and says, "Hey, what are they gonna do --- FIRE ME????!!!"

In "Trek Techs" Richard James, Michael West More, Robert Blackman and Dan Curry reveal trick of the space trade.

"Mrs Roddenberry Speaks Her Mind"

Majel is disappointed that she is not part of the finale - she says that of all people she should have been there.

Majel is [very unhappy] about Joel Engel's biography of Gene Roddenberry which paints Gene in a very bad light. Worse yet, the author got a few of Gene's former setside cronies to back this up on record. "I was rather shocked to see some of them [quoted in the book] because all during Gene's lifetime they were calling him 'friend, friend, friend.' An then to hear the venom that comes after he's gone! It just shows you who the --- -kissers were."

Majel says Engle (who penned a similarly dark biography on Rod Sterling), is one of those people who'd accuse Santa Clause of abusing children...

"Gene instilled hope and a brightness in people. He gave us reason to look forward to the future and he did it with a great deal of love and energy... People like [Engel] disgust me. What he's done reflects more on his own attitude and self-image than that of his subject."

Majel has some thoughts on the bizarre cancellation of TNG: "Paramount has come up with a whole bunch of excuses and reasons - but so far none of them holds water..." "Maybe it's Rick Berman. Maybe he just wants to go on to something that has no more of Gene Roddenberry in it." *Berman has been left* "with the [burden] of the whole thing. If nothing is out there with Gene's name on it, it might make Rick's role a little easier. I could [understand] that."

Majel is negotiating with Simon & Schuster to pen her own Trek memoirs.

TV Guide also includes an appreciation of TNG by Ursula K Le Guin.

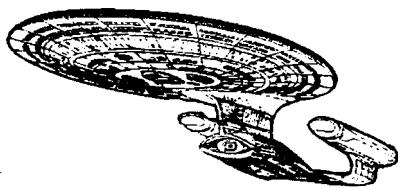
(Many thanks to Fiona McDonald for sending this magazine so quickly.)

• "'Generation' Ex" Entertainment Weekly, 6/5/94. Another article about the demise of TNG. Most of the cast don't understand why TNG is being cancelled when it is so successful. Rick Berman says that the decision to cancel the show was made 2 years ago. Paramount's answer: "It's always tough to cancel a series that's doing that's doing as well as Next Generation," says Joel Berman (no relation to Rick), the studio's executive vice president of domestic television. "But the bottom line is that a successful feature-film franchise can be more profitable than a TV series. We thought it was time to launch Next Generation as a movie franchise, and we didn't think we could do a television series at the same time. Why would people go to the movie theatres to see Next Generation if new episodes were available on TV every week? The movie wouldn't be as special."

Not everyone is broken up about the series cancellation. "Right now I'm in plain old denial," says Brent. "I've absolutely no feelings about it whatsoever. I'm serious. To me, it's just another season-ender, like all the others." Patrick Stewart feels has given his best work on the series and needs to move on to something else.

This is an excellent article with some unusual b&w photos of the cast. The front cover folds out to a b&w photo of the cast of TNG in civvies. Inside are individual studies of each member of the cast.

If anyone would like a photocopy of the relevant parts of the magazine, send an SAE, A4 envelope to Alan Stephen, 45 Collieston Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB22 8WP.



From STAR TREK CREATOR: The Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry

by David Alexander

Epilogue

Space. The final frontier...

On September 24, 1992, eleven months to the day Gene died, a letter was sent to Daniel S. Goldin, Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on Mount Wilson Institute stationery.

Dear Mr. Goldin:

We would like to add our endorsement to the nomination of Gene Roddenberry for the posthumous award of a NASA Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

Gene Roddenberry's creative genius opened the imaginations of hundreds of millions to the fact that the remarkable achievements of NASA are only the first step in an advancing technology that will carry humankind away from humanity's birthplace and out to the stars -- perhaps to join the even larger and more diverse community of intelligent life in the Cosmos.

We respectfully urge that NASA consider the award of the Medal for Distinguished Public Service to Gene Roddenberry coincident with the first anniversary of Gene's death on October 24th, 1991.

Sincerely,

Huge Downs
ABC News

Robert Jastrow
Director
Mount Wilson Institute

Schedules did not permit the award to be given on the first anniversary of Gene's death, but shortly thereafter, on January 30, 1993, Majel accepted the Distinguished Public Service Medal for Gene from Daniel Goldin at a ceremony held at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C.

The citation accompanying the medal read:

"For distinguished service to the

Nation and the human race in presenting the exploration of space as an exciting frontier and a hope for the future."

There was another honor NASA accorded Gene, but of a more private nature. This private tribute brought to light the true faces of NASA's people, revealing the poetry hidden in their hearts. It was something they all knew was right in the doing.

In October, 1992, a year after his death, a canister of Gene's ashes was sent to Houston to the care and keeping of astronaut Jim Wetherbee. The ashes were transferred from the canister they were shipped in and sealed in a slightly larger machined stainless steel cylinder. Accompanied by a 5" x 7" American flag the cylinder was carried on board the Space Shuttle, inventoried only as part of the several pounds of personal property each astronaut is permitted.

On a giant column of fire and smoke the Space Shuttle Columbia rose into the sky above Florida, taking a small part of Gene along with it. Gene Roddenberry had made it into space, if only symbolically. He was part of our evolution into a space faring society and his contribution was being honoured by the people who had turned imagination into reality. It was a unique tribute for a man whose vision inspired many of the people whose creativity and skill took him into space that day. By their actions, their generosity of spirit, with this quiet, simple tribute, NASA showed that Gene's optimistic vision of humanity's future, his *Star Trek* dream, lived on.

Gene would have loved it.

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Many thanks to David for faxing this through. It arrived after the newsletter was compiled, but we wanted to fit it in.



Star Trek IN THE NEWS



compiled by Janet Qarton

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

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 96** Apr/ May 1994. Articles in this issue include: The latest news on Star Trek; new books; Personal Log by Bjo Trimble; Dennis Madalone-Stuntman; Gates McFadden; An Interview with Bob Justman; Data Access by Richard Arnold; Max Grodenchik; Offspring; ST Merchandise.

• **STARLOG 201** April 1994. Includes articles on TNG Computer games, Jonathan Del Arco (who plays the Borg, Hugh, in TNG episodes I Borg and Descent), Siddig El Fadil (Dr Bashir, DS9)

• **TV ZONE 53** April 1994. Includes part 2 of an article on director Paul Lynch.

• **TV ZONE 54** May 1994. Includes an article on director Corey Allen.

• ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS

Issue 65 - Article on James Doohan plus episode guides to Man of the People and Relics.

Issue 66 - Article on Star Trek Books plus episode guides to Schisms and True Q.

Issue 67 - Article on Michelle Forbes plus episode guides to Rascals and A Fistful of Datas.

Issue 68 - Article on the Cardassian Threat plus episode guides to The Quality of Life and Chain of Command Pt.1.

Issue 69 - Article on the The Moral Dilemma plus episode guides to Chain of Command and Ship in a Bottle.

• **STARBURST 187** March 1994. Includes an

interview with Felecia Bell about her role as Jennifer Sisko in the DS9 pilot Emissary.

• **STARBURST 188** April 1994. Includes an interview with William Shatner about Star Trek and TekWar.

• **STARBURST 189** May 1994. Includes an article about Rick Sternbach.

• **STARBURST SPECIAL #19 - MONSTER SPECIAL.** This includes an interview with Mark Shephard who plays Morn in DS9 plus an article about the 'Monsters' in Star Trek.

• **ST: THE NEXT GENERATION 28** (Starlog) Articles on Gates McFadden, Dennis Bayley (one of the writers on Tin Man), Halley Todd (who played Lal in The Offspring), Adam Nimoy (who directed Rascals), James Kahan (who wrote The Masterpiece Society), Steve Gerber & Beth Woods (who wrote Contagion); plus the episodes Dark Page, Attached, Force of Nature, Inheritance, Parallels.

• **ST: DEEP SPACE NINE 6** (Starlog) Articles on Selected Ferengi Rules of Acquisition, Max Grodenchik (who plays Aron, Aron Eisenberg (who plays Nog), Lisa Rich & Jeanne Carrigan Fauci (writers), Marc Alaimo (who plays Gul Dukat), Evan Carlos Somers (writer) plus the episodes Cardassians, Melora.

• **"Welcome Back to Star Trek"** Daily Telegraph 7/3/94. General article mentioning Page's Bar in London.

• **"Star Show is One In a Millennium"** Look 27/3/94. Article about IDIC member Adrian Brown from Aberdeen. Adrian has a large Star Trek collection.

There was also an article about Adrian in the News of the World 10/4/94, although this is not the best place to discuss fall outs

with your friends.

• **"It's Bingo, Jim"** Daily Record 2/4/94

Article about bingo clubs using computers - "it means bingo halls all over the country could turn into lookalikes of the bridge on the Starship Enterprise".

• "Watch this Space" TV & Sat Weekly 2/4/94. Article about DS9 returning to Sky One.

• **"Spock shows some Enterprise"** Sunday Mail 3/4/94. Article about Spock's amorous pursuits in All Our Yesterdays.

• **"Star's Trek to Glasgow"** Evening Times 7/4/94. Article about the forthcoming convention, Contagion, with special guest Michael Dorn.

• **"Beam me up, Swotty"** The Sun 8/4/94

Article about Jackie Allen who won a challenge to identify original Trek episodes after watching a five second clip in the TV series You Bet. Jackie also answered more than 100 calls on the Sun's hotline and only got 3 questions wrong.

• **"Pat's New Frontier"** 9/5/94

Article about Patrick Stewart and the episode Family.

• Various papers have carried articles about the rift between James Doohan and William Shatner. Now various papers have printed articles, quoting William Shatner, saying that they have now healed the rift. "Jimmy has expressed himself as having some antipathy but I think he is confused," said Shatner. "I kissed him on both cheeks when I left the set last night and we parted as friends so I hope he still respects me." (Glasgow Evening Times 7/4/94)

• **"Tribble in Space"** Entertainment Weekly 8/4/94. A review of Joel Engle's unauthorized biography of Gene Roddenberry. This is a nasty piece of work and apparently all the actors except Leonard Nimoy refused to be interviewed for it. Watch out for the authorized biography by David Alexander which will be out soon.

• **"It's Captain Flirt"** The Sun 22/4/94.

When he was asked to say, "My name's James T. Kirk and I have a girlfriend on 50 planets," for a CD Rom version of ST: 25th Anniversary, William Shatner objected, saying "It's not the sort of thing Kirk would do." Interplay persuaded Shatner the phrase was a deliberately wrong statement as part of the game, so he agreed to do it. The game is out now for £49.99.

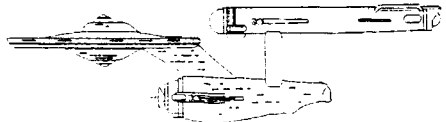
• **"£100m Telly Space Race"** Daily Star 22/4/94. General article about sf series coming to our screens.

• **"Out of the World"** TV & Sat Weekly 7-13th May, 1994. A general article about SF on TV. For Blake's Seven fans, it starts showing on UK Gold in June.

• **"End of an era is set to stun"** Sunday Express 8/5/94. Article about the TNG series coming to an end. It quotes Joel Berman, Paramount's executive vice president of domestic television, as saying, "The bottom line is that a successful feature-film franchise can be more profitable than a TV series."

• **"He's selling Hollywood"** Sunday Mail 8/5/94. Richard L. Wilson has a mail order business called Norma's Jeans and he sells Hollywood souvenirs. You can buy a 3" square of fabric from a Star Trek uniform for £17.

• **Star Trek Double Spectacular** National Enquirer 17/5/94. Article about the final episode of TNG and Star Trek Generations, with colour pictures. The article contains a synopsis of All Good Things and Star Trek Generations.





Cast & Crew NEWS



compiled by Janet Quarton

• **Gene Roddenberry** - as a number of papers have reported, Gene's ashes were taken into space on the space shuttle Columbia.

"My sincerest and most heartfelt thanks are extended to NASA for this wonderful tribute to Gene's legacy. Commander James Weatherbee took Gene's ashes into orbit on the flight of STS-52 in October of 1992. Details of this historic flight are contained in the Epilogue of Gene's official biography, by David Alexander."

The Arts and Entertainment Network, more commonly known as A&E, will feature Gene in its Biography series. Produced by Weller-Grossman Productions of Los Angeles, this made-for-television program will be broadcast nationally [USA] on July 14th and again in October.
(info from Majel Barrett via Ernie Over)

• **Majel Barrett** was on QVC's Jewellery show in the States in April. They were selling selected jewellery items from Lincoln Enterprises. Her next appearance is tentatively scheduled for July 1st and 2nd.

Majel was recently in Florida for the 31st Space Congress in Cocoa Beach. McDonnell-Douglas officials arranged a visit to the Kennedy Space Centre which included a visit and close-up look at the shuttle Endeavor.
(info from Majel Barrett via Ernie Over)

• **William Shatner** gave interviews on Radio One, This Morning and Surf Potatoes and at London Tonight. Bill was not over in Britain, as far as I know these interviews were all done at much the same time, when he finished his first session of filming on STVII.

"**Kirk's Kling-on**" Sun 2/5/94. William Shatner had a close encounter of the painful kind when he was introduced to a gorilla at a wildlife park. As he approached the gorilla its arm shot down and grabbed him by the

klingsons. Bill admitted on Channel 4's Surf Potatoes show, "It brought tears to my eyes."

• **Leonard Nimoy** - Mickey Spillane, Mickey Mouse and Leonard Nimoy were among the celebrities who gathered at Walt Disney World last month for Big Entertainment's unveiling of its upcoming Tekno Comic line.

Nimoy is developing a futuristic storyline with the working title, Homecoming, in which aliens who once inhabited Earth had to leave due to an environmental disaster, and have returned with animals which Earth hasn't seen in a very long time. (Dialogue 4/94)

• **James Doohan** - an article which included a nice colour photo of Jimmy appeared in Look 27/3/94. He insists that "Beam me up, Scotty" was never said. "It was the fans who added the word Scotty."

"I have heard 'Beam me up, Scotty' at 70 miles an hour 4 lanes across the motorway. Even Elvis Presley said it. He was driving a big Rolls limousine and I had a Triumph Convertible at the time. He leaned out the window and said, 'Beam me up, Scotty.' As I walked past Groucho Marx one day he said, 'Beam me up, Mr Scott' out of the side of his mouth..."

• **Grace Lee Whitney** - Grace was on QVC in the States in January. She said that she and costume designer Bill Theiss developed the "miniskirt" uniform for the women because she didn't like the unisex costumes from the pilots. Indeed, Grace encouraged the sexy look for the Star Trek crewwomen because when she thought of women in space, images of Flash Gordon with women in tight belts came to mind.

When asked about William Shatner she said, "He's an interesting character. One minute you love him; the next minute you're frustrated with him." Whitney said Shatner was fabulous to work with as an actor, but he

was oblivious of the other characters because he was concentrating very intently on creating Kirk. "It was hard to get through to him," she said, but insisted he has mellowed over the years. "I follow [his work] very closely." She also said that Shatner was easy to have a crush on. "In *Enemy Within* when he grabs... and holds you, you know you're hanging onto a hunk." (info CCSTSG Enterprises.)

"Whitney triumphs over black hole of recklessness" High Trek 6/5/94. Grace explains how she believed she was written out of the original series because of her drink problem. She then went through a bad time, turning from booze to drugs. She eventually found help via a 12-step program and has been clean and sober since 1981. A major turning point came for her when Leonard Nimoy asked her to appear in *Star Trek III* and *STIV*. She then found out that they really did decide to write Rand out because they wanted Kirk to have more affairs. "They thought Kirk and Rand were too close and it would give Kirk a bad reputation." The news was music to Rand's ears. "It justifies me as an actress, restores my reputation."

• **Patrick Stewart** -

"Star's Trek Home" Daily Express 21/4/94. Patrick may be coming home to Britain soon. He won the "best entertainment" accolade at the recent Olivier Awards for *A Christmas Carol*. Says one who knows him well: "He is grateful for *Star Trek* but winning the award from his British peers has given him renewed confidence to try his luck back home again."

Daily Mail 22/4. Patrick Stewart is expected to star in a revival of Edward Albee's classic drama *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in London this autumn. Producer Duncan Weldon hopes to persuade David Thacker to stage it.

• **Jonathan Frakes** and his wife Genie Francis are expecting their first child in August.

• **Wil Wheaton** returns to TNG in the episode *Journey's End*. Wil has been living in Kansas and working for a high-tech computer company called NewTek. In January he resigned from NewTek and

returned to Los Angeles, where he is taking acting lessons and pursuing film and television roles. (High Trek 25/2/94)

• **Brannon Braga** has written or co-written more than 20 ST episodes and has risen to the position of co-producer. He has co-written the series final, *All Good Things...*, and the screenplay for *STVII*. Braga was placed as an intern on "Next Gen" after winning a fellowship from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. He was given an assignment to re-write *Reunion* and after it received a very favourable response he just never left. With TNG finishing he will probably join the writing team for *Voyager*. Beyond that he hopes to direct some day and produce other series. He is sure he will keep on writing. He wants to progress creatively. (High Trek 8/4/94)

• **William Campbell** reprises his role as Koloth in the DS9 episode *Blood Oath*. Campbell, who at one time was up for the role as Picard, says he had a ball returning to Trek.

Campbell's career stretches back to the late 1940's. His most intriguing credit is probably, "Love Me Tender" (1956), in which he played Elvis Presley's brother. These days Campbell, who is in his late 60's, is semi-retired. He does work for California's Motion Picture Home, a health-care facility for retired actors. (He served as its director for 15 years.)

Campbell attends numerous Trek cons and loves to travel with his wife Tereza, a former actress. (High Trek 25/3/94)

• **Ernie Over** - our friend and honorary member, Ernie, has announced that, after six years, he is leaving his job with the Roddenberry family to return to the Rocky Mountains, where he will be entering business with his brother.

Ernie's replacement as Majel's Personal Assistant is Hal Bodner. Hal has a solid background in the entertainment business and will be a valuable asset to the family. Ernie says that Hal is a personal friend so the job is "staying in the family" so to speak.

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

reach addressee. When writing to an actor always enclose a self-addressed envelope and an International Reply Coupon (available at main Post Offices.)

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

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

Exceptions:

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

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

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

The following info is extracted from Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum, Jan/Feb 94. See zine ads for ordering details.

• **Update on LA earth quake.**

Paramount Pictures sustained damage only in the new Marathon building. TNG & DS9 lost a couple of days shooting due to slight damage on the sets. Some STVII set damage was reported but it would not change the shooting schedule.

As we reported in the last newsletter **Majel Barrett-Roddenberry** and **Richard Arnold** lost china and crystal.

Rick Berman had serious structural damage to his home.

DeForest & Caroline are fine but their house has serious structural damage and anything made of glass or china was smashed, including Caroline's animal collection.

Walter Koenig lost some of his Disney collection.

Nichelle Nichols had a lot of damage to her home.

Michael & Denise Okuda had furniture tossed around but they are fine.

Marina Sirtis recently had her house shored up and it stood steady despite houses on both sides falling down the canyon.

Gary Speckman (TNG Set designer) and **Joy Zapata** (TNG Hairdresser) both lost their homes.

Those with pets say that the pets were upset but not hurt.

• **George Takei** plays Dr Valentine, a drunken physician and android repairman in the fantasy-Western parody, *Oblivion*, filmed in Romania. George says the storyline has a 'Seven Samurai' flavour. The actors stayed in an old palace on an island in a lake; it had once been an insane asylum but is now a hotel.

A fake agent took money to book George for chain-store manager's seminar but never told George. When they did not get replies from queries the organisers contact the Screen Actors Guild and got George's real agent's address. George rushed over to give last minute talk on team work, using Star Trek and the Enterprise crew as his theme.

• **Walter Koenig** hosted *The Making of Babylon 5* and he appears in an episode called *Mind Wars*. His son Andrew played the alien leader's son in the DS9 episode *Sanctuary*.

• **Patrick Stewart** appeared on *Saturday Night Live* on Feb 5th. It included a TNG Loveboat sketch.

Patrick is a director of ACTOR - Alliance for Creative Theatre Education and Research. He recently performed a benefit of *Shylock* for the organisation.

Patrick narrates *The Planet* - a video using NASA space footage, animation and FX.

• **LeVar Burton** and his wife are expecting their first child.

• **Jonathan Frakes** and **Michael Dorn** are working to put low budget movies together after TNG is cancelled.

• **Michael Piller** say he may leave Star Trek at the end of the 93-94 season to find his own project and franchise.

• **Colm Meaney** is getting rave reviews for his movie work. He appears in *Into the West*, in the CBS mini-series *Scarlett*, *The Road to Wellville* and *The Snapper*.





MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOK UPDATE

The following list of proposed books is from TV Zone 54 and is subject to change.

- May STTNG 30: Debtor's Planet by Thompson
STDS9 Betrayal by Louise Tilton
STTNG Make Up Effects Journal by Michael Westmore & Joe Nazzaro
- June ST 70: Lost Years #3 Traitor Winds by L A Graft
STTNG: All Good Things by Michael Jan Friedman. Last episode novelisation h/b
Starfleet Academy 4: Capture the Flag by John Vornholt
ST Adventure 6: Trek to Madworld by Stephen Goldin
All I Really Need To Know But I Learned from Watching Star Trek by Dave Marinaccio.
- July ST Shadows on the Sun by Michael Jan Friedman.
STTNG: Q-Squared by Peter David h/b?
- Aug STTNG 31: Foreign Foes by David Galanter
Starfleet Academy 5: Atlantis Station
ST Adventure 7: Planet of Judgement by Joe Haldeman.
- Sept STDS9 7: Warchild by Esther Freisner.
ST 71: Crossroads by Barbara Hamley.
- Oct STTNG 32: Requiem by Friedman & Ryan.
STDS9 Young Adult 3: Prisoners of Peace by John Peel.
- Nov STTNG Dark Mirror by Diane Duane
STDS9 8: Anti-Matter by John Vornholt
The Making of STDS9 by Gar & Judith Stevens.
- Dec ST 72: The Better Man by Howard Weinstein.
ST: Star Trek Federation by Gar & Judith Stevens. h/b
- STDS9 Young Adult 4: The Pet by Gilden & Peterson.
ST Adventure 9: Fate of the Phoenix by Marshak & Culbreath.

• VIDEO UPDATE

- 9th May
TNG 79 - Gambit Pt II/Phantasms
- DS9 13 - Cardassians/Melora
- 20th June
TNG 80 - Dark Page/Attached
- DS9 14 - Rules of Acquisition/Necessary Evil
- 4th July
TNG 81 - Force of Nature/Inheritance
- DS9 15 - Second Sight/Sanctuary
- 18th August
TNG 82 - Parallels/The Pegasus
- DS9 16 - Rivals/The Alternate

Note: TNG 78 starts with a brilliant/funny compilation from the original series, movies and TNG.

Does anyone know of any interesting clips at the start of other tapes?

• **Star Trek Creator, the Authorized Biography** by David Alexander. Published by Roc Books, a division of Penguin Books. I think this is due to be published in the States in June.

• **Gene Roddenberry, The Last Conversation**, written by Yvonne Fern - due this summer. This book is part of the Portraits of American Genius series by the University of California Press. (info Majel Barrett-Roddenberry/Ernie Over)

• DC Comics are releasing a comic book adaptation of TNG's final episode, All Good Things. This 64-page Special is written by Michael Jan Friedman, who also writes the Pocket Book adaptation of this episode. The Comic-book Special ships out on June 28th for \$3.95.

• **The Official Commissioning Plaque for the U.S.S. Enterprise NCC-1701-D**. Cast from the original moulds, as seen on the series. Crafted in cold-cast bronze, accented in gold and inscribed with the names of those

involved in the ship's creation, headed by Gene Roddenberry. £195 (£19.50 over 10 months). Franklin Mint Ltd., Bromley Road, London SE6 2XG.

• Hamilton Collection - Delays

Dean Anderson contacted The Raw Deal, (Sunday Post 8/5/94) because he had ordered the set of nine plates from Hamilton Collection and although he had received the first 8 by October 20th, 1993, there was no sign of the final plate of the Enterprise and letters and phone calls to Worcester brought no response.

Raw Deal contacted Hamilton Collection and was told that the delay was caused by production problems in the USA, the artwork hadn't been up to their high standards. It could be August before Dean receives his plate. Letters had been sent out explaining the problem but Dean hadn't received his because a spokesman said that a new computer, installed in February, had been playing up and had failed to notify customers of delays.

• **Star Trek Phone** Innovations are advertising a telephone shaped like the Enterprise for £89.99. Beware - there is a red triangle at it saying in very small print that you are prohibited from connecting it to the telephone system. Action can be taken against you if you are caught doing so.

• **ST:TNG PC Game** UK release Summer 1994. (info Bryan R Miller)

Spectrum Holobyte has three different TNG games on SNES, 3DO and PC. The PC version is a CD-ROM-only SVGA release, subtitled A Final Unity, in which the Enterprise is on a mission to discover the fifth scroll, necessary to "maintain the integrity of the galaxy", involving control of both the Enterprise and individual Away Team members when they beam down to any one of the hundreds of planets available. It looks much better than Interplay's Star Trek adventures.

If you haven't got a CD drive call PD Soft (PCF) on 0702-466933 for a shareware version of the above program.

• Sky are advertising various Star Trek items for sale including The Star Trek Encyclopedia, tee-shirts, Playmates replicas, mugs and videos. Check the teletext pages.

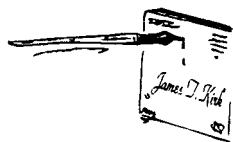
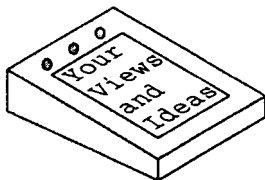
• If you don't have any shops selling books, magazines and merchandise near you we recommend the following shops which have an excellent mail order service. Send a A5 SAE with enquiries.

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

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

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they 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 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

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'.

• **R E Phillips - Telford, Shropshire**

In reply to Mrs V Lawrence's enquiry about uniforms. I have recently begun a costume-making business. We offer original TNG and DS9 uniforms at reasonable prices; for a catalogue, please send a SAE to 134 Catherton, Stirchley, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 1YZ.

Thank you Angrit Lower from Germany. I recently attended a con in Leicester and when asked which Star Trek I prefer, my answer of DS9 got a very shocked response from a lot of people. It's nice to know I'm not alone in liking all of Star Trek but preferring DS9.

• **Alison Neill - Portlethen, Aberdeen**

I've just finished reading my second newsletter and just wanted to write in and say 'Hi' to everyone.

I'd like to thank Scott MacMillan for making my first convention (Spacedock) such a welcoming experience (also my first encounter with some real live Klingons!) and I'm also very grateful to Alan Stephen for taking me under his Star Trek wing.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the newsletters, both of which I have read from cover to cover. I especially enjoy the letters pages - it's almost like eavesdropping into conversations. I am astounded at the knowledge people have about characters, episodes and especially their technical expertise - I can see that I have only scraped the surface of Star Trek. I love Classic Trek and TNG and I'm waiting for DS9 to grow on me. Things I'm looking forward to - Voyager; the next film; perhaps meeting some of you at Contagion 94.

• **Barry Spooner - Godalming**

My first year with IDIC will shortly be coming to an end and it's been thoroughly enjoyable. In the past year I've met someone very special through IDIC and found that

there are a large number of people who are interested in the world of Trek when I thought it was just me!! I look forward to many years to come, thank you to all the committee.

Don't knock comics (or graphic novels). I don't confess to being a fan of comics but if it makes someone find out more about Trek, albeit in a slightly more visual way, why not encourage it? After all, aren't comics and graphic novels just another part of Trek merchandise like Audio Books, which I happen to enjoy.

Has anyone played the TNG pinball game? I had a go on it at Southend; it's very good and very funny at times! I want one!

To Stephen Daniels - Having two Rikers in Second Chances did not really surprise me. Having a double of a regular cast member seems to be almost expected in Trek, just look at the evidence - two Kirks (The Enemy Within); two Spocks (Mirror, Mirror); two Picards (Time Squared, Allegiance); two Datas - well, Data and Lore (Datalore, Brothers, Descent). I'm sure there are others!

• **Lynne Collinson - Southsea**

I enjoy reading all the members' comments though I don't always feel confident enough to contribute. I enjoy the zine reviews - hopefully they will inspire more people to buy zines. I've stopped buying the professional novels because I found them a waste of money (with the exception of the excellent Imzadi). I too was surprised that Marysia Kolodziej rated Entropy Effect as very poor; I have read my copy so many times it is falling to pieces. It is very exciting and well crafted and the characterisation of Spock is much better than most other novels.

To Stephen Daniels - How dare you scoff at two Rikers! It's like a dream come true, swoon! And who cares that a great deal of dramatic and scientific licence is used - if the result of bending the laws of science is two Rikers, then I'm all for it!

• **Heather Fairgrieve - Plymouth**

Hardly seems a year since I joined - I'm really pleased I did! The newsletters are great - and more than value for money!

I especially like the zine reviews and ads - I'm slowly building up a collection of zines (Not so slowly as Sheila might say, I pester her once a week with my latest order. I've almost exhausted her list since January, her poor postman must dread collecting from her!) *[Sheila - He has a van. What he dreads are newsletter packing weeks, when the van is absolutely loaded down... On at least one occasion he had a puncture on a farm road after leaving me and had to unload ten sacks of newsletters to get his spare wheel...]*

I can only say, as a collector of every single Star Trek book published (I've managed to get hold of 146 to date) I found most zines excellent and many far superior to the 'professional' zines. Kay Stagg, Sandy Catchick, Nicole Comtet and the marvellous Gloria Fry are among my favourites.

• **Rosalyn D Holland - Solihull**

I was interested to read about Rupert Bean winning the \$64000 Question. I missed seeing this but I am very curious to know what the standard was like. Does anyone remember (or even have a transcript) of the questions? *[Sheila - How about it, Rupert?]*

I am (*exceedingly* glad to say) going on the Cruise Trek 94 Star Trek Convention in Alaska, out of Vancouver on May 24th. If any IDIC members will be there, I hope we can meet up. On the day before the ship sails, Richard Arnold is taking us on a tour of Vancouver, which should be very interesting since it is the city of his birth. After Cruise Trek I am going on to Los Angeles to see my family, so I hope all the earthquake problems are over by then - I'm a real coward at heart!

• **Pamela McDowall - Exeter**

To all those who feel that TV and films have a bad effect on Society - surely we haven't forgotten to use our thumb (R or L) to press the OFF button on the remote control of the video/TV set? We don't *have* to watch everything on the box, and if the write-up in the Radio/TV Times is misleading, it can

always be switched off when we realise what rubbish it is.

To Marysia Kolodziej - Watch it! As a 64-year-old, I feel I still have an active 20 or more years left to me, which is probably not enough time to achieve all my ambitions - I embroider, do patchwork and quilting, macrame, collect stamps (have just won a cup at our local club), run stamp clubs at two local schools (26 boys and girls in one, 32 girls in the other), amongst other things. Having just had my second cataract operation, also have a large pile of books and zines to catch up on. We golden oldies may feel embarrassed about going to cons (having had a heart attack five years ago I dislike large crowds), but life is still for living!

To Edward Woo - Your suggestion about disassembling the Runabouts and then rebuilding them is quite logical, but 'old hat'. When I lived in Bolivia, I crossed Lake Titicaca (the highest navigable lake in the world) on a paddle steamer which had been built on the Clyde at the turn of the century, sailed out to Chile via the Horn, taken to pieces and carried up the Andes on mule and llama and put back together.

• **Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent**

To Gillian Bent - I have one book written by Peter David that is not Star Trek. It is Body and Soul, of the Alien Nation book series. Like you I enjoy his books very much and this book is also excellent.

• **Philip Morley - Fleetwood, Lancs**

To Philippa Timms - I think the reason why Picard asked Captain Bateman in Cause and Effect what year it was as opposed to what the stardate was is for our benefit more than anything else, as it gives the viewer a better concept of how long the Bozeman was missing - which was about 90 years. If you think about it, stardates aren't an accurate measure of time. In TNG, we can take it that 1000 SD units are about 1 year in our time, hence the Enterprise is about 7 years old (its first mission was on SD 41153.7, and Descent Pt II took place on SD 47025.4). But in Classic Star Trek, Where No Man Has Gone Before took place on Stardate 1312.4, and Star Trek VI on SD 9522.6, which in TNG Stardate

terms means there is only a difference of about 9 years, but we know this is not true - it's more around 30 years.

On the subject of Starbases, who knows what happened to the one orbiting Earth as seen in the movies? Every time the Enterprise returns to Earth (Conspiracy, The Best of Both Worlds Pt II, Family, The First Duty, Times's Arrow Part I) we never see it. Was it dismantled?

To Clement Chung - Commander Riker clearly resented having Ensign Ro on board the Enterprise. It is understandable, her cocky attitude "It's better than prison", her disregard for orders, and so on. When he tells her to remove her ear-ring, he was doing it to lay down his feelings towards her, that being "I don't like you." Starfleet would usually let non-Federation personnel wear garments or jewellery that have a cultural or religious meaning to them, for example Worf wears his sash and other Starfleet Bajorans have been seen wearing their ear-rings (such as Cadet Sito in The First Duty), and in Future Imperfect, the Ferengi helmsman was seen wearing the shall around the back of his head.

