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Newsletter 37



"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, Michael Dorn, Siddig El Fadil, Robert Justman, Walter Koenig, John de Lancie & Marnie Mosiman, Mark Lenard, Michael Okada, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

We'd like to wish all members a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Our best wishes go especially to Helen White (we hope you feel much better next year, Helen) and to any other members who have had health or personal problems during 1994.

WARNING - If you do not want to know anything about the storyline of Star Trek Generations then read the newsletter with care. We have tried to mark all relevant bits with 'SPOILER' but certain parts of the plot are so well publicised in the papers and elsewhere that it makes life difficult. Of course, until the film is actually released on November 18th, nothing about the plot is definite. By the time you receive this n/l the film will be out in the States and most of you will know what happens.

EMAIL

Please note Janet's new email address. The old address is still active but she will only be logging to Arcade once a week. Almac is much more convenient for mail and Janet logs on to it every second day.

We are still trying to work out whether it is possible to set up some kind of IDIC Mailinglist. In the meantime we want to compile a list of members with email addresses and put those who wish it in touch with each other.

If you have an email address then send a message to janet.quarton@almac.co.uk and state whether you want your address kept private or whether you want it added to a list which will be sent to all members with email.

GRAPHICS

We could do with some small Star Trek pictures to fill up odd corners in the newsletter. B/W line drawings are best. Please remember when doing art for both the newsletters and zines that the masters are printed A4 and then photo reduced to A5. In other words, do the drawing twice the size. Please send n/l art to Janet.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is December 31st. Please send submissions in as early as possible this time because of the problem with the holidays and the

Christmas post.

PLEASE put your full name on all submissions - if you don't and it gets separated from your letter then we can't print it.

Our order of preference for receiving newsletter submissions is:

Email - send to Janet and she will try to confirm receipt within 2 weeks.

(Email - janet.quarton@almac.co.uk)

(Fidonet. - Janet Quarton @ 2:297/17)

Computer disc - send to Janet. (ASCII text files on MS-DOS, Atari ST, Acorn or Amstrad PCW - SAE to Janet for details)

By letter or fax - send written postbag submissions, articles and reviews to Sheila. Send news, cuttings, adverts and anything else to Janet.

Our thanks to Jean Barron, Alister Buhlman, Barbara Ellams, Catherine Flavin, Fiona Fletcher, Kathleen Glancy, May Jones, Paul Lazarus, Stephen McCall, Fiona McDonald, Stewart McMillan, Harminder Pal, Margaret Rainey, Gloria Rigg, Mr & Mrs Shaw, Stephen Shaw, Jean Sloan, Alan Stephen, Joan Verba, Linda Ware, Edward Woo 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

Sheila was at a talk Ann Scroggie of the GDA (Forfar) gave recently. Much of what she said we've mentioned in past newsletters, but there was one thing new. Ann said that the GDA have begun offering selected dogs that have failed as guide dogs to Dogs for the Disabled - a minor fault that could render them unsuitable for a blind person doesn't

necessarily stop them making a good working partner for a sighted disabled person. Dogs for the Disabled do things like pick things up for their owners, and, Ann said, can even take washing out of a washing machine!

On Nov 10th Sheila and Carol of the Chain Gang went to Forfar (with 8 kilos of stamps) and saw Darcy (and his sisters Dusty and Dorcas). He's a cracker, with a nice broad head and a lovely temperament; his only sign of agitation was when he saw some of the other dogs going off for training; he was clearly keen to go along. He's getting on very well - he's actually due to go into advanced training very soon - and they're concentrating on his nervousness around children. He was actually taken home on the 9th by one of the staff who has two children, and he reacted satisfactorily towards them; they'll probably expose him to more children over the next few weeks by taking him along when one of the staff does a talk to a school or if school parties visit the Centre.

MAIL AUCTION

The highest bid on the uniform Taruka Quauhtezcatl has offered to make was £40. Our thanks to Taruka and to the successful bidder for this donation to the Guide Dogs.

There were no bids on the set of Voyage Home front of house stills. We will offer these for sale at a convention.

RAFFLE

The winners of last newsletter's raffle are Kayta Phillips - an autographed photo of Michael Dorn; Jenny Turner - novelisation of All Good Things...; Nancy Mackay - an autographed photo of William Campbell; Linda Watt - IDIC membership.

We are having another raffle in this newsletter. We are offering three prizes: Board game (Final Frontier); autographed photo, Jonathan Del Arco (as Hugh Borg); and the usual IDIC membership. For those who wish to take part - please state any preference and put it with your name and address or membership number on each individual ticket. Tickets are £1 each. (If you want any extra just send the money and we'll

put in a ticket for you.) Please send your ticket/s (and money, of course!) to Sheila or Janet by January 5th. Winners will be announced in the next newsletter.

Please do not send £1 coins (some of these have been lost in the post); we will accept stamps (any combination of values from 1p to £2).

USED STAMPS

From time to time, we're asked what kind of used stamps we collect - eg, are foreign ones, or George VI ones, of any use? The answer is yes. All used postage stamps are of use; all countries, all denominations, modern or 100 years old - though in the case of the last, you might do better trying to sell them yourselves to a stamp dealer!

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 Frances Abernethy, Liz Aris, Lesley Arrowsmith, Neil Barrett, Elizabeth Barrie, Jean Barron, Carole Batchelor, Ruth Biggs, Mrs J Blanchard, Annette Bohm, Andrew Brooks, Lydia Bryant, Diane Burch, Julie Burton, Alan

Callaby, Neil Christie, Linda Court, Pen Cramphorn, Tony Cullen, Veronica Duthie, Sandra Edge, Julie Evans, Jane Fenn, Fiona Fletcher, Anne-Marie Flowers, Mark French, Kathleen Glancy, Becky Gray, Jo Healy, Katrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Rosita Hill, Glyn Holland, Steven Holliss, Irena Hradecka, Dave Houston, Sandra Hunger, Sarah Irons, Nanaki Kaur, Carol Kean, Julie Kozakewycz, Vivien Little, Nancy Mackay, Kerry McGuire, Anne McKay, Ian Morris, Maureen Norton, Barry O'Doherty, Kayta Phillips, Account Dept Provincial Insurance, Gloria Rigg, Stephen Rothwell, Mike Sadler, Neil Safi, Ingrid Smith, Karen Sparks, Kay Stagg, Alexis Stokes, Margot Sykes, W Taylor, Rachel Timms, Jenny Turner, Carole Weatherill, Janet Wicks, Edward Woo, Ann L Wright, Edwin Yau 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 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

Have a good time over the holidays. We plan to post the next newsletter out around January 26th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 13/11/94



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION

Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
188	Clues	21/9/94
187	Devil's Due	14/9/94
189	First Contact	28/9/94
190	Galaxy's Child	5/10/94
191	Night Terrors	12/10/94
192	Identity Crisis	19/10/94
STII: The Wrath of Khan		19/10/94

BBC

TNG is not doing well in the ratings. It was at no. 8 in the BBC 2 Chart for Galaxy's Child with 3.62m but dropped out of the top ten the following two weeks.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
193	The Nth Degree	26/10/94
194	QPid	2/11/94
195	The Drumhead	9/11/94
196	Half a Life	16/11/94

SATELLITE

Sky One - 7th season TNG is still showing on Sundays and doing quite well at near the top of the charts with approx. 0.6m. The weekday screening, now up to season 4 creeps into the top 10 occasionally with 0.3m - 0.4m.