• Gill Marks - Oxford

Re motherhood at 59 - to have a child at this age is selfish. He/she would be picked on mercilessly at school for having a 'granny' for a mum, and who, at twenty, wants to be caring for a 79-year-old while struggling to get set up in life oneself - ridiculous!

To Mrs V Lawrence - Re DS9 - I also hoped that one or two episodes would include some interaction between the DS9 crew and the Enterprise crew. How would Kira and Riker react to each other? Or would she be a better match for Captain Picard than the rather dull Lieutenant Commander in Lessons? I think Worf's funniest episode was in A Fistful of Datas - that wonderful hug from Data in drag at the end was priceless.

Re the degeneration of society - No, society wasn't better before TV, but it *was* better 20 years ago than it is today. People did seem to have an easier time finding a job.

It's poverty, lack of discipline at home and school and constant advertising for more and more expensive cars and goods which are damaging society. People are growing up respecting nothing and nobody, and just taking what they want. In our street it is becoming rare not to have been burgled, but I somehow can't believe that a film like Terminator is responsible.

And finally, my first year's membership in IDIC will soon be up, and I will definitely be renewing it. I've thoroughly enjoyed reading all the views and articles plus the very entertaining zines. Many thanks to Janet, Sheila, Valerie and Helen, and all other contributors to this great newsletter.

• Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham

I think TNG is going out with a bang! All the season 7 episodes I have seen have been great. Oh, sure there have been a couple of weak ones like Force of Nature, but even that has its moments. I've always liked the Picard and Beverly relationship, so as you can imagine, I was looking forward to watching Attached. The episode was good, but I couldn't believe Beverly! I've been waiting 7 years for them to get together and she messes it up!

To Jean Sloan, David J Raper, Marie I J Park. What's the Alton Towers saga? You all mentioned it in your George Takei con reports and my curiosity was piqued, but unfortunately you didn't elaborate. [*Sheila - George was scheduled to go to Alton Towers with Bill Shatner to do the honours when their monorail was opened. Bill made it; George was late. It was a perfect example of Murphy's Law. Everything that could possibly go wrong did. As George tells it, it's hilarious, but to get the full impact, you need to hear George tell it.*]

After watching the first few season 2 DS9 episodes, I have to say I don't like Sisko! I thought I would give him time and he'd grow on me, but no, I *still* don't like him. Sorry if this offends any Sisko fans but he lacks command presence and doesn't have 'that little bit extra' that Picard and Kirk have.

To Marwan Bukhari - A lack of racial minorities in ST fandom? I don't think so! The newest thing to hit the Asian Bhangra Music scene is a singer called Kaptain Kirk and his debut album is called Beam up the Bhangra! It's set to be a big hit!

• **Sheila Clark - Dundee**

To Keren Breen - Yes, I too said "Huh?" over Keiko O'Brien's becoming a teacher. I rationalised it by assuming that since there was no trained teacher on DS9, after the fashion of pioneering settlers one of the women (Keiko) who had had a good education took on the job rather than have the kids grow up illiterate. Actually, maybe that's why Keiko keeps on disappearing - she's not just visiting her relatives on Earth, she's doing a concentrated training course!

To Mandy Sampson - Re Charlie X. I think that it would have been a cop-out for the Thasians to have removed Charlie's powers. As it stands, the episode points out quite dramatically - tragically, if you like - that things done for the best of reasons (in this case, to save his life) don't always work out for the best in the long run.

Re humanoids scattered throughout the galaxy, especially Melora - the intelligent life of a very light-gravity planet would surely be insectoid (cf Prilicla in James White's Sector General stories) rather than mammalian.

Re bald races. With many alien races, we've only seen perhaps one of each sex. Any alien meeting Picard - and only Picard - would be entitled to think that Humans are hairless, and then meeting a single Human female (eg Crusher) be entitled to think that Human females have long hair while the males are hairless...

• **Glyn Holland - Willenhall, W. Midlands**

This is my first letter to IDIC, so forgive me if it sounds a little frivolous, but my hubby has come up with a few reasons (tongue very much in cheek) as to why Starfleet should not allow women as Captain.

1. She would never allow the ship to exceed its equivalent of 35 mph.

2. There would be a 'Baby on Board' sticker on at least half the ship's windows (and a rabbit in hammock on the rest).

3. If she ever had to navigate out of space dock (especially in reverse) there would be at least three attempts and a few dents.

4. She would always have her Mum as No. 1 so they could sit together on the bridge chatting non-stop throughout the entire voyage.

I hope you ladies have a sense of humour - no offence intended. Personally, I've forgiven him as he's turned a blind eye to my life-size poster of Data on the bedroom wall!!! Speaking of Mr Spinner, can anyone tell me what part he plays in Stardust memories?

• **Anne Gregory - Swadlincote, Derbyshire**

To Mel Daines - You're so lucky to have close contact with Bill Shatner. What do you think of Bill's 'Tek' books? I've read them all and really enjoyed them. I'm looking forward to seeing them brought to life on TV. I think Jake and Gomez make a good team. Any idea, Mel, when 'Tek' will debut over here?

Re the National Enquirer, April 26; Oh, dear, [he] is at it again. How many times do we have to read about your nasty remarks towards Bill Shatner? The world is full of hate and anger; you are just adding to it. I wish you would just sit down and talk to Bill, try and sort out your differences! It's much better to like someone than to hate someone. Telling tales out of school does nobody any good. Life's too short to hold such a grudge and devoted Shatner fans like myself don't like to see Bill being treated like this. I like your character and would like to see you getting along together. In the future, if you cannot say anything decent about Bill please don't say anything at all. Shatner fans don't want to hear your bad remarks about Bill any more.

• **Lesley Arrowsmith - near Hereford**

Re the geologists in Firestorm - I have on tape a documentary called The Volcanowatchers, in which the geologists paddle out into the middle of an acid lake in a rubber dinghy which is disintegrating as they

go. If the geologists in the book act like that, then the author is being completely true to life. The geologist's ambition, in the documentary, was to build a titanium canoe in which he could paddle down a lava flow!

NB - It's not Trek, but I'd like to mention Johnny and the Dead by Terry Pratchett. It's a book for older children in which a 12-year-old boy tries to save a cemetery which the council wants to sell off as a building site. Like all Terry Pratchett's books, it is extremely funny. I quote from a scene where one of the dead characters phones an all-night radio show.

"He tried Radio Blackburn.

" - yousayyousayyousah! And the next caller on Uncle Mad Jim's bodaaacious Problem Corner iiiiss - "

"William Stickers, Mad Jim."

"Hi, Bill. You sound a bit depressed to me."

"It's worse than that. I'm dead, Jim."

• Nicole Comtet - France

I found our three reports on Starbase 94 very interesting. . This proves the differences of interest that people find in a convention and the three reports, quite different in a way, completed one another and managed to give a rather good idea of what it had actually been.

I also enjoyed reading Bill Shatner's Star Trek Memories - but has anybody noticed how many pages of his book are directly transcribed from his 25th Anniversary Show at Sacramento with Leonard? I have both the video and audio tapes of their hilarious performance and in many parts the book is an exact transcription - or is it the other way round?

Last, in answer to one of Catherine Carter's questions in N/L 33 (What do the French think of Patrick Stewart being 'their American icon'. The French do not think anything about it (except a happy few) because they have no idea that such a thing as Star Trek NG exists. It has never been released on French TV. We have had the Original Series off and on (more off than on, I'm afraid) and the first four ST films only once or twice, I believe - ST V and VI have

never been shown on TV. Except among connoisseurs, Star Trek is still considered by public and media as 'kid's stuff'. However, if the French were to watch Patrick Stewart playing a French Captain on a Starship, I am pretty sure that their reaction would be, "There! Hollywood has struck again!", so ludicrous the very idea would seem to them. The sight of a supposed Frenchman (reared in a vineyard, mind you!) drinking tea and quoting Shakespeare right and left, would certainly not improve their opinion of Hollywood studios. I think that when he was selected for the part, they should have changed the character of the Captain accordingly. Exit Jean-Luc Picard, enter Jonathan, or Peter, or whatever, Smith, a pure British citizen from Bristol or the Midlands. It would have been more sensible and more honest. As for quoting Shakespeare, I don't think a Frenchman would quote even Victor Hugo; this would sound too pedantic.

• Janet Quarton - Lochgilphead, Argyll

Unlike Marysia Kolodziej I love the scenes at the end of the original series episodes. They were usually good relationship scenes and they weren't always funny. (ie Requiem for Mathusalah). On the odd occasion that these scenes were missing I actually felt cheated.

• Alberto Gorin - Holland

To Rory Smith - I was in the toy shop and bought NCC 1701. I tried to build it. I had *real* trouble with where the holdings were too small. I used normal plastic glue. I went to another toy shop and explained the problem. They advised me to use 2-component glue but that was a mess - there was so much glue, I threw the ship away.

So then with NCC 1701 with light and sound, again the same problem. I went then to a do-it-yourself business. They advised me to use one-second glue. Well, this 1701 did really work out, but wires broke and there were other problems.

So far I spent - non-electric 1701, about \$25; electronic, \$50. 2-component glue, \$10.

So then I bought a new NCC 1701

electronic. I used one-second glue. It wasn't perfect, but it did work out - and at last, it's ready! I cut the battery holder, because at night it's *great* to see the lights. I had serious trouble, but now it's all done, I use recharge batteries, every night I leave the lights on. It's *fantastic* to see it at night. Sounds come from one speaker - maybe not perfect. I bought 1701-D as well. The holder where the ship is on is too small; you might easily fail to put wires through the hole in it. I love to see the light at night, but agree it could be better.

I agree that Classic is something special, but TNG is another period of time. DS9 is no longer made by Gene Roddenberry. I like TNG as well, but Classic had exciting characters, were stronger, but was made in a time (60s) when men were heroes, women not so; nowadays it's fifty-fifty.

Can someone tell me if DS9 has a new Enterprise? What are runabouts?

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**

To Gloria Fry - Re 'real' Vulcans. The Vulcan captains in The First Duty and Emissary struck me as authentic. However I agree that there are also some very duff ones. Take the Vulcan Ambassador who turned up on DS9 (can't remember the episode). Awful!

To Keren Breen - I agree. What is Keiko doing taking a class of children of very mixed races and abilities? This is somewhat derogatory to teachers and you have my sympathies. For years Doctors McCoy, Crusher, Pulaski and now Bashir have fiddled about in laboratories and worked wonders. My job, as a biomedical scientist, is to do the fiddling in a laboratory to work wonders. This, like teaching, takes years of specialised training and cannot be successfully performed by any passing medic who fancies him or her self with a microscope. I wonder how many other professions have been unintentionally maligned by Trek?

To Alan Stephen - Why not buy comics as an investment? If one can pick them up for a few pence and sell them for lots of pounds, then good luck to the speculator.

I've recently bought the ST:TNG Pizza Hut cups purely because I'm told that my Classic Trek Pizza Hut cup collection (which cost £4) is now worth over \$100.

As for pirate videos, I'm flattered that you've taken the trouble to read my previous letters. I enjoy our ongoing debate. However I would with all respect suggest that after your bitter attacks against anyone who dares to differ with you (mainly me!) it is a bit late in the day to be distressed by any divisions that have been caused. I do wish we could meet in person; I'm sure we'd get along.

To Bernardo Silva e Carmo - In order to avoid the black market of pirate videos, a friend found a contact at a distributor of legal video tapes. This contact supplied 'preview tapes' which, after watching, we returned. (These are videos that are shown to critics, reviewers and science fiction magazines in advance of their public sale.) However, a few months ago this contact changed jobs, and so I have to resort to pirate videos like everyone else. I still feel uneasy watching them, but as the saying goes, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

To anyone who may know - Have you noticed on the underside of the secondary hull of the Enterprise-D the bit where the hull slopes up to the underside of the nacelle pylons? Sometimes it's smooth, and other times there appears to be a large gap there. Has anyone else seen this? Can anyone offer an explanation of what's going on?

• **John Sherratt - Stoke-on-Trent**

I think that DS9 is getting better all the time. I watched Homecoming and The Circle and I am eagerly waiting to watch the next part of the trilogy on the latest cassette which I bought yesterday. Has anyone else noticed that the Trill 'spots' seem to have changed between the first and second seasons?

It is certainly worth looking around before buying the new releases, as I have found that in the local Potteries shipping centre that Smith's sell the latest video releases for £9.99, which is £1 cheaper than HMV next door!

I am looking forward to the new Star Trek: Voyager and I hope that the BBC in their great and mighty wisdom manage to pick up on this series once it is available, as they have sadly passed DS9 by, at least for the moment. I take the point made by some people that the format is, perhaps, at risk of being overstretched, but then again I look at just how little television is really worth watching in an average week and come to the conclusion that more Star Trek can only be 'a good thing'.

I would recommend Fantasy World in Hanley's market arcade as well worth a visit to anyone near enough to Stoke, as they have quite a good selection of Star Trek related goodies and magazines, some of it imported. Some of the merchandise does seem to be going a bit far, though - I ask you, a Ferengi or Borg moneybox!

Your suggestion in the December newsletter that anyone wanting a signed photograph write off to Paramount Pictures seems to work, at least some of the time. Being a bit of a Dr Crusher fan, I wrote to Gates McFadden in December with 2 IRCs, asked for a signed picture, and behold, about a month later, a signed 8 x 10 black and white photo arrived by airmail. Flushed with success I then tried writing to Marina Sirtis and Patrick Stewart, but nothing has as yet arrived.

I have read with interest some of the comments made on the professional novels. I have enjoyed most of the ones which I have read, some more than others. I seem to remember amongst what I consider to be the better novels in Classic Trek, Enemy Unseen and Ghostwalker, and for TNG A Rock and a Hard Place, Eyes of the Beholders and Doomsday World. I have recently read the DS9 novels The Siege and Bloodletter, both of which are worth buying, the former especially so.

• **Moira Warburton - Ickenham, Middx**

Re Tasha Yar - The Return. We have only Sela's word that her father had Tasha executed.

Possible story - The Romulan General

could not bring himself to have Tasha executed (because he was still enamoured with her, of course!), instead he secretly sends her back to join her fellow crewmembers who are still alive. Sela does not know this. Somehow the Federation discovers that survivors from NCC 1701-C are still alive, but they consider it too dangerous to attempt any rescue. Picard, for reasons he cannot understand, feels morally responsible for their circumstances and attempts a rescue against Starfleet's wishes. Tasha and several other crew members are found. Tasha is now middle-age-ish and in poor health (but not dying!)

Yes, I know there are a lot of holes, but given some considerable thought be someone with a lot more imagination and facts, a credible storyline is possible (I think). Now, here is where the storyline could get really far-fetched. Dr Crusher could use a similar method as used in Rascals and Unnatural Selection to restore Tasha to the way she was in Yesterday's Enterprise. Voila - Tasha Yar - Mark III.

• **Rebekah Owens - Birmingham**

I was quite interested in the article written by a Chief 'Gazer (Margaret Rainey) about Patrick's performance of ACC, particularly the part where he said he was unnerved when he walked on stage to total silence - whereas in America his 'arrival on stage always either brought the audience to their feet, or there was a round of applause'. Sorry, Patrick, but in England you have to *earn* your applause. Audiences in England are much more discerning. After all, we're spoiled rotten when it comes to theatre. Someone popping over from the States to do a 'I'll play is hardly earth shattering news! And OF COURSE people were listening - it's a *play*! You don't scream your head off because Ken Branagh just walked on - you listen, you watch, you absorb! *That's* why it had the reaction he wanted, because people *paid attention* to the play and were consequently able to make judgements about its politics or sociology. We *watch* our plays, *think* about them.

To David J Raper - Loved your article on Lore. I'm glad you think his flaws were a

result of his creator's error. So do I! I would like to see him return, but not with his altered programming, as that would not be Lore.

• **Catherine Hill - Staffordshire**

To Paul & Julie von der Fecht - Re Kira. I completely agree with you. Kira is the strongest female character ever in any of the Star Treks. I am glad that someone has finally voiced my opinions about Kira and that I'm not alone with what I think about her. Some people argue that she's too aggressive, arrogant, etc, but so what? That's Bajoran nature and I admire her for it. I also like that she's determined about the things she stands for. I liked Tasha and Ro in TNG as well and it was sad that Tasha had to die. It's good, though, that Star Trek has got another good strong female character to replace them with.

To everyone - Re DS9. Well, what can I say but 'Wow!' It is excellent! I love the characters, story lines, sets, everything about it.

Here are my top 10 episodes of DS9 - 1) Duet 2) Past Prologue 3) Move Along Home 4) Progress 5) Man Alone 6) The Passenger 7) In the Hands of the Prophets 8) Dax 9) Q-Less 10) If Wishes Were Horses. I don't know where to put Emissary as I think these episodes are better than it was, although it was still an excellent pilot. I have yet to see Vortex, The Grand Nagus, Babel, Captive Pursuits or any of season 2, but I'm confident they will be excellent also.

• **Dave Smith - Malvern**

I remember reading in the Postbag about someone's idea to kick Sisko out and transferring (promoting? Nah, he wouldn't accept!) Riker over. Great idea! But instead of Riker, maybe Data or Worf, because they've both proven themselves really good leaders. They've both been stuck in the same rank/position for seven (at least) and five years respectively, and I reckon they deserve something new, a promotion at least. I think Geordi's come out best on the Enterprise, he's advanced two ranks when the only other promotion was Worf, and that was only one rank.

To Stephen Daniels - I really don't like the way people go on about DS9 being dull. Out of the three series (so far) it's caught me quicker than the other two have. But on another note, your response to Brenda Allen's question about holodecks, was good, but there's my theory - Holographics are made in the same kind of way as replicated material, so then they 'leg it' off the deck, the computer 'lags' thinking "*Is it holo or replicated?*" and during this time the tractors (ta, Stephen) lose the grip and so on.

To Sheila Clark - I think your explanation of DS9 uniforms was very good, but I've got another. The black is because it's a 'Deep Space' station, not a Starbase or similar.

To Mrs V Lawrence - Re DS9 music. Great! Another fan of it! I love it, especially the brass solos. If anyone can direct me to a brass or orchestral arrangement of the DS9 and or TNG and/or Classic (I play trombone in a couple of orchestras, which is why one of my favourite characters is Riker!) I would be eternally grateful. My address is 7 Larcfield Close, Malvern Link, Worcs, W14 1RA. Ta!

Does anyone have a clue as to why Odan (the first Trill we see in The Host) had 'bulges' in his stomach every now and then, and we've never seen good ol' Jadzia Dax have a 'bulge'? Was Odan ill or something? On the subject of Dax, is her rank the host's or the symbiont's? If it's the symbiont's, wouldn't it be a tad higher?

• **Russell Witheyman - Crawley, Sussex**

DS9 continues to be a mixed bag. Out of the 12 episodes of season 2 I've seen so far I'd say it has improved slightly, although not much. The opening 3-parter was very good but subsequent episodes like Cardassians and Sanctuary really failed to deliver for me. Other fairly good episodes so far have been The Alternate and Necessary Evil, both in fact Odo stories. Odo continues to be by far the best character DS9 has to offer. I still can't say I like Sisko all that much, and I'm not sure about Dax. She has become slightly more interesting and I think Terry Farrell is absolutely gorgeous! (Sorry, Marina!) With regard to ST: Voyager, its premise does sound

better than DS9's, but I'm reserving judgement. I've heard that the TNG writers, not DS9's, will be writing for ST:Voy so we should have no worries in the writing dept.

• **Katrina Heintz - Bathgate**

To Rory Smith - I found the same problems with the model I have as you did. The nacelles broke off eventually with the weight. I now have them glued on very precariously. A model shop owner told me the struts should have been glued on first then place the nacelles on. The diagram to me said the opposite, therefore the problem. Another fault I found was if the guard for the battery was put in place in the way stated, it would be impossible to change the battery. I have had to resort to taping it in place.

• **Jason Wells - Stevenage**

I am concerned, as others could be, about the new Star Trek series Voyager. In my opinion the new series could undo all what Star Trek is so famous for. The new story is about a renegade Federation Starship (in this case Voyager) being pursued by another Federation Starship. They disappear through (or in) a Bermuda Triangle (or something in that context) and because they are lost they will join forces in order to find their way home.

To find their way home? Not what I call Star Trek, and certainly not Gene Roddenberry's Star Trek. Apart from DS9, his vision was, as all Trekkers know, about the USS Enterprise, her voyages, and seeking out new life forms and new civilisations, also to go boldly where no-one has gone before. I am a Next Generation fan and I had doubts about DS9 (as Original Series fans had with TNG) when I first heard about it, but after the first season I was very much won over to the new story lines etc - instead of the crew looking for new life forms, the new life forms come to them from both sides of the Wormhole.

Anyway, back to the point. You cannot go back to a story similar to the Original Series and TNG with Voyager and expect fans to accept it. We will all watch Voyager with the same feelings and expectations as we had with OS and TNG

and I (and probably many others) will be very disappointed, as the Enterprise in whatever shape or form) will not be there. The series will be a very poor copy of its two predecessors.

• **Matthew Christie - Dundee**

Does anyone know what kind of aircraft Michael Dorn owns? All I know is that it is an old (ie not new, like the C-101 Aviojet) jet trainer built by CASA of Spain. Can anyone tell me the *exact* type of aircraft it is? Perhaps even the registration number? No well-intentioned guesses, please - they will only cause more confusion!

In the TNG episode The Most Toys, when they all thought Data was dead, Geordi and Wesley were sorting through his personal belongings and found a set of medals, apparently 'some of Starfleet's finest honours'. Does anyone know how he earned them?

To anyone who tried to contact me on E-mail, my apologies - the University in its infinite wisdom changed a lot of numbers without telling us, including mine. However, since they originally handed out too many numbers some have been withdrawn to prevent clogging up the system - including mine!

• **Jennifer Blanchard - Godalming**

To Tracey Saunders - Troi can 'send' to Riker, not because he's a telepath, but because of their special relationship. Note in Future Imperfect, he blows out his birthday candles and Troi says "Make a wish", then looks at him with shock and hits him!

All the following to Clement Chung - You wonder that Riker calls Troi by her surname. Beverly also does this and I always call her Troi. Don't know why!

I think you're confusing 'universe' and 'galaxy'. We do know the shape of our galaxy - like two fried eggs back to back, the outer parts like a spiral. When we look up and see lots of stars, they (and millions of others) belong to our galaxy. Beyond our own galaxy are many millions of others, stretching away further than our telescopes

can reach. All this (ie 'everything') makes up the universe, the shape of which is something else again! There are several respected theories at the moment, one of the easiest (!) to visualise is an inverted hypersphere: imagine a ball, the surface of which is dotted with galaxies, add a fourth dimension, turn it inside out and then make it expand at 300,000 km per second!

• **Rory Smith - Hereford**

To Chris Boyce (P15) - I'm not exactly sure of the different arguments that were used in earlier newsletters but space is a vacuum. The way sound travels is in vibrations or waves and these sound waves need something to make them vibrate. In this case, if a shock wave of matter is travelling faster than sound, it is possible you would hear it but in open space there is no matter for the waves to pass through so you would not hear much. However, I don't think this is important. The reason you hear the ships and explosions is to make it more exciting as you would soon get bored if everything was done in silence.

Another example of a female android is Rayna in Requiem for Methuselah - original Trek.

To Judith Taylor (P16) - Re vegetarianism. I also am a vegetarian, but agree with you that humans are supposed to be omnivores. Just look at the type of teeth we have. The reason I am vegetarian is a protest against battery farming, etc, though I would immediately go back to eating meat if something was done about it. It would be interesting to have a debate on this.

To Stephen Daniels (P18) - Not meaning to butt in on your conversation with Taruka Quauhtezcatl but the writing on dolphins aboard Enterprise is difficult to find. It is on pages 44 - 45 and reads "...are handled by a mixed consultation crew of... Atlantic and Pacific bottlenose dolphins respectively. This crew is overseen by two additional cetaceans, Takaya's whale." This is quite an interesting idea but brings up faults about ST IV. The manual indicates that Starfleet can communicate with these whales. How do they do this, as they couldn't respond to the

Probe's whale talk in ST IV!

To anyone - Can somebody either explain to me or tell me where I can get into what was happening to Dax with that worm in her stomach in the first episode of DS9. Also, does anyone know what the different measurements in Star Trek mean and how much each one is - for example, what are sectors and quadrants, etc?

Has anyone thought what problems a replicator must cause? After all, if food can be replicated with plates and cups, surely people could start turning out credits and any other type of money. And wouldn't valuable materials be devalued? You could create them with ease, and even make fuels. Why bother mining at all if you can make it at a touch of a button? Difficult subject!

• **Jill Clements - Bexleyheath**

To Tracy Saunders - Thank you so much for your kind thoughts. The Healing has become part of my life now so you would only be preaching to the converted.

To Gillian Bent - I'm glad you are enjoying season 7. It's not at all like a programme that's winding down, is it? Parallels will always be among my favourite episodes.

My favourite authors are still Diane Duane and A C Crispin, but I'm with you. Imzadi and Q in Law have become two of my favourite books. Q in Law on cassette is even better. (I got it and Contamination on cassette for Mother's Day along with a SFX keyring. No problems with pressies in our house.)

Re Androids - Recently I've watched Requiem for Methuselah and What Are Little Girls Made Of? Enquiry! Why, if Flint and Roger Corby had made totally human-like androids, did Soong make Lore and Data so obviously android? If Soong was in fact Flint coming to the end of his life, could he have purposely made them android in appearance because of the tragedy of Rayna? Season 7 shows he was capable of creating fully human androids, emotions and all. This 'perfect' creation did not even know their

own origin.

Janet, I agree with you about SeaQuest DSV, mainly for Roy Schneider and Stephanie Beecham (I'm a fan and she is in one of my favourite Next Gen episodes, Ship in a Bottle) also the SFX. I've just read today that William Shatner is going to be in an episode, as a father desperately seeking a cure for his sick child. I'm looking forward to that episode.

Re Bill Shatner - having read Starburst today, he seems to be really buzzing lately. Apart from Tek Wars being filmed (where have I seen Greg Evigan before?) and a probable series he has already sent another idea to Universal and to quote him he 'has enough projects on his plate to keep a dozen writers, directors and producers busy for a decade. There's an animated show, children's games and two movies that I'll produce and direct; there's a lot of stuff'. Phew, what a busy boy!

• **Michael Sadler - South Wirral**

Greetings and Felicitations, especially to anyone I met or saw at T'Kon. I was the fool dressed as the Gorn mask, the Squire of Gothos and Classic uniform.

My investigation for this newsletter centres on one of Leonard Nimoy's works, Mission Impossible. This series has fooled generations of viewers, because the missions weren't actually impossible. This can be proved by the fact that every week the team actually solved the mission. I suggest that the series should no longer be called Mission Impossible but should be retitled Missions Which Are Quite Tricky. I think it sound quite catchy.

To anyone - Are there any cheats for the Star Trek 25th Anniversary game on Gameboy? Because I am useless at it. Or, what are the end of level stardates? Please help!

• **Maggie Edwards - Coventry**

As a Vulcan, I try not to show emotion, but two incidents have driven me to write. This is the fourth draft letter, as I keep trying to tone down my anger.

What is it with the Next Gen script writers? Are they so devoid of plots they have to resort to destroying the original characters? First they killed off poor Sarek, then buried Spock alive on Romulus. Now they are trying to kill poor Kirk. Why can't they do us all a favour and kill off a few of their own characters, and leave the original series alone?

The second threat to my non-emotion is *[a certain original Trek actor]*. If he hates Bill Shatner so much, why has he agreed to do six movies with him? I admire the dignified way Bill has taken all the abuse. *[He]* may enjoy the attention the press gives to his venom, but I don't think many Trekkers do. So take some advice, remember IDIC; let's keep Star Trek above the gutter press, no matter how much they offer for a stab in the back of your fellow actors.

• **Michael Farquhar - Dubai**

To Phillipa Timms - I don't think TNG/DS9 stardates can be personalised to ships in the manner you suggest, because DS9 takes its first stardate in the 46500 range - corresponding to the 'current' stardate on the Enterprise. I don't know about anyone else, but the way I interpret TNG stardates is that an increase by 1 in the last digit refers to an increase of ten hours. That makes a TV season last a wee bit over a TNG year, but that just leaves all the more space to fit in all of the zine stories and novels...

To Nanaki Kaur - The mix of action in TNG with the type of semi-legal tension (Picard and crew as diplomats, etc) you mention is part of why I like TNG so much. The scenes in The Ensigns of Command with Picard and the Sheliak are an example of what I mean, as is the brinksmanship in The Defector. I like the idea that not every episode has to have a climax with a big fight.

To Mrs V Lawrence - I liked Dr Pulaski as well, and hope she does return - does anyone know if the writers plan to use the TNG movies to bring back such characters as the good Doctor and Wesley Crusher? The Classic films showed that they allowed much more scope for character development, and I hope the same thing is seen in the TNG

movies.

To Dave Styles - Re Sisko's rank. Perhaps the reason a Commander was assigned to DS9, and not an Admiral or Commodore is that DS9 is Bajoran - not Starfleet. Therefore the Starfleet commander of the base must have a low enough rank that he can easily be commanded by the Bajoran government (does anyone know how responsible Sisko is to the Bajorans anyway - can the Bajoran government over-rule his command decisions?) Plus you have to remember that when Sisko was assigned, DS9 was a completely unstrategic place (no wormhole) and wouldn't have merited anyone more important anyway.

And I think Sheila Clark has cracked the DS9 uniform thing now.

To Catherine Carter - How can you say there's no wit in DS9? What do you call Odo and Quark? They've had some of the funniest lines in Star Trek for a long time in the first season alone. And I think every regular character has managed some good lines. At least, as Marysia Kolodziej says, it's not the cringemaking jokes at the end of Classic Trek - many of which leave me feeling irritated after an otherwise good episode.

To Pam Baddeley - I think the idea of scenes being planted in episodes leading up to full stories later on in a season is a good one, but I guess it just wouldn't work out practically for the producers (and it'd cause problems with all the different writers too). I would love an episode where nothing happens except we see the quieter moments in the crew's life - something like Data's Day, but with no Romulan spy or other such external plot. They're in the seventh and final season - what harm does a bit of experimentation do?

• **Gaile Wood - Tamworth**

Hiya K'Tan, K'aNhoj, K'arg, Zenkura, Ki'Fon and any others I've inadvertently forgotten to mention. See you all soon at Contagion, folks. Love ya!

I watched All Our Yesterdays with a

certain amount of well-suspended disbelief. Why. I hear you all ask? When we first meet Zarabeth she is clad, as one would expect in sub-zero Ice Age temperatures, in a full length furry coat... but when we get to the cave scenes and she removed aforementioned coat, what does she have on underneath? Leggings, a thermal vest and knickers to help protect her against the ravages of what must be pretty inclement weather? Don't be daft, this is Trek we're talking about. What she is wearing - sorry, I'll rephrase that, what she's *nearly* wearing are a couple of chamois leathers and about three bootlaces plus thigh length boots. Call me jealous if you like (thin, thin, thin, snaaaaa!!) but honestly, folks!

To Sheila - C'mon, I know you love children but couldn't manage a whole one (even if covered in Belgian chocolate). I understand that perfectly well, because if, at 35, I ever found myself pregnant again, I would be extremely p****ed, but you have to appreciate there are some women who would give their eye teeth for the opportunity to have kids at any age. After all, she may not meet the right partner to have those children with until later in life if we hypothesise her as a go-getting career woman.

To Paul and Julie von der Fecht - I'm sorry, but Tasha Yar never convinced me as a Security Chief. In fact, I thought the character was badly drawn. Don't get me wrong, I think she had potential to develop, but as written she was awful with perhaps one saving example in Yesterday's Enterprise. Kira, however, I can really identify with. She's the sort of woman I aspire to be and the character has my admiration. Nana Visitor is someone I'd be really keen to meet so I could ask her how other roles may have prepared her for this one.

To Jennifer Cobbing - DNA was first isolated and intensively studied by Friedric Meischer, beginning in 1869. A further 70 years were taken up before the major building blocks and backbone structure of nucleic acids were completely identified, culminating in Watson and Crick realising the double-helical nature of the molecule (for

which they won a Nobel Prize) in 1953. Personally, I don't believe DNA is a universal throughout the galaxy but is a parochial phenomenon peculiar to Terra. In other words, this is the only place you'll ever get anything looking like us, and any alien will have a physiology that is... well... *alien* to ours. Not so much your little (or big) green men as your gosh-don't-mind-me-but-you-look-a-bit-like-a-piece-of-chicken-wire. Which is jolly sad for us Klingon ladies, don't ya know.

• **William March - Atherstone**

It is now the third time I've heard the argument "I don't like the sound of this new series" and for the third time I find myself agreeing. Firstly I never liked the idea of the Enterprise having a new crew - "surely they can't be as good as Kirk and Co", then I didn't like the idea of a series without the Enterprise, but after being wrong the first two times I've begun to accept change with Star Trek; but from what I've heard of Voyager they're not just changing the cast or the starship of space station, etc, this time they're changing what Star Trek is! Rumours of renegade officers and such like would (if true) totally alter Gene's perception of the future and of the evolution of the human race and I don't like this idea one bit.