The 7th season is now up to Lower Decks (13/11) which leaves 10 episodes to show. Sky say they will continue screening the remainder of 2nd season DS9 after 7th season TNG finishes.

- As of writing this (12/11/95) both BBC 2 and Sky One are nearing the end of the 4th season of TNG:

Half a Life - Sky One 14/11, BBC 2 16/11

Sky One will now shoot ahead.



Release dates: USA Nov 18th; UK Jan/Feb.

(Sept 21, 1994) Valley Daily News in Marilyn Beck & Stacy Jenel Smith's "Celebrities" column:

"Star Trek: Generations" is going to a place it's been before.

Paramount has given the go-ahead for the much-touted feature (marking the passing of the baton from the old to the new "Trek" team) to return to Nevada for costly reshooting of sequences leading up to the finale.

"We just got confirmation from the studio last week," reported director David Carson. "We're only now looking at the first draft of the rewrite -- the studio hasn't seen any of it yet -- and we're not sure in terms of days or finances what will be entailed. But fortunately the crew and the principal actors are available, and we'll be doing the

reshooting as soon as possible."

Carson sees the Patrick Stewart-William Shatner starrer facing "a very tight deadline. We go into theatres on Nov. 18 and there is still so much to do. The new sequences haven't been 'costed' or worked out, and it's going to take two weeks just to put all the hardware back on the mountain where we shot -- the Valley of Fire, about two hours out of Las Vegas." According to Carson, "The movie had an incredible public preview, with all the laughs and applause that one could hope for. The studio felt it wanted us to get a shot for a better ending, mind you. It's a matter of their investing more money to get more money, don't you see?"

The following is from the AOL "Movie Music" board, early October.

"As of this writing, it is now day 4 of scoring on "Generations". I believe people will have a difficult time trying to find ways to compare this music against previous Trek film scores. Dennis McCarthy consistently brings a fresh, exciting, emotional and above all, original approach to the music which will be presented on Generations. It will be unlike anything anyone has ever heard on the show and will undoubtedly make a great many people who over the years have considered Dennis' scores to be bland and boring rethink their attitudes about his talents.

"His score captures many different moods from intense battle scenes with Klingon warships to tender moments when Data rescues his pet cat, Spot, from the crashed wreckage of the Enterprise.

"Keep up the good work, Dennis! We are all proud of you! - Buz Banzai."

- "Absolutely Nebulous" 7/10/94. Entertainment Weekly. Article about Generations. One source said the test screening of Sept 13th turned out to be a major disappointment and that the audience expected to see more of Kirk - specifically Kirk with Picard. Rick Berman dismisses these reports as nonsense and says the test screening went extremely well.

Shatner, Stewart and Malcolm McDowell, who plays Dr. Sorann, were recalled to reshoot some scenes. But Berman denies the reshoots are a result of a poor test

screening, and he says he had always planned on bringing back the actors to "punch up" a scene near the end of the movie. "It's a tiny little piece of film that we're going back to fix," says Berman. But others dispute Berman's claim that the reshoot was planned all along.

Berman says that the *Generations* reshoots won't affect Kirk's fate "one iota".

- **"Generations" Rap** - Patrick Stewart talks about *Generations*. TV Guide 8/10/94.

On meeting William Shatner: I spent some time alone with him on a private jet on the way back from a movie exhibitors' convention in Las Vegas. I found him to be sensitive, intelligent, and gentle. We came up with an idea to do a "Captains' Kitchen" cooking show. We were joking of course, but you must remember that Gene Roddenberry cast both Shatner and myself. I hope he would have been satisfied to see us both sharing the screen.

On the rest of the "Generations" cast: The original script had all the [classic] cast members in it, but only Shatner, James Doohan, and Walter Koenig remain. I miss Leonard [Nimoy] and DeForest [Kelley]. As for the choice of Malcolm McDowell to play Dr. Soran, the movie's villain - I worked with him in 1966 with the Royal Shakespeare Company, so I was all for it.

On the movie vs. the Next Generation TV series: Actually, I had some misgivings about doing the movie. I felt we had done many excellent TV episodes, but once the writers gave the movie an "epic adventure" quality rather than a "television" feel - and a story for Capt. Picard that runs parallel to the action story - I was hooked. I always felt that the biggest challenge was making the best film first and the best "Star Trek" movie second. The film is done more slowly and carefully than the television show. What director David Carson and cinematographer John Alonza did was to make us aware that the dimensions are framed differently on the massive, wide screen. That sounds simple but the help they gave us made it an easy and smooth transition to acting on the big screen after acting on the small one.

On directing: I hope to direct more TV,

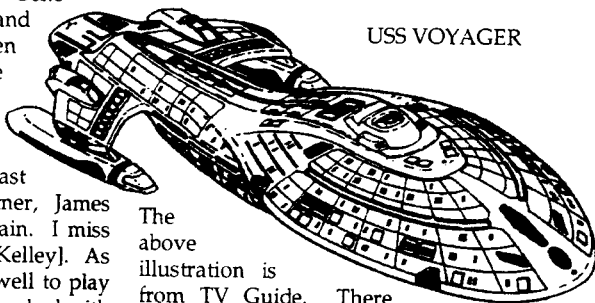
including the new *Star Trek* spinoff series, *Voyager*. I also hope to return to TV to star in and perhaps direct "A Christmas Carol", as well as a special I've adapted on Pontius Pilate and on the play I'm going to be doing soon in London, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

On his most unusual Star Trek experience: I appeared at a convention where a 9-year-old kid sitting next to a pretty woman stood up, pointed to her, and asked me if I would marry his *mom*!

On future "Trek" movies: The one thing you must always remember about any *Star Trek* pairing is it doesn't matter if they lived or died in the last film, it's what their agent wants them to do.

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

USS VOYAGER



The above illustration is from TV Guide. There was another set of pictures on Internet where the nacelles of the ship come straight out rather than being angled down.

The two-hour pilot, "Caretaker", will air on Monday, January 16, 1995 at 8 pm EST/PST, 7 pm CST/MST.

The Premise

When the recently commissioned U.S.S. *Voyager* goes in search of a vanished Maquis ship, the ships enter an unusual segment of space called the Badlands, which propels them across the galaxy to the territory of the Gazonns, a powerful alien race with many creches and sects (such as the Ogla and Sari sects). The crews of both ships join forces to rescue two crewmembers and ultimately the entire Ocampa race from the Gazonns, but the Maquis ship is destroyed in the process. With the remainder of the two crews united in an uneasy alliance, the *Voyager* begins its long journey home.