To Sheila Clark - I totally agree with you concerning 'motherhood at 59'. I, when qualified, wish to be a geneticist, but would never dream of abusing technology in this way. When a woman enters the stage of her life when childbirth is not possible it is her body's own way of telling her she can no longer, without risk, go through childbirth. Anyway, who in their right mind would need 59 years to decide whether to have a baby?

To Lee Sansome - I had a feeling you'd reply to my 'Picard, I'll say no more' line. O.K., I perhaps jumped the gun saying this, but you say he is a man who resists torture (for as long as possible), upholds his own principles and would go against Command, but isn't this just what any person would do? Please don't jump down my throat about the Kira argument, I totally agree with you and I'm in no way sexist.

• **Ann Coulstock - Hereford**

To Su Taylor - Hello! Please write to the Postbag.

To Stephen Daniels - I'm sorry that you think season 7 is going to be naff. I found most of them really excellent. Dark Page was quite moving, and it brought a tear to my eye when Lwaxana told Deanna about her sister and how she died. Gambit was really funny, with Picard and Riker punching each other's lights out.

To Phillipa Timms - If nobody bought the videos at such a high price, CIC would think that no-one was interested in them so they wouldn't sell them at all. Then people like me would never get to see them.

To Derek Vidgen - I have never been able to see 'the person' in the opening credits. I look every time but always seem to fail to see him/her. Does anyone know what sex 'the person' is? *[Sheila - it's supposed to be Picard.]*

To Lee Owers Sansome - Re Lessons. Why does Picard have to be Picard as he is all the time? He is human after all, and he has feelings too. Lessons was a very good episode and the change in Picard made it all the more interesting. Also, he was merely asking Deanna's advice on his relationship and how it would affect the crew if he did take it further.

To Janet, Sheila & Valerie - Just out of interest, how many man hours does it take to put this newsletter together? It is really good, and it makes my day when my next copy comes. Keep up the good work. *[Too, too many!]*

To anyone - Space for videos is a major problem. I have all the TNG and DS9 tapes and very little space for them. Does anyone have any good ideas on how to hold almost 100 videos in a small place? I would be grateful if anyone could help!

• **Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Preston**

First - to Gloria Fry. Someone told me that one of the submersibles in seaQuest has the registration number NCC-1701...

To Mark Bushell - Loved the alternate names for the DS9 characters. Re Dax - if you have 300 years of life experiences I suspect that you'd try to keep it as much to yourself as possible - otherwise you'd be subject to the 'here we go again' syndrome. Think of how adolescents view their parents - then multiply it by a factor of ten!

The reason characters can survive off the holodeck is called Artistic Licence.

Second Chances - This I loved. Yes, I noticed how they skipped over the duplicated matter stream. If Riker had already been beamed up, did the additional matter come from the surface of the planet or from atmospheric dust? Again, it has been done before (in *The Enemy Within*) so according to the Great Bird of the Galaxy it must have been possible. I get the impression that Jonathan enjoyed doing that one.

To Phillipa Timms - If you let me have a copy of the zine and an audio tape I'll record it for you. I used to be a teacher for a blind student at college and in my present job (teaching assistant in a Special Needs school) I have to speak very clearly or the kids won't understand me.

To V Lawrence. Re TNG uniforms. If you'll let me have your address, and providing my friend on the market still has the gabardine, I'll make you a TNG uniform - someone sent me the American pattern for it. Very comfortable.

To Stuart Holland - Be serious, the human creature is naturally violent - we wouldn't have survived so long if we weren't. I've noticed that a violent nature tends to go hand in hand with a contempt for women and a sadistic pleasure in any film which portrays them as less than equal. (This is a personal viewpoint, but just think - in how many horror films or video nasties does a man simply get killed while a woman is graphically torn to pieces?)

To all fans of Original Trek (or whatever you prefer to call it). I have a great respect for the humour, intentional and unintentional, in the original series,

something that is absent in many TNG episodes. But I'm afraid I can't say that there is any comparison between it and DS9.

To Tracy Saunders. I lost your address. Re Troi and telepathy. Watch the scene on the bridge in *Encounter at Farpoint*. She clearly says "Do you remember what I taught you, Imzadi?" telepathically to Riker. He may not actually be telepathic but he has something akin to a sixth sense.

To Pamela McDowall. Allillanchu, mamay. My surname - it's Nahuatl (Aztec) in which it means Eagle Mirror. My first name is Quechua, and if you've lived in the Andes you'll know what a taroka is.

Re plagiarism - KJA, you have my response. Paramount are also guilty of plagiarism of the same manuscript; a friend who watched *Descent II* said she had a horrible feeling of *deja vu* at the end, then realised she'd read the same scene in *Pachakuti*. I've no copies left. Debbie Lee, thank you for the compliment. Need any more help?

To Christine Carr - Paramount's address is 5555 Melrose Avenue, Hollywood, CA 90038, USA. The TNG office is (or was) in Hart 105.

• Damian Griffiths - Watford

To Gillian Bent - Re favourite Trek novels. I would agree with you that Peter David is one of the best Trek authors. Other Trek books of note by him include *The Rift* and *The Disinherited* (both Original Trek); and *Imzadi*, *Vendetta* (probably my two favourite Trek novels of all!), *Strike Zone*, *A Rock and a Hard Place*, *Q in Law* and *Doomsday World* (Next Gen). I also thoroughly enjoyed *Metamorphosis*, *Dark Mirror*, *Boogeymen*, *The Peacekeepers* (Next Gen), and *Dreams of the Raven*, *Doctor's Orders* and *Sanctuary* (Original Trek).

To K Parker - Re Parrises Squares. I can't tell you much except that it is a popular Starfleet sport, and from what references I have I believe it to be quite a physical sport involving a number of players. I now quote from Next Gen Technical Manual; "Starfleet

Academy team wins a parrises squares tournament over the heavily favoured team from Minsk. The Academy team scores a dramatic victory in the last 40 seconds of the final game of the series" (see episode The First Duty). Also 11001001 mentions Parrises Squares with Tasha, Worf and two other Enterprise personnel off to challenge a Starbase team.

To Bryan R Miller - Re ST:TNG PC game. Here's what I know so far. It will be for CD Rom only, and will fall roughly into two parts; space sections (involving combat, flying, maintenance of the ship etc) and Away Missions (landing parties, etc). In fact if you've played either of the Original Trek games from Interplay you'll get a rough idea of what the Next Gen game structure will be like, although the NG game will have *much* better graphics (near perfect renders of the whole cast), and hopefully speech from the actual actors involved (P Stewart et al), as well as much more non-linear gameplay (you can pretty much do as you want - flying off to visit alien planets, blowing up Starfleet headquarters, should you feel that way inclined).

Perhaps someone could help me out with a query I have concerning Holodecks. Knowing the approximate size of one (from seeing unused ones in episodes such as Family), what I want to know is how can a person use them to, say, simulate skiing down a hill, since the total length of the ski slope might be half a mile? My guess is that the holodeck must use complex transporters to keep you approximately in the same place while simulating speed and motion. However, try and work out this; a Holodeck is not more than about 3 - 4 metres high, so how could one real person be at the top of a mountain, with his/her friend at the bottom and still look correct to the person on the mountain top, when in reality he is only 2 - 3 metres away from him?!

• **Catherine Carter - North Yorkshire**

To Clement Chung - further to the absence of aesthetically challenged women - what I want to know is, what's happened to all the bums in the 24th Century? (Note to our foreign readers - I mean bums in the

English sense of bottoms) As far as I can see with the possible exception of Guinan - who isn't 24th Century any way - and the peculiar shape Riker goes as he walks up the ramp to the Bridge lift, nobody in the 24th Century has a bum. As the proud (?) owner of a more than ample specimen myself I want to know what's happened to my genotype in the intervening four centuries. Were we all killed off in the Eugenics War or what? It is obviously perceived as a lack because Data equipped Lal with one.

Loved the Awards, Jay Stevenson. I'd like to suggest another one - Most Unconvincing Foodstuff. My vote (and a large bowl of Plomek soup) goes to whoever thought up the giant Opal Fruits Chapel tries to feed Garrovick in Obsession.

Question - has anyone got any idea why the episode Friday's Child got the name? As I recall the rhyme "Friday's child is loving and giving" so who does it refer to? The only child is a new born. Surely "Wednesday child is full of woe" or even "Thursday's child has far to go" would have been more appropriate?

To Christine Jones - are you the C.J. I went to UKC with in 1975-8 by any chance?

SPOILER ALERT (1) - I saw the episode "Journey's End" at T'Kon. I will say nothing except that, if Wesley Crusher is the next stage of Human evolution, I for one am heading straight back to Australopithecus!

SPOILER ALERT (2) - The episode "Masks" however is a real belter even if it drops off slightly in the last few minutes. Any episode that can get me genuinely frightened about an impending something 'orrible that apparently rejoices in the name 'Moussaka' has got to be worth watching.

And finally - I claim the Pedant of the Newsletter Award - so there's never been a mutiny on a starship eh Edward Woo? What about Garth of Izar's crew eh?

• **Clare Finkel Woking, Surrey.**

I am a Vulcan fan and am interested in reading anything of that theme. Any

suggestions? I've read most (possibly all) of the professional novels. Most of the zine adverts do not list what is in them; that is my problem. If you have old zines with Vulcan stories, and you want to get rid of them, I am interested in buying them. If you have written stories that you don't wish to publish, but wish to share, I am interested in them too, but beware I can be narrow minded. I don't like stories where the Vulcan (usually Spock) has five broken ribs, a broken arm, lacerations, and poison in his veins, but still manages to function without anyone else knowing. I think it is illogical to unnecessarily risk oneself just so others won't know. I also don't like stories where Vulcans have Human emotions. I still read these stories, because I am illogical.

I prefer to read your response in the post bag so I can read responses by others to what you say, but if you want to write to me: Tall Trees, Woodham Road, Woking, Surrey, GU21 4EH.

As to DS9. Because of the interesting characters, I believe it has the potential to be the best ST ever; but, I agree with many who say something is missing, something essential. I don't know what it is. Character development? Humor that isn't stupid? Story lines?

As to the NitPicker's Guide: I think it is fun if you don't take it too seriously. (It adds another layer.) My son pointed out that all shows probably have errors like that, but no one bothers to look for them, because the show isn't worth it.

The grossest 'error' to me, I must write, and it is not an error, it is an insult. There are things on the show that we must accept or there couldn't be a show; this I accept. The most obvious is that everyone speaks the same language; ie, Federation Standard. They say it's the Universal Translator, which is some magical device and they don't talk much about it. The insult. In Unification, Data gets into a squabble with a Romulan woman about his 'accent'. She said, "You don't sound like you're from Rotag." I never knew the universal translator was that

magical! If we have to ignore the fact that everyone (except Darmok) speaks Federation Standard, the producers should, too!

• **Gary James - Liverpool**

To Nanaki Kaur (33/p22). On the subject of V'ger being rebuilt by the Borg; the Borg would not repair it and send it back but would have assimilated it. What's more they would have found the location of the Terran solar system a lot sooner than they did and assimilated that as well.

To Michael Farquhar (33/p32). Re Wolf 359. You are right about the number of dead being low for the number of ships destroyed but you are forgetting a very important point people escaped in the escape pods. Why, Commander Sisko was among them (DS9 - Emissary) along with his son and at least half a dozen others. Each ship must have jettisoned a good few.

Finally, thanks to the 'anorak' who approached me as I glanced through a copy of Captains Log in WH Smith and introduced me to IDIC. Do you stake out the Star Trek sections of any other book stores?

PS. I don't own an anorak.

• **Jacqueline Y. Comben, Rhossili, Gower**

IDIC members are wonderful! When I had driven three times round the Bradford Inner City Ring road, I finally found a way into the centre, but was totally lost and put my car into the first car park I found. I walked (with dogs) to the Norfolk Gardens Hotel, directed via pedestrian walk-ways by passing helpful citizens. On our arrival at the T'Kon hotel, Truffle, Tasha and I were rescued by IDIC! You see, I met Edward Woo and Stephen Rothwell. Edward went in search of Janet, and she and Valerie kindly looked after the dogs, while Edward and Stephen generously walked up several steep hills with me to my car and then directed me around the one-way system to the hotel. They then unloaded my luggage and insisted on carrying it to my room for me. Thanks a million, lads! If you are ever coming to Wales, let me know, and I'll be very pleased to put you up and show you round my neck

of the woods. I particularly appreciated your ability to navigate through Bradford, a city neither of you knew. It is all I can do to find my way around Swansea!

• **Judith Taylor 70 Leadale Rd, Leyland
Lancs PR5 1QR**

On Sunday the 13th, I sat down and watched, DSV, TMP, TWOK, TSFS, TVH, TFF, TUC; I had a break then watched CT (or OT depending on your designation of the series) TNG, and DS9 I then read my N/L. Are these abbreviations going a little too far? I apologise to everyone, my real address is at the top; my computer likes to repel my address occasionally.

To Rebekah Owens - I always thought of Soong as the Geppetto of the twenty fourth century rather than a Victor Frankenstein. I also don't believe in this Male Ethic. Data shut Lore down because he had to, not because he wanted to or because it was part of some symbolism. Soong also had a damn good reason to disassemble Lore; Lore had terrorised the colonists. They were frightened and if Soong had not disassembled him then he might have been in danger from the colonists. Soong did not reject, he did what a lot of inexperienced fathers do, he did not understand the support and nurture that growing boys need, so Lore did not get this and so became embittered. Lore sees his brother Data as having more of the attention so is better than he. I call it the Cain and Abel syndrome.

To Edward Woo - I know the boat was the Ranger and you know the boat was the Ranger, but in the film the boat was the Enterprise. So Chekov and Uhura should not have though it was otherwise.

To Andrew Carnegie, You made a slight mistake. The Starfleet uniforms go.

BLUE/ science\medical

AMBER/ operations

RED/command

Data wears amber because he works at ops, Security & engineering are both classed under operations.

Wesley wears red because he mans the helm so is in a command position. Re

Descent, after watching them both, I consider them to be like bungee jumping. Descent 1 is the plummet down, Descent 2 is the spring back up.

To Gillian Bent, Peter David also wrote a series of books called the Photon series, I have two and am looking for the third, which he wrote under the name of David Peters.

To Brenda Allen, to confuse you more, the woman thrown out of Quark's bar in "Captive Pursuit" was a Bolian; she was blue with no hair.

• **Joan Marie Verba - P. O. Box 1363,
Minnetonka, MN 55345 USA**

The conflict between science fiction fans and Star Trek fans has gone on for a long time. I remember that at my first world science fiction convention in 1974, some fans there were shocked that two Star Trek fanzine writers (Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Laura Basta) had been nominated for a Hugo in the category "best fanzine writer." At the time, there was a fear that science fiction fandom (and science fiction conventions) would be overwhelmed by Star Trek fans, to the exclusion of "literary" science fiction. But this has not happened, and quite a number of science fiction fans watch Star Trek (this has always been so). I consider myself primarily a science fiction fan and secondarily a Star Trek fan, so I can see both sides of the issue. Star Trek fans are justified in complaining about those science fiction fans who dismiss Star Trek as not worthy of attention. On the other hand, I have encountered Star Trek fans who go to general science fiction conventions and wonder why there isn't an abundance of Star Trek programming. I just went to the annual regional science fiction convention in my area, and about 10% of the programming was Star Trek related, which I think is probably appropriate for a general science fiction convention (and the panels were well attended). Personally, I think that those science fiction fans who complain about the Star Trek fans in their midst are just plain snobs.

I noted a comment which said, "Klingons are never dull," which prompts me

to write in with the opposite opinion: I think Klingons are quite dull. Originally, Gene Roddenberry announced that there would be no Klingons and no Romulans in Star Trek, a decision I applauded. However, the number of enthusiastic Klingon fans persuaded him to change his mind. Still, I think there are far too many Klingon stories in Star Trek (and far too little about Vulcans). I nearly fell asleep during "Rightful Heir," for instance, because it bored me silly. I don't think Klingons will go away, since so many fans seem to enjoy Klingons, but I wish they'd feature Klingons less and other aliens (such as Vulcans) more.

I also disagree with the statement, "For the World is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky" really has no redeeming features at all." I thought this was one of the better episodes of third season original Trek. For once, McCoy had a large role, and I think that Spock's compassionate reaction to McCoy's illness was a major character development.

I suspect that Betazoids still have vocal chords because they talked before they became telepathic, and they have not been telepathic long enough to lose the vocal chords. Besides, the vocal chords are still useful when communicating with species that they can't "read." And as long as a there's a need for an organ, a species tends to keep it.

• Neil Safi - 4 Stubbington Close, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 3QF

To Marwan Bhukari - Your comment on the lack of racial minorities in ST fandom is certainly worthy of discussion. There have been many Trek events (and also on one occasion an entire convention) I have attended in which I have been the only Asian person to be seen. There certainly seems to be a lack of Black, Asian and indeed other minorities at conventions - which considering the philosophy of Trek, comes as quite a surprise. I must say that in all the conventions I have ever attended, I've never felt that I've been treated differently because of the colour of my skin (if only everyone in the world were a Trek-fan). I too would be interested in hearing any opinions on this subject.

To Michael Sadler (The Squire of Cheshire) - Greetings and felicitations! I always thought you were mad from reading those silly letters of yours - after meeting you at T'Kon, all suspicions were confirmed!

To anyone - re ST:Voyager. I've been wondering about the hologram character - has anyone got any info on this, ie what sort of hologram it will be? I presume it will be a 'sentient' character. Will he/she/it be a computer generated hologram, similar to Rimmer from Red Dwarf? If this is so, I would like to hear the explanation for this - the TNG writers have gone out of their way to tell us that Starfleet computers cannot normally create sentient lifeforms. Also would this person be constantly confined to the Holodeck? Another possibility is a hologram similar to Al from Quantum Leap, ie a hologrammatic image of an actual person projected from somewhere else, like virtual reality. A third possibility, which I think is unlikely, would be for the character to be an actual self-sustaining hologrammatic lifeform, composed only of light, having little or no physical mass but still a living entity. Could anyone shed any light on this!?

Being a big fan of rough 'n' tough Worf, I was completely shocked to see in a seventh season episode that our favourite Klingon wears pyjamas. Yes it's true, Worf wears fluffy white jim-jams when he's tucked up in bed. Do all Klingons wear these white pyjamas? I wouldn't be surprised - every Klingon I've ever come across has been a big softie. (There goes my KAG application up the spout!)

• Peter Carmody - Ashton-U-Lyne, Manchester

To Jill Clements - re Spock Looking "Satanic". This originated in the sixties when various trade magazines referred to Spock looking like the classic description of the Devil. In the episode "THE APPLE" Kirk asks Spock whilst he and McCoy walk round him if he is aware of anyone on the ship looking like the devil.

To Gratienné Vandekerckhove & Clement Chung - Re Paramount and Money.

According to internet and various other sources Star Trek in its various guises has earned Paramount Pictures Corp. in excess of \$6 BILLION US Dollars. (nb. A US Billion is 1000 million as opposed to a UK billion which is a million million). This is just a conservative estimate based on figures released some two or three years ago. Before an episode of either TNG or DS9 goes on air it has earned Paramount approx \$8-10 million in profit from advertising space within the program.

To Clement Chung - Re Size of our Galaxy - According to my Astronomy textbooks our Galaxy is; The spiral galaxy to which our sun belongs. It contains about a hundred thousand million (10^{11}) stars. Most lie in the flattened galactic disc comprising two spiral arms that wind out from a bulging central nucleus. The Earth's sun lies some 33000 light years from the centre. Bearing this in mind it is easy to say that the Federation has explored 19% of the galaxy, mostly in the Sagittarius arm. The galaxy can be said to have ended when stars are so far apart that it is possible to go to other galaxies quicker than to go to other stars within your own galaxy. Generally recommended to be a distance of around a thousand light years, ie if the nearest star is around that far away then you are on the edge of the galaxy.

To Rory Smith - According to Paramount, anything which does not have their seal of approval on it has no bearing or relevance to Star Trek as seen on the screen. The only things which THEY say have relevance and are credo regarding Trek are: Most of the original series, parts of TWOK, TSFS, Undiscovered country, The Next Generation Tech Manual. They say that none of the novels, including the ones by Gene and Dorothy, have relevance to Their Version of Star Trek. A disclaimer to this effect can be found on the inside of many novels that have been published within the last few years.

In the Bynar episode in season one, the starbase used was footage from The Search For Spock which had the old Enterprise removed electronically from the footage and the new ship put into its place. In the episode

Measure of a Man the Starbase seen on screen is just the Regula One Research station turned upside down and parts of it redressed. This is common policy as it keeps production costs down so that they do not have to go to the expense of building a new model costing usually in excess of \$70-\$90000 dollars.

Whilst I agree that Gene did not envisage Starfleet as being a military set-up, this is what has occurred within the last few years, as Roddenberry's influence has waned at Paramount and Rick Berman has taken over and started to mould Star Trek to his fashion. If Gene were alive now, I don't believe that Voyager would exist. Paramount have seen just how big the market for Star Trek is and are now milking it for all it is worth. Witness the massive amount of "collectors items" that have come on the market in the last year that redefine the word 'Tacky'.

If any one feels in the mood for a whinge or a chat about Trek please contact me at; Peter Carmody 18 Bollington Street Ashton under Lyne OL7 0RS tel (061) 339-9360.

• Stephen Daniels Smailholm, Nr. Kelso

Well I see at last the BBC is showing TNG again, but still at that ridiculous time and hidden away on BBC 2! It never fails to amaze me how a huge corporation like the BBC doesn't know what a ratings winner it has. At least now those who can't afford the videos or BSKyB will find out what we've all been talking about for the past two years!

To Judith Taylor (N/L 33 p16) I think the way the script writers wrote Denise Crosby back into the TNG episode 'Yesterday's Enterprise', and the subsequent episodes featuring Sela, was very clever indeed, and I would be quite happy to see Denise in the film but not necessarily playing Tasha.

To Gordon Smyth. Favourite episodes? TNG (in no particular order apart from 1 & 2) 1 Time's Arrow, 2 Yesterday's Enterprise, 3 Haven, 4 Remember Me, 5 Menage A Troi, 6 Clues, 7 Disaster, 8 Power Play, 9 Qpid, 10

Timescape.

To Sara Dickinson (N/L 33 p36) At the moment I am trying to pluck up the courage to go alone to my first proper convention (Contagion '94), and the letters I have read in the N/L have both encouraged me and made me pull my head in and put it off for another year. I envy people whose partners or close friends are as enthusiastic about ST as they are, and can accompany them to all the conventions they can afford. I too am quite shy when confronted with strangers in social gatherings, esp. when they are all in groups, but at least for the first time I won't be made to feel like a fool when I mention Star Trek.

To Pam Baddeley (N/L33 p46) When I said TNG made it easier for DS9 I didn't mean for the actors to get into their roles, and form its setting. DS9 is based a great deal on ideas developed from six years of TNG. The technology (and I don't mean the SFX) is just about all from TNG including the wormhole theory! On this level DS9 is in no way innovative, it's just a spinoff.

• Edwin Yau, Hove, Sussex

To Andrew Carnegie and Marie Park. Having seen about half of season 7 of TNG so far, I have to say that it has got better after a poor start, but seems to have more worse episodes in this season than before. I believe TNG reached its peak in episode quality in season 3 and since then each season has got worse. However, each season has produced excellent episodes, as well as terrible ones. Season 7 got a lot better after the Gambit 2 parter. Episodes before that were rather mundane. On average DS9 has produced more watchable episodes.

By the time this newsletter comes out, some of you may have seen the excellent Babylon 5. If not, you don't know what you're missing. B5 is my favourite SF programme on TV since Classic Trek. It just oozes with tension and passion. I've been following and writing about it for TV Zone since late 1992. It is definitely not for any TNG fan who loves the ideal of the "utopian" society that TNG portrays. On B5 people

really do clash, hate, lie and even swear! B5 has beaten DS9 in the ratings and even TNG in some states in the US. Well, that's my plug for B5!

• Neil J Barrett - Birthplace of The Bash Street Kids

I wasn't going to return to the 'Great Comic Debate' but since the pro faction are on their high horses again I had to put in a brief challenge. Chris Boyce suggests that if we don't like something we should keep trying it until we do. Fair enough, I'll try graphic novels when you try auto-erotic asphyxia... Then Alan Stephen declares that comics are an art form and should not be bought for speculation. Try telling that to art dealers!

Where did the transporter get that extra matter from in 'Second Chances' asks Stephen Daniels. Same place as it did in 'The Enemy Within', or possibly the same way that two Spocks were created in 'Spock Must Die!'. It would be terribly useful if we could reproduce this effect on demand - whenever you lose a crewmember on Away Teams you can just produce a replacement when you get back to the ship! I feel the transporter too often provides a handy solution e.g. 'Rascals', 'Unnatural Selection', 'The Terratin Incident'.

On Starfleet as a military organisation, I side with Gloria Fry. Starfleet is a paramilitary organisation i.e. it uses the organisation, disciplines and technology of the military but applies them in pursuit of a different purpose. More like the Coastguard than the Navy.

Marysia Kolodziej (now firmly installed in my spell-checker) makes a suggestion on avoiding the use of 'east' and 'west'. 'Widdershins' actually means 'against the sun' so that can only be applied to a planet, not a galaxy. (The opposite is 'deasil' by the way.) Spinwise and anti-spinwise are already in use to describe direction at the sub-atomic level so they might well be easier to accept for astrogators.

Like Keren Breen, I was a bit dubious about Keiko O'Brien's ability to teach on

demand but more concerned about the implications of Jake's previous education (or lack thereof). Presumably he was getting lessons by remote teaching (as used to be done in the Australian outback by radio) but what he really needed was a youth club to stop him hanging around with dubious characters like Nog. It is quite possible to qualify as a teacher with a degree in any subject plus a year's postgraduate study but whether this makes you as competent as someone who has had the specialised training that Keren describes I don't know. Teaching (i.e. lecturing and coaching) comprises about 60% of my job but I don't have any formal training in it and my qualification in the subject I actually teach is an 'O' level.

• **Paul Lazarus - Chicago**

I watched the DS9 episode Blood Oath. I don't normally watch DS9, as I find it a bit slow, but this show was very good. Dax worked well with the Klingon characters, but it would have been nice to see more interplay between the Klingons and other DS9 characters. It's nice to see DS9 and TNG making links with 'Classic' Trek.

SPOILER ALERT Genesis is a good TNG episode which I enjoyed more than some I have seen recently. One inconsistency; Beverly Crusher has an acidic substance sprayed on her face, one of the nurses says that she needs "re-constructive surgery", but when Data "cures" everybody, Beverly's face looks fine. I guess 24th Century plastic surgery can be done while you are re-evolving.

• **John Stubbley - York**

It's nice to see new members writing into Postbag to give their opinions. Risking the committee's wrath, I would hope that those of you 'out there' who haven't thrown in your ha'penny's worth will do so soon. The more the merrier! [Ed: - Eeeek!]

By the way, BBC2 started showing TNG on the 13th of April (6pm), just in case you missed all the pre-publicity! Or how about Star Trek Memories (with Leonard Nimoy)?

I've never been one to criticise the BBC before, but a quick mumble at the end of Turnabout Intruder is hardly the way to announce the Network Premiere of one of the most popular US syndicated series! I don't think they realise how much mileage they can get from it. So who's going to write to Points Of View, eh? I like the new BBC2 Star Trek Beam-Up logo though.

I have been lucky to have seen several 2nd season DS9. I believe that it is maturing very well. My favourite episode so far has to be Necessary Evil. Isn't Odo getting better? I hope they continue to let DS9 run under its own steam. Another appearance by a TNG character would spoil it. It must be left to stand on its own 2 feet, as it is now.

• **Barbara Ellams - London**

The letters columns may cause the odd choking session, but they are always interesting and I'd like to thank the regular correspondants for their lively exchanges.

I would especially like to thank Gloria Fry for her kind mention of 'Legend'. Her letter encouraged me to read 'Best Destiny'. Not my vision of young James T., but certainly a very interesting one. I have to add, Best Destiny is one of the best pro Star Trek books I have read, a really ripping yarn.

• **Jean Sloan - Liverpool**

The n/1 goes from strength to strength. No. 33, I think, was particularly good: apart from the usual excellent con reports, I thought that Trek Surfing was very enjoyable and, as someone who is almost technophobic, I look forward to a series of similar articles. I also very much enjoyed "CT: The Awards that Never Were" - highly entertaining. I'd love Jay Stevensen to do another set of awards on NG. The WS credits were also most informative, as was ST Discography and the listing of Stardates.

• **Shirley Read - Solihull**

I enjoy the IDIC newsletters very much as they cover such a wide range on all Trek. But as I am a fan of classic Trek I would love to see more on it. Many thanks to IDIC for a wonderful year.

• **Tracy Saunders - Westcliff-on-Sea**

I see that the BBC have put STNG back in the Wednesday slot. I found the episode Family very entertaining, mainly because we have had some insight of Picard's past. By the 'clues' in the episode, it appears that Picard has joined Starfleet to escape whatever happened in his past. I was pleased to see that Picard and his brother did make up in the end, as the episode was trying to say, in my opinion, that 'blood is thicker than water'.

I notice by reports of the new ST series that there is going to be a North American Indian in the series. I am so pleased that these great spiritual people are going to have a representative in a wonderful series. Hopefully people will see what a wise spiritual people they are instead of the barbaric people that they are so regularly mistakenly portrayed as. By the way, if there are any North American Indians reading this, I would love to correspond with you because I love your culture. Please contact me at 27 Glendale Avenue, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 9DJ, England.

To Sheila Clark - I totally agree with what you say about a woman becoming a mother at 50+. I don't think it is fair on the child, mainly because when the child needs their mother most, she would either be too old or even passed over. Also, what about the child's visits to Grandma? To my mind a mother at 50+ is only having a child for selfish reasons.

To Baerbel Schmidt - Re your comments concerning Kirk's being killed off in the next movie. I think that it is the best way for Kirk to be killed. Can you expect any Kirk fan to accept his being put behind a desk to the end of his days? It would seem 'proper' for a man like Kirk to be killed off. It would be an insult to the character if he wasn't.

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - I was interested in your opinions about not eating meat. May I make a point in saying that cows and sheep, also chickens, are forced to breed. So if we didn't eat meat then wouldn't be forced to breed. By the way I have 4 dogs and a cat - only one is vegetarian, by order of

our local vet. As you are of Indian origin, then you would understand the balance of nature, so why ask the question in the first place? Have you forgotten your heritage?

• **Disgruntled IDIC member**

I wrote to the TNG cast in March requesting signed photos. I wrote 13 requests in all, with addressed cardboard envelopes carrying airmail stickers, 3 IRCs and \$3 in each, so it was a very expensive exercise.

I got my first reply a month later. To my horror it was a B & W 6 x 4 printed card (from Michael Dorn). I must have spent at least £7 for that. It wasn't even sent airmail - Paramount scored out A.M. and wrote 'surface mail' on it, so they made a profit of \$3 and 2 IRCs! A week or so later I received another printed photo card (7 x 5 B & W) of Marina, which again is useless and a waste of money. It also was sent surface mail and Paramount didn't put enough stamps on it! I am really disappointed as well as angry; I thought at least with Marina being British there would be a good chance of a reply from her. Paramount must have a pile of pre-printed cards. This wouldn't have been bad if I'd only sent a letter, but with 3 IRCs and \$3 and an envelope you expect a proper reply.

I don't blame Michael or Marina, but for what I sent I would have expected a proper signed photo. Hopefully I'll have better luck with the rest of the cast and when I then write to DS9 and the Classic cast, but I'm not building up any hopes.

The point is, I write to movie stars in America without sending IRCs and most have replied with photos personally signed, or at least a large photo with a printed autograph and a letter saying 'thank you for your interest'. Clint Eastwood sent me two 8 x 10 personally signed photos and Robert di Niro a 10 x 8 which he personally dedicated to me. And they are superstars who replied without getting IRCs or envelopes!

• **Mike Hazlewood - Rhondda**

Firstly, thanks to you all for my first year of Trek fandom through the newsletter. Please keep up the good work.

I received a catalogue from the Official UK Fan Club (membership of which I doubt I shall be renewing) and just check out the prices on some of the merchandise. Who do they think we are - Pakleds? No - "We are smart!"

For what it's worth, re the debate between Original Trek and TNG, I like both. Having grown up with the adventures of Kirk and Co, I see TNG as a worthy successor and am enjoying it immensely. Despite being a little sad about the 7th season being the last, I'm glad that they are now going on to making movies. As Marysia Kolodziej says, I'm excited about how they can expand the story lines on the big screen, and like David John Raper I think the thrill of the Enterprise-D on the big screen will be an experience to savour.

ST-Voyager sounds great - I hope it's not as darkly filmed as DS9, though. While we're on the subject, I like DS9 and accept it as part of the Star Trek universe, but I've not grown fond of any of the characters yet. It seems to be lacking that certain something that makes me want to get involved with their lives, the way OT and TNG have.

Question - if replicators can recreate anything when fed the right 'ingredients' and a pattern, why can't they be linked through the transporter system, which contain the patterns of Data and Lore, to replicate new androids? I'll agree that with living tissue and DNA etc it would not be possible to recreate Humans, but Data is after all only made of artificial or replicated materials

• H S Duhre - Doncaster

"Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the USS Voyager on its time-wasting mission, back from the unknown, on its voyage to Earth, exploring and charting on their course."

I don't think so! More like bumping into old enemies, ie the Borg, Ferengi, Romulans, Cardassians and anybody else who are not in line with the Federation. A holodeck episode every season, a Q episode every season (who could forget Q?) and not forgetting episodes in which the ship is about

to be destroyed but somehow manages to survive. Well, what can you expect?

To Judith Taylor, Edwin Yau, Marie I J Park, Andrew Carnegie - I have to disagree with you about Descent I. Data wasn't just angry, he was feeling emotion. As for Picard, I'd say he was very worried, as he knew that he would be the one to blame if the Borg invaded Federation space, because he had the power to destroy them through Hugh but decided not to.

To anyone who is shocked about the prices CIC video (Paramount) charge for Star Trek videos, ie Deep Space 9 season 1 (£29.99 last July) + Emissary (special edition including Making Of...). The wholesale price was £19.99 for Deep Space 9, so it was the shops that were overcharging. [*Ed - 33% is the shops' standard profit margin.*]

Which is the best Trek? Definitely the original series. It has that spark between the characters that NG and DS9 lack (except for Quark. He has it.

To Sarah Jenkins - Uhura got the feathers from the prop room!

• Edward Woo - Volunteer for 'Lessons'

To John Philpott - Re the clash of dates of T'Kon and Eastercon. I come from Liverpool and there are a few SF shops in my home city. Most of the owners were surprised to hear about Eastercon! The problem, like Sheila said in N/L 32, was a real lack of advertising of this con *even in the host city*. In fact, it was only because of IDIC that I enquired at the Adelphi Hotel about the con. The receptionist said yes, there was a con, but had no further information, and to phone nearer the time for details. This was 6 weeks before Easter.

I'd like to add that this is the first time I've heard of Eastercon, and I've been going to cons for a good many years.

To Rory Smith - With Uhura's memory wipe, there is no way she could have regained all her personal life history and memories, as very little of it would be on tape or in the computers. She could only be

retrained by McCoy's special programme to be a communications officer and anything else on the files. If she was the same after Nomad's wipe, this would indicate everything known about a person is in the data banks.

To Michael Farquhar - I think the Bajorans have a great respect for Sisko as the Emissary, but that has been put on the back burner. I think more has to be developed for Sisko. Avery Brooks said he is part of a cast and does not dominate like the characters of Kirk and Picard. DS9 is a team show and the producers have said they are happy with the way Avery is playing the role.

To Sarah Dickenson - One Klingon story you will definitely enjoy is Blood Oath from DS9 - I would say it is the best Klingon story ever.

To Lee Owers Sansome - Yes, Data would make an excellent Captain. I can't see Worf making a good command officer though he's fine as a tactical one. On the subject of command, we have not seen much of Geordi La Forge's command abilities either. At least we get to see Counselor Troi in command after passing her Commander's Test (no thanks to Riker).

To Mervyn Leeder - I was not criticising people for watching videos at cons - I've done it myself. However, a balance of videos and other fan activities may help you to realise that they too can be enjoyable.

• **Mell Daines - Tywyn, Gwynedd**

Did anyone catch Bill Shatner on This Morning being interviewed by Jon Pertwee by satellite? Bill said this would be his last role as Kirk and that as he left the bridge for the last time he felt pretty broken up. Kirk is to die in this film and is buried on a planet surface by Picard. I think this will give TNG a lot more respect than it's received in the past, from me included. Also to Shatner fans, Sky are going to show a special Shatner season including T J Hooker, etc. Great, eh?

• **Sue Smith - Weston-super-Mare**

To Sharon Jenkin - Re Uhura's feathers in ST V. They are in fact palm leaves.

To Brenda Allen - The reason for the Genesis planet becoming unstable was due to protomatter being used in the make-up of the Genesis device. To quote Saavik, "Protomatter is a highly unstable substance which every ethical scientist has denounced as dangerously unpredictable".

To the comments made about audio book cassettes, I entirely agree that they are invaluable when doing the ironing. Ironing is now just a good excuse to immerse myself into another great ST adventure.

Could anyone explain to me why my CIC copy of The City of the Edge of Forever has a slightly different sound track to the TV version. The portion of music I refer to is a scene in which James Kirk and Edith Keeler are walking down a street and past a radio shop. You should hear the tune 'Goodnight, Sweetheart' playing, but on my CIC video I have something totally different. *[Sheila - This had something to do with copyright. Apparently copyright permission to use 'Goodnight, Sweetheart' on TV did not extend to its later use on a video.]*

Still on the subject of The City of the Edge of Forever, did anyone see Clive James' interview of Joan Collins? I was enraged and insulted by her derisory comments regarding Star Trek and William Shatner. What are your views on the interview?

• **Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen**

To Chris Boyce - I agree with you that some comics are worthy of the title literature and have said it many times in this newsletter; I've given examples. By the way, are you the same Chris Boyce who wrote Catchworld?

To Judith Taylor, Matthew Christie, Stuart Holland - Guess what? I agree with you as well. The reason for my letter was because of Dave Styles, who seems to blame all the world's ills on comics. I just wanted to say, before looking at comics there are lots more in popular culture to consider. I believe - it may be a naive belief - that if you are brought up in a family that offers love and guidance and you can get a good education, you should turn into a decent citizen, and

external influences should have no effect.

This is going to be my final word on the comics/graphic novels debate. If you enjoy comics, terrific, if you don't, that's your problem. What got me all hot under the collar were the attacks by Dave Styles and others that comic book readers had no imagination, short attention spans or were part of some moral decline, which, judging by my replies and others is a load of hogwash.

Pizza Hut has started another Star Trek cup promotion based on TNG. As for paying \$100 for the original set - why was it that said, "A fool and his money are soon parted"? Richard Arnold was on the QVC Star Trek Hour on Monday 28/3/94 - at last, someone who knows what he's talking about!

Patrick Stewart appeared on Jay Leno's Talk Show on NBC on 31/3/94. It was a repeat of an earlier show broadcast before the 7th season began. He talked about his politics and told amusing stories about meeting President Bush, the Queen, and ordering an sandwich in New York.

• Marie I J Park - Hull

Firstly, I'd like to reply to Rebekah Owens' comments re my article Dr Soong - In Defence of the Man and his Work (N/L 32) by asking how you can be justified in repeating *exactly the same arguments* that I'd emphatically refuted in my defence of Soong? Lore was shut down and disassembled as a direct result of the Colonists' petition. *There had been every reason* to suppose that if Soong had not done so, someone else certainly would. In Descent II, Data shut down and disassembled Lore because he was becoming too dangerous and unstable. Soong couldn't be held responsible for Lore's actions in Descent I and II.

SPOILER ALERT - In the episode Inheritance, Juliana's confession to Data about leaving him on Omicron Theta, in my opinion, doesn't fit with your "female ethic of care and self-sacrifice" theory. She'd *persuaded* her husband (Soong) to leave Data, *only through her fear of Data becoming another Lore*, not an unreasonable attitude, but she

clearly felt guilty because she was crying when she'd made this confession. She'd realised that she'd been so wrong about Data and it was cutting her up inside. I've said it once, but it's still worth repeating; Data was, and still is, proof that "Often Wrong Soong" was right after all.

To Andrew Carnegie - I think there's been a crossed wire somewhere. When did I say anything about Descent I being the worst TNG episode? I believe that my views regarding that episode were quite positive. I thought that Descent was one of the best cliff hangers to date, although I will concede that Descent I and II may not be everyone's cup of tea; but please do not be put off, at least give Descent II a try, if only to see for yourself. Also I don't think it would be fair to judge season 7 so harshly, particularly if you haven't had the opportunity to see any. I've seen a number of such episodes and have been very impressed so far.

I'd better jump in and rectify one of my own errors while I'm writing; in N.L 33 I'd stated "What must be borne in mind was that this particular group (of Borg) *had not been separated from the collective*" when I should have said that they *had* (oops!)

And finally, to Dejan Ladika re ST: Voyager. You are hardly in a position to say whether or not Gene Roddenberry would have approved of this upcoming series, are you? It is worth remembering that Roddenberry died before DS9 took off. Also, DS9's action takes place on a space station rather than a Starship, so really your statement "Can you imagine ST on some other Starship" is a contradiction in terms. If you are against ST: Voyager, then aren't you making a point against DS9 as well, since Roddenberry had nothing to do with its production? I would have thought that keeping an open mind would be a better idea, rather than to give ST: Voyager the thumbs down before it has even started.

• Marion van der Voort - London

To Jill Clements - Yes, the dance did remind me of Mr Pastry doing the Lancers, and for the same reason, energy superbly disciplined to achieve a comic effect.

To Rebekah Owens - I thought that Patrick Stewart was great in A Christmas Carol precisely because he didn't perform. I am a fan of Dickens, in fact I wasn't sure that I wanted to see the performance in case it was too much Patrick and too little Dickens, but I loved the whole thing. This was not an actor showing off, but a man who gave life to a great book. Long before Freud, Dickens showed that Scrooge had an unhappy, unloving childhood, that made him the embittered man he was until he was redeemed. Incidentally, one review I saw compared Patrick unfavourably to Emlyn Williams. Both Richard and I saw Emlyn, who did not give the same performance. He acted Dickens on his tours reading his own works aloud to audiences. He was good, but doing a different thing.

To Janet Quarton - As usual you have the gift of putting into words something I haven't thought out properly. You are right. Richard and I enjoy TNG and DS9, but our first love is for Classic Trek, and for the relationships between Kirk, Spock and McCoy in particular. Do you realise, Janet, that I've known you for twenty years?

Re Pawns and Symbols - We once had someone in the shop asking for the bestseller Prawns and Thimbles. It took us a few minutes to work out what she wanted, as she didn't mention Star Trek.

Re the Star Trek Encyclopedia - classic Paramount foul-up. Paramount brought this out in the States - then sent copies over to the UK. They became aware that there were several serious errors - we've heard that 30 pages have been reprinted - so they did a new printing, which won't be out till mid-May here. The books with the errors have not been issued to the shops but sold to Sky. Pocket Books inform us that they are backing the fan club over the bookshops, that the fan club has 10,000 members, and they get first pick at everything. As Pocket Books are part of Paramount and Paramount have sold the rights to the fan club this is not surprising, I guess, but bookshops like us, Andromeda and Sheffield Space Centre, who have dealt with fans for years, are now being pushed to one side. This is contrary to the spirit of the

Net Book Agreement, if not the letter.

Incidentally, a customer came in to see us, having been in Smiths. She asked why they were stocking only Classic Star Trek, and not Next Gen or DS9, and was told that only Classic Trek was on television.

• Ian Webber - St Albans

With reference to Star Trek - The Role Playing Game.: Some years ago, as a dedicated fan of anything to do with the Star Trek Universe, I saw the boxed set in a specialist game playing shop, so I bought it together with some prepared modules (module 2005 - Denial of Destiny and module 2008 - Orion Ruse). The game is a 'second edition' and made by FASA but in a box under the Games Workshop banner. It consists of three manuals:

Star Fleet Officers Manual, giving details of character generation and development.
Cadets Orientation and Sourcebook, giving details of the Star Trek Universe.
Games Operations Manual, covering the rules of the game.

The rules on character generation seemed so complicated to me that I never got round to playing the game. I would be interested to hear if anyone has actually managed to run the game and how it compares to the more established non-role-playing games. Is the game played at conventions? I would be willing to lend my set to someone who wishes to decipher the rules.

• Ray Dowsett - Cambridge

To Catherine Carter - In reply to your question in N/L 33, "Who or what is/are. or were The Farragut"... quick history lesson coming up.

I am 99.0% certain that the name stems from an actual person in American Naval History, Admiral David Farragut, USN. He was the Union Commander at the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864 during the American Civil War. He is famed for his order of "Full Speed and damn the Torpedos" when warned that the Confederates had laid "torpedos" (mines as we would call them these days).

Certainly there was an entire Class of Destroyers called "Farragut Class" during World War 2, and thus likely the name just carried over to ST. Most, if not all, of the names of ships in Trek can be traced back either to historical people or traditional ship names.

• **Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow**

Re An Officer and a Gentleman - several people have asked me about the 'crotchety old man'. I was referring to Boothby, the groundsman at the Academy.

To Mervyn Leeder - Your comment about wanting to view only one of the episodes on any given TNG tape prompted me to look through my own collection. I could find only 3 tapes where I like both episodes - No 30 (The Hunted and The High Ground), 32 (Yesterday's Enterprise and The Offspring) and 38 (The Best of Both Worlds II and Family).

To Lee Sansome - I get the impression that you and I have similar views on Captain Picard. I thoroughly enjoyed your short story Perspectives in Make It So 17. I recommend it to other Picard fans and I would also like to recommend 2 other zines; Moments in Time by Pat Mitchell and Beyond Farpoint 3 from Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy. Both contain some lovely Picard and Picard/Crusher stories.

Finally, re Geordi's visor - He seems to have difficulty finding it when it falls off. Why, oh why doesn't it respond to a whistle the way car keys do in this primitive century?

• **Dejan Ladika - Slovenia**

To Judith Taylor - You can identify Tasha Yar with a lot of words, but 'tedious' is not one of them. She deserves to come back, but they must do an excellent story for her return. Let's just have a look what she provided in the last seven seasons. 1) She has been a part of season 1, which is in my view the most beautiful. 2) She was the first to kiss and have sex in TNG, and guess who with? 3) Her security skills were, as we could learn, the best in Starfleet. 4) She was the first involved in a fight. 5) She was frozen. 6) She led an away mission. 7) She saved Data from

being disassembled. 8) She died. 9) She saved a group of people when she became consort to a Romulan. 10) She served as security officer on actually 3 Enterprises. 11) She gave birth to a half Human, half Romulan daughter who is head of Romulan security. 12) She has been the potential for some of the best episodes in TNG - The Measure of a Man, Yesterday's Enterprise, Redemption, Unification, Legacy... and many other things, but she only appeared in 24 episodes. Some characters are in TNG for 7 seasons and still don't have any special episode. And that quote you did about 'never really dead on ST'. I agree, but let's not forget Spock, Worf and others. They returned, why shouldn't Tasha?

To Jay Stevensen - "The Awards that Never Were" - great stuff. We really need this kind of "awards". When Season 7 of TNG ends you'll have another opportunity to do "awards"! *[Ed - A lot of people mentioned enjoying this article.]*

• **Sacha J Cowan - Glasgow**

I'm a new member. I love the debate going on in the postbag. Mind if I join in?

Re IDIC. I've noticed a lot of chat about which incarnation of Star Trek is the best, and I'm sure everyone has their own favourite. Personally I love reading anything Trek-orientated but prefer TNG and DS9 to the Original Series. I'm not keen on computer games, models or pinball machines. Surely the point which makes Trek so widely appreciated is that it has something to offer everyone, and as individual tastes grow and change there is always a new aspect of the phenomenon to turn to. I'm looking forward to Voyager and the TNG movie with an open mind... Let's learn to appreciate the differences.

Re vegetarians - I'm not going to get into a discussion of ethics, but offer a point of information to be considered along with other evidence. Dairy cows produce one calf per year so that they can keep milking. Only 20% of these become new dairy cows, the rest end up as beef. How many vegetarians use dairy products?

To Vicky Roberts - Live long and prosper! I took your advice, and here I am!

• **David J Raper - Hull**

Do Romulan or Cardassian agents run the BBC? It sometimes seems that way. I was underwhelmed by their publicity for the return of TNG to our screens. Red Dwarf had far more publicity and these are all repeats! Perhaps this is all part of a plot similar to the Klingon conspiracy at Paramount which sank the Original Series all those years ago - nobody could be that stupid! It almost seems as if the BBC are ashamed of it. Sometimes the BBC is its own worst enemy!

On the subject of books, TOS or TNG or DS9, I do wish that some authors would show some attention to those irritating details which we know are wrong and do not reflect well on their 'research' into their subject. That aside, I do enjoy a good book, but there have been some real 'stinkers' of Trek novels too - but which are which? It is a very subjective thing; after all, a book depends as much upon the mind of the reader as it does the author and as someone who likes to read, my best test of whether a story's good or not is how eager I was to finish it and could I read it again? My favourites are those which show our heroes doing what they do best, which is to say confronting the unknown and 'boldly going' - even if for DS9 it's the unknown which has to come to them.

Nor should we forget the writer; nobody sets out to write rubbish - unless they work for an advertising agency - and it isn't easy (take it from a frustrated amateur) to write a good story. Don't believe me? Try it yourself sometime and then say it's easy!

To Sheila Clark - Re late motherhood. The point I was trying to make was that I have no objection to a woman having the same choice as a man when it comes to late parenthood. If Charlie Chaplin could father a child in his eighties, why shouldn't a woman have that option? The only difference is that of technological intervention. My only reservations are with regard to those who would abuse such technology; whether older

women choose to take up that option or not should be their choice.

To Baerbel Schmidt & Edwin Yau - I wouldn't mind seeing more of Hugh and the Borg myself, both types; the original collective is still out there and no doubt as eager to assimilate the Federation as ever, if a little more cautions, and how would it respond to Hugh and his group and what do you call a group of Borg anyway? A collection? I can't help wondering what Commander Sisko would make of them.

And finally, a note to my sister, who will doubtless borrow this and read it. I don't mind, but could I have it back, please?

• **Bernardo Silva e Carmo - Portugal**

On April 3rd I went to T'Kon '94. It was my first con ever, and I loved it. Because of IDIC, I already knew what to expect from a con, and my own taste told me it was a very good, well-organised con. I bought some stuff, watched some episodes, listened to John Carrigan, saw Bjo Trimble's slide show, with her *ostinato* "and there's always time for a little romance, some action, and a few laughs". At the end she said that Kirk was going to die, and that it was probably about time for that to happen. I was even lucky enough for the IDIC meeting to be on that day, so I went and met all the crazy guys responsible for making this wonderful club so wonderful.

I bought the Deep Space Log Book by Altman and Gross (Bah! - So much money, so little info, and so big letters to fill in the pages), five DS9 cards with useful technical info and "Probe" (read it in six days, but it will take a lot more to forget it; I found it so good that I think it should be considered 'official').

I also bought two IDIC zines, which I'm still reading. Your pound is very expensive to me! You see, if I copied the zines, it would cost me less than £1! That's why European tourists come to Portugal and find everything so cheap - Portuguese Escudo is a weak currency.

Re ST:TOS - I watched some episodes

at T'Kon (for a couple of hours I was the only person in the room) and found those 'old' stories to be a lot better than some we have today with TNG or DS9. I also saw Blood Oath (DS9 2nd season) SPOILER ALERT in which Dax wants to honour an oath Curzon made with three Klingons. It was a violent episode, with too many opened throats, and I found it at least amusing that Dax was the only one to survive the fight. The end is even worse; she returns to DS9 and sits in her chair at Ops, Sisko and Kira stare at her and that's all. No conclusion. No meaning. Just opened throats.

Re bridge's main viewscreen - Renault Racoon, Renault's car with the latest in technology, has a system of cameras which substitute for the mirrors. They are pointed to the back and sides of the car and the image appears on a TV screen on the instrument panel. Ye ha' been watching some Trek, huh?

To Bryan Miller - Thank you. Now it's my turn. I have read some articles about ST games for PC. The one about TNG is 600 MB long (yes, six hundred) and it has some very good images (and it fits in one CD...)

To Mrs Lawrence - Try Paul Rowe, Trekkerforms, 16 Bramwell St, Eastwood, Rotherham, S. Yorks S65 1RZ (from £35 to £65). I know that Intergalactic Trading Co. also sells uniforms (about \$35) - PO Box 1516, Longwood, FL 32752, USA.

• James Keating - Ireland

Re TNG ending - I for one think it would be terrible for it to stop. Even though half of OT's last season was rubbish, nobody wanted it to stop; of the 7th season TNG episodes I've seen so far there are no really bad episodes (like Plato's Stepchildren or The Way to Eden). While there have been some lack-lustre episodes (Rascals, Lessons, Interface) there have also been some of the best ones to date (Descent, Gambit, Timescape, Parallels and, of course, the classic Face of the Enemy). Even though I look forward to the upcoming movie I would much rather the series keep going.

To Stephen Daniels - The actress who played Vash (Jennifer Hetrick) was once a

regular on LA Law.

Is Journey's End the last episode of TNG? If so, this is the shortest season (19 episodes), and if not, it's a confusing title. (*Ed: No, All Good Things is the final episode.*)

Re TNG movie - I see no reason for the CT crew to be in it. They had their 6 movies.

I'm sure this must have been asked before, but in The Neutral Zone, all those outposts were destroyed. Who did it? It couldn't have been the Borg - we didn't know they existed until Q Who, and even then Q had to bring the ship to the deepest recesses of our Galaxy.

My favourite 5 OT episodes are 1) Tomorrow is Yesterday 2) Charlie X 3) The Squire of Gothos 4) All Our Yesterdays 5) The Naked Time; the top 5 TNG episodes are 1) Cause and Effect 2) Gambit 3) The Face of the Enemy 4) The Offspring 5) The Drumhead; the top 5 DS9 episodes (so far) are 1) Babel 2) In the Hands of the Prophets 3) Duet 4) Passenger 5) The Homecoming.

Finally, I would like to know, is there anyone else from IDIC going to IreCon4?

• Brenda Allan - Dawson Creek, Canada

First of all, thank you to all postbag contributors who list the NL and page number when responding to a letter. It has been most helpful in tracking the source of the comment. Maybe more people could do this? (Hint! Hint!)

To Clement Chung - I don't need a nitpicker's guide! My family always give me a bad time for pointing out errors in any show I watch!

Also, I finally figured out why there are no fat people in ST! Just like we have sugar substitutes so the replicators produce foods that are nutritionally balanced, but taste like the most decadent treats. In the episode, The Price, Deanna Troi ordered a REAL sundae, with real ice cream and real whipped cream. The computer responded: "This unit is programmed to provide sources

of acceptable nutritional value. Your request does not fall within current guidelines. Please indicate whether you wish to override specified program." Does that mean that our crew could eat fattening food if they wanted?

To Stephen Daniels (NL 33/pg18) I agree with your disbelief on seeing two Rikers. I did a double take myself! Not only where did the matter come from to make Thomas Riker, where did the life essence to make him "alive" come from? If you believe that the soul is the source of life, then Thom or Will must be "soulless", ie a zombie! Actually, I think the producers used this episode as a way to wriggle out of the Will/Deanna romance. Now with Deanna supposedly in love with Thom, she and Will won't get together.

To Dave Styles (NL 25/pg25,26) Ha, Ha! Star Trek toilet paper! I agree with you that people are easily parted from their money. I fall for anything in print that mentions ST. My pocket book has rebelled!

To Lee Sansome (NL 33/pg37) and anyone else who scoffs at Picard's romance in Lessons - Enough already! I thought Lessons was excellent! It not only gave Picard a strong woman for a love interest, but one with whom he could share his music. I don't think Picard has told anyone how much his music means to him, yet he felt he could confide in Nella Darren. Also, being a piano player for the better part of my life, I can't help but love the music scenes. I get tingles just hearing the Ressian folk tune played in the jeffries tubes!

• **K'Tan Kuragan - Dundee**

To Jill Clements - Are you a Ferengi, by any chance? All my friends - and enemies - know my Earther name. The person who told you is now feeding the targs! Yes, I do love a challenge.

• **Keren Breen - Neath**

Season 2 of D59 on Sky took me by surprise - given the way Sky usually advertises a new series *weeks* in advance, this was sprung on us comparatively suddenly, I thought. I'm sorry, but while I find it enjoyable, I don't get as hooked on it as I did

on TNG, right from the beginning. However, my ~~son~~ is a total fan and we therefore watch it quite a lot. He now fights me for the IDIC N/L to read all the D59 news. Am I hearing things, or is the D59 theme a variation (musically speaking) of the original theme, slowed down a bit and transposed into a minor key?

To Sue Williams - You don't live that far away from me and I'm just about to start attending cons (I hope!). Perhaps we could work together on this? My address is 49 King St, Neath. (Anyone coming to the Eisteddfod?)

To Mrs V Lawrence - I know Simplicity do a TNG uniform pattern and most competent dressmakers ought to be able to add a mandarin collar.

• **John Snelling - Lisburn**

John Snelling 22 Highgrove Ravarnet LISBURN BT27 5AX

This is my first "official" communication after taking out my subscription to IDIC & I would want to echo the compliments that appear in every issue regarding the excellent value for money, & content, that IDIC presents, which reflects the time & effort put in by the Editors - many thanks! I've been wanting to reply to the "heated" debates over the past few issues, but have waited until now to try & make sure that I wasn't commenting on something already covered by the panel of experts i.e. the readers. Well, here goes...

To Derek Vidgen - Ref. Observation Lounge location - it lies directly behind/below the main bridge i.e. right on the top of the saucer section! If you follow the opening credits of TNG, after the names of the bridge crew have rolled the Enterprise enters from the bottom of the screen & you see the main bridge appear & then, a row of lighted windows directly behind it - this is where to find the mysterious occupant - look to the left-hand side - who might it be?

To Rory Smith - Ref. TNG Starbases - exterior shots of starbases can be seen in episodes "11001001" (Starbase 74), "Remember

Me" (Starbase 133), "The Measure of a Man" (Starbase 173), "Ensign Ro" (Lya Station Alpha - not strictly a Starbase but since it appears to be exactly the same as Starbases 74 & 133, it's included here!) &, of course, Deep Space Nine. An interior shot can be seen in "Samaritan Snare" (Starbase 515) - but this also bears an uncanny resemblance to the main city in "Angel One" & a medical facility on Malcoria III in "First Contact".

To Philip Morley - Ref. Mirror,Mirror sequel - perhaps you have heard of Diane Duane's latest book "Dark Mirror" where the alternate universe counterparts of "our" TNG crew - having been made aware of the existence of our dimension from "Mirror,Mirror" - have discovered how to cross between dimensions & pull "our" Enterprise into "their" dimension intending to overpower it & then return to "our" dimension in it with the intention of conquest. Confused - you won't be after reading this excellent book. It's worth the money if not only to see Troi (the Barbarian?) as you've never seen her before!!!

To Marie I J Park - Ref. Changes in bridge crew if Riker left the Enterprise - just because these staff are the current crew it doesn't necessarily follow that they would move up one step when Riker left. It's up to Starfleet Command who goes where. Dr. Pulaski was appointed from outside of the Enterprise crew although there would have to have been either a second doctor on board, or, at least, a senior nurse. Captain Jelico came in from outside in "Chain of Command" & even Riker had problems choosing his executive officer in "Best of Both Worlds" when well-experienced officers were already available on board the Enterprise. Also, as seen in "Descent", certain personnel rank unexpectedly high in the command structure!!! - Ouch! Just burnt my fingers on a hot potato! Ref. Your comments regarding "Brothers" - it was good to see how Riker didn't know what was going on when he beamed down & that it was necessary for him to question Data.

Popping back to "Remember Me", a question occurred to me whilst watching regarding the positioning of the Enterprise

during the attempt to rescue Bev.Crusher from Wesley's static warp bubble. The Traveller informed Wesley that the Enterprise had to return to the "exact" coordinates where the warp bubble was established. The Enterprise returns & is seen approaching Starbase 133. Data informs Picard that the exact position & attitude had been established. The Enterprise was certainly in the correct position, relative to Starbase 133, but we need to assume that Starbase 133 was in a geosynchronous orbit & that the planet was at the same point in its rotation cycle as it had been when the warp bubble was set up. What is hard to explain is the fact that planets, suns & even solar systems are sweeping through interstellar space at thousands of miles per second. Even if all the other criteria are fulfilled there is no way that the Enterprise could have returned to the exact coordinates which required Picard's order of "precise station keeping" & still be in the position shown, which is approaching Starbase 133 - comments?

Finally, I must admit I have never read a fanzine. This is not due to choice but to never having had access to one. Now that I know of the existence of these literary masterpieces would someone like to recommend one for a first read. I must admit that I am a total sucker for really well written time-travel/interdimensionally themed stories. I await your advice with anticipation - peace & long life.

• Tracy Williams - London

To Judith Taylor - The similarities between ST:Voyager and Red Dwarf are noticeable. We just have to hope that the Voyager ship's chicken soup dispenser nozzles don't have a tendency to get blocked! I would also pray that none of the renegades smuggles an illegal pet tribble aboard...

To Nanaki Kaur - I have a vague memory of reading somewhere that Gene Roddenberry once joked that the Borg might have been responsible for rebuilding V'ger. Can anyone confirm this? [Ed - *Dave Styles said he read it in the S.T. Chronology*]

To Marysia Kolodziej - I completely agree with you about wanting NG films now

as opposed to the series continuing. The writers won't be restricted any more to having to return to the status quo at the end of a story.

To Dejan Ladika - Wouldn't it be a tribute to Gene Roddenberry if other people continue to produce ST series that are as well received as CT, NG etc? It would prove that he managed to communicate his vision of the future brilliantly.

If there is a gradual development of a new ST series the concept as a whole could stand a fair chance of surviving to see its fiftieth anniversary! A variety of series under the ST banner would stand as a great tribute to the power of Gene's imagination.

• **Matthew Hemsley - Tamworth**

In NL 31/32 I read the articles on Dr Noonian Soong, and it got me thinking. A man (Dr Soong) created two sons. It made me think about parallel universes - because probably in some weird parallel universe Dr Soong was female and created two daughters!

To Gordon Smyth - Was it you who wanted to know peoples' favourite episodes? Here are a few of mine from the whole of Star Trek (in no particular order). 1) The Homecoming; 2) The Circle, The Siege; 3) Time's Arrow; 4) The Best of Both Worlds; 5) Shore Leave; 6) Spectre of the Gun; 7) Schisms; 8) Balance of Terror; 9) Gambit.

What I would like to know is peoples' favourite character (1 per series). I'm trying to do a chart to find out how many people like which character. Mine are Uhura, Data and Quark, but believe me it's very difficult to choose just one character from each area of Trek!

• **Jill Searle - Shrewsbury**

I understand the point John Stubbley makes in his article Infinite Diversity - A Person View, but can't agree with all of it.

I was drawn to CT by a concept, an ideal, and although Next Gen is at times not quite what I'd hoped for, I accept it as Star Trek because it's true to that concept. I

would have been willing to like and accept DS9 also, but unfortunately there's no way this series fits my idea of Trek. For me, CT and Next Gen have something special; DS9 is just like all the rest.

Similarly, when I first saw seaQuest I was excited as it seemed so Treklike. Then the rot set in. The characters in CT and Next Gen are noble and caring. Many of those in DS9 and seaQuest are not. I know they're displaying Human (or Ferengi) traits, but I like my 'sanitised' (to quote Berman and Piller) Trek with its noble and heroic characters.

Re ST7 as detailed in the last two N/LS. If this plotline turns out to be true this is one film I'll gladly miss. In addition to Kirk's death, the idea of Data being used as 1) a seducer and 2) a handy heap of circuits is utterly repugnant. ST6 may have its faults but I'd rather its graceful ending for the original crew any day.

To Jay Stevensen - Your article really made me laugh - thanks. But isn't it funny how we all see the episodes differently? I dislike Galileo Seven for what I perceive as its unkindness to Spock and as for For the World is Hollow, it's one of my favourites because McCoy actually has the limelight (and the female) for once. My vote for best episode goes to Devil in the Dark for its IDIC overtones. Up to now I've had trouble with worst episode but having recently seen Whom Gods Destroy for the first time in a position to really concentrate, I give it my wholehearted vote as the episode with no redeeming features whatsoever. Even cringeworthy Plato's Stepchildren is miles better!

• **George Haggarty - Rutherglen, Glasgow**

To Alex Pidd - You commented in N/L 33 that fandom was very much a closed shop and that the only way to know about fandom is to be part of fandom itself. I feel I have to disagree. I was introduced to fandom through a friend of a friend. I would guess that word of mouth is how most people find out about Trek fandom. I help organise The Away Team meetings in Glasgow. We've recently conducted a survey of our 850

members and discovered that just over 52% of them found out about us via a friend or a relative.

You found out about fandom through the Official UK Fan Club. You also found it easier to find out about OUKFC than fandom, but with good reason. OUKFC is run by a private company which was able to put many thousands of pounds into advertising its launch. Fan run organisations can't afford to spend that type of money on informing the public at large of its existence.

There are fundamental differences between the OUKFC and fan run organisations. The main thing that the OUKFC is out to do is make a profit for its owners. After all, Absolute Field Marketing had to pay Paramount a small fortune for a licence to run the club. IDIC, STAG, BSFR and other fan run organisations aren't out for profit but to provide a service to fans - something which, by the very nature of the OUKFC, can only be of secondary interest to Absolute Field Marketing.