• "Captain Kate's Final Frontier" Evening Herald (Ireland) 26/9/94. Article about how Kate Mulgrew got the job of Captain Janeway after Genevieve Bujold bowed out.

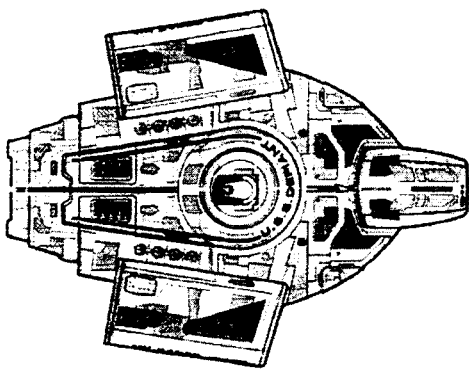
Irish Trekkers are said to be divided over her choice - half of those at a meeting of Dublin's Sha Ka Ree ST Club didn't know who she was.

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

• USS Defiant NX-74205

According to "Introducing the Defiant" Sept 24-30 TV GUIDE the Defiant is "...a hastily built, overgunned war vessel, which - its considerable flaws aside - boasts a Romulan cloaking device...". Much smaller than TNG's Enterprise - yet the most powerful ship in Starfleet Command - the Defiant was built to battle the Borg but was instead relegated to mothballs.



• In the US a 3 minute 30 second program filler story about DS9 has been shown. This piece features lots of action-packed footage, including shots of the crew's new warship, the Defiant, as well as interviews with the show's executive producers, Rick Berman and Michael Piller.

• Rules of Acquisition - in the first showing of the episode the title was spelled incorrectly on screen "Aquisition." This was changed for the re-run and correctly spelled "Acquisition."

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 32 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title
24/ 9/94	447 The Search
01/10/94	448 The Search, Part II
08/10/94	449 The House of Quark
15/10/94	450 Equilibrium
22/10/94	451 Second Skin
29/10/94	452 The Abandoned
05/11/94	453 Civil Defense
12/11/94	454 Meridian
19/11/94	455 Defiant
26/11/94	456 Fascination

EPISODE SPOILERS

447 "The Search, Part I" - Teleplay By Ronald D. Moore; Story By Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe; Directed By Kim Friedman. Guests: Salome Jens, Martha Hackett, John Fleck, Kenneth Marshall.

Acquiring a ship, the Defiant, from Starfleet that he, himself, designed, Sisko goes looking for the mysterious Founders of the Dominion. The Defiant is an experimental ship (complete with "NX" number) that had been built to fight the Borg, but was mothballed due to some flaws. The ship is equipped with a Romulan cloaking device and will have a Romulan onboard to monitor its use. The Defiant fights a good fight, but in the end, the Dominion are victorious against Sisko. At one point in the two part opener (possibly this part), O'Brien is captured and tortured by the Dominion. In the end, it will be up to Kira and Odo to save Sisko's group. But Odo discovers a shocking secret, as Part I concludes. Ronald D. ("Sins of the Father," "Family," "Reunion," "Redemption," "The Pegasus," "All Good Things...") Moore wrote both parts of "The Search" and Kim ("The Wire," "The

Jem'Hadar") Friedman directed this instalment. [Originally titled "Search's End, Part I."]

448 "The Search, Part II" - Teleplay By Ira Steven Behr; Story By Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe; Directed By Jonathan Frakes. Guest Stars: Salome Jens, Andrew Robinson, Natalija Nogulich, Martha Hackett, Kenneth Marshall, William Frankfather and Dennis Christopher.

Odo discovers something about his race. A treaty is hastily put together with the Dominion, but Garak (who makes his first appearance of the season in this episode) will point out that the treaty is a bad one. The treaty only takes into account Federation citizens, but not Bajorans or Cardassians. Garak will become a member of the Defiant's crew (some rumours put him 'in charge' of the ship). [Originally titled "Search's End, Part II."]

449 "The House of Quark" - Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore; Story by Tom Benko; Directed by Les Landau. Guest Stars: Rosalind Chao, Mary Kay Adams, Carlos Carrasco, Max Grodénchik, Robert O'Reilly, Joseph Ruskin.

In order to boost his business and gain respect, Quark lies about killing a Klingon, then winds up forced to marry the dead man's widow.

Morn will have a good, non-speaking role in this episode, which is said to be funny.

450 "Equilibrium" - Directed by Cliff Bole. Guest Stars: Lisa Banes, Jeff Magnus McBride, Nicholas Cascone, and Harvey Vernon.

A deadly secret from Dax's past could mean the end of Jadzia's life.

The DS9 crew take the Defiant to the planet Trill when Dax discovers she once had a host whose memories have been completely wiped from her. [Note: whether this plot goes with this episode is speculation. Rumors place a visit to Trill early in the season and this is supposed to be a Trill episode.]

451 "Second Skin" - Written by Robert Hewitt Wolfe; Directed by Les Landau. Guest Stars: Andrew Robinson, Gregory

Sierra, Tony Papenfuss, Cindy Katz and Lawrence Pressman.

Kira discovers she could be a programmed surgically altered Cardassian spy. According to Ira Steven Behr in SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3, "they" (the Cardassians?) will start genetically altering her back to being Cardassian.

452 "The Abandoned" - Directed by Avery Brooks. Written By D. Thomas Maio & Steve Warnek. Guest Stars: Jill Sayre, Bumper Robinson, Leslie Bevis.

Odo tries to convince a young, violent Jem'Hadar that there is more to life than fighting and killing.

Jake is in love with an older woman, a Dabo girl named Marta (possibly the Dabo girl from "Playing God"?).

453 "Civil Defense" - Directed by Reza Badiyi; Written by Mike Krohn. Guest Stars: Andrew Robinson, Marc Alaimo, Danny Goldring. A trapped crew fights to save the station from self-destruction when a automated Cardassian security program is accidentally activated.

454 "Meridian" - Directed by Jonathan Frakes. Guest Stars: Brett Cullen, Christine Healy, Jeffrey Combs.

Dax falls in love with a man who will soon disappear with his planet into another dimension for sixty years.

455 "Defiant" Directed by Cliff Bole; Written b Ronald D. Moore. Guest Stars: Jonathan Frakes, Mark Alaimo, Tricia O'Neil, Shannon Cochran, Robert Kerbeck, Michael Canavan. Will Riker's renegade duplicate steals the Defiant and attacks Cardassian territory, forcing Sisko to assist Gul Dukat in stopping him.

456 "Fascination" - Directed by Avery Brooks. Guest Stars: Majel Barrett, Philip Anglim, Rosalind Chao. A Bajoran celebration on the station serves as the backdrop for an epidemic of inexplicable romantic attractions among the crew. A Kira romance.

"Many Rooms" - A Bashir episode written by Joe Menosky.

"Profit in the Wind" - In a BRIGADOON-type story, Dax falls in love with a scientist on a planet that appears in our dimension once every 500 years. [This episode is also not listed in more recent rumors, but the plot is mentioned by Behr in SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3. See also "Equilibrium," above.]

General SPOILERS

There are many other reports about the new season, as well.

A convention report about TNG/DS9/GENERATIONS / VOYAGER script coordinator Lolita Fatjo states that it is doubtful Ro Laren will appear on DS9 or VOYAGER. Michelle Forbes is said to consider TNG's "Preemptive Strike" Ro's swansong. Fatjo says they had a difficult enough time getting her to do the one episode.

Richard Arnold has said that Lwaxana Troi could appear in the 5th ("Second Skin") or 6th ("The Abandoned") episode of the season. Majel Barrett has said at a convention that an episode with Lwaxana has already been filmed, but it would be most likely be later than "The Abandoned."

Thomas Riker will reappear on DS9 in the 9th episode of the season according to Jonathan Frakes on QVC. Thomas Riker will be a member of the Maquis (from an article in the Florida Sun-Sentinel, although a similar form of the same article appeared in the Omaha World-Herald but did not mention Thomas; Ira Steven Behr mentioned Thomas Riker as a member of the Maquis in SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3). Other rumours say that Thomas might show up in the 7th or 8th episode of the season.

The Dominion might be a STAR TREK: VOYAGER set-up and/or a major concern for DS9 next year. Reports vary. However, more recent information indicates the Dominion will be a major concern to DS9 throughout the season.

DS9 takes in a Jem'Hadar child, who becomes friends with Jake and Nog.

Grand Nagus Zek will return in an episode where he meets with the wormhole entities. [SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3] Convention reports say that Quark won't be as intimidated by the Nagus this time around.

A plan is afoot for the Mirror Universe to return. [Convention reports and SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3]

Another new ship has been designed by Herman Zimmerman for DS9. As yet unnamed, the ship would be a small 4-person "micro-ship." [TV GUIDE] A new TNG-type conference lounge will be used by the command staff of DS9 this year. [Convention reports, SCI-FI UNIVERSE] DS9's Starfleet officers will wear GENERATIONS-style Communicator Pins. [TV GUIDE] The Bajorans will also get new uniforms. [Previews for "The Search"] Rumours say that the Defiant will be involved in a third of the episodes this season.

There will be more computer generated FX this season. [Detroit Free Press article that appeared in the Omaha World-Herald]

The "look" Odo gave Kira in "The Collaborator" could be explored next season, but it will play out slowly as the season progresses and it will take Kira a long time to make anything of it. [Convention reports, SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3]

Sisko's role as a hero and father will be emphasized. [TV GUIDE, SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3] As such, he'll be in more action situations this season. According to Michael Piller, Sisko's most important role is as a builder. His role as Bajoran Emissary will also be explored.

Ira Steven Behr says he wants to do "Second Sight" right: have a love story with the magic in it [SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3]

One possible plot involves Q putting Sisko on Venice Beach as a homeless man.

A VIVA ZAPATA-type episode will involve Kira being reunited with the leader of her resistance cell, only to find out that he is still

resisting...the provisional government. Behr feels this episode will be better than "Past Prologue."

Kai Winn will return, as will Vedek Barei; he and Kira meet again.

Ensign Sito Jaxa will be in one of the episodes this season, as she did not die in "Lower Decks." She will have to deal with the issue of re-patriation. Some rumours say she will return as a semi-regular. The episode is said to be the 6th ("The Abandoned") or 7th (?).

DS9 will become the true inheritors of the Maquis plotline, as the Voyager will be out of reach of the storyline. [SCI-FI UNIVERSE #3]

Quark will appear in the premiere episode of STAR TREK: VOYAGER.

[Info Paul Nixon via Kevin Karmann from Fideonet]

- "Deep Space Nine plans to take control of Trekkie space". With TNG retiring into rerun in the States, DS9 will be the only first run Star Trek series until Voyager comes along. Changes are being made that the producers hope will bring in the viewers who preferred TNG. There is the new ship Defiant and a lot of stuff is going to be happening in the Gamma Quadrant that will take us through the Worm Hole into this unexplored region of space.

MISC

- **STAR TREK - LIVE AT THE CHURCHILL** 16-26 November 1995.

Bromley Churchill Theatre magazine:

TO BOLDLY GO..!

The biggest cult show in television history - STAR TREK - is to be adapted for the stage in a spectacular production that will premiere at the Churchill Theatre prior to a West End transfer in February - timed to coincide with the seventh Star Trek film. This is the first time in 30 years that Paramount Pictures has released the franchise.

The English producer behind this

exciting project is 31 year old John Gore whose smash hit stage production of another famous TV series - Thunderbirds - broke box office records at the Apollo Theatre in 1989. "Star Trek is Paramount's crown jewel; its most successful commodity ever," says John. "The franchise has always been jealously guarded and I feel very honoured to be trusted with it".

The enormity of the project (he's co-writing the script with Sam Mitchell who collaborated with him on his sell-out production of Batman at the Bloomsbury Theatre five years ago) leaves little time to question his wisdom in undertaking it in the first place!

"I've been in some scary situations before but none quite like this. The responsibility is enormous," he says. One of his main problems has been keeping an objective eye. He's done a tremendous amount of research, reading about 40 books on Star Trek, and admits that it's easy to get buried in the Star Trek ethos.

John plans to take the original 60s setting - with Kirk and Spock as young characters - as the format for the show. "Call it a 'lost episode' if you like. The classic storyline always involved the crew on Planet X fighting Alien X and ending up saving the planet and the universe".

The man responsible for the special effects is Derek Meddings who won an Oscar for making Superman 'fly' and has worked on most of the James Bond films, including the new one.

Predictably, John won't be drawn on costs except to say the enterprise, so to speak, is costing "a fortune". He points out that when the show opens in Bromley it will be exactly 30 years since Paramount made the first pilot series.

All the shows that John has produced so far have been motivated by childhood obsessions. "Star Trek wasn't exactly a childhood obsession so perhaps I'm growing up with each show!"

John predicts that his commitment to the Star Trek project could last at least 10 years. Once the show is up and running in the West End in the New Year he aims to take it to Broadway and tour the States.

Article (C)1994 Vicki Huntley, Head of Marketing Bromley Churchill Theatre

Magazine Sept 94 - Jan 95

- Design an Alien Contest - Paramount Television Group, Viacom Consumer Products and Playmates Toys are co-sponsoring the first ST Design an Alien Contest. Grand prize: a guest shot on DS9 as the alien you dream up. Guidelines are available on entry forms packaged with Trek toys. Deadline for entries is 31/3/95.