Take a look at it another way. The OUKFC produces a (supposedly) quarterly 32 page magazine individually priced at £3.95 (£14.99 for an annual subscription). If you compare IDIC's £8 a year for 6 bi-monthly 100 page newsletters full of news and views on Star Trek to the Fan Club's 128 pages a year (which includes many pages of advertising) I think you'll agree that fan run organisations offer much better value for money. I feel very strongly that the OUKFC offers fandom a very over-priced product and that the need to raise a profit is largely to blame for this. You say that Absolute Field Marketing is exploiting a commercial opportunity. I'd argue that they're bordering on exploiting fans.

On your other topic about the possible rise of professional conventions in the UK, I don't think it will be that long until Britain sees a professionally run con. One run in much the same manner as Creation Con run theirs in the US. That means that it won't be a 24-hour a day affair, or run 5 - 6 separate video programmes throughout the day the way that fan run conventions already do in

this country. Also, to obtain the level of income that would raise a large enough profit for a commercial organisation means that you'd be looking at a convention with an attendance upwards of 2000 people, like attending a rock concert or a theatre, full of anonymous faces.

Long live conventions such as Starbase 94 (which you attended) and Contagion, and all the local groups around the UK. Organisations which are run BY fans FOR fans and done for LOVE rather than MONEY.

To everyone - Does anyone else out there think Marina Sirtis is pregnant? I've just watched Masks and Eye of the Beholder and she seems to be developing a definite 'bump'. Since these episodes were filmed just before Christmas, it means that she might have an enormous bulge to hide during filming of the movie! Could lead to some interesting camera angles.

• Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

I have to bring everyone up to date with the problems I've been having with the US club Electronic Male. Shortly before Christmas I was surprised to get a copy of a letter from T J Arizmendi (dated 30 April 1993) forwarded by Bill Hupe and Sheila (thanks to you both); a letter I had never received. This letter said they could not refund my money because they had overspent their budget - in effect, spent my money (the balance left when they didn't have certain items I had ordered). She offered me some ST trading cards instead. I wrote back immediately, pointing out that it was my money and they had no right to spend it, giving them a deadline to return it. I then got a letter from Arizmendi (27 December 1993) saying that according to their records my subscription to Electronic Male ended with No. 6 so - since she was enclosing the issues of EM that they had never sent me (yes, finally got them!) - they were deducting \$25 from my balance. In other words, she was enclosing a cheque for \$35.

The problem with this is that Joyce McDonald had already confirmed in writing (22nd June 1993) that a computer error had

been made and resulted in my sub ending with No. 6 when it had in fact STARTED with No. 6 and was due to finish with No. 9. She assured me it would be corrected. Obviously it wasn't.

After waiting a week or so to see if the cheque cleared, I wrote to Arizmendi with photocopies of McDonald's letter and the bank slip showing I'd had £5 deducted for getting the cheque converted, pointing out their error and that thanks to that I was faced with paying two lots of commission to the bank (assuming they finally cough up the rest). I asked for the \$25 plus the dollar equivalent of £5 to refund the unnecessary commission. I gave them till 15th February but as of the 25th I still haven't had any reply so I'm fulfilling my promise to lay all before the Trekking public. I'll let you know if I ever get the rest of it back!

Questions

• **Peter Benei** - Can anyone answer the following questions.

- 1) Why was Earth attacked by the Borg? I mean, they could have attacked several other Federation starbases or out-posts and (as far as I know) they did not attack any important Federation territories.
- 2) Did the Klingons or Romulans send any ships to Wolf 359? Have they ever met the Borg?
- 3) Why do the Borg collect special devices and gadgets from their dead? Why can they not simply beam them aboard the Borg ship?
- 4) Why are we not shown any Ferengi woman?
- 5) The Klingon attack cruiser's head part is similar to the Millennium Falcon in Star Wars. Is this similarity just accidental?
- 6) In the episode Datalore Data is surprised. Is surprise not a form of emotion? Data always says that he has no emotions.
- 7) What does Worf's silver 'belt' represent? Why is he allowed to wear it when Ensign Ro had to 'fight' to have the right to wear her Bajoran earring?
- 8) Why is DS9 called Star Trek Deep Space Nine instead of Star Trek: Bajoran History or something like this? I think this show deals too much with Bajoran politics and religion..

I like the series but do not think of it as a ST story.

• **Lesley Hatch** - SPOILER ALERT In the episode Inheritance when Data and his 'mother' jumped off the cliff, why didn't he pick her up and jump with her in his arms? Was it because he knew she was an android?

• **David J Flack** - Does anyone know where I can get Star Trek T-shirts? I think the ones on QVC are a bit over priced. I am particularly looking for one with the original series Enterprise on the front.

Try Virgin or HMV, or write to The Sheffield Space Centre 33 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HS, enclosing an SAE for their catalogue.

• **Raj Badhan** - In the classic Star Trek, or in The Starfleet Technical Manual by Franz Joseph, it shows the UFP logo with 'faces' at the sides of it, but in Star Trek 6 and The Next Generation, the faces are replaced by something that looks like ears of corn. Which of these is the true logo.

Janet - the logo in STVI and TNG has laurel leaves. I think the original series had the faces, but I'm not sure about the early movies.

In ST IV, in the scene where Dr Gillian Taylor (Catherine Hicks) and Kirk are in the pizza bar and the waiter comes in with the bill asking, "Which of you get the bad news?" (i.e. the bill). Gillian says, "I don't suppose they have money in the 23rd Century?" and Kirk replies, "No we don't". Why then, at the beginning of STVI does Scotty say that he's just "bought" a boat? Also, how do members of Starfleet get paid?

Has Spock got a first name?

Janet - Spock is his first name. His Vulcan name is unpronounceable (Journey to Babel).

How did Spock's coffin come to soft-land on Genesis? David said it was the gravitational fields that were in flux. The only thing I can think of is that Kirk must have secretly programmed the soft landing.

• **Andrea Sudworth** - I read somewhere that Brent Spiner was going to appear in a film with Whoopi Goldberg - in a cameo role. Is

there any truth in this?

Janet - Sorry, I haven't heard - unless they are talking about STVII!

Suggestions

Ray Brown - Tulsa, USA. Could members post their Internet or Fidonet addresses? I can easily send "EMail" to an Internet or Fidonet address. Mine is:

1:170/255 @ FIDONET.ORG or

R.Brown @ F255.N170.21.FIDONET.ORG

Janet - By all means, but please type the address or print it very clearly. I am not sure whether the final part of yours is OR6 or ORG.

I hope to have an EMail address myself by the next newsletter.

Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham. Have you ever thought about running a book and zine library? Fans could donate the book, etc, to the library, so penniless (most of the time) fans like me could borrow them.

Sheila - I know of one or two people who have run a postal library in the past, not necessarily in Trek fandom, but it requires a lot of time to organise and operate it - time that none of us has. If anyone wants to try running a Trek book and zine library, we would certainly be happy to advertise them.

Dawn Stead - What about making Jim Davidson (TV celebrity and avid TNG fan) an honorary member?

Janet - we know he is a big fan. Does anyone have an address for him or Cliff Richards?

☆☆☆☆

T'KON 94

reported by Edward Woo

Friday - drove to Bradford, getting there ahead of schedule to register. Showered, shaved and eyed the programme. Videos were already running. My first duty was the 6th floor later in the day. (The ground floor had the main hall and Video 1.)

Over the next few hours IDIC, KAG, various members of Sheila's Chain Gang, Jackie and Wendy of the old TNE (who haven't been to a Trek con for 6 years, though active in Beauty and the Beast fandom) and many other familiar faces arrived. Mr Rothwell and I did our good deed for the day when Jackie Comben arrived on foot, having got lost in the one-way system - we helped her find the NCP car park.

Between watching episodes I got to the dealers' room to say hello to IDIC and pass on some stamps and charity items. I also had some general auction items to hand in (the list was still being compiled).

The opening ceremony was soon upon us and with a quick bite of food it was camera time. As the hall filled, Jim did a 5-minute warm-up routine with the usual Trek jokes. Martin, our MC, came on stage and

invited a shy committee to be seen but not heard. Our guests were introduced - Bjo and John Trimble (who said "Come and talk to us"), John Carrigan the stunt man and finally Tim Gaskell from the OUKFC (who had literally just arrived). Danny J-Jules (from Red Dwarf) would arrive tomorrow. The con was officially open.

I had intended to go and see Tek War but it was full. Instead, we gathered around Bjo in the foyer before going to eat. The Horror party was in full swing. We finished the evening watching videos - I think I fell asleep half way through Relics (at 3 am).

Saturday - We had three clocks set at quarter hour intervals to get us up. Down to a staggered breakfast, popped into the city for some throat medicine (I had a bad throat all weekend, so was not my usual talkative self), then had an interesting conversation with an original series Klingon while we waited for the dealers' room to open. I got another large format book, and got Bjo to autograph my On the Good Ship Enterprise.

Next door was the art and model room. 2 superb pictures of Sarek and Spock and

Odo and Quark, also three etched glasses with famous ST faces, among others.

Bjo's talk was at 11 am. She was very informative about her letter campaign involvement, the latest ST VII news and the casting of Voyager. She described how she and many fans were in TMP and how they were much better than the extras! Gene was very kind, especially for charity cons. She said it was her first visit to England for 10 years, as they keep inviting Richard instead. I very much enjoyed her talk and looked forward to her slide show next day.

Next was John Carrigan's stunt show. He was very informative about fighting styles and the use of camera angles to aid stunt fighting. Even knowing how to fall is important.

After this was Danny Jules, who had literally arrived. He had a full capacity audience and said he is contracted to do another series of Red Dwarf. He gave his impressions of the last series (scripts came late, and one episode was completely done by autocue!) At one point, for 6 - 8 weeks he was filming Red Dwarf then doing a play in the evening. He was originally only there for the day, but enjoyed himself so much he stayed on till the Sunday.

Happy birthday, Sheila - sorry I didn't make it, but got rerouted to help the charity auction. John and Tim were doing it in tandem, with over 30 items sold. The highest bid was for George Takei's Hollywood Star of Fame badge - donated by Bjo, only 400 were made.

While we were taking the auction money, Tim Gaskell began his talk, so I missed it (though Simon got it on tape). Got a brief look at the Trek Encyclopedia - it looked good.

With time to spare I got into DS9 uniform and headed for the fancy dress. This included a 'Merry' Klingon, a Klingon nun (!) A Vulcan officer, the Jurassic Park team, a Ferengi Borg and many more. The winner was K'Donna - a brilliant song and dance show mimed to Madonna's singing. As a

final salute all people in uniform did a parade.

On Sunday, IDIC held a meeting, but I had arranged a family get-together locally and left the con for 4 - 5 hours. I missed John and Danny's second talks and the general auction.

Bjo's second spot had her slide show. Her slides showed ST always had action, love and laughter. Rick Berman was groomed by Gene to take over. She was open-minded about Voyager, and Tek War was surprisingly good for its virtual reality. When the slides finished, she did a brief Q and A session. She remarked it was the best Tech crew she had worked with, then left to the applause of a well-entertained audience.

The mediaeval night began while we headed for the steward's party of sandwiches, drinks and chocolate eggs - it's Easter, you know! Then we watched more videos and I started packing about 3.30 am.

Monday - my room mate Simon never made it to bed; he was found on the reception floor couch. Had a final trip round the dealers' room.

People were leaving by now. At 1.30 pm was a Q and A session with Bjo, John and Martin. Bjo did most of the answering. Paramount are tearing down the NG sets - these could be auctioned off to fans, but Paramount can't be bothered. The Viacom take-over will have no effect on ST as it is its cash cow anyway. One query was whether Gene, in starting ST, was in it for the money or an ideal; John Trimble said both.

Finally the closing ceremony was upon us. First the raffle was drawn (no luck), then the prizes for the fancy dress and art competitions. Thanks were given to everyone who helped run the con; Kathryn Trimble was given a teddy bear and Bjo and John a Lilliput Lane house (I think).

A final video, and it was time to go (though I got involved in a three-quarter hour discussion with Bjo about far Eastern cultures and her desire to travel since

childhood). I then headed for the M62 and home, getting to bed about 2 am. Luckily I had Tuesday off!

Thanks to Martin and Kathy for the con.

☆☆☆☆

T'KON 1994 - COMMENTS

We've had letters from two people who visited T'Kon for 1 day, both of whom were unhappy about their experiences. To summarise these letters:

P Mortimer already had plans for Easter weekend so he could only go on the Friday. He arrived at the con early on Friday morning, and paid £15 to register (previously advertised as £10).

He then discovered the sales rooms (in which he was particularly interested) were only open from 4 pm to 6 pm; and he had to be back home in Wales for 8 pm. A quick chat with a steward told him that it was a surprise that the dealers' rooms were open at all! because the first day of a con is usually for registration and things don't 'get going' until the second day; so after spending only an hour at his first con he left for home, feeling 'madder than hell'.

Alex Pidd went on the Saturday. He, too, was annoyed to find that the on-the-door registration was £5 dearer than had been advertised, and that the programme in the con book was useless because everything had been changed. He also felt that the organisation of the autograph queue left much to be desired. The 'security' people were allowed to go first and apparently get as many as they wanted, which took 30 minutes. Then the 'ordinary' people were permitted, with a queue at least five times larger, and only allowed one autograph per person.

His main concern was about certain comments made by Kathy Yates in the con booklet. One of these was "phone calls... from people who seem to be under the misapprehension that the convention is being organised solely for them". His opinion was that cons **were** organised for the attendees; he found the article insulting, and asked if the

people arranging cons really regarded the attendees as 'scum who just get in the way'.

Although he enjoyed much of the day, he was left feeling that the whole thing was badly organised, and run as a get-together for people who always attends cons but not for first-timers or people wanting to see the guests. Unlike Mr Mortimer, this was not Alex's first con, so he knew they were not all like this, but he commented that if it had been, he would be unlikely to try another con.

We sent P Mortimer's letter to Kathy Yates, who organised T'Kon, and invited her comments.

She pointed out that unlike many cons, T'Kon actually started a video programme at 9 am on the Friday. Although in an ideal world all aspects of the programme would be up and running by the time the first attendees arrived, this is not possible.

She said Mr Mortimer's complaint was the first of its nature she had received in 10 years of organising cons and that it was a pity he had not raised the matter with her actually on the Friday. She agreed that Mr Mortimer should have been told before he paid anything the sort of programme he could expect on the Friday, but added that this would only have been done if the people on the desk actually knew he was a first-time attendee.

The advertised price was for pre-booking a one-day attendance; the on-the-door price is higher to encourage people to pre-register - this allows the con to budget for guests, etc.

As a gesture of goodwill, she returned to Mr Mortimer the difference between pre-booked and on-the-door registration, and

recommended that a Saturday would be the best day for a one-day attendance.

Alex Pidd sent Kathy Yates a copy of his letter but as of writing this we haven't heard from her.

☆☆☆☆

Noddy and Bigears go to Docklands

(I wouldn't bother to try and fathom how my brain works, if I were you)

A Report on UFP '94, by Helen White

FRIDAY

Do not ever attempt to drive through central London on a Friday, if you value your sanity (pause for all my regular readers to cry "what sanity?")

Having first called in at Mr Safeway to obtain supplies (Confucius say, 'London hotel in middle of nowhere may mean huge food bills' - although typically, us having planned ahead, the hotel food was perfectly reasonably priced.... Incidentally, did you know that 'Confucius' is an anglicisation of the chap's name? Well it is, although I can't remember the proper Chinese rendering.) We then filled up the car with petrol and drove to London, vroom. When we reached London, I navigated and Sam - you haven't met Sam yet, hang on a tick and I'll introduce you - drove. It didn't help that for some reason my London A - Z doesn't see fit to indicate one-way streets.... Sam - hello, Sam - is Jo's 'other half' and a suitably lunatic addition to our gang; she did ask me to point out, however, that we have corrupted her. From not being too interested in Trek, she started watching in order to understand our 'in-jokes', and rapidly ("I am NOT addicted. Have you got any more season seven?") became sucked into the bottomless void that is fandom....

After a strenuous trip through ye centre of Olde Londinium, we eventually located Docklands, and thence the Britannia hotel. Having pre-registered (what an excellent idea; we queued for only two or three minutes to book in) we split up and went to find our rooms. Jim and I were on the seventh floor with a most comfortable room and a stunning view of Canary Wharf (the tallest building in London, apparently). We unpacked, then went down to meet up

with Jo and Sam and read our con booklets. Having decided what we all wanted to do, we tootled off to the Stewards' Meeting, where we were met by Kim who went through all the usual stewarding information. She also told us that the stewards were allowed into the dealers' room immediately....

You will not, I suspect, be surprised to discover that our next port of call was the aforementioned emporium. Not all the dealers were there yet, but I bought two earrings, including a really gorgeous Bajoran one (hello Gytha, hello Paul and Sadie).

Us three girlies then went for a most relaxing swim in the hotel pool (Jim was in the gym, confusing a poor Mundane who was clearly not accustomed to sharing the facilities with a Vulcan, especially one wearing a Harley Davidson headband....) I enjoyed my swim very much, apart from the fact that I decided to go underwater and 'lost' an ear.

Having returned to the dealers' room and spent more money, sigh, we adjourned to the main hall for the Opening Ceremony, where we were introduced to the committee and guests. Of the latter, we'd met three before - Peter Morwood, Diane Duane and David Gerrold. The others were Ronald Moore, Brannon Braga (co-producers of TNG) and Lolita Fatjo (script co-ordinator for same), who showed promising signs of being as mad as anyone else.

Following the ceremony we went back to the stewards' room and stood on its balcony chatting with friends old and new, then went to bed.

SATURDAY

We got up at 7 and had a typical con breakfast, then returned yet again to the money pit, I mean dealers' room.

Following that we returned to our room, along with Richard Marsh who had by now appeared, hello Richard. We watched the window cleaners as they descended in their cradle (or 'shuttle' as they informed us!), then went to the auction; or at least Jim and Richard did. I was waylaid by Kim, who was desperately seeking a steward to cover for one who hadn't turned up. I volunteered and thereby got to watch one of the newest DS9 episodes, Sanctuary, which is a goody.

I then went to watch David Gerrold's talk. I lasted half an hour before I got fed up with the man's arrogance ("I wrote this script and other writers were ringing to tell me how good it was, and they NEVER do that....") and went to the Adult auction instead. I was going to go to Ron-and-Brannon-and-Lolitas' (the apostrophe goes at the end because it's a collective noun!) talk, but sadly I was by this time throwing a major wobbly, i.e. depression had struck, so I missed it and went back to our room instead.

Jim and I were down to steward for two hours each in the evening; he went on ahead while I gathered myself as much as possible and dragged myself down to the 'Oops' room, where I sat by the balcony door and struggled to feel better.

Towards the end of Jim's shift we had an emergency; someone came in for a first aider as a fan had collapsed. I know enough first aid to be helpful initially (although I'm not qualified) so I ran to see if I could do anything while 'official help' was sought. Luckily one of the hotel people was there - he was a first aider and had the situation in hand; an ambulance was called and Elise and Sarah (the con first aiders) arrived. Basically the fan in question had collapsed from the effects of heat, so they set about cooling her off while the rest of us fetched ice, towels etc. The ambulancemen eventually arrived, by which time Mrs Fan had started to revive properly, and one of them checked her over.

The unoccupied one turned out to be yet another Trek fan!

The first chap then decided that we ought to move Mrs Fan to somewhere cooler - we suggested the Oops room as it had a good breeze coming through the doors from the river. This meant negotiating the very crowded hall, so I got to go in front and yell "emergency coming through"! When we arrived, we got Mrs Fan settled, and I discovered that I now felt a bit better - the yelling probably helped, actually. The first ambulanceman took Mrs Fan's details, and I gave the second two fan club addresses (IDIC and FIB, of course) at his request; we all warned him off the Official club!

Mrs Fan was then carted off to her room by her friends (she was fine by the next day, as far as I know) and the room gradually emptied. Jim and I chatted with various people as they wandered in and out, including 'The Bajoran Women', hello girls. We eventually went to bed at gone 1am.

SUNDAY

Got up at 7 again, luckily feeling rather better, and had another humungous (what a good word that is, isn't it?) breakfast, then went to help Richard on the registration desk for an hour or so.

Following that, it was time for the Writers' Workshop, run by Ron, Brannon and Lolita and one of the best £10 I've ever spent. Basically, it was about writing for Trek, but also covered a lot about professional writing in general, and was thus extremely useful as well as a fascinating insight into how the Trek script department works.

I met Jean Sloan at the workshop - hello Jean, and while I'm at it, hello to all my friends who weren't at the con - and she had luckily been to the previous day's talk, so she offered to write it up for the n/1, what a jolly nice person you are.

Having been to the dealers' room yet again, I went to watch the charity auctions, where David Gerrold auctioned a Klingon star map (as used in STVI and signed by Mike

Okuda) for an eventual total of £400, eek!

MONDAY

Next came Peter and Diane's talk - and they were excellent, as usual - followed by The Academy Game. This was a team game which involved being stranded on a planet and having to mine dilithium; the one with the most at the end won. Naturally, it was more complicated than that; we had to manage our money, food and water supplies and complete the mission within a time limit. It was good fun, and we came third out of six teams (two of them 'died', oops)

After that, we all went to the stewards' party, where a lot of the stewards sat watching a video and ignored the guests, which I thought was extremely rude of them; so did Jo, so she told them off after the guests had left! Well done that woman.

The few of us remaining then played The Klingon Game (it's very similar to Atmosfear, in which you have to obey the instructions of a 'Gatekeeper' while trying to collect six keys and reach the centre of the board) which was most entertaining and had everybody shouting at 'Captain Gavok', the Klingon on the screen. (A big thank-you to Kim and Alison for letting us borrow it.) Richard won, and we had to present him with a 'medal', while saying something about 'saving the Federation'. I can't remember the exact wording, but it ended with "Live Long and Prosper TM" Yes, that famous Vulcan phrase is now trademarked. Oh dear....

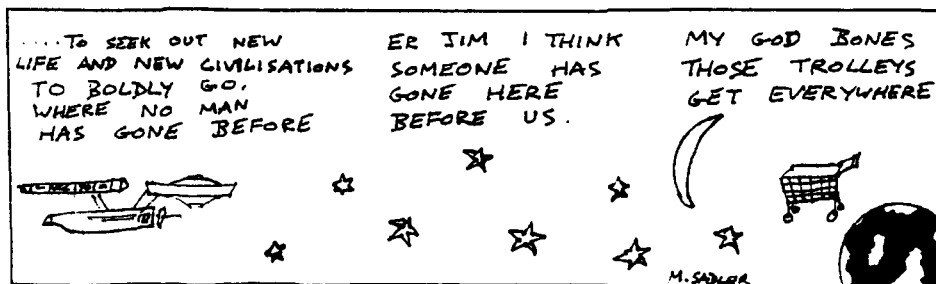
After the game we all went up to Jim's and my room for a natter. Richard had paid David Gerrold £1 for an autograph (DG's standard 'fee', which goes to charity) and said that he should have asked for a VAT receipt!

Got up at 7 yet again and turned on the TV to watch some of the con attendees appearing on The Big B****up, sorry I mean Breakfast. Missed it, so went to breakfast. As we went back to our room afterwards, we met two of said attendees, who explained that they'd only been onscreen for approximately fifteen seconds anyway, during which Gaby (the 'presenter') held a tricorder to her ear and said "Beam them down, I mean up." They were all rather annoyed, understandably, having had to get up at some unearthly hour for the 'privilege' of appearing, but they got their own back; as they went back to their cars they saw an outside broadcast being filmed, so they sang Star Trekking at the tops of their voices, ha.

After breakfast Jim and I went to the Oops room to steward again, then (already!) it was time for the guest panel and closing ceremony. The panel was very funny; someone had decided that no TV series of any kind should be mentioned, and anyone who did so was fined. All the guests were on top form, except possibly Brannon who looked rather the worse for wear....

Following the panel came the closing ceremony, which was rather sad in one way, because this was the last UFP con for a while; Ros and Dave Liddle now have a baby son - hello Gavin, and congratulations to both of you - so understandably want to concentrate on child-rearing for a while.

Anyway, 64375 cheers for the committee, especially Kim, and please don't stay away too long.



UFP CON - TALKS

**RONALD D MOORE, BRANNON BRAGA
& LOLITA FATJO (30/4/94)**

reported by Russell Witheyman

This was the first talk by Ron, Brannon and Lolita during the weekend and probably the most enjoyable. First of all they introduced themselves as each other, which had the crowd in stitches, and then they proceeded to tell the audience how they got involved in ST. In case anyone doesn't know, Ron was invited onto the staff in the 3rd season after selling his scripts of *The Bonding* and *The Defector*; Brannon came aboard in the 4th season as an intern in the Writers' Guild and Lolita has been with TNG since the 2nd season and now oversees all script submissions for TNG, DS9 and the upcoming ST:VOY. After explaining how they got involved with the show, they presented a slide show of the 7th season TNG episodes that they had written.

Brannon asked the audience if they liked the episode *Sub Rosa* that he had written and there was a negative response from the audience. Brannon said that's what most US fans thought about it, but then he said that he really liked it as it was very different from other ST episodes and that they are always looking to do different and new things on ST.

Ron Moore told us that *Journey's End* was his favourite of what he had written this season, and Brannon said that *Genesis* was probably his. There were a few more slides which showed various behind-the-scenes shots of cast and crew, including a nice one of Patrick and Jonathan filming *Attached*. Both agreed that Jonathan Frakes was probably their best director.

Lolita then told us about a new TNG episode called *Emergence*, in which the *Enterprise* takes on a mind of its own and recreates the *Orient Express* on the holodeck! Lolita also ran down forthcoming DS9 episodes including *Crossover*, which she says is DS9's version of *Mirror, Mirror*, in which O'Brien and Bashir are trapped on an

alternate DS9, and the last episode of the season in which we finally meet the *Dominion*, of which there was a mention in a few DS9 episodes this year.

Not much was said about the film or the last episode of TNG, except that Brannon thought *All Good Things* was probably one of the best episodes they had done.

Lolita then told us about ST:VOY. The rumours about Lindsay Wagner's being Captain appear to be just that - rumours! and also that the pilot has only just been written.

Ron and Brannon aren't sure what they will do next; they are hoping to move over to DS9 or to VOY, but neither were sure, though expressing interest in both as they were different challenges from TNG. They were asked by someone in the audience if they had ever written an episode which had turned out differently on screen from what they had written. They both agreed that this does sometimes happen and that prime examples of this were *Eye of the Beholder* and especially *Aqui*, both of which they were disappointed with.

All in all this was a very enjoyable talk. They were very funny (especially the banter between Ron and Brannon) and I sincerely hope they come back again some day.

DIANE AND PETER'S TALK (Sunday) (Trek bits only)

Reported by Helen White

Diane is probably going to write another TNG book; besides that, she has another at Pocket at the moment waiting to be processed. Her comment "What lifeform is so nasty that even Picard wants to kill it immediately?"

The German version of *The Romulan Way* has a noodle advertisement in the middle of the book! ('When you're on the Bridge in the middle of a battle, you can't

stop for a snack.... but you, the reader, are luckier....')

Ron Moore stayed with Peter and Diane for a week before the con; they introduced him to Guinness....

They have both read the film script (written by Ron Moore and Brannon Braga) and like it a lot - they wouldn't say anything more than that!

Peter met Gene on *Star Trek* '85 and said that when they spoke about *Trek* Gene was on 'automatic pilot'; however when Peter started talking about B17 Bombers (a mutual interest) he suddenly became highly animated.

Diane and Peter both love *Trek* fans/Trekkers/Trekkies/whatever else you like to call us, but they aren't so keen on what they call 'Velcroids' - the kind of obsessed fan that latches on to someone and refuses to go away.

For *Spock's World*, Diane was asked to explain the 'Vulcan has no moon' quotation, in view of the fact that in *TMP* we can see a huge satellite in the background of the

planet scenes. She worked out the basic background to the novel by asking herself what would have caused Vulcan's people to develop in such a way.

The idea for *Dark Mirror* (her latest *TNG* novel) arose from a discussion about costumes between herself and Peter: she ended up ringing Pocket in New York to speak to Dave Stern and check whether she could go ahead and write the story, as she didn't know if she'd be allowed to write a 'Mirror, Mirror' *TNG*. She said that she had great fun with the *Mirror Wesley*.... ('*TNG* is so 'nice' it's horrible!')

Diane pointed out that, although she co-wrote the *TNG* episode *Where No One*, all that remains of the original script is one scene and one shot! She thinks that their version was/is much better; sadly she couldn't tell us about it as Paramount have copyright.

Peter and Diane talked for over an hour about the above plus various other subjects, such as cooking, and their cats; they were as entertaining as when the writer first saw them at *UFP* '91.

☆☆☆☆

UFP 94 WRITERS' WORKSHOP

reported by Jean Sloan

On Sunday, Lolita Fatjo, Ron Moore and Brannon Braga ran a workshop for aspiring writers. There is an open policy for scripts and story ideas. You don't need an agent to submit a script, but the chances of having a script bought are almost nil - only 3 spec scripts have been bought in 7 years. If you submit a script and it attracts interest the most likely outcomes are as follows:

The story will be bought for about \$8000 plus residuals

You will get a call to go to LA and 'pitch'
A premise from the script will be bought.

Lolita Fatjo assured us that ALL spec scripts are read by a team paid to read and

summarise the materials. About one in fifty people are invited in to pitch.

Paramount offers an internship programme which lasts 6 weeks, during which the lucky person becomes part of the writing staff. Lolita Fatjo was unsure if this programme was available outside the US, but application is made by a letter of intent, plus a writing sample and a CV, and should be sent to Ira Behr. Brannon Braga started on an internship and was kept on.

Lolita Fatjo advises people who wish to write for *DS9* (obvious if *TNG* is ended, and *Voyager* is not up and running) to read scripts. They must be submitted

accompanied by a Paramount TV Release Form or the material will be returned unread. It is no good sending in ideas or outlines - only full scripts will be read. No two-parter episodes will be read.

It is also essential to have a copy of the ST submission guidelines before embarking on a writing project because otherwise you could waste your time in a big way; these guidelines tell you what to do and not to do in terms of story, format and the submission process.

A copy of the submissions guidelines can be obtained by phoning (213) 956-8301, which is a 24-hour hotline.

If you submit a script and it is rejected, no reason for the rejection is given but it is likely to be one of the following reasons:

The script was 'crap' (quote from LF)
The story was similar to something else in production
You broke the rules.

The most successful stories are those which provide an emotional challenge to one or more people, alongside a great science fiction premise. The team offered some comments on stories that did or did not work; as examples The Host and The Bonding were good stories about people; The High Ground didn't work because it lacked a good science fiction angle. Shows which address 'big' ideas do so most successfully through metaphor - The Outcast worked; Force of Nature did not - it was too technical. The

Spot sub-plot, which was an attempt to make it more personal, is the most memorable thing about the episode. The Host, a Bev love story, started with a SF premise.

There are many cliches to avoid, all of which are logged on The Board (a large board in the scripting offices. The worst thing that can happen to a script is if its story idea ends up on The Board.) It is everyone's aim, professionals included, to stay off The Board. Some examples of cliches are:

Big Mum (a planet is alive)
Pop quiz (torture which turns out to be a test)
A surprise relative turns up
Mentors/old flames turn up
Time travel (but some shows transcend cliché) [Jean's comment - Time's Arrow didn't!]

The Writers' Workshop was very interesting and I have not done justice to it in this report. There was more about pitching, formatting scripts and about the workings of the writing team. The session cost £10 and I thought it was worth it. I am interested in the process of writing - I just wish I had the creativity to generate script ideas. The message which came across is that if you DO have ideas and the time - give it a go, but make sure you adhere to the guidelines.

Footnote - Writers/Directors' Guides and sample scripts can be obtained from Lincoln Enterprises, PO Box 691370, Hollywood, CA 90069, USA. A catalogue is available for \$1; you can also get scripts from dealers in this country.

☆☆☆☆

WILLIAM SHATNER MEETS JON PERTWEE (VIA SATELLITE)

on the ITV This Morning Show 19/4/94

a slightly edited transcription by Stewart J McMillan

Jon Pertwee; Isleworth, Middlesex - The final frontier. My mission, to go by satellite to the bridge of the Enterprise, to seek out and interview Captain James T Kirk. To boldly go where no ex-Time Lord had gone before. (Interview begins.) It's amazing our paths

haven't crossed before. We both started fighting intergalactic evil 30 years ago. Me and my Tardis. Him on his Starship. I'd heard of him, but would he have heard of me?

William Shatner - Doctor Who has been around for 30 years?

JP - Yes. That's why I'm surprised you haven't heard of it (laughs).

WS - (Jokingly) Oh, I knew that. I knew that!

JP - Tell me how you feel about the cult status we both enjoy.

WS - Well, I feel rather good about it. Cult has a rather ominous tone to the word, but in our case people communicate their caring and love for the shows that we're in on a very personal basis. And so they meet and talk and they're less and less furtive about it.

JP - We both moved on to other projects. I, Worzel Gummidge and there's a whole Shatner season on Sky. All they ever talk about are the roles that made us famous. Does that worry him?

WS - I don't think that the Captain Kirk character has intruded that much. When I was filming T J Hooker, for example, before it went on air, when the people would gather around the film crew on the streets they would say, "Oh, that's the guy that played Captain Kirk". The next day after the premiere of T J Hooker, people would say, "Oh, there's the guy that played T J Hooker". It's as ephemeral as that.

JP - There's another parallel. I handed over to a new Doctor 20 years ago. Kirk, too, has stepped down in favour of a new generation, and in the new Star Trek movie Kirk boldly goes for good? Is it really the end for Captain Kirk?

WS - I believe it is, Jon. I believe that this is the last time that I will appear as Captain Kirk, much to my regret. I'm in the midst of filming the movie right now. I came off the sound stage last night, while the Next Generation cast goes to work, then I come back... I left the bridge of the Enterprise with a great deal of sadness. That was my last time there - I don't have any question about that.

JP - Doctor Who may be Steven Spielberg's next big project.

WS - Really!

JP - How would you like to play the lead role (laughs) because he won't offer it to me (laughs again).

WS - Well, I think perhaps I could play it (half jokingly). Don't you? (more jokingly)

JP - I think you could. (Banter continues between the two as the interview finishes.)

☆☆☆☆

ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT - SALUTES STAR TREK

SKY ONE - Sunday 8/5/94

by Alan Stephen

E.T. dedicated a whole one hour show to Star Trek. Featured were behind the scenes peaks at Star Trek: Generations - the construction sets from the big budget movie. Patrick Stewart would give nothing away, merely saying, "Two Captains meet and something happens." Also featured was the final episode of TNG, expect to see the past, present and future of the TNG universe. The clips showed a Daedalus class Starship and the Enterprise from the future with three nacelles. The cast were shown being made up as older men or women; Worf with grey

hair looks very distinguished. Jonathan Frakes was very happy to hear the make up man say that "John has very few wrinkles". Jonathan shouted to the soundman, "Did you get that?"

The programme also took a glance at fandom, conventions, costumes and a Klingon summer camp.


William Shatner was interviewed at his Kentucky ranch and Michael Dorn was interviewed sitting in his Thunderbird jet.

Michael was rather put out when he found that his contract for the movie forbade him to fly his jet plane. Both Gates McFadden and Marina Sirtis were interviewed. Marina took a tour around the wardrobe department and showed the bras she has to wear and the male supports that Patrick, Michael, Brent etc. have to wear to prevent V.P.I. (Visible Pantie Line). Gates and Marina commented that roles for women in Star Trek had improved since the early days.

What made the programme for me

were scenes of the cast goofing off and having fun.. DS9 was also mentioned, but regrettably no mention of Voyager.

All the cast expressed their sorrow at the show coming to an end [especially Jonathan Frakes who couldn't understand why they were cancelling the series]. Patrick Stewart added that he had never worked with such a fine bunch of people before and would count himself very lucky if he ever did again.



DIANE CAREY

or

How does one writer produce such widely differing work?

by Neil Barrett

I'm very puzzled by Carey's style because it's so variable. The two novels just mentioned are awful, two more are distinctly odd and the last two are far superior. One possibility is the presence or absence of a collaborator - from the preface to 'Best Destiny' it is clear that Carey's partner Gregory Brodeur has a lot of input but not so clear as to which books and where.

Let's start with 'Ghost Ship'. This is Carey's only TNG novel (I'm ignoring the adaptation of 'Descent') and it's the feeblest of the lot. Marysia describes it as 'A Troi story' and leaves it there - I would describe it as 'A Troi wrings her hands and faints a lot story'. Perhaps a lot of the things I didn't like about it could be due to the fact that this is TNG Season 1 and the character interaction is very jumpy. There is some Riker-Data animosity which looks very wrong when you read it now. The idea of ghosts in the 23rd and 24th centuries keeps re-appearing in Trek novels and has been done far better. I suspect that this plot was influenced by Charles Berlitz's 'The Philadelphia Experiment' since that was what came repeatedly to my mind.

Then we have 'The Great Starship Race' and it seems that Carey hasn't improved much in the intervening time. Gloria says 'the premise is rather shaky' and I

say 'very shaky'. The race takes place through a number of navigational hazards and without rescue ships - Starfleet would never let it go ahead never mind taking part. If Starfleet join in as a PR exercise do they really need to send four ships? More likely for Starfleet to have the extra ships around for emergencies and rescue duties. Extremely unlikely that they would agree to have their ships handicapped as well. The Klingons seem to have had the best idea - they kept out of it altogether...

What Carey is actually trying to do is portray the spirit of adventure being carried forward into space; the comradeship of sail continuing into the realm of warp drive. It's a recurring theme in her work and I can follow it in an intellectual sense but I don't really empathise with it. It ties in with her other leitmotif of the mystique of captaincy and the loneliness of command and sometimes overrides realism.

There are good elements in this novel. Firstly, Commander Valdus, a complex character and, in Kirk's words, "a decent man who's convinced he's doing the right thing." Unfortunately, the right thing would be rather unpleasant for the other interesting element. I refer to the Rey, a new Federation member who set up the race in the first place.

The Rey are a child-like people, intensely eager to please, easily panicked - McCoy likens them to humanoid antelopes. An intriguing idea, that evolution might not always favour the predator. The Rey are also empathic projectors or reflectors, rather like Betazoids in reverse, an instinctive ability developed as a defence mechanism. Again, an interesting idea. Such a pity that James White thought of it in a Sector General story nearly 20 years ago.

In the middle of Carey's range we have the two Piper novels - 'Dreadnought!' and 'Battlestations!' When I started reading 'Dreadnought!' my instinctive reaction was "Aaargh!". Having finished it I was very uncertain and it wasn't until the second reading that I decided I had enjoyed the experience. 'Battlestations!' is a direct sequel and had pretty much the same effect.

The cause of my initial revulsion was that both these novels are written in the first person from the point of view of a young female officer coming aboard the Enterprise for the first time. This formula crops up repeatedly in fan fiction and often serves as an extension of the author's own fantasies about the Trek universe or about a particular character. The way in which the narrator manages to save the Galaxy despite being incredibly incompetent and becomes Kirk's protegee irritated me immensely as did her gushing hero worship of the regular characters.

Piper's exploits are a little far-fetched even for the most brilliant captain but totally unbelievable for a new Academy graduate who never gets round to actually putting on her uniform. The character of Piper is such that I doubt she would have ever have passed the Starfleet entrance tests let alone be selected as a captaincy candidate. On the outside she is cocky and egotistical, ordering crewmates about bossily and throwing tantrums when challenged but underneath she is wracked with self-doubt and fear which manifests itself the first time she has to react to a real emergency. Through both novels, Piper blunders from place to place, alternately declaiming "I'm in Charge!" and wailing "Oh God, I can't cope!" and manages

to save the day more by accident than design with a lot of help from her best friends.

In fact, it is the minor characters who make the novels. They carry Piper through adventures, putting up with regular abuse, coming up with the answers and getting very second-rate rewards for it. Particularly Sarda, a Vulcan with so many problems that he makes Spock look positively serene. Despite which he still ends up holding Piper's hand, both figuratively and literally, through two novels.

Carey is very much trying to explore the mystique of command but I feel the idea deserves a better protagonist. The treatment of the Trek regulars as distant heroic figures is correct from Piper's point of view but it seems very fannish. I don't wish to be derogatory about fan writing but this has such overtones of 'Mary Sue' that it spoils what could be really good stories.

Thirdly we have the two Trek historicals 'Final Frontier' and 'Best Destiny' which are openly admitted as collaborations between Carey and Brodeur. These, in my opinion are far superior. I quite like the idea of Trek historicals anyway and these appealed to me because I find Kirk senior a more likeable character than his son.

'Final Frontier' was the first Carey novel I read and is probably my favourite - I found the pairing of Captain Robert April and Commander George Kirk worked well and the story was both pacy and thoughtful. There are still elements of Carey's favourite theme of 'sailing the stars' but this time in the character of April and the contrast in command styles between April and Kirk is very marked. Carey also treats the Romulans fairly well - I find that many authors have trouble telling Romulans and Klingons apart - and makes them characters in their own right.

'Best Destiny' is not quite as good. Like Gloria, I thought the image of Jimmy Kirk as Jimmy Dean was a bit over the top but I could accept the idea of him being rebellious. The character is different enough to be interesting but has flashes of the Kirk we

know and (some of us) love. It also fitted with the character of his father that Carey & Brodeur have developed. Young Jim even gets the girl (or what's left of her at any rate...). But I must disagree with Gloria about the two settings for the story - I felt that the segments set in the later period were the weaker.

The problem lies not with the hero but with the villain. The young Roy Moss who clashes with Jimmy Kirk is dangerously brilliant, an insane genius turned wrong by circumstance and parentage. The older Moss who reappears to haunt Jim Kirk 45 years later is a disappointment, not living up the promise of the younger. We are clearly expected to be considering the two characters as parallels; 'compare and contrast' as it used to say in 'O' level English. The shift between the two is too drastic; it makes things too

easy for Kirk in the end.

On the whole, I'm still uncertain about Diane Carey. I enjoyed 'Final Frontier' and 'Best Destiny' and I'd like to see more in this series - Kirk at the Academy, Ensign Kirk of the Republic, Lieutenant Kirk of the Farragut etc. It took me a couple of readings to decide whether I enjoyed 'Dreadnought!' and 'Battlestations!' but I came round eventually and if another Piper novel emerges it will end up on my bookshelf. I found 'The Great Starship Race' very jumbled and good ideas were spoilt by a weak frame; I found 'Ghost Ship' dull and unoriginal and I will be hesitant before approaching another TNG story by Carey. How does one writer produce such widely differing work? If the answer isn't Brodeur then I don't know. Do any of



COLM MEANEY

by William Marsh

Meaney has had a rich and varied acting life and has appeared in both films and television programmes spanning a great range of themes, including comedy, thrillers and science fiction.

Meaney began acting as a hobby but shortly after finishing high school he enrolled at the Abbey School of Acting, and later joined as a professional actor. Spending his initial eight years as an actor in England, he had parts in several programmes including Z Cars and Strangers, and in theatre productions Accidental Death of an Architect and Fish in the Sea.

Soon after Meaney decided to move to Los Angeles in order to get more work, and was soon seen on our television screens guest starring in Remington Steele, Tales from the Darkside and the successful Moonlighting series.

The pilot of the CBS series Medicine Woman starring alongside Jane Seymour led to much better film prospects, but after a

nominal non-speaking role in yet another pilot, this time the continuation of the Star Trek phenomenon in the form of Star Trek: The Next Generation, Meaney was offered a recurring role, which he accepted. This gave him the option of continuing with his newly formed film career, appearing in many high calibre movies, including The Commitments, Dick Tracy, Far and Away, Last of the Mohicans, Under Siege, again appearing alongside Bruce Willis in Die Hard 2, and also starring in the upcoming film Into the West.

Meaney's role in TNG was cut short in mid sixth season and his film career was halted at its peak shortly after he was offered a starring role in the newest Star Trek chapter, Deep Space Nine. As Chief of Operations Miles O'Brien he has begun to earn a following from the fans partly because of his likeness to Chief Engineer Montgomery Scott.

Meaney is currently busy working on the second series of DS9.

CONVENTIONS - A FIRST-TIMERS GUIDE

by Sheila Clark

Somehow people who have been going to cons for years imagine that everyone automatically knows certain things about cons before they decide to attend one. However, a letter we received just after T'Kon made us realise that this ain't so. (See T'KON 1994, 1 - 4 APRIL '94 elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Cons are usually advertised as being from the Friday till the Monday (if they're over a holiday weekend). One or two lucky attendees even manage to arrive at the con hotel on the *Thursday* evening, but mostly people arrive at varying times on the Friday, and a few who book for the weekend don't manage to get there until the Saturday. Depending on transport, people start leaving on Sunday afternoon, most leave at some point on Monday afternoon, and again the odd lucky one might stay over until the Tuesday. That's fine for people who have booked for the weekend.

What about people who have never been to a con and who can only go for one day, or choose to go for one day to see what it's all about? These are mostly people who live locally to where the con is being held, but sometimes people will travel a fair distance just to get to a con. Turning up at the door without pre-booking is chancy, though - sometimes a heavily-booked con won't take on-the-door day registrations, not because they don't want to but because the hotel's fire regulations won't allow it. I've heard of someone coming from as far afield as Germany planning to register at the door having to be turned away for that reason. If you're not sure until virtually the last minute whether you will be free to go or not, try to contact the con to find out if on-the-door registrations are being accepted. At need, phone the hotel on the Friday and see if anyone from the committee is available to speak to you. They'll be running round in circles, but someone should be able to tell you if you're wasting your time turning up.

However, let's assume there's plenty of

scope for day registrations (and of course you can pre-book for one day - which is usually cheaper, anyway, than paying at the door). Which is the best day for someone to pick?

Not Friday. Never Friday. The con may very well have a video programme running for a fair part of the day for the benefit of people who have arrived early, but that is likely to be all. Guest talks are never programmed for the Friday - indeed, the main guest may only *arrive* on the Friday and be completely jet-lagged! The sales room is unlikely to be open except for setting up - many dealers won't arrive until quite late on the Friday. (Before I retired, for example, we rarely arrived at a con until 10 pm or even later.) There will probably be the opening ceremony late in the evening, though it *might* be held on Saturday. Friday is get there and set up/settle in day.

Monday is better than Friday, but not much better. There *might* be a guest panel, there will almost certainly be the closing ceremony, the sales room may be open but with a steadily dwindling number of tables as the dealers pack up to go home, and - once again - videos. The art room, etc, will be closed because people will have collected their pictures to take home. Ask at Registration before you pay just what you can expect for your money. Monday is closing up day.

The best day to go for a one-day attendance is Saturday. The sales room is open. All the various displays - the art room, etc - are open. There will be talks by the guest(s). If you can stay fairly late, there's the fancy dress before the disco or theme party that concludes the night. And of course there's the secondary programme of videos.

Sunday is nearly as good and nearly as full a programme, though things often start a little later to allow for the people who didn't get to bed until 2 or 3 am! There may be a theme party at night but there won't be a fancy dress. A few tables in the sales room

may shut by early afternoon if the people running them have to leave early. Not everyone has the Monday off, even on an English holiday weekend - the Scots don't - or the train times are awkward because of the holiday.

One important thing to remember about guests, especially actor guests - their attendance is *always* subject to work commitments. It's happened - more than once over the years - that a guest has had to call off on twenty-four hours notice - eg because the studio has suddenly discovered that dialogue in an important scene has been spoiled somehow and the whole scene needs to be looped over the weekend. Or they are offered a good part in something. John de Lancie told us that often parts (especially in a series) are offered just a day or two before

filming starts. That's one reason most cons try to get at least two guests, though the second one may be nothing to do with Star Trek; for example writer Terry Pratchett was a guest at one con. If your only reason for going is to see a specific guest - you probably will, but be prepared to be disappointed and don't blame the con committee - they're just as disappointed and in addition have the problem of filling a major gap in the programme!

In brief, then - Saturday is the best day for a one-day attendance, followed by Sunday. If you just turn up on the day, ask at Reception what you are likely to get for your money before you pay (pointing out that you haven't been to a con before). And enjoy your day!



PRIME DIRECTIVE

by Jacqueline Y. Comben

I do not wish to spoil anyone's enjoyment by giving away information about a TNG episode, but I was so spitting mad after watching the first few minutes of one recently that I felt compelled to write on the subject of TNG's view of the Prime Directive!

As devised by Gene, this Directive was intended to prevent the mistakes made when various nations were colonising the Earth.

"Thou shalt not interfere with a developing culture and thou shalt not interfere with the internal affairs of a developing culture, unless asked for aid in an emergency."

We must all applaud this. We have seen the results of our heavy-handed imposition of 'our way' in North America, Africa, India, Australasia, etc.

However, if a culture is about to be totally wiped out due to a planetary catastrophe which no living being can possibly survive, an event which was not in any way caused by the people of the planet,

clearly the culture *cannot* develop. Saving at least some of the people gives their culture a chance, which is what the Prime Directive aims to do! Obviously one should try to save them in as unobtrusive a manner as possible, not be beaming down into the main square and announcing, "We have come to save you!", a course certain to change their religion for evermore! However, it does not seem to me to be consistent with Gene's views to consign an entire species to death without even considering possible methods to save some of them in a way which will affect their future development only minimally.

Perhaps the wording of the Directive was tightened up after some of James T Kirk's more imaginative interpretations of the original, but not, surely, to such an extent that a Starship Captain, normally a compassionate man and far from rule-bound, declares that he has no choice but to watch a people die, while saving a few of their artifacts for a museum. In fact, the characterisation of Picard in the episode appeared to me to imply that the writer did

not know him at all. Later, he was represented as referring to a plan as 'ours' when he had no input into it whatsoever, but had been forced to accept it as a fait accompli.

I cannot believe that Gene would have approved the episode, despite the fact that it could be argued that Pen Pals suffered from a similar fault. In Pen Pals, it would have been better had it been made clear that the geological instability was a localised effect and that many people would have survived.

In Homeward there could be no mistake as to the completeness of the destruction.

I welcome comments.



TYPICAL TREK?

by Jay Stevenson

Gordon Smyth (N/L 31) wondered about other fans' favourite episodes. It's nice to compare choices but I suspect the basic reasons for them do not involve much (if any) objective analysis. You want proof? Hands up all you who would list Patterns of Force? Why do you enjoy it, ladies? Why are your fingers poised over the freeze-frame button? So that you can stop the action and ponder upon the social and political messages this particular episode is revealing? You may be pondering upon something but I bet it's visual rather than cerebral.

Patrick Stewart was once asked by an interviewer which episodes of the Next Generation he would use to 'convert' anyone who had never seen the series. Asked which five stories you believed to be truly representative of Classic Trek, would they be identical to the ones you'd take with you to a desert island? Be honest!

Gordon lists six titles as his five favourites (the counting becomes understandable when you note his address). One is A Private Little War. What would this rather forgettable episode tell a non-fan about Trek? That aliens wear improbable blond wigs? That Trek 'monsters' are as awful as any from a fifties B movie? That Vulcans have a decidedly odd way of recovering from near fatal injuries?

A typical episode must surely both

entertain and show as many of the now-accepted Trek standards as possible. My five (counting in English) would be Errand of Mercy, The Trouble With Tribbles, Journey to Babel, The Galileo Seven and Tomorrow is Yesterday. Counting by Gordon's method I'd add The Empath.

So why? Errand of Mercy demonstrates Trek's unique treatment of a much-used sci-fi storyline: goodies v baddies, both finally brought to heel by Superior Beings. Kirk and the Klingon Commander, each in their own way, condemn the Organians as wimps because they won't fight. In the lovely scene at the end Kirk and Kor are almost allies in their desire to persuade the Organians to allow them to try and kill each other. Note Spock's brief look of amusement as he listens to their arguments.

A lesser series would have had Kirk nobly arguing against war and the Klingons arguing for it. A lesser series (and a lesser actor) would have made the Klingon Commander a two-dimensional symbol of 'evil'. A lesser series would have tried to justify the Human angle, or maybe would have shown a repentant Klingon suddenly seeing the error of his ways. Here there are no trite answers. The Organians treat the Federation and the Klingons as equal irritants. They are not punished, they are not even converted... they are just stopped.

Any representative group must include comedy. Trek took a risk doing its first comedy episode, and the risk paid off. The Trouble With Tribbles has to be the choice. It's the 'famous' one, after all. The story has a sci-fi setting and includes many of the Bridge crew. Uhura gets some non-regulation dialogue for a change; Chekov does his 'Russia invented it' bit and Scotty and Kirk duet in one of the best exchanges in the series. Then there's Cyrano Jones, a bar fight, Klingons, pompous bureaucrats, and furry... well... creatures. Trek at its entertaining, not-too-serious best. I defy anyone not to enjoy it immensely.

Journey to Babel gives us a deeper insight into another Trek staple; the Vulcans, and also highlights the interaction between Kirk, Spock and McCoy. The chemistry between these three lifted Trek above other TV series and undoubtedly contributed to its enduring appeal. Jon Abbott calls this episode a 'character drama between the principals that no other 1960s show ever matched - or even attempted'. In the best Trek episodes character always took precedence over blood and thunder and stories like this, still eminently watchable and undated after over twenty-five years, prove that Trek was sensible to try and ignore that network's desire for slaver monsters and melodrama.

The Galileo Seven is also good character based drama. We know Spock & Co will survive because this is a series but the story explores their interaction in depth before giving us an excellent ending that keeps up the tension to the very last. Balancing the Galileo crew's attempts to achieve lift-off is Kirk's struggle between what he knows to be his official duty and his concern for his friends.

Tomorrow is Yesterday combines sci-fi and time travel in a fun way. There are lots of good things here, including a more humorous than usual Spock, Kirk telling the understandably sceptical military police the truth, Sulu enjoying his brief tour of a 1960s corridor. Roger Perry (Captain Christopher) plays it just right. If this was the first episode

you ever saw, you would surely be eager for more.

My 'Irish' number five The Empath may be an oddity with stagey sets but it graphically illustrates one of the qualities that endears Trek to so many fans; the capacity of the characters for self-sacrifice, here demonstrated by Kirk, Spock and McCoy without any dramatics. The Enterprise crew are like a family, and like the best families they stand by each other and here are willing to die for each other. Schmaltzy perhaps, but wouldn't we all like to be part of such a group? The Empath may not be as strong as the other episodes mentioned, but it has captured Trek's heart rather well.

Looking back, several facts become apparent; none of the episodes is bogged down by Kirk chasing a bimbo of the week and the five main choices come from the first two seasons. Looking forward, I predict plenty of people will disagree with me.

PS to Gordon: I'd put Bread and Circuses on my list of favourites too!

PPS to anyone who didn't read the Patrick Stewart interview... the episodes he chose were The Offspring, Measure of a Man and 11001001.



TRIVIA

• UNIFORM COLOURS

Original series - Red for ship's services, blue for sciences and avocado for command (info Richard Arnold)

TNG - burgandy signifies comand, mustard is for ship's services (including engineering, security and and transporter), teal is for medical, science and teaching fields. (info TNG wardrobe department)

From High Trek 18/3/9

• TNG STARDATES

The first number (4) refers to the 24th Century, the second to the current season. Stardates are sequential, dealing with years, months, days and, finally, portions of days. (info Rick Berman) *From High Trek 18/3/9*

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF VOYAGER

by Baerbel Schmidt

Recently I got "Lower Decks", an excellent episode for people like me who like good characterisations. Especially because I knew that it ties in with Voyager, I watched it with much interest. I hope that Taurik, the young Vulcan ensign, will be in Voyager. He is certainly not 'middle aged', but anyway, perhaps they will change their minds and use this character. I found him very refreshing, a typical Vulcan who is still inexperienced and sometimes a bit naive in dealing with Humans. There are some scenes with him that are quite funny, although Taurik would certainly not understand the humour in them.

After watching this episode I wonder how Sito can really be in Voyager. If she wasn't killed at the end, how could she have survived? I don't like fantastic rescues and although I like Sito, please no more twists and turns as was done with Tasha! I think Sito's tragic but heroic death made this episode special, among other reasons. Life is not fair and there is not always a happy end. Also a Cardassian who says "I am sick of war" is something you don't see often.

I also liked Ogawa in Lower Decks. I hope she will become a doctor and one of the main characters.

I don't agree with what Richard Arnold said about Voyager. Not only in your newsletter, I read that many people think this series will not honour Gene's ideas. They say Star Trek is about discovering new life and new civilisations and is not about finding a way back into the known galaxy! Also they criticise that in this series there will be characters who have faults and that the series could be too militaristic and action-based.

Both ships will be thrown into a region no man has reached before. I think this is only a new variation of the same theme. The Classic team was actively seeking new contacts, also TNG. In DS9 new contacts are mainly made by visitors from the Gamma

Quadrant. In Voyager the two ships will suddenly find themselves in an unknown part of the galaxy. I am certain that in the new series there will be new alien races and new alien civilisations.

I think we shouldn't condemn the new idea outright because some characters have 'faults'. Have a look at the characters we know. Who is without fault? I think we all have strengths - and weaknesses. What makes a person good or bad is how he or she deals with these weaknesses, for example if someone is willing to learn from their mistakes. Picard, Ro and Wesley Crusher are the best examples of people who made at least one serious mistake in their lives and I think they are very positive and interesting characters. I would even say it is the imperfections people have that made the characters interesting. After Emissary (an excellent study of this character) Sisko lost his weakness and since then the man seems to be flawless, so perfect that it seems unnatural to me! Sisko is nice, a good father and a good commander, but he is too smooth, sometimes outright boring. No, I am looking forward to getting to know these 'faulty' officers!

And will the next series be too militaristic and too violent? I doubt it. In TNG and DS9 there are action episodes. Some of them are violent but that is not the point. What I wouldn't like is violence for violence's sake as well as glorifying war and violence in general. I never found that in these two series. What I found is that violent episodes were accompanied by interesting characterisations and a good background story. There is a German proverb; *You cannot live in peace if your neighbour doesn't want it.* Unfortunately violence is a fact of daily life and to ban it from TV or soften it down too much is not the right way to deal with it. Younger people especially have to learn how to deal with violence when confronted with it and I think Voyager will give us many opportunities to think about this.

I think the idea of Voyager is very promising and I am already very curious. I would advise the sceptics among you to give

the new series a chance. Watch the first episodes open-minded, and put your prejudices behind!

☆☆☆☆

MY KIND OF TREK

Roger Buck

A desperate plea; is it possible to include, with the new episode guides, details of the directors and, most especially, the writers? From talking to him, I know Edwin Yau has access to these, and I would *greatly appreciate* if you could print these, as the writer's credit usually tells me far more about an episode than a story line.

For example, if I see Jeri Taylor has written an upcoming show, I can expect something intelligent and insightful, although perhaps either downbeat or disconcerting in some way. Examples of her work include The Wounded, The Drumhead, The Outcast, Silicon Avatar, Violations and Chain of Command 2. Or take Ron Moore. I am no great fan of his, although I find his material has heart and have enjoyed some of his adventure stories. I find his stuff, however, occasionally corny and lacking the subtle perception and insight in the work of, say, Taylor or Melinda Snodgrass. (There are a few exceptions, for example his early efforts, but these appear to be rewritten by others - notably Snodgrass.)

To take another example, anything by Brannon Braga I almost always fail to appreciate. Braga has a fascination with fear and darkness which might make him a great writer of horror or psychological thrillers. However, unlike Taylor's stuff, I do not find his approach to darkness involving, and his work is definitely not "My kind of Trek". His scripts include The Game, Realm of Fear, Schisms, Imaginary Friend, Aquiel, Frame of Mind, Phantasms etc. Every episode for which he has the principal writer's credit I have found a tedious waste, with one stunning exception (The Birthright Pt I). I'm afraid Braga has been scripting 5 to 7 shows a season, thus, *as far as I am concerned*, effectively writing off 20 - 25% worth of each

season.

But, like some others, I feel dissatisfied with many recent TNG scripts. The staff seems mainly composed of young men who still lack the thoughtful perception and vision which characterised earlier episodes and the original series. (And despite 60s style, which can make CT look, at first glance, simple and naive, I think, *substantially* it is *anything but*. Roddenberry and Coon, in particular, have far more to say, for me, than any current TNG writers.

I feel Janet's point in N/L 33 is well taken. It is a matter of taste. Too often people confuse taste with some kind of objective reality. For example, Brannon Braga's scripts have little which strike me as particularly interesting or exciting. I am also sure there are those who love his work. I think it good to state our feelings as, simply, our feelings, as I have tried to above. In this way I think we can honestly say how we feel without putting others' tastes down.

As for DS9, I feel it is fine television, but it doesn't work for me as Star Trek. Star Trek is, for me, an expression of Gene Roddenberry's psyche. Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Picard, Data etc reflect aspects of him. Sisko, Odo, Kira etc are similarly reflective of Piller and Berman - and the difference is obvious. Roddenberry was a man of great faith and ideals. None of his characters are what you would call a cynic or lacking in faith (even if McCoy pretends to be). Piller and Berman's characters are very different - much more confused, conflicted and uncertain about their world. Similarly, Gene Roddenberry's 24th century seems visionary and large. DS9 seems far more contemporary and smaller, somehow. This is not to say Roddenberry was right and Piller/Berman wrong. Piller/

Berman see the world one way and Roddenberry another. But Roddenberry's way, for me, is what Star Trek is all about.

Personally, Piller and Berman seem to me to be particularly aware men, sensitive to the horror and crisis in modern society. But so too, I think, was Gene, who appears to have been an extremely self-educated man, aware of far more than the contemporary media image of humanity and the world. I

feel much of Star Trek's greatness lies in the fact that its creator was neither a naive optimist nor a cynic - the modes in which so many folk polarise when confronted by our world. Rather he saw the darkness in human nature, and yet simultaneously retained a vision of its wonder, and a hope that eventually that wonder would triumph. This dual perception is one of the things that makes Star Trek so special to me.



The Ferengi Rules of Acquisition

by Brenda Allan

Here are the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition that I have so far come across (but I'm still looking!) I had to listen to Pell 10 times before I figured out what Rule #62 was! The Starlog DS9 magazine quotes rule #47 as being rule #37, but I distinctly heard Quark say 47! There are supposed to be 285 Rules of Acquisition, so happy hunting!

- 1 Once you have their money, you never give it back. The Nagus
- 3 Never spend more for an acquisition than you need to. The Maquis Pt 2
- 6 Never allow family to stand in the way of opportunity. The Nagus
- 7 Keep your ears open! In the Hands of the Prophets
- 9 Opportunity plus instinct equals profit. Battle Lines
- 16 A deal is a deal. Melora
- 21 Never place friendship above profit. Rules of Acquisition
- 22 Wise men can hear profit in the wind. Rules of Acquisition
- 31 Never make fun of a Ferengi's mother! The Seige
- 33 It never hurts to suck up to the boss! Rules of Acquisition
- 47 Don't trust a man wearing a better suit than your own. Rivals
- 48 The bigger the smile, the sharper the knife. Rules of Acquisition
- 57 Good customers are as rare as latinum. Treasure them. Armageddon Game
- 59 Free advice is seldom cheap. Rules of Acquisition
- 62 The riskier the road, the greater the profit. Rules of Acquisition
- 76 Every once in a while, declare peace; it confuses the hell out of your enemies!
- The Homecoming
- 103 Sleep can interfere with ... (Quark cut Pell off as she was saying this one!) Rules of Acquisition
- 109 Dignity and an empty sack is worth the sack. Rivals
- 112 Never have sex with the boss's sister. Playing God
- 139 Wives serve, brothers inherit. Necessary Evil
- 194 It's always good business to know about new customers before they walk in your door. Whispers
- 214 Never begin a business negotiation on an empty stomach. The Maquis Pt 1
- 223 ? (Quark never got the chance to say it!) Profit & Loss



THE STAR TREK GUIDE TO SCIENCE

A Glossary for Fans, Budding Script Writers & Role-Players

by Amanda Kear, Charlie Underwood, James Norton & a Slug*

Virus

A very small organism that causes diseases. Outbreaks may affect whole planets or ships simultaneously. Symptoms include: fever, interesting coloured blotches on the skin, severe over-acting and death. Bridge crew may exhibit only the third of these symptoms.

Sub-atomic virus

A very small organism which eats ship hulls.

Not-a-virus

A very small organism that enters cells and replaces their DNA with its own, but isn't a virus, honest.

Computer virus

The cause of any shipboard disaster not due to Wesley Crusher or the above.

Vaccine

The cure for viruses (apart from sub-atomic ones). So effective that the plague never breaks out within 50 light years of the vaccine source. Vaccines are notoriously unstable, and only severe over-acting by members of the medical profession prevent their complete degeneration.

Ribosome

A minute cell organelle which contains RNA and is responsible for protein synthesis. Too complicated for transporter or holodeck technology to duplicate. (You are therefore advised to carry a supply of spare ribosomes at all times.)

Ribosome Transplant

A very tricky operation. Much like a heart transplant but done for every cell of the body. Requires a very small scalpel.

Veroxin Sequences

- 1) Part of the DNA sequence which occurs in Humans, Bajorans, Guinan and plants.
- 2) A type of growth hormone. If deprived of

it, organisms shrink back to juveniles.

Volcano

A natural hazard. Whole planetary surfaces may be afflicted simultaneously.

Earthquake

A natural hazard. See Volcano.

The Atlantis Project

A plan to relieve the crowding on Earth by punching holes in the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and letting magma well up to form a new continent. The time waiting for it to cool and become habitable will be spent building sea walls to prevent the old continents becoming flooded.

Life Support

The oxygen, heating, lighting and food which keep the crew alive. These systems are so finely balanced that there is no reserve capacity and as soon as the lights go off people start to suffocate.

Extinction

When a species dies out. A bad thing.

Preventing Extinction

A single breeding pair of a species is left on a planet to reproduce. Several generations later... see Extinction above.

Mass

The amount of matter in an object. The law of conservation of mass is obeyed by everyone except shapeshifters and alien entities which have impregnated Deanna Troi.

Pattern Buffer

The transporter memory banks: used to store shapes, sizes, DNA profiles and clothing styles of people who are transported. The pattern buffer becomes unstable after... (insert figure between 6 minutes and 75 years).