- Star Trek Exhibition - Edinburgh!
Edinburgh Evening News 8/11/94.

A show based on the voyages of the Starship Enterprise will be taking off from Hollywood next spring to be a star attraction at the Edinburgh Science Festival.

"Star Trek - The Exhibition" is about to be booked for what could be the biggest draw yet at the City Art Centre.

When a similar exhibition was staged at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington two years ago it attracted close to a million visitors.

The recreation committee of the district council were told about the plans for the exhibition at a secret session yesterday.

The good news for Trekkies is that the show is due to arrive in Market Street next February and will stay until May.

If you want to go along you'll be zapped for an entrance charge of £3.50 for adults and £2 for young Trekkies and pensioners. A family ticket is priced at £9.

The income from ticket sales is expected to cover a bill from Paramount of close to £400,000 for the construction and setting up of the exhibition.

The city is expected to make a profit of more than £40,000 on the sale of Star Trek souvenirs, the recreation committee was told.

Any profit will go into the council's special exhibitions fund.

Museums division staff were authorised to make a trip to Hollywood to see work on the construction of the exhibits on the Star Trek back lot.

When completed, they will be packed for transportation to Edinburgh by road and sea.

Herbert Coutts, city museums curator, told councillors: "The exhibition will relate the history of the Star Trek phenomenon from the earliest TV series, through the

internationally successful sequence of motion pictures to the more recently filmed TV series and movie, which have not yet been seen in the UK."

- Franklin Mint - Apparently in the US there is a new item out. In addition to the "City on the Edge of Forever" piece with Bones entering the Guardian of Forever, they now have the Enterprise approaching the amoeba from "The Immunity Syndrome."

- San Jose Mercury News, 23 October 1994 'The Shape of Things to Come.' This article is actually (apparently) reprinted by the SJMN, as the byline indicates it was written By Susan Goldsmith, Los Angeles Daily News.

The article discusses a new piece of manufacturing equipment from a company called 3D Systems in suburban Valencia. This new machine can take a computer generated three dimensional image and produce a real three dimensional replica of the imaged structure. This is done through the use of "precision-guided laser beams passing through a polymer gel."

Art Sims, the company's CEO is quoted as saying, "I think what we're dealing with is the 20th century version of the Star Trek replicator."

- Fascinating: A 'Star Trek' Science Lesson by Ted Anthony, Associated Press Writer.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - When the emitter array falters, the Romulan Warbird powers up its forward disruptor array or the transporter's pattern buffer scrambles a security officer's molecules, it means one thing: Somebody's watching "Star Trek."

But behind the techno-babble recited with such sincerity by crew members of the fictional USS Enterprise lurk genuine scientific principles about space, physics and medicine.

Now "Star Trek" fans and science buffs can play with the accoutrements of the popular television show and movie series and learn something about their world - and their universe.

"Federation Science" at the Franklin Institute Science Museum uses the future's appeal to teach the science of the present. It's a natural idea that adeptly weaves together fact and fiction.

"I'm not going to say people watch the show because of their interest in science. But the science certainly comes through, and it's a great draw," said Elaine Wilner, a Franklin Institute spokeswoman.

The exhibit, created by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry from an idea by late "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry, has been on tour for two years.

In it, touch-screen displays are interspersed with uniforms and props from the "Star Trek" shows and movies. The exhibits are mostly computers programmed to match the look of the show.

"It seems we've always been preoccupied with the future," says Patrick Stewart (Capt. Jean-Luc Picard) in an introduction video. "All around you is a science that one day may lead to a future among the stars."

At one booth, participants stand in a mock transporter chamber to be "beamed down" to a strange planet where they can stay and use virtual reality to wander and explore.

Could a transporter that converts matter -- including human beings -- into energy and beams it somewhere ever be reality? "Maybe yes, maybe no," says Franklin Institute astrophysicist Jim Moskowitz.

"The technology to move individual atoms is emerging in labs today, but it may be impossible to map the positions of all the atoms in a person's body," Moskowitz says.

"Plus there's the big problem of whether consciousness is a physical thing that can be disassembled and rebuilt," he says.

Program note: Roddenberry invented the idea of the transporter because it was too expensive to film the Enterprise landing and taking off.

Other computers at the exhibit beckon users to push buttons and teach them different principles.

--One console uses gas spectroscopy to help participants discover the spectrum of gases -- argon, neon, helium, nitrogen -- by pushing buttons to make them light up.

--A "Code 1" distress call from the space station orbiting planet Runga 4 challenges the computer operator to change the antenna's direction and temperature to

filter static and improve the signal.

--Anti-matter, a staple in the way "Star Trek" ships' engines run, is explained as the opposite of matter. When the two collide, scientists theorize, they would cancel out each other and create pure energy.

--Another console asks the operator to plot the Enterprise on an intercept course with a space station and navigate it into geosynchronous orbit around a planet.

The exhibit's centerpiece is crafted to resemble the Enterprise's bridge, complete with a gargantuan viewscreen and an assortment of navigation consoles. Here visitors can locate pulsars, plot courses between Orion and the Trifid Nebula or use a tractor beam to change an asteroid's trajectory and save the planet Kutta.

The very difference between the original series of the 1960s and today's "Star Trek: The Next Generation" aptly illustrates how far science has come.

Much of the then-futuristic gadgetry is commonplace today or at least on the threshold of accessibility -- such items as voice-activated typewriters, CAT scans, fax machines and pressurized hypodermic injections.

"Most of the technological progress that defines our lives has emerged only in the last half-century," Stewart says.

Beyond teaching science, the exhibit seems to propose a more universal theme: that today's science fiction, no matter how outlandish and foreign it appears, could be tomorrow's scientific fact.

"A lot can happen in 400 years," Stewart says. "Just look what has happened in the last 400 years."

The exhibit runs in Philadelphia through Jan. 2, 1995. More information is available at 215-448-1208.

- The USS Excalibur had something of a 'biggie' last weekend (Sat 15th Oct). A couple of the command crew were on air with the local BBC-Radio Solent at around 10am, and shortly after that a team from a Meridian TV programme supplier came for the rest of the day. 'Time Off' (On Meridian TV) will be having a segment for the club - early December. Toyah Wilcox is presenting that part, and among the filmed highlights are a

Klingon teach-in by Alex Greene (starring a dozen Klingon warriors and a *little* Vulcan TV presenter). [info Alister Bulman]



Star Trek IN THE NEWS



compiled by Janet Quarton

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

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB 99** Oct/Nov 1994. Articles in this issue include: Star Trek Update; Report on the DS9 episode Crossover; Cloaking Device; Bjo Trimble reports on The Politics of Fandom; Richard Arnold answers questions; Profile of Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens; James Doohan; Patrick Stewart; Designing Star Trek; Interactive Technical Manual; Rene Auberjonois; Star Trek Collectibles.

• **ST THE OFFICIAL FAN CLUB OF THE UK 4** Articles in this issue include: Reader's forum - Baerbel Schmidt gives her views on the prime directive; Lorraine Kelly; the making of the Star Trek Poster; Patrick Stewart; The Changing Face of Klingons; Klingon language; book and audio reviews; Interactive TNG board game; a look back at the year's conventions.

• **STARLOG 208** November 1994. Includes an article on the DC Comics and Malibu Comics four-issue TNG/DS9 mini-series

• **TV ZONE 60** October 1994. Includes an interview with William Campbell (Trelane/Koloth).

• **TV ZONE YEARBOOK Special #15** Includes an article on Colm Meaney plus episode listing for TNG Season 7 and DS9 Season 2.

• ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS

Issue 78 - Article on Geordi's Visor plus episode guides to Interface and Gambit, Part 1.

Issue 79 - Article on Covert Operations plus episode guides to Gambit, Part II and Phantasms.

• **STARBURST 194** Oct 1994. Includes articles on ST Generations and ST Voyager and an interview with Max Grodénchik (Quark's brother, Rom).

• **STARBURST CLASSIC SCI-FI SPECIAL # 21.** Includes an article on ST Generations and an interview with Robin Curtis.

• **CINEFANTASTIQUE** December 1994. Includes articles on TNG & Generations; DS9 & Voyager - a total of 67 pages. This includes guides to 7th season TNG and 2nd season DS9, articles on the actors, production staff, characters, special effects - you name it!

• **CINESCAPE** October 1994. Include articles on ST: Generations on ST: Voyager

• **ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY STAR TREK ISSUE**, Fall 1994. A 108-page special collector's issue devoted entirely to STAR TREK. It features interviews with the stars of all three Trek series - including Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, Gates McFadden, Brent Spiner, Mark Lenard, Armin Shimerman, Nichelle Nichols, Michael Dorn, John de Lancie and Avery Brooks; a preview of "Generations;" a complete episode ranking of every Trek show; an excerpt from Shatner's upcoming new book "Movie Memories;" a run down on the ST movies, books and merchandise.

• "Boldly going right to the end" The Guardian 1/8/94. Quite a lengthy article on the TNG episode *Descent*.

• "Three in a bed... my final frontier with Mr Star Trek" Daily Mirror 14/9/94. Full centre page spread about Nichelle Nichols' autobiography. It gives extracts from the book mentioning her affair with Gene Roddenberry; her other lovers, including Sammy Davis Jr.; how she was once attacked by a would-be rapist; and the famous 'kiss'.

• "Falling Out in Space" Sunday Times 25/9/94. Full page spread on Genevieve Bujold quitting *ST:Voyager* and how George Takei and Nichelle Nichols' memoirs revealed hostility among some of the crew on the original series and movies.

• Seen on the back of a UK weekly computer newspaper 'Computing' 20th October 1994 edition, the funny page, 'Backbytes'.

'Last week IBM launched OS/2 Warp, named to conjure up images of faster-than-light performance and hi-tech wizardry. The name was chosen because of its Star Trek associations, a theme picked up at the US launch where Patrick Stewart (Captain Jean Luc Picard of the 'Enterprise') hosted the bash.

But Backbytes believes the parallels go further - IBM Chief executive Lou Gerstner, like Captain Kirk, is also responsible for a crew determined to get him into trouble at every opportunity, has boldly gone into debt where no company has gone before, and sells a strategy containing more holes than a Klingon target dummy'

[Picture of ST:TUC Klingon Courtroom with Lou Gerstner's face over Kirk's, with McCoy beside - both holding translation units to their ears]

• "Beam me up M'Lud" Evening Times 22/10/94. The leading Scottish advocates missed the start of a Star Trek convention because they had to appear in a major court case in Aberdeen. The trio are Donald Findlay, who is a director of Rangers, Hugh Matthews and Roseanna Cunningham. Fellow advocates Neil Murray, Bob Hunter and Mhari Richards are also keen fans.

• "Trekkin" Down in the Glens is Alien to Scots' Evening Times 3/11/94. Scottish fans are not keen on the TNG episode *Sub Rosa*. George Haggerty of the Away Team is quoted as saying, "It's awful. The worst episode ever of TNG. It's as though someone on the production team has been over here on holiday and taken a Historic Scotland tour."

• "Sci-Fi Entertainment The Official Magazine of the Sci-Fi Channel" (December 1994) includes interviews with Brannon Braga on "Generations" and Michael Piller on "Deep Space Nine".

The following excerpts are from the Brannon Braga article:

"Star Trek: Generations Gap" by Don E. Peterson

Having been an integral part of the 'Star Trek: The Next Generation' fold since 1987, writer-producer Brannon Braga has had his share of colourful Trekker stories--the strangest coming from a woman in Seattle. "She asked me if we used real aliens for research when we write the show," explains Braga, who was unsure if she might have meant illegal aliens from other countries. "When I asked her if she meant real aliens from outer space, she was quite serious. She wanted to know if I ever consulted a real alien when writing about them." Such amusing inquiries are relatively rare. Most fans that Braga encounters these days show a specific interest in 'Star Trek Generations', the seventh instalment of the popular series, which promises to bridge the gap between the old '60s series cast and the 'Next Generation' crew.

One thing that Braga stresses is that while many fans have referred to this film as 'Star Trek VII', this is primarily the very first 'Generations' movie, despite the presence of cast members from the original series. "This is 'Star Trek: The Next Generation I'," he says. "It's like having six 'Cheers' movies and then calling the seventh one 'Frasier' or calling it 'Frasier, Cheers II'. They're different series; ours takes place 40 years away from the original 'Star Trek', anyway. So we're calling this one 'Star Trek Generations', but I don't know what the next one will be called. Maybe we won't use the number system. God forbid we try something new."

The only iffy aspect of writing the initial screenplay was not knowing who would be available from both casts. It was much like playing Russian Roulette, which Braga and Moore remedied by writing all the characters into the first draft and then paring it down as casting became more firm. "We just proceeded with the film as if everyone was in it," says Braga. "In the first draft we included all the original series characters, including Spock. You have to write something, so we wrote assuming he would be in it. As it turned out only Scotty, Kirk and Chekov are in it now."

The evolution of the first screenplay stayed close to the original story Braga, Moore and Berman conceived, though as time went on, things were trimmed for time and budgetary constraints. "The primary cut was a thirty-page action sequence," notes Braga. "There was a crash-landing sequence with the 'Enterprise', and there was an entire battle with the Klingons on the planet's surface, and a sequence in which in order to save the day, Data must have sex with the two Klingon sisters, which we all thought was great. I think it's an unfortunate loss, but it was utterly unnecessary to the plot."