Dimensional Rift

A hole in the plot, into which crew members and ships may fall.

Wormhole

A strategically significant hole in the plot.

Warp Bubble

A reality entirely of Beverly Crusher's own devising - see most of the biological definitions above.

Cosmic String

Large glowing object weighing more than 10 suns, almost undetectable by sensors.

Quantum Filament

Large glowing object weighing more than 10 suns, almost undetectable by sensors. Completely unlike cosmic string.

Lifeforms

People, sentient aliens, animals, fossils but NOT plants.

Planetary Ecology

May include either plants or animals but not necessarily both.

Ultra-Violet Light

A kind of light which is dark

Sonar

A good method for detecting planets in space. It takes a long time to run a solar scan, eg >2 days.

Sonic Disruptor

Primary anti-ship weapon of the Klingon species. Now you know why they lost!

Absolute Zero

-273 degrees. Very cold.

Very, Very Cold

Any temperature below absolute zero.

Soliton Wave

A failed attempt at propulsion, but a fantastic super weapon that can destroy planets at 50+ light years, discontinued after industrial action by Starfleet officers of 1701-D.

Tractor Beam

A force field which can act as a tow rope or fishing line to reel ships in. Can be modified to allow the Enterprise to tow neutron stars about. Inertia? What's that?

Dilithium

A crystalline substance which mysteriously stores within its matrix enough energy to fuel starships on 5 year missions, generate planet-wide force fields, etc, etc. Very, very rare in civilised portions of the galaxy but found in copious quantities on miserable backwater planets particularly in the Neutral Zone. Also used in jewellery.

Warp-drive Dilithium

A much prettier shape than raw dilithium, with a nice pulsing light.

Realigning Dilithium

Turning the crystals through 90 degrees. This makes the engine work much more efficiently and took several centuries to discover.

Energy Being

Any shimmering or glowing alien entity which feeds on brainwaves, dreams, emotions or thoughts. (This latter kind is in danger of extinction.) Some types can convert these emotions, etc, directly into mass, and presumably vice versa. The patent on this process is being suppressed by dilithium miners.

Buggeryhardium

Any unknown alloy used by omnipotent but mysteriously extinct races. Impervious to most ship's weaponry, but can be cut into panels and rewelded by engineers when necessary.

Radiation

Potentially harmful electromagnetic or chemical emissions. Exposure to radiation works like exposure to heat; stand too close and you get hot; step back and you're okay again. Radiation comes in a variety of flavours; alpha, beta, gamma, Hoffels, Berthold, chroniton, Kreiger, theta band subspace, decion, Old Man Reilly & His Dog, etc.

Technobabble

Any oxymoronic or otherwise completely meaningless phrase used to convince Riker that a plan is cunning, eg reverse the polarity of the neutron flow, disengage the Heisenberg compensators, and any of the entries in the glossary above.

Transparent Aluminium

Aluminium, only transparent and with as molecular structure that looks suspiciously like carbon rings. Yeah, riiiiight... totally plausible.

Carbon Neutronium

A superdense material made from lots of carbon.

Corbomite

A totally fictitious explosive, handy for fooling very stupid aliens.

Red Mist Projector

A totally fictitious super weapon, handy for fooling fantastically stupid aliens.

*Well actually the slug didn't write anything, but it did eat part of the first draft which, under the terms of the Prime Directive, is a valid opinion and should therefore be respected.

Reprinted with permission from the local Aberdeen fanzine "From the Sublime".

☆☆☆☆

STARS PLANETS AND OTHER SPACE PHENOMENA

by Edward Woo

In the history of ST, a number of planets, stars, etc, are mentioned by name. Have you ever wondered if they have any real astronomical base, or are they just fiction?

From my research to date, I would say they are based upon true astronomical names in our galaxy - hence their believability in ST history.

Let's take a well-known example, Wolf 359, best remembered for the loss of 40-odd starships in the battle with the Borg. In fact, Wolf 359 is the name of a star (described as a red dwarf) that is 7.6 light years from Earth in the constellation of Leo.

Zephram Cochrane, the inventor of the warp drive (Metamorphosis) came from Alpha Centauri. It is our nearest star, 4.3 light years away in the constellation of Centaurus.

The names Romulus and Remus in ST fame are the homeworlds of the Romulan Empire. In truth, Romulus and Remus are the names of two distinct surface features on

Dione, one of the moons of Saturn.

Murasaki (Murasaki 312 in Galileo 7) is the name of a 125 km crater on the surface of Mercury. Another crater on Mercury is Holberg (Requiem for Methuselah).

Rigel, a familiar name in ST circles, is mentioned in the two Harry Mudd episodes, Wolf in the Fold, Journey to Babel, Doomsday Machine... Rigel is in the constellation of Orion, over 900 light years distant.

Encounter at Farpoint featured the planets Deneb IV and Altair IV. Deneb means 'a bird's tail' and is 1600 light years away in the constellation of Cygnus, while Altair (flying eagle) is in Aquila.

Vega IV is the planet in Mirror, Mirror. As well as being an 80 km crater on Earth's moon, Vega is a brilliant blue star in Lyra (and with Deneb and Altair forms the 'summer triangle').

Pollux IV (Who Mourns for Adonais) is a real star in Gemini, 35 light years away.

Epsilon Indi (The Child) is 11.4 light years from us.

190000 light years from us.

The galaxy we live in is our own, but there are other galaxies which we can see. By Any Other Name featured the Kelvans from the Andromeda Galaxy, 2.2 million light years away. Two other galaxies mentioned in ST II are the Magellanic Clouds. There are two of these, the Large and the Small, 2 separate galaxies, respectively 170000 and

As you can see, there are many episodes whose planets and stars are based upon real ones. The above is not an exhaustive list, but just the ones I could find easily. At least I learned a thing or two; eg constellation names have down to earth meanings. 'Cor Carolis' (Allegiance) means 'Charles' Heart'.

☆☆☆☆

HIGHLY TRIVIAL PURSUIT

by Patricia Doyle

PART I - Which Trek actor or actress:

1. Danced across the set of Skin of Evil singing The Hills are Alive With the Sound of Music?
2. Was famous for stealing or hiding a bicycle?
3. Was the owner of that bicycle?
4. Had a clapper board dropped strategically into his lap during filming of Symbiosis?
5. Owns a Yorkshire Terrier called Skilagi?
6. Is widely believed to have put Skilagi into a microwave - though he swears it's a trash compactor?
7. Fell through the wall of the main bridge set during filming?
8. Was the person he was imitating at the time?
9. Has dreams of being a swordsman?
10. Was inspired to act by another Trek actress?
11. Was that inspiration?
12. Appeared in Amityville IV?
13. Has been in nearly every Trek episode to date?
14. Wrote an animated Trek episode?
15. Can do a fair impersonation of Patrick Stewart?
16. Had the nickname Cool Breeze on set?
17. Spends much of his spare time reading technical journals?
18. Has been on both sides of the Gunfight at the OK Corral?
19. Has played three different Ferengi (two actors here)?
20. Was born in Dublin, Ireland?

PART II

1. In a Broadway musical, one Trek actor took over a role from another Trek actor. What was the play and who were the two actors?
2. What was Terry Farrell's career before becoming an actress?
3. And what was Brent Spiner's?

PART III - Relatively speaking

1. Name three pairings of husband and wife who have appeared in Trek episodes (not necessarily in the same episode!).
2. Name 5 children of cast members who have appeared in episodes.
3. Identify two relatives of the production crew who have appeared in episodes.

And finally...

How many people who have both acted in and directed a segment of Trek (including the films) can you name?
Who are Al Foster and Tim McCullough ?

If you can answer all these, award yourself a free trip to Risa.

Answers on page 83.



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.

SAREK by A C Crispin Simon & Schuster hardback £9.99. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Set after the sixth movie, this story revolves mainly around Sarek. He has been involved for many years in negotiations with Freelan, a planet inside the Romulan Neutral Zone which the Romulans have never claimed. Nobody, however, knows what a Freelan looks like since they always wear concealing clothes; and they are usually accompanied by Vulcan aides.

Meanwhile, on Earth, a fringe group called Keep Earth Human League has suddenly started gaining support. Peter Kirk (nephew of James T) accidentally infiltrates it, his report to Starfleet is dismissed, but almost immediately he is captured by Klingons - specifically, by Kamarag, who wants revenge for the death of Kruge.

The story is interspersed with extracts from Amanda's personal journal, recounting parts of her life with Sarek.

I have to admit to approaching this book with less than total enthusiasm, on two counts. The pre-publication blurb indicated that it was the story of Sarek's life, and although I like Sarek well enough I don't like him enough to want to read his 'biography'; and while I concede Ms Crispin's ability to construct a well-thought-out plot and develop it in a very readable style, I did not care for her two previous Classic Trek books - although I admit I would have liked them better had the protagonist in them not been presented as Spock's son by Zarabeth (a subject where, on several counts, I find it impossible to suspend disbelief).

I was, however, pleasantly surprised.

The parts dealing with Sarek's life are minimal, consisting only of the excerpts from Amanda's diaries and his thoughts on reading them. The book is more concerned with his dealings with the people of Freelan and Peter Kirk's dealings with the Klingons,

as well as James Kirk's interaction with them both and Spock's interaction with his parents. It also brings in touches which are clearly designed as an introduction to the events that will eventually lead to the TNG episodes Sarek and Unification.

I did have one or two quibbles about details in the story, especially around the point where Peter was kidnapped; it seems to me that there were a couple of loose ends left dangling there, with a possible very minor subplot forgotten about or incompletely deleted in rewrite or editing. However, over all I would consider the book well developed and interestingly written and worth at least 8 points out of 10.

THE PATRIAN TRANSGRESSION - by Simon Hawke. ST 69 Pocket Books £4.99
Reviewed by Catherine Carter

Another real stinker I'm afraid. This one doesn't even have the lush, exotic awfulness of "The Price of the Phoenix" so ably described by Jay Stevenson in the last N/L - it's just dull and badly written.

By the way, this isn't going to be one of those reviews that tells you what the plot is - largely because it's so boring I've forgotten most of it. There is however a whopping great logical flaw in the middle which I'll leave you to discover for yourself - far be it from me to spoil the only surprise in the book.

Just to give you an idea - the Enterprise gets invited to the planet Patricia (or something like that) a planet considering Federation entry. The planet's government aren't that keen but someone is equipping the local terrorists/freedom fighters with Klingon disrupters.

Several scenes - noticeably an extended sporting event that read like an out-take from "The Gladiators" and a briefing-cum-food tasting and subsequent banquet - were unnecessarily protracted and read as though

they were meant to lead to something and then didn't. The food tasting - if you'll pardon the pun - left a nasty taste. Come on - haven't we got beyond the stage of "Ooh look what horrid things aliens eat!"?

However my main complaint was the characterisation. There isn't any.

It takes more than a few poly syllables to make a Spock and he came out better than most. I suppose you could construct an argument against reproducing accents phonetically - perhaps it offends the latest pronouncements against ethnic stereotyping - but if you're not going to make Scotty sound er... Scottish the least you can do is make him, and everybody else, grammatically correct.

The same thing occurred over and over again, there was no sense of the personalities or the distinctive voices of the folk we all know and love. None of the characters had interior lives at all as far as I could tell.

I agree with Jay - save your money and buy a 'zine. Alternatively the first person who sends me p and p can have my copy of this load of Tribble droppings. I don't intend cluttering my shelves with it.

DEBTORS' PLANET by W R Thompson
TNG30 Pocket Books \$5.50
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

A Vulcan probe reports that the Ferengi are interfering with the development of the previously primitive planet of Megara, having advanced it to a technological society inside ten years. The Enterprise is assigned to take Ambassador Offenhouse to Megara in an attempt to retrieve the situation. (This story used Ralph Offenhouse, one of the three dead twentieth century Humans picked up by the Enterprise in The Neutral Zone - a character who could understand the way the Ferengi thought.)

I thoroughly enjoyed this book; the writer gives every indication of knowing TNG reasonably well. The points of the plot that refer to the established characters' pasts are accurate. Wesley Crusher (on leave from

the Academy and working on the ship) still feels guilty about the events of First Duty; Offenhouse has still to come to terms with his past; Picard is reminded of the Stargazer and Worf has his problems with Alexander. Riker's interest in things Klingon is maintained. On top of that, the original material in the book is well-thought-out; the mess the Ferengi have made of the Megaran culture is nicely handled, the original characters 'alive'.

The ending is perhaps a little facile - I suspect it would take rather longer than indicated to get things sorted out - but of course by then the story has been told and the writer is down to wrapping up the ends without leaving any hanging too loose. I'd give this one 8 out of 10.

BETRAYAL by Lois Tilton DS9 6 Pocket Books \$5.50 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Ambassadors from various Federation planets have gathered on DS9 for a trade conference. Unfortunately, terrorists are planting bombs, demanding that all aliens leave Bajor - and the Cardassians are back - there has been a political upheaval on Cardassia, the previous government (which was responsible for the withdrawal) overthrown, and Gul Marak (replacing Gul Dukat) is reclaiming the Station and the wormhole for Cardassia.

This story continues the high quality of DS9 novels. Much of it revolves around Kira and her reaction to Cardassians; and we learn something of the background of the Bajoran resistance movement. Her eventual realisation of who the bomber must be is perhaps a little rabbit-out-of-a-hat-ish, but it's a reasonable rabbit.

There is a strong sub-plot involving Berat, a Cardassian related to a member of the overthrown government; he was never in Bajoran space, so could not be accused of direct treason, but he has been demoted and Marak and his officers appear to have orders to work him to death. It is very easy to sympathise with Berat.

If I have a positive criticism of this

book, it lies in the characterisation of some of the Ambassadors visiting Bajor. Their general irritability and need to be soothed doesn't fit my picture of a successful Ambassador (even though diplomats were usually shown up in a pretty poor light in Original Trek). However, their involvement is relatively minor. I'd give this one 8.5 out of 10.

Q IN LAW by Peter David
Reviewed by Jill Clements

Some Trek novels are not worth the death of a tree, some are worth their weight in gold pressed latinum. This one is priceless, and receiving the cassette as a Mother's Day present has only increased my enjoyment of it.

The Enterprise is the venue for a wedding which will seal the uneasy alliance between two clans of the Tizarin, a Romany-like, space-faring race. Luckily Kerin and Sehra are very much in love.

If the arrival of the Betazed Ambassador (don't you just love her?) makes Jean-Luc jumpy, 'Admiral' Q's appearance turns him from diplomat to referee in a war. Q sows the seeds of doubt, mistrust and suspicion in the young lovers whilst literally sweeping the hormonally advantaged 'Queen Bee' of Betazed off her feet. She sees him as the ultimate challenge and when the true reason for his attentions to the lovers and herself finally sinks in, her vengeance is so powerful and absolute even "Mr Woof" is full of admiration.

As a fan of Lwaxana and Q, I was bound to enjoy this book; as a fan of Majel Barrett and John de Lancie, the cassette was even more of a treat. John de Lancie has such a distinctive voice I wasn't sure he would be able to pull off the Jean-Luc expressive style. There are times when he gets it uncannily right. Majel Barrett has a great range to her voice and carries off the Deanna and Sehra characters very well. I'm so glad she now has a role deserving of her talents.

Peter David says he was fortunate to be able to execute the idea. I'm just grateful it

was him who wrote the story, in which he so truthfully caught the characters. One of my all-time favourite Next Gen stories.

This is the episode that should have been filmed.

UHURA'S SONG Janet Kagan. Published Titan Books 1989. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen.

This is a Trek Giant Novel that would have been better cut by half.

The story is basically about a search to find the cure for a fatal disease that is ravaging the feline Eeiauoans and threatens to spread to other races and other planets. A song Uhura once learned from an Eeiauoan diplomat may hold a vital clue....if its mystery can be correctly interpreted.

The author obviously loves her cat-like aliens - and they are attractive - but I found the constant descriptions of their life and customs slowed down the story to the point where I began to wonder if this was a Trek adventure or a sociological study of Eeiauo and their root-race the Sivaoans. Tastes differ, however, and many fans might well find all this detail a plus rather than a minus.

The Trek characters are believable (although I could have done without the irritating Dr Evan Wilson) and this is a much better read than many of the dire professional novels.

Recommended

THE MODALA IMPERATIVE Picture Strip. Micheal Jan Friedman and Peter David. Artwork by Pablo Marcus. Titan Books. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen.

These linking Classic and Next Generation picture strips were originally published as comics in 1991.

Micheal Jan Friedman's Classic story tells how Kirk and Chekov (getting an important role for a change) help freedom fighters on the planet Modala and Peter David's Next Generation follow-up has an

aged Spock and McCoy returning a hundred years later for Modala's anniversary celebrations...and tangling with the Ferengi.

Not all the likenesses are good, but this is generally visually pleasing and the dialogue is always believable with Mr David providing some particularly collectable exchanges between Spock and McCoy.

A "must" for any good Trek library!

VENDETTA Peter David Titan Books (Giant Novel) 1991.

Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

This is basically a chase novel. Kirk destroyed one Doomsday machine but now a more terrible version is revived as an instrument of vengeance and sets out to obliterate the Borg. The Enterprise and assorted other ships pursue the planet-eater which, despite its arguably acceptable intentions, will carve a trail of destruction through several inhabited galaxies.

A few pages longer and this might have begun to drag. VENDETTA works because it's written by Peter David, who's inventive enough to fill it with good characters, action and suspense.....and he finishes it with a nice sci-fi flourish before he runs out of ideas.

You don't have to be a Next Gen fan to enjoy this one. You don't even have to be a Trek fan. It's simply a very good read.

THE TEARS OF THE SINGERS Melinda Snodgrass Titan Books 1990

Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

One of the best Classic Trek books ever.

Kirk investigates a time/space warp that threatens to destroy the universe and ends up working with his old Klingon "adversary" Kor. The "tears" in the title are jewels secreted by the semi-aquatic Taygetans, usually at their moment of death, and even in the 23rd century there are still delightful people who will buy them as personal adornments despite the way they

are obtained, and consequently equally delightful individuals willing to "harvest" them.

The Taygetans are one of the most attractive alien races in any Trek book and the story revolves strongly around the mystery of their constant Song. There's also romance (for Uhura), treachery (among the Klingons)... and if you don't cry at the ending you must be a Vulcan.

Characterisation and dialogue are a delight. Reading this is as good as watching the best of the TV episodes. Should take pride of place in any Trek library

THE SIEGE Peter David Pocket Books, 1993. £4.50. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

If you haven't already read this you've been missing a treat. The wormhole is unstable and a murderous shapeshifter (no Spoiler Alert necessary, we know the identity of the killer from page one) is loose on DS9.

It doesn't really matter whether you think you like DS9 or not - or even whether you've seen an episode yet - this is great stuff. If Mr David's black humour is sometimes....well....beyond the pale...you can forgive him anything for producing such a good read. As well as Odo hunting a killer who might prove a link with his own kind, there's a nice moral dilemma sub-plot involving Dr Bashir and a delightful final scene.

Ten out of ten!

STAR TREK SPECIAL pub D C Comics
Reviewed by Alan Stephen

Peter David returns to the ongoing voyages of the original Starship Enterprise with the lead story in Star Trek Special, and he brings with him one of the more intriguing characters he created during his run on the book; R J Blaise, the uptight protocol officer who was a constant thorn in the side of Captain James T Kirk as she tried to make sure that he did things by the book, returns. Apparently Blaise learned more lessons than she taught during her service on

the Enterprise. Kirk must rescue her from a very annoyed race whom she has forced to sign an unwanted treaty, and preserve galactic peace in the process.

My only complaint in the story is the overuse of childish sexual innuendo; once is funny, twice mildly amusing, three times is too much, especially when it's Spock saying, "I hope he (Kirk) has had sufficient time to probe Miss Blaise's case".

Rod Whigham is the artist, with inks by Arnie Starr, who do a good job in capturing the likenesses of the crew.

Mike Collins writes and pencils, with inks by Terry Pallot, the second story in the book, which follows Spock during the period of introspection while he was on Vulcan rediscovering his past and sense of self after the events of ST: The Search for Spock. Bill Sienkiewicz provides the cover.

THE STAR TREK ENCYCLOPEDIA A REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE FUTURE by Michael & Denise Okuda and Debbie Mirek
Pocket Books 1994 £12.99
Reviewed by Stephen Daniels

This is a huge 396 page large format book chockfull of entries (over 5,000 according to the blurb on the back!), and with several photos and/or diagrams on each page. The book covers all televised incarnations of Trek (with the exception of the animated series) including the films. Anyone who has seen the excellent lexicon in Bjo Trimble's 'Star Trek Concordance' (soon to be republished I think) will have a rough idea of what this book is about.

It is written in the past tense, i.e. the writer and reader are assumed to be living in the late 24th century, after the Star Trek timeline, and includes a brief episode description, stardate, and the name of the writer(s) for all the CT episodes, TNG seasons 1-6, and the first season of DS9. Some entries include behind-the-scenes information. Every character you can remember being mentioned in Star Trek can be found in its pages, with large entries for all the regular characters. Planets, Starships,

and lifeforms are all there under their own entries, and in at-a-glance lists which also tell you which episode/film they appeared in.

There are drawings along with certain entries like insignia, starships (Klingon, Romulan, & Federation), phasers, shuttlecraft, uniforms, signage (turbolift, access panel, and corridor signs to name a few), and symbols of the various known empires and organisations. There is even an illustrated explanation of the Picard Manoeuvre!

Finally at the back there is a timeline for historical events in the Star Trek universe, drawn from the Star Trek Chronology: The History of the Future also written by the Okudas. There is a timeline of 'real' Star Trek production, and an episode list with writer credits.

If you want to write (or solve) a Star Trek crossword this is just the book for you, but note that a 2nd edition is in the pipeline.

[Sheila - I could give my opinion of this publication in two words - buy it!]

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION INTERACTIVE VCR BOARD GAME

reviewed by Brenda Allan

This board game is played in conjunction with your VCR.

The Premise:

The Enterprise has been experiencing low level computer malfunctions and is docked at Starbase 74 for repairs. The ship is hijacked by Kavok, a renegade Klingon who plans to use the Enterprise to start intergalactic war between the Federation and the Klingon Empire. You, the players, are the only crew members left aboard, and it's up to you to stop Kavok before reaching Qo'nos (pronounced Kronos).

Your Mission:

Gain access to 5 levels of the main computer (by collecting isolinear chips), get a phaser from security, get to the bridge, stun Kavok, and regain control of the Enterprise all in under 60 minutes!

Kavok is in complete control of the Enterprise and can monitor your progress and even impede it by using stasis fields and overriding computer access codes, but the main computer is still experiencing low level malfunctions, and so Kavok periodically loses control.

The first 6 minutes of the video look like an episode from NG with actual sets used and Jonathan Frakes as the voice of Commander Riker. Robert O'Reilly (Gowron) plays the part of the renegade Klingon, Kavok. While the players move around the game board, the video shows the stars rushing by the viewscreen with the timer counting down in the corner. Kavok appears on the viewscreen from time to time, demanding your attention. He then employs

stasis fields, overrides access codes, or forces a player to experience blj (pronounced beej), a Klingon challenge which can result in reward or punishment.

The game ends in one of two ways:

- 1) One of the players succeeds in regaining control of the Enterprise before reaching Qo'nos or;
- 2) The Enterprise reaches Qo'nos and . . . ! (I don't want to spoil it for you!)

Because of the way this game is designed, no two games are played exactly the same. The more players, the better the action!

I give this game 8/10!

☆☆☆☆

REVIEW OF MODEL SHOPS

by Rory Smith

I have always discovered my local model shop had very few Star Trek models and when I queried, they said they could order them for me. Instead of ordering them through the shop, I decided I'd try home shopping. I got a Sheffield Space Centre magazine, and I had seen advertisements for Wonderland model shop.

The Sheffield Space Centre sent me their catalogue free of charge and it was excellent. There was a huge amount of Star Trek merchandise and a large range of models of all types. The letter I sent to Wonderland Models asked quite a lot, and I was sent a *hand-written* letter answering all my questions. Though I'd expected a catalogue I don't think they have one, but the answering letter was long and would have taken quite a long time to write, so I was happy. They did not have as large a range of

models as the Space Centre but they did have some things I had not heard of in the Space Centre.

I decided to order from each model shop to see the results. The Space Centre was less P & P for small things, but could get quite expensive for objects costing a lot. It used a percentage of how much the object cost for P & P. Wonderland had a set price for each object.

The Space Centre had an incredibly fast posting system; I got my model in *two days*. Wonderland Models was also fast, with 10 days. To conclude - I buy from the Space Centre for its incredible speed, but Wonderland is better if you're buying expensive models and don't mind waiting ten days.

☆☆☆☆

ANSWERS TO TRIVIAL PURSUIT

PART I

1. Patrick Stewart (interviews, Michael Dorn, Brent Spiner)
2. William Shatner (Leonard Nimoy,

frequently)

3. Leonard Nimoy (various interviews)
4. LeVar Burton (Reading Rainbow - The Bionic Bunny Show; TNG out-take)

5. Marina Sirtis (Guest talk, Warp One)
6. Brent Spiner (Marina, *ibid.* Brent Spiner frequently)
7. Jonathan Frakes (Con audio, Brent Spiner)
8. Diana Muldaur (Con audio, Brent Spiner)
9. George Takei (source uncertain. It is said that the crew had to forcibly restrain him during filming of sword fight sequences in *The Naked Time*)
10. Whoopi Goldberg (TNG Companion)
11. Nichelle Nichols (TNG Companion)
12. Aron Eisenberg (film credits)
13. Majel Barrett (largely uncredited as the ship's computer - ST Compendium, TNG Companion)
14. Walter Koenig (episode credits - *The Infinite Vulcan*)
15. Michael Dorn (Con audio - will also accept Brent Spiner from same audio)
16. Wil Wheaton - according to Brent Spiner!
17. James Doohan (source forgotten)
18. DeForest Kelley (Spectre of the Gun; credits to Gunfight at the OK Corral)
19. Armin Shimerman (Quark, Letek (Last Outpost) Bractor (Performance) and Max Grodenchik (Rom, Sovak (Holiday) Par Lenor (Perfect Mate))
20. Colm Meaney (various places)

PART II

1. The play was *Big River*. Brent Spiner took over the role of the Duke from Rene Auberjonois.
2. She still does the odd bit of modelling.
3. Take your pick - medical student or NY cab driver.

PART III

1. William Shatner and Marcy Lafferty (ST:TMP)

Leonard Nimoy and Susan Bay (DS9-Past Prologue)
 Marina Sirtis and Michael Lamper (The Vengeance Factor)
 John de Lancie and Marnie Mosiman (Loud as a Whisper)
 2. Leslie and Lisabeth Shatner (Miri)
 Grace Lee Whitney's two sons (Miri)
 Melanie Shatner (ST V)
 3. Dawn Roddenberry (Miri)
 McKenzie Westmore (When the Bough Breaks)
 Sam Klatman (Q Who) the baby Borg
 Mrs Alan Sims (Up the Long Ladder) the pregnant Bringlroidi

and finally...

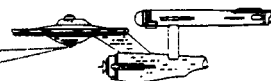
William Shatner (TFF)
 Leonard Nimoy (TSFS, TVH)
 Jonathan Frakes (The Offspring, Reunion, The Drumhead among others)
 Patrick Stewart (In Theory, Hero Worship, etc)
 LeVar Burton (debut Second Chances)
 Gates McFadden (Genesis)
 Lawrence Dobkin (dir Charlie X; Klingon in The Mind's Eye)
 Richard Compton (Crewman Washburn - The Doomsday Machine, dir. Haven)

Al Foster is Michael Dorn's photo double and Tim McCullough is Brent Spiner's. Most of them appear in the background in *The Drumhead*. LeVar Burton's photo double is the injured crewman brought into Sickbay in *Frame of Mind*.

☆☆☆☆



NEW ZINES



SciTpress

MAKE IT SO 21 - Problems on Fomalhaut V extend to the Enterprise; Picard, Riker & Data are kidnapped by Romulans; The Enterprise picks up a 20th century Human in cryogenic sleep - and there is no logical way he could

be so far from Earth; A5

MAKE IT SO 22 - A holodeck programme goes wrong, and Data is left for dead; Picard has a problem - it's one of those days...; Leah Brahms calls on Geordi, Wesley and Robin

Lefler to help her run the space trial of an experimental propulsion system A5. Due for Contagion.

ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 11 - Stories by Jay Stevensen. A landing party is lost - Kirk, Spock & McCoy go in search of the missing crewmen, and find them being controlled by an alien - and escape is not going to be easy;

Kirk and Spock encounter a teacher... with a difference. A5

SODDES LAW - a novel by Brenda Kelsey. Sequel to Fifty Ways, but does stand on its own. T'Pring has changed her mind and now wants Spock after all; but Spock would rather die than accept her. Due for Contagion. A5

☆☆☆☆



ZINE REVIEWS

BLOW BACK by Nicole Comtet
reviewed by Jean Sloan

In Return to the Source and Blow Back, Nicole builds on the events of Amok Time, developing T'Pring as a character in her own right. In Blow Back, T'Pring has grown tired of Stonn, and has engineered their 'unbonding'. She realises that she made a mistake in rejecting Spock; his wealth and social position now seem very desirable, and "T'Pring had never realised... how dangerously attractive Spock was... ". Anyway, she decides that she wants Spock back - after all, Spock is still unbonded...

The zine is the story of T'Pring's attempt to achieve her goal. Spock, Kirk and McCoy are planning to take leave on Vulcan; their arrival delivers Spock to T'Pring's scheming and puts his life in jeopardy. He is forced to fight a duel, a matter of honour, a legacy of Vulcan's warrior past, and an activity forbidden under Vulcan law.

In these zines, Nicole has created her own highly credible Vulcan universe. Interwoven into the story there are many details about Vulcan life. There is a love interest for Spock which remains undeveloped in this story, but which I hope that Nicole will explore in a future zine. Nicole's style is easy - a pleasure to read; I found myself carried along by the narrative, totally absorbed, and at the end I wanted more...

A footnote; it is not necessary to read

Return to the Source before Blow Back. Each story stands alone. I recommend this zine to Spock fans, but the Kirk/Spock/McCoy relationship is not neglected, with McCoy providing his usual brand of humour.

Available from ScoTpress; see Zine Ads for ordering info. Return to the Source (A4) £3.25; Blow Back (A5) £2.50.

MAKE IT SO 20
reviewed by James Keating

First of all, this is my first (but not my last) fanzine - in fact, the first time I've read any Trek. (After hearing all the reviews about Make It So, I thought I'd try it myself.) And I must say, it is excellent.

There were 4 stories and 7 poems in this issue. The first story (and in my opinion, the best) took up the first half of the zine. It's called Time out of Mind and was written by Nina Lynch. Captain Lerette comes forward in time 85 years after escaping the Klingons' Mindsifter and, even though she is half-Vulcan, her mind is being slowly destroyed by its effects. The only way to set her mind at rest is to go back in time. There is an excellent twist at the end. I'd give this story 9 out of 10.

The next story was not to my taste at all, as it is an A/U story. It is called The Closet Officer (by Nola Frame-Gray) and is about an Admiral doing a routine health inspection. The Admiral finds out that Data's quarters are too small and the story leads on

from there. It had some funny incidents, but over all, I feel I can only give it 5 out of 10.

The next story is called The Messenger and is written by Sandra Edge. It is a very good story, with great characterisation, though not too original. The Enterprise is sent to check on a warring planet to find out how things are going. However, when they arrive there is no sign of life or technology. Then the life support systems begin to fail. I'd give this story 7 out of 10.

The final story concerns a past friend of the Captain's who has survived many years living underground on a planet. My one quibble is that it focused too much on the 'guest' characters. Still, it's highly enjoyable.

All the poems were of high quality and ranged from the events of The Naked Now (my favourite) to the Romulans returning.

Over all, an enjoyable first encounter, and I recommend fanzines to everyone.

☆☆☆☆



You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. We reserve the right to edit for length. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update. Each advert has the date of the newsletter it was last updated with.

IDIC/Scotpress (6/94) @ = new title

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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 Travai has problems; and others. U.K. £4.00

@ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 11 - Stories by Jay Stevensen. An alien entity takes control of the crew - but do they know it?; Kirk and Spock encounter a teacher... with a difference. A5 U.K. price, £2.50

@SODDES LAW - a novel by Brenda Kelsey. Sequel to Fifty Ways, but does stand on its own. T'Pring has changed her mind and now wants Spock after all... Due for Contagion. A5 U.K. price, £2.50

BLOW BACK by Nicole Comtet. A5. A sequel to Return to the Source. T'Pring's hatred of Spock continues. U.K. £2.50, rest of Europe £3

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 91 A5. McCoy decides to leave the Enterprise and join an emergency medical team; Kirk goes missing; Spock takes some cadets on a

survival exercise; and other stories. U.K. £2.50, rest of Europe £3

@MAKE IT SO 22 - A holodeck programme goes wrong, and Data is left for dead; Picard has a problem; Leah Brahms calls on Geordi and others to help run a space trial of an experimental propulsion. Due for Contagion. A5 U.K. price £2.50 inc P & P.