The one thing that Braga has found a bit perplexing, and occasionally annoying, is the fans' insistence on knowing everything

there is about the series—including illegally obtaining copies of scripts before they're aired and giving away secrets of the film. According to Braga, the movie's script was posted on Internet and other on-line services literally a week after he and Moore had finished it. "You know, it's impossible to keep secrets--this is 'Star Trek'," Braga admits. "It's disappointing to us though, because we worked long and hard on it. But, on the other hand, an intensive obsessive interest is better than no interest at all. The only thing I would say to fans who are interested enough to read the script is that reading the script vs. seeing the film is like looking at the blueprint of a house and seeing the completely furnished landscaped home. You can't. It's a blueprint. You can tell everyone absolutely every bit of the movie, but it's not meant to be read, it's meant to be seen; and I think even people who didn't like the script when they read it are going to find themselves enjoying the film. There's no comparison. I have mixed feelings about people who do that. I think from a legal standpoint they're breaking the law just by looking at the script. One guy even came up to me at a recent convention and asked if I would sign his 'Generations' script. I told him 'no'" (info J Young, The Los Angeles Free-Net.)



Cast & Crew NEWS



• 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 Meehan, 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

• **Robert Bloch**, noted science-fiction author (and TOS episode writer) died of cancer on September 23rd. His contributions to TOS included "Catspaw", "What Are Little Girls Made Of?" and "Wolf in the Fold".

• **LeVar Burton** - plays a minister's son and doctor's apprentice in the fact-based CBS series "Christy," about a young teacher who comes to the mountains of Tennessee in 1912. Filming now at the Museum of Appalachia.

• **John de Lancie** appeared in the CBS TV special "Asteroid: Without Warning". He played a news reporter.

• **Jonathan Frakes** is a guest in the sitcom WINGS. He plays a role very similar to Riker. (A very smooth intergalactic space slut as my wife would say). The show should air in the US in a few weeks.

• **Whoopi Goldberg** - it was reported in the People column, San Jose Mercury News) that actress Whoopi Goldberg reportedly married Lyle Trachtenberg, a movie-industry union organizer, on Saturday (1/10/94) in a ceremony at her Bel Air home.

• **Robert Lansing** died of cancer on October 25th, he was in his sixties. Trek fans will remember him as Gary Seven in the original series episode Assignment Earth. He appeared in many other films & series, including 12 O'Clock High and Murder She Wrote.

• **Gates McFadden** on Party of Five. Gates McFadden guest starred as a friend of the Salingers. The role must have been so much fun - quite a departure from her years as Beverly Crusher!

• **Nichelle Nichols'** autobiography, Beyond Uhura: Star Trek and other Memories.

Entertainment Weekly 21/10/94 carried a less than favourable review. The reviewer enjoyed some of the Star Trek bits but felt the book lacked perspective.

TV Guide 8/10/94 carried an extract from Nichelle's book about her relationship with Gene Roddenberry.

• **Leonard Nimoy** - will be appearing in a new "Bonanza" TV movie. It's called "Bonanza: Ghosts" and will air later this season on NBC.

The following message was on Internet but we have been unable to confirm it:
Leonard Nimoy & Ms Majel Barrett Roddenberry will be in Dublin Ireland in March 11-12 1995 as Guests of Honour in TimeWarp 2.

• **William Shatner's** Movie Memories is now available in the States. The book carries on from where the first book left off. It covers how the cancellation of Star Trek affected Shatner and his family; the on again/off again ST movie series/movie/series, and the ST movies 1 through 7. The release date in the UK is Nov 14th.

• **Patrick Stewart** will be performing A Christmas Carol in New York for three weeks from December 20th to January 8th, at Richard Rogers Theatre.

Patrick is spending the Autumn in New York filming "Let it be Me" with Campbell Scott, Jennifer Beals and Leslie Caron.

Patrick Stewart will be narrating Prokofiev's "Peter And The Wolf" for an upcoming CD featuring the Opera Orchestra of Lyon (Kent Nagano directing).

Patrick Stewart's international fan club IAAPS will be closing next year but the British group, who make up a third of the members, are planning to start a UK fan club for Patrick.

"Sadness tinges Patrick's dream" 26/10/94 Evening Times. Patrick's marriage broke up while he was in the States filming TNG. His daughter Sophie stayed with her mother, but his son Daniel followed him several months later and decided to go to college in Los Angeles.

The article tells how Patrick was brought up in a very poor and violent household and how he spend most of his childhood afraid of his father, who was a highly decorated regimental sergeant major in the Parachute Regiment. Patrick says his father couldn't cope after the war. "He was a hero, but when he came home, he had to work as an unskilled labourer, and his frustration turned to rage, anger and violence." Patrick escaped home by joining an amateur theatre club.

National Service ended three months before Patrick would have been called up and he was the one son who didn't do any military service. His father was disappointed and Patrick says that if his father was alive now he would have endless hours of

amusement out of the fact that most people in the world know Patrick as 'Captain'.

Patrick goes on to say how he had to cut his visit to England short to go back to the US to do a film.

• **WAR OF THE WORLDS** - there was a NPR Halloween special broadcast from Santa Monica, of the LA Theatre's new radio play adaptation of "The War of the Worlds" which was directed by John de Lancie. The play starred: Jerry Harden as Secretary of the Interior and Wilmoth, Gates McFadden as Carla Phillips, Leonard Nimoy as Pierson, Dwight Schultz as Radio Announcer, Armin Shimermen as 2nd Radio Announcer, Brent Spiner as The Stranger, Station Manager and The Officer, Tom Verchu as The Capt., Observer and Brigadier General and Wil Wheaton as The Commander.

The production, part of L.A. Theatre Works' "The Play's the Thing" series, was taped during a live performance at the Guest Quarters Suite Hotel in Santa Monica, California in mid-October.

It was to be followed by a short sequel, "When Worlds Collide," written by John de Lancie and Nat Segaloff, that comments on the current media environment.

War of the Worlds is available on cassette for \$19.95 from L.A. Theatre Works at (310) 827-0808 or by fax at 310-827-4949. Anyone ordering from outside the US would have to phone for details.

[Sources of information - Entertainment Tonight, LAAPS, rec.arts.startrek, current/info/fandom], Bjo Trimble's Space Time Continuum (zine ads for ordering details); Media Watch; Dateline Starfleet]



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOK UPDATE

The following information on proposed books is from TV Zone and is subject to change.

- Nov STTNG **Dark Mirror** by Diane Duane
 STDS9 8: **Anti-Matter** by John Vornholt
Where No One Has Gone Before by JM Dillard h/b Photo Book.
The Nit-pickers Guide for Classic Trekkers by Phil Farrand
Captain's Log Season 7 Supplement.
The Law of Trek by Paul Joseph.
- Dec ST 72: **The Better Man** by Howard Weinstein.
 STDS9 Young Adult 4: **The Pet** by Gilden & Peterson.
 Star Trek: **Generations** by John Vornholt
The Making of STDS9 by Gar & Judith Stevens.
Star Trek Federation by G & J Stevens hb.
 ST Adventure 9: **Fate of the Phoenix** by Marshak & Culbreath.

Making of the Trek Films by Edward Gross

Lost Voyages of Trek & The Next Generation

Jan STTNG 33: **Balance of Power** by Dafydd Ab Hugh.

Feb ST: **Sarek** by A.C. Crispin (PB)
 ST Academy 6: **Mystery of the Missing Crew** by Michael Jan Friedman
 STDS9 9: **Proud Helios** by Melissa Scott
 ST Voyager: **Caretaker** by L.A. Graf (PB) and (Audio)

• VIDEO UPDATE

CIC Releases - Info from Terry Shuttleworth

5/12 -

All Good Things Collectors (Feature Length Execution + Behind the Scenes + Generations Trailer +2 4 page booklet)

Borg Box - All the Borg Eps in a cubular (?) box. Special packaging etc etc

Q Continuum The Q Eps (except Farpoint & AGT) in a special box with special packaging etc

• **The 25 Year Mission Live** - William Shatner & Leonard Nimoy live on stage. Merlin Home Entertainment £10.99. Videoed at convention in the USA.

• **Star Trek Creator** the Authorized Biography of Gene Roddenberry by David Alexander. Published by Boxtree. Due in November.

• **George Takei's** autobiography, **To the Stars** is now out. The book is published by Simon & Schuster. An audio cassette abridged version is also available.

• **USS Enterprise 1701-D Bubblebath.** Boots £3.99.

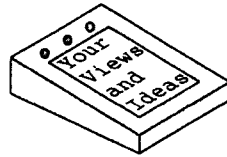
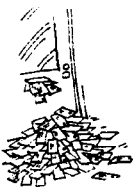
• William Shatner's new book **TekSecret** is

due out in December.

• The RSC have brought out a collection of postcards, showing various productions of *Midsummer Night's Dream*. Two of the postcards show the 1977 production in which Patrick Stewart played Oberon. However, you do have to buy the whole collection @ £3.99. to get the two cards.

One card is colour: PS as Oberon, in loincloth, about to anoint Titania's eyes with the love potion. Second card, b/w - here PS is only in the background and slightly out-of-focus as the subject of the photo is the interplay of Titania and Bottom.

RSC mail order office tel. no: 01789 296655 - if the collection is available by mail order. (info Jean Sloan)



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'.

• Terry Shuttleworth - CIC

To Raj Bahdan - The ST Universe map offer will remain open at least until end 1994. You don't need to have bought the video to get it. [Ed - *The full colour, astronomically correct poster is packed with facts and information on the planets, races and events of the Star Trek Universe and measures 84.0 x 59.4 cm (33 x 23.4 inches). You send a cheque or postal order for £1.50 crossed and made payable to "Star Trek Offer" with your name, address and daytime telephone number written clearly on the reverse of the cheque or postal order in BLOCK CAPITALS to PO Box 1814, Marlow, Bucks SL7 2YP.*]

I've just come back from a convention where everyone was asking me the same question:

Q: What happened with All Good Things? Why have scenes been cut?

A: Some scenes were cut from the two-part execution of AGT to make the episodes +

synopsis (start of second part) still fit the US air windows.

When we were putting together the release plan for CIC releases, we decided to make the difference between the Collectors Edition and the standard release by making the standard release the two-part one, and the Collectors release the unbroken version.

However, our assumption (wrong, in hindsight!), was that Paramount would merely divide the feature length version into two parts (without cuts), and add the synopsis to the beginning of the second part.

When the two-part master came to CIC, it was the cut version. However, this was not communicated to us, and no-one watched the two-part version through. (Those of us who watch the episodes had already seen AGT a number of times by this point.)

The first communication we had regarding the cuts were actually Internet messages from Trekkers in the US who had seen the two-parter on air. That was about a week before the UK video release, by which time the majority of the product was winging its way to stores.

I hope this explanation does something to allay any suspicions amongst your readers that it was an evil marketing ploy from the capitalist (insert expletive of your choice here) at CIC. I only wish we were that organised. (joke)

If you wish to forward any E-mail from your readers to me, please do so.

• **Dejan Ladika - 10 Bocka, 68330 Metlika, Slovenia**

To Andrew William Merritt - I can only say welcome to the club, and you are not alone if we are talking about age. Write me, I'm also into ships. And anyone else - I'd like to have pen pals all around the world.

To Neil J Barrett - I hope you have more inspiration this time. By the way, I was trying to send you something, but I couldn't find your address in the N/L. *[Ed - Janet or*

Sheila will always forward mail.]

To Patrick Stewart - I think you were excellent in the final episode and I hope you and the others will be somehow rewarded for your work in season 7.

Season 7 was one of the best and I think (to Edwin Yau) you were rushing things when you said it's going to be terrible. There were no 'lowdowns' actually, but I don't know why they sent both Ro and Wesley out of Starfleet. Pre-emptive Strike was very good in my opinion because the story was good and they used Ro properly, and if this episode ties with ST:Voy perhaps we'll see more of Ro. I would like that.

Gambit I & II were probably the most expensive episodes because sets and make-up were vast and precise, and so were the special effects. If Robin Curtis was willing to do a TNG episode why didn't they do a Saavik episode?

Interface was a little bit over-stuffed with all Geordi's family showing at once. Other great episodes - Attached, Parallels (Worf is married with...), Sub Rosa, Lower Decks (I really can't see how Bajoran Sito could be in ST:Voy after this), Thine Own Self (Data's face!!! Wow!), Masks, Genesis (Congratulations to Gates on direction) and of course All Good Things. I'll not tell you the plot, but this is really worth watching and at first I wasn't even thinking about the plot. Patrick Stewart was extraordinary, along with Brent Spiner and Denise Crosby. Gates was also very good, and what a serious Admiral Riker will be! Altogether everyone was superb (cast and crew) and they really did their best.

To Sue Taylor - About your problem with videos. I think I could find some space for them on my shelf...

[Sheila - Dejan, your letter arrived just too late to be included last time, and was immediately typed for this N/L. Your repeat of it (in case it had been lost) arrived just in time to meet this deadline, so when you send something for the newsletter, please try to post it at least two weeks before the closing

date to make sure it gets here in time.]

• **Sue Richardson - Crawley, W. Sussex**

Many thanks to Neil Safi who replied to my query about Trek outlets in San Francisco. Also to Edward Woo - I visited Chinatown last time I was in San Francisco but will definitely be heading back there. A meal is a priority.

To Irena in Prague - Hi! Gosh, an answer all the way from Prague...

I'm very sad that NG has finally ended. At least it went out with a bang. All Good Things is wonderful. I'm pleased the series finished on a 'high' (for me anyway) after some true turkeys in the seventh season. Most people writing in N/L 36 seem to dislike the same ones I did. Sub Rosa was just terrible, although I thought the 'ghost' was kinda cute. There's a candle burning on my dressing table, Ronin!!! Masks - only one word to describe this - "Yuk!" I enjoyed Genesis