@MAKE IT SO 21 - Picard, Riker & Data are kidnapped by Romulans; The Enterprise picks up a 20th century man in cryogenic sleep; and others. A5 U.K. price £2.50 inc P&P

MAKE IT SO 15, 16, (THE DISTAFF SIDE novel) 17, 18, 19, 20 - A5 format. U.K. £2.50 each inc. p&p.

Other issues of E-Log Entries, IDIC Log and Make It So available, also a number of novels. SAE for full list.

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 & DS9 material to

Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

SALE

UK Price includes postage. Rest of Europe add £1 per zine

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BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY

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Many other zines available. We are authorised to reprint the following zines; out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5; R & R; Archives; Showcase; Masiform D; Quartet + 2; all TKuhtian 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 Staggs, 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 (6/94)

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, Homerton, London E9 6RN, England.

Merry Men Press (6/94)

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 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.

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ORION PRESS (6/94)

ERIDANI 22 (TNG); **INVOLUTION 5** (Picard); **IDYLLS 10** (CT romance); **DANCING TILL DAWN** (TNG novella by Cyndi Bayliss Overstreet); Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Avenue, Albany, Georgia 31707-2952, USA.

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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

The following zines must be accompanied by an age statement and confirmation that you understand and accept the slash premise.

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UK Price £6.00

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Now also available:

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In all cases, price includes P&P. Flyer available for all the zines on receipt of SAE). Foreign orders please send SAE + IRC for price. All zines available in USA from Bill Hupe. Make cheques payable to Pat Mitchell, send orders to 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England.

ZINES by Kay Stagg (6/94)

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. £4.80 inc P & P.

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For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Shatterzine Publications (6/94)

We publish a wide range of multi-media zines on many shows, including: seaQuest DSV, War of the Worlds, The Tomorrow People, Robin of Sherwood, Deep Space

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6/94

VICE VERSA 3, A/U story by S Mason, £4 inc P & P. Last few copies. Simone Mason, Seranis, School Lane, Danehill, W. Sussex RH17 7JQ.

MULTI-SPECIES MEDICINE (6/94) is a newsletter for DS9/Bashir fans, with information and analysis. \$9/6 issues North America; \$12/6 issues elsewhere (U.S. funds, please). FTL Publications, P.O. Box 1363, Minnetonka, MN 55345, U.S.A.

Sue Embury (4/94)

OFF THE BEATEN TREK Classic Trek short stories, both serious and spoof with just a hint of TNG, plus a bonus of non-Trek tales, from Joan Cullen and Sue Embury. 112 pages in A5 format. UK price £2.95 inc p&p.

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Both available from Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (6/94)

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 \$10 Bulk mail, \$15 First Class. Make cheques/money orders payable to: Bjo Trimble. Bjo Trimble, P.O. Box 6858, Kingswood, TX 77325-6858 USA.

Foreign subscriptions: Contact the Subscription Agent nearest to you for local rates before writing to the U.S. address.

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Brenda Callagher (6/94)

AIRWAVES: A multi-media fan-fiction zine, A4 size, computer printed, photocopied photo covers. 70 - 110 pages per issue. 32 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 - 3 issues, more planned); **FLIGHT INTO SLAVERY** (B7 crossover with Battlestar Galactica); **CHILDREN OF PEACE** ('V'); **DEAD RINGERS** ('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. Now compatible with PC's using MSDOS on 3.5" (720K) but please use ASCII for documents. Discs will be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) for further details to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ

☆☆☆☆☆

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Conventions



(children under 14 £3.) See new episodes and some old favourites, your chance to buy ST merchandise and catch up with the latest news from the USA.

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UNICON II A Star Trek/Science Fiction Convention. 24th-26th June, 1994. Hilton

Stillwell. 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. Guest Michael Dorn & Richard Arnold. Registration rates: £35. 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. Registration: Full £30, under 16s £15, under 5s free (credit card payments accepted). Room Rates Twin/Double £31 pppn, single £37 pppn. Guests: William Campbell (The Squire of Gothos), Richard Arnold, Chas Evans (UIP), Terry Shuttleworth (CIC Video), Mark Ryan (Nazir in Robin of Sherwood), Lee Sullivan (TekWar Comics Artist), Len Green and Sean Leaning (Amblin-Mation Animators). For registration form and details write to Archon Registrations, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG. (enclose SAE)

IRECON 4 3rd & 4th September, 1994. The Royal Hotel, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Guest (work permitting): Gates McFadden. Programme includes guests, role-play board games, videos, workshops, dealers' room etc. SAE + IRC for info from Irecon 4, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon, Co. Clare, Ireland. Tel: 061 - 472812

MIDCON '94 (British 21st Anniversary Star Trek Convention) Our 13th Annual Convention. 7th - 9th October, 1994.

Holiday Inn, Leicester. Our 8th consecutive year at this venue... Confirmed Guest Richard Arnold (Freelance Star Trek Consultant). Other guests to be announced. Registration Rates: Adults £30.00 (children prorata). Instalment plan available. Further information from Terry Elson, MIDCON '94, 8 Ennerdale Close, OADB, Leicester LE2 4TN. Please enclose a SAE.

STARFLEET ACADEMY WEEKEND 21st-23rd October, 1994. Grosvenor Hotel, Morcambe. Registration £15. Room £25 pppn inc. full English breakfast. No single room supplement. 4 video rooms (plus Trek channel on your room TV) - 24hr video, 4 bars - 24hr opening. Gambling at Quark's (winnings redeemable at dealers' tables). Academy training with guest Instructors and Speakers, includes Starfleet Medical, Unarmed Combat, Laser Combat, Klingon Language, Astrogation, Starfleet Command, Fencing, Shipbuilding, Video Workshop, Starfleet History, Alien Make-Overs, Model Workshop, Klingon Cookery Class, Order of Battle, Zefram Cochran Warp Theory Lecture and lots more! Plus Dealer Room, Debate Panels, Discos, Fancy Dress etc. SAE to Bolian Events, c/o 148 Garstang Road West, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs FY6 7SL.

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.

LATCon University of London Union WC1 Saturday 19th November 1994. London's one day Star Trek Convention. Even bigger even better than last year! SAE for details to LATCon 94, 9 Upper Flat, Mulgrave Road, Croydon, CR0 1BL.

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.

LIGHTSPEED '95 1st-3rd September 1995. The Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Charity R.N.L.I. Full Registration £35. SAE for registration form to Lightspeed Conventions, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

ATTENTION HOLODECK '93 MASQUERADE WINNERS!

Were you one of the winners and wondered what happened to the promised certificates? The answer is that I HAVEN'T forgotten, it's just that I can't remember where to send them! Honestly, M.E. mashes your grey matter, especially when flu makes it worse! With the exception of Sadie Frost (The Romulan Ambassador - BEST WORKMANSHIP), I no longer have all your addresses and there are 2 BEST NOVICES and 9 BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION out there, waiting.

If you are one of the winners or you know who and where they live, please please PLEASE get in touch with me ASAP. Remember to give me your name, address and tell me which winning category you were in.

Cuddles (a.k.a. Michelle Drayton), 10 Atlas Road, Springburn, Glasgow G21 4TE.

STARBASE 94 - The committee would like to thank all those people who attended and helped earlier this year, and made it such an enjoyable event. On April 10th, 2 cheques were presented to The Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust and St. Gemma's Hospice, Leeds. Along with the cheques presented at the Convention itself each charity received £1249.50. Thank you for your support.

Watch out for details about Starbase 95 very soon.

OTHER EVENTS

VOYAGE '94 29th-31st July 1994. The First British Convention for fans of Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea. Novotel, Sheffield. Registration: £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.

STARBRIGHT '94 - a one day Quantum Leap con to be held at the Mountbatten Hotel, Leicester Square, London on Sunday 31st July. Registration £9. Hotel accommodation is available at £32 ppn/twin/double £37 pppn single. For further details send an SAE to Gail Adams, Starbright '94, 138 Crosslands, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6DF.

ALBACON 94 Scotland's Premier Science Fiction Convention. 21-24 October, 1994 Guest of Honour Robert Asprin. Attending membership £30. SAE for info to M Drayton, 10 Atlas Road, Springburn, Glasgow G21 4TE. Tel: 041 558 2862.

TRANSYLVANIA '94 29th October, 1994 Novotel, Hammersmith, London. Rocky Horror Convention. Reg: £25 plus 3 SAEs until 31/5/94, £30 plus 3 SAEs until 20/10/94. Meet the Guests, a chance to dress up and win some great prizes, and your chance to win a meal on us at the real Frankenstein's Place! SAE for registration forms to: Transylvania '94, 1 Elm Grove, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kents TN11 9HE. Overseas - please enclose IRCs.

ARMADACON 6 Convention. Astor Hotel, Plymouth. 5th-6th November, 1994.

Guests so far include stuntman John Carrigan, modelmaker Martin Bower (Space 1999, Red Dwarf), author Mary Gentle. Full registration £20. Accommodation £29 pppn - single/double/twin and triple available. Events to include guest panels, quizzes, masquerade, turkey reading, Golden Drake

awards, auction, Unseen University Challenge, Klingon Soap Opera, the latest Star Trek and Babylon 5 episodes. Charity RNIB talking books for the blind. For further details write to Marion Pritchard, 4 Gleneagle Avenue, Mannamead, Plymouth, Devon PL3 5HL. Please enclose an SAE. Tel (0752) 267873.

THE FOURTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 18-20th, 1994, at the Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. Registration Fee: £20.00. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Haves, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

ROBOCON Half Man - Half Machine All Fun! 17th-19th February 1995. the Tollgate Hotel, Watling Street, Gravesend, Kent. A convention based on Robots, Androids and Replicants in media and books. Full registration until 31/8/94 £25, then £30. Other rates available. SAE for info to Robocon, 26 Northampton Road, Croydon.

STARSHIP VOYAGES presents a 7 night Star Trek cruise to Venice and the Greek Islands from 3rd -11th June 1995. Guests Colm Meaney, John de Lancie, Jonathan del Arco, George Takei, others TBA. For more information please send a stamped SAE to Starship Voyages (41), 5 Plough Rise, Cranham, Upminster, Essex RM14 1XR, England. (This cruise is organised for fans by fans.)

INTERSECTION The 53rd World Science Fiction Convention 24-28 Aug 1995. Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow. Guests of Honour Gerry Anderson & Samuel R Delany. Registration £60 until September 1994 when it will increase. Events include 3 video programmes, a 16mm film programme, 6 programme streams featuring everything from serious SF to filk, roleplaying games, comics etc. There will be a media stream and a huge Dealers' Room. Write asking for details to Intersection, Admail 336, Glasgow G2 1BR.

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

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 Lancie, 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.

CON-COURSE 4, 12th - 14th May 1995, Rieckhof Hamburg-Harburg. Guests confirmed: Richard Arnold and Bjo Trimble, further TNG or DS9 guest TBA. Registration 140 - 160 German marks. For more info send SAE plus IRC to CON-COURSE, c/o Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany.

PERSONAL COLUMN

To any German IDIC member: Help! Would any of you be willing to help me purchase a particular perfume's products which are only available in Germany? I will either pay cash or trade for ST merchandise. Mrs Jo Healy, 26 Wimbledon Park Court, Wimbledon Park Road, London SW19 6NN.

I would like to write to other TNG fans out there, especially those nearer my end of the world. Gina Lepore, 17 Clarendon Grove, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2PH.

Can anyone help? I'm new to the world of fanzines. Can anyone introduce me to slash or any of the more erotic fanzines? I'm on a low income and cannot afford to pay high prices. I'm over 21. Steve Lynch, Eleven Wyton Close, Preston Road, Hull, North Humberside HU9 3QL.

My name is Raj Badham and I am 15 years old. My hobbies are ray tracing (a form of computer art), reading (Star Trek and Terry Brooks books), Astronomy and of course Star Trek. I'm interested in anyone who likes classic Trek, male or female, any age and if possible living in the West Midlands area, although it isn't a must. Raj Badhan, 27 Kilbys Grove, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 2ER.

I would like to write to anyone of any age from anywhere in the world. My interests include Archaeology, Anthropology, reading and writing letters. I shall reply to all those kind enough to write to me. Tracy Saunders, 27 Glenwood Avenue, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex SS0 9DJ.

I am looking for someone I can meet regularly, or anyone who wants to go out in a group to see the Next Gen movie when it comes out next year. I am 18. I'm mainly interested in Next Gen and the Movies because I prefer the new crew and special effects. My favourite aliens are the Borg. Jason Dean, 21 Saffron Close, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0SG.

I'm a 20-year-old Trek fan, Major Kira fan also Riker and Tasha Yar. Other interests include art and K.D Lang. Write to me! Ruth Mellor, 3 Highcross Avenue, Crosshouses, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England.

Are there any Star Trek fans out there who loved the original series, relished (most of) the movies, but don't enjoy TNG or DS9? I am looking for Classic Trek fans to correspond with, exchange views, ideas, etc. I am 25 years old and my interests include literature, science and philosophy, and writing. James Innes Sharp, Bowtrees Farm, Airth, by Falkirk, Stirlingshire FK2 8PJ.

TO ALL KAG MEMBERS AND KLINGON BROTHERS AND SISTERS - If you are going to Contagion and want an invite to the Klingon party, send your name to K'Tan (Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, Scotland DD4 6NP).

Are there IDIC members who are as knowledgeable in LA Law as they are in Trek? I need contact with anyone who is able to resolve what happened in a recent episode shown in the UK. Also does anyone know where I could buy a new copy of Birdman of Alcatraz by Thomas E Gaddis. If anyone can help write to J. W. Goss, 48 Douglas Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3JT.



ADVERTS



SMALL ADS

Please note: All adverts are printed as a service to members and IDIC cannot accept any liability. Adverts should be a maximum of 10 lines - will be printed in one newsletter only.

Please only offer original items for sale - adverts will be edited if necessary. We will not knowingly print adverts for copied material which breaks copyright.

FOR SALE - Original Series, TNG & DS9 uniforms made to order. SAE for details to Paul Rowe, "Trekkerforms", 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.

FOR SALE - ST:TNG Game for Sega Megadrive or Super Nintendo. Can also supply Sega Megadrives and Super Ninendos (with ST:TNG Game) at good prices. Phone 0302 789247 for details. Ask for Harvinder.

FOR SALE - official con video of CON-COURSE '93 is now available. Guests were Siddig el Fadil, Robert H Justman and Richard Arnold. Video is about 140 minutes long and mostly in English. Price: 39 German marks plus 7 marks postage. Please send the

money to Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 21365 Adendorf, Germany.

FOR SALE - Zines, books, tapes etc. Please send SAE for list. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

FOR SALE - TNG Panini Stickers singles (most numbers + some sets). Also TNG inaugural cards, DS9 cards, Star Trek Masterpiece cards singles and 25th anniversary card singles of series 1 and 2 plus some sets. SAE for list of prices and numbers available to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE: ST: Official Fan Club mag #90 (Making of Relics) £2, Starburst Special #13 (Star Trek special) £3.50, GIANT NOVELS, £2.50 each- Enterprise - The First Adventure, Strangers From The Sky, Final Frontier, Shadow Lord. "The Classic Episodes" (3 volumes, 25th anniversary ed.) £5 each. 2 sew-on patches, £1 each. 5 various cloisonne pins, £3 each. HARDBACKS, £5 each- Prime Directive, Lost Years, Probe, Best Destiny. World Of Star Trek, £5. Phone Edwin Yau on (0273) 734860 for more details.

FOR SALE - Complete collection of Classic Trek Star Trek pre-recorded video tapes - £150 the lot, or £5 each tape. Also the following TNG pre-recorded video tapes: Nos 2, 3, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 39, 41, 47, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56 respectively. £5 each tape. Buyer collects or pays postage. If interested, please write to Chris C Bailey, 52 Druid's walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7PF, England.

FOR SALE - STAR TREK CLIP ART. Original Series, Next Generation and Deep Space 9. 16 colour 640 x 480 resolution in pcx format. 38 pictures of starships on first disk. £5 inclusive. Mike Pulham, 8 Knightstone Grange, Hythe, Southampton SO45 5LR.

FOR SALE - Trek books, Starbursts, TV Zones, DWBs etc. Low prices. Stamp or SAE to Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ.

FOR SALE - a complete set of the original series Pizza Hut cups for sale. I am open to

offers for them but I would consider a swap for the TNG cups. The original series Technical Manual and Compendium £6 each or I would consider any swaps for TNG items except for books as I have them all. Please phone on (0438) 359039 after 6pm or at weekends.

FOR SALE - Mustard uniform top with Lt Cmdr rank pips £35; Spiner 'Old Yellow Eyes' cassette £5. Rebekah Owens, 1 Bilberry Drive Rubery, Rednal, Birmingham B45 9QY.

FOR SALE - Starlog, Starburst and other Sci-Fi magazines, full list available. Iain Robert Tennant, 66 Warwick Place, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6AZ.

FOR SALE - Star Trek cards from 1969, four missing out of set, no 8, 35, 45, 46. What Are Little Girls Made Of?. Open to offers. Tel 0408 633984 Ricky or Sandra.

FOR SALE - various ST & B7 zines, James Blish ST 1-12, B7 monthly, Hamilton collection ST wall plates (all classic Trek characters + 25 anniversary), various Starlogs, Starbursts (from issue 1 onwards), Star Trek Art Portfolio - Visions of the Final Frontier (14 different prints including some book covers both CT and TNG), CDs by Nichelle Nichols and Brent Spiner. SAE for full list to Mary Frost, 18 Hammond Close, Thatcham, Newbury, Berks RG13 4FF.

FOR SALE - Novels Q in Law and Vendetta £1.50 each + 50p p&p. Russell Witheyman, 12 Whistler Close, Tilgate, Crawley, W. Sussex RH10 5DX.

FOR SALE - K/S Zines and TekWorld Comics, nos 14-22 (ongoing, can supply) Write for lists to Barbara Grainger, 268A, High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1DZ.

FOR SALE - selection of classic ST novels, mostly Titan, some Pocket and Corgi. Also TNG Boogeyman. Good condition. Send SAE for list to: Ms S. A. Shatner, 18 Grampian Way, Winsford, Cheshire CW7 7QG.

FOR SALE - Christopher Walker fans - I have a collection of posters, F.O.H. sets, both British and foreign, stills, photos, interviews

and videos. I would be willing to sell separately or trade any item for television interviews with Brent Spiner, on NTSC or PAL, Sunday in the Park with George or any Creation photos of the TNG cast. SAE for list. I'd also like to hear from anyone who has anything on Brent for sale. Lynettia Attwood, 63 Warren Close, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 9PQ.

FOR SALE - set of DS9 trading cards £10; Spectra cards SP1 & SP4 £4.50 each; set of 90 ST Masterseries £12; Spectra cards S1, S2 & S3 £4.50 each; ST 25th Anniversary trading cards series I & II £10 each; hologram cards set of 4 £25. Single cards available for TekWorld, DS9 and Masterseries 10p each. Postage add 75p first set then each other set ordered add 50p. Single cards SAE to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE - Classic Trek zines - gen & K/S. Also some Titan edition novels. Please send SAE to Christine J. Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholme, County Durham DL14 8HN.

Original Trek Comics and Annuals being thrown out or given away. Also OT Starfleet Technical Manual (1975) and Starfleet Medical Reference Manual (1977). Anyone interested please send SAE for list to Miss Caroline Lewis, 24 East Cliffe Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9AE.

FOR SALE - DS9 videos nos 3 & 4, £7 each; TNG novels from ...Farpoint to No.29 (exc no. 7) £2.50 each; Centric TNG clock (Enterprise in orbit) £15; set of 6 original Trek movie posters, offers for set; IDIC nesletters nos 18-31, £2 each; TekLords h/b £10; Make It So No.1, offers; nos 6 - 10 and no. 14, £4 each; US zine Galaxy Class nos 8, 9 & 10, £10 all three. Discount for bulk. Enquiries to M Phillips, 3 Northcraig Road, Kilmarnock KA3 1JT.

FOR SALE - Original Trek photonovels, sold separately, £8 each O.N.O. + p&p. Also back issues of IDIC and Beyond Antares newsletters, send SAE for issue nos, 75p each inc. p&p. Contact: Adele Hilton, 104 Elgin Street, Halliwell, Bolton BL1 3ET.

FOR SALE - ST videos, file covers, photo albums, key rings, bookmarks, badges etc. SAE to Simone Mason, Seranis, School Lane, Danehill, W. Sussex RH17 7JQ.

FOR SALE - NG novels, Perchance to Dream, Doomsday World, Boogeyman, Chains of Command, Descent £2 ea. Post Mags (NG) issues 2, 15, 23, 42, 56 £1 ea. Nanaki Kaur, 585 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4LS.

FOR SALE - A Sanyo Betamax video recorder, head cleaner, 20+ tapes of interest to classic Trek TV & films fans. (All TV episodes except the banned ones). Video heads need cleaning. £150 ONO. Buyer collects. Mr D.J. Flack, 24 Kingshill Avenue, Romford, Essex RM5 2SD.

WANTED - Has anyone got the 25th Anniversary Special hosted by Marina Sirtis (shown on MTV). Also any films or the Sherlock Holmes episode featuring Marina. I will pay all postage costs. Please contact Nanaki Kaur, 585 Stratford Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4LS.

WANTED - Zines In Triplicate and Broken Images. Will pay any price to buy or borrow or will swap for other K/S. Thanks. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

WANTED - Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazines back issues. Please phone Edwin on (0273) 734860.

WANTED - Has anybody got the episode of X Files in which Mulder is investigating the man who can start fires by thought, episode 11, Protechnic (maybe Pyrotechnic?). Would like to borrow or buy (will pay costs). Phone any time 0302 789247 and ask for Harvinder.

WANTED - Star Trek related clip art compatible with an Atari ST 1 Meg.. Anything considered. Also any Star Trek games that will run on an Atari ST - I know there was one a couple of years ago but can't lay my hands on it at all now! Can supply money &/or discs but am fresh out of goldpressed latinum. Contact John Snelling, 22 Highgrove, Ravarnet, LISBURN, BT27 5AX

or phone 0232-892208 (DT) or 0846-603652 (NT).

WANTED - Hamilton Collectors Plates. Pay your price (within reason). Also Star Trek bubble gum cards 1976 (Topps USA) set, 1969 A&BC Gum Ltd sets. Name your price. Send details to Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, Scotland DD4 6NP.

WANTED - 1978 Panini stickers (black backs) Star Trek; Star Trek Weetabix cards; Lyons Maid Star Trek cards. Contact Geoffrey A. Shaw, 32 Allanson Road, Northenden, Manchester M22 4HL or phone 061 998 0213 after 6.00 pm.

WANTED - The New Adventures of Superman. I missed the first few episodes on BBC1 in Jan/Feb and am desperate to see them! If you have videos please contact Libby Williams, 1 Beech Grove, Moor Road, Leeds LS6 4BW.

WANTED - anything on Brent Spiner, videos of American TV interviews (especially Joan Rivers Show interview with cast & Jay Leno Tonight Show). Back issues of the Official Fan Club Magazine (US), TNG Trading cards series 1 & 2. Zines heavy on TNG content. Also wanting fellow Dataholics penfriends. Andrea Sudworth, 24 Crescent Avenue, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, Greater Manchester WN4 9SG.

WANTED - TV photos of Walter Koenig. Will pay for them and any old posters of him. Also wanted, Knight Rider Annuals, and condition, and posters. Shirley Read, 52 Stanton Road, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands.

WANTED - Shatner on Radio 1 Emma Frued over Easter and Patrick Stewart on Steve Wright. Harry, 18 East Greenlees Cres., Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX.

WANTED - contact with other Rawhide fans to arrange back-up videos. Janet Quarton, 15 Letter Dail, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8SX.

WANTED - Classic Enterprise blueprints, Galaxy Class blueprints, copy of Jackills

Guide vols 1 and 2, FASA ship recognition books (Federation, Klingon, Romulan). Help... can anyone transfer a French Secam video onto PAL VHS. Also required any quantity of Trek kit parts. Anything considered, any quantity. Complete kits, broken kits, bits and pieces for conversion work. If you don't want paid for them just post them and I'll refund your post or phone me with details. Iain Robert Tennant, 66 Warwick Place, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK3 6AZ. Telephone 0908 379005.

WANTED - to buy on VHS video, William Shatner's Kingdom of the Spiders, The Devil's Rain, The Babysitter, any T J Hooker episodes, Rescue 911, any other films, series, guest slots, etc. If you can help please contact Anne Gregory, 27 Ashby Rd, Woodville, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 7BZ.

WANTED - Star Trek related clip-art and any equipment/cast/crew images for PC. Can supply formatted disks and cover all postage costs. Many formats accepted, .PCX, .GIF, .TIF, etc.. Phone (0757) 707175 after 6pm if you can help.

WANTED - Does anybody have a complete recording of the interview Johnny Walker from Radio One conducted with Andy McNab, author of Bravo Two Zero, on the 9th May, 1994. John W. Goss, 48 Douglas Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3JT.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE UK, The Old Barn, Jericho Farm, Worton, Near Cassington, Oxford OX8 1EB. Tel. No. 0865 883330. £14.99 for 4 magazines.

FILM & TV TIE-IN PAPERBACKS: Including ST, SW, Dr. Who, UNCLE etc. For "Stock-List" and latest catalogue send 4 x 2nd class stamps to: Sugen & Co., Hillington House, 75 Jefferson Street, Goole, DN14 6SJ. [US: Send \$5 bill for Air-Mailed catalogues]. Mail order only.

ENTERPRISE TOUR 1994. October 24th for 2 weeks. Hove Travel. Price from £895 per person, includes flights, transfers and the

Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel (Room only). Also for all Star Trek fans a FREE tour of Paramount Studios. We can also arrange optional excursions to Universal, Disneyland, Burbank Studios and many more (prices of excursions vary between £20 and £58). Contact Ian or Mark at Hove Travel Shop, 89a Church Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 2BA or call (0273) 730281 for more information.

MISC

PENPAL LIST Open to all. Send your ad to S'Talisha, 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2RP, England. For a copy of the list (continuously added to) send a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE plus a loose 2nd class stamp (2 IRCs from abroad). List currently (Feb 94) has 53 listings, male/female age 9-51 from 16 countries worldwide. Includes 16 SF fans.

NB: Anyone who has sent part-payment only (eg stamp no SAE) will NOT receive a list until they send the missing item(s) (anything already sent will be put aside). I am not only not a charity I am unemployed!

Ever stuck for that evasive piece of information, such as what was the 75th episode of TNG filmed? Or whether you really did see a familiar face in an obscure show? Perhaps we can help from our vast store of Trek Trivia. Contact : LCARS, 70 Leadale Road, Leyland, Lancs PR5 7QR, or telephone Taruka Quauhtezcatl on 0772 709959.



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,

although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

BSFR International Star Trek Club. UK membership £8. Foreign rates available on request. Bringing you bi-monthly newsletters and magazines, featuring news, reviews, interviews, photos and much much more. Send A4 size SAE to BSFR, Alan Roberts, 1 Lullington Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2LH.

KAG UK - All KAG subscriptions for the Bird of Prey newsletter should be sent to Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Terrace, Dundee, Scotland DD4 6NP. Subs £5.00 per year (4 issues). DO NOT SEND SUBS TO THE P.O. BOX.

STAR TREK ACTION GROUP: Britain's longest running Star Trek club, founded in 1973. Six newsletters per year of 40 - 80 pages with news, views, reviews, interviews and articles on all aspects of Star Trek from the original series and movies to ST:TNG, ST:DS9 and the future. Membership £8.50 (overseas rates on request). Merchandise available. For further information and a complimentary newsletter please send two second-class postage stamps or three IRCs to: STAG, 49 Nudger Green, Dobcross, Oldham, OL3 5AW.

QUARK'S BAR - A new Deep Space Nine club, is now open. 4 newsletters a year, membership fee is £6.00. Write for more details to: Miss Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr. Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 8SH or Miss Dawn Tittley, 117 Dulwich Road, Kingstanding, Birmingham B44 0EW. Please enclose an SAE.

SIGNALS: A new Klingon fan club producing 3/A4 newsletters a year. £4.50 UK; £7.00 Europe; and £9.00 Overseas. Contact: Kerry Mullins, 57 Eldon Road, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RB.

OTHER CLUBS

CHILDREN OF THE FIRSTBORN is a Jennifer Robertson Fan Club, offering a quarterly newsletter featuring a letter from Jennifer herself, topics from her old, new and future books, creative works from members etc. Dues: \$6 USA (cheque/money order), \$8 Canada, \$10 elsewhere (postal order/IMO) made payable to Children of the Firstborn. Send to Stephanie Anderson, Children of the Firstborn, PO Box 110156, Campbell, CA 95011-0156 USA.

ORION The Official British Twilight Zone Fan Club. Hon Mem: Mrs Carol Serling. Send enquiries to: Orion, 73 Bournemouth Park Road, Southend On Sea, Essex SS2 5JJ. Please send C5 size 1st class stamped SAE.

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD UK FAN CLUB.

5 newsletters per year on Michael Praed, Judi Trott, Anthony Valentine, Ray Winston, etc; biographies, yearbook etc. SAE for details to Shirley Read. Shirley Read, 52 Stanton Rd, Shirley, Solihull, West Mids B90 2DY.

The BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION Ltd.

What is the BSFA? The BSFA promotes and encourages the reading, writing, and publishing of science fiction, and provides a lively international forum where SF fans, authors, publishers, and critics alike can maintain contact and exchange ideas.

Membership of the BSFA for one year (6 mailings) is: UK and EC - £15; Europe outside EC - £18 (Airmail £21); The Americas - \$35 (Airmail \$45); Australia, Africa, and Asia - £21 (Airmail £28); Life Membership - £150

If you enjoy reading SF (including Trek, Fantasy, Horror, etc), then why not join the BSFA today? For further details and a Membership Form, please write (enclosing an SAE and/or IRC) to: BSFA Membership Enquiries, c/o Chris C Bailey, 52 Druids Walk, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7PF, England.

LOCAL GROUP NEWS

Any IDIC members in the Liverpool/Merseyside area interested in getting together

for friendly chats or evenings out about Trek please contact Edward Woo, 553 Smithdown Road, Wavertree, Liverpool L15 5AF, Merseyside. (over 18's only).

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 date 11 June 1994 at City Halls, Glasgow. 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.

COVENTRY: Monthly meetings held in Coventry. First Saturday of every month at 12 noon, rear of Hotel Leofric in White Lion Bar, City Centre. All Trekkers welcome. Tel: 0203 503113. Mene Sakkhet Ur Seveh.

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.

HULL STARFLEET Monthly meetings at the Tamworth Lodge, Beverley Road, Hull. Sundays 12 noon until 5pm, admission £1. 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. For details please write, with SAE, to Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF or telephone number above.

LEEDS STARFLEET: Meets the 2nd Sunday of the month 12 noon till 5pm at Centenary House, North Street, Leeds 2. See the latest episodes and old favourites, take part in our competitions and raffles, free news-sheet, refreshments, meet your friends old and new and have a good time. Admission £1.50 per

meeting (50p for under 14.s). For more information send an SAE to; Mike Mullen, 19 Manor Avenue, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BY or ring (0532) 742977.

THE LONDON STAR TREK GROUP meets every two months or so at the Britannia Intercontinental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. For more details send an SAE to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

MANCHESTER STARFLEET: Monthly meetings (Third Sunday 1-6pm) at Barnes Wallis Building, UMIST Central Campus. All welcome, £1.50 at door. SASE for details to Manchester Starfleet, PO Box 35, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3GZ.

NORTH WALES Local Group. Contact Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

OPEN HOUSE First weekend of every month but please phone first to check (081 985 0426). Zines for sale, tapes to watch, other fans to chat to. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Hackney E9.

PRIME DIRECTIVE meets twice monthly at a city centre venue. Write to Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF, for further info, enclosing an SAE.

SPACE CENTRAL The West Midlands Star Trek Group. 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.

STARBASE APOLLO meets every 5-6 weeks at the Douglas Hotel, Aberdeen. See new episodes of TNG and D59, have the chance to buy merchandise and talk to fellow Trekkers. SAE for info to Captain Scott McMillan, c/o Starbase Apollo, 73 Thistle Drive, Portlethan.

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.

WARP NINE - a new local group for Star Trek fans meets at the Tudor Hotel, Airdrie, 12 noon - 8 pm. Admission adults £5, children (14 and under) £3, under 5 free; all proceeds go to charity. Next meetings - May 22nd, July 3rd.

THE OUTER ZONE: meets once a month in Brighton. For more details of the club and the newsletter, please send an SASE to Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

DRAKE SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY ASSOCIATION - originally a ST fan club (USS Drake 541) but it has expanded to include all SF and Fantasy. We meet the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of each month at the King's Head pub in the city centre. Activities include quizzes, debates and Starfleet Battles. We publish a quarterly journal and organise trips to SF related sites in the country. For more details please contact Tony Durks, 125 Grenville Road, St Judes, Plymouth PL4 9QA. Tel (0752) 666591

DREAMWEAVERS local group specialising in Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi. For more information please send a SAE to Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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Dues UK £8.00, USA/Middle East Air \$24.00 (£14.00), Australia £15.00, Europe £10.00.

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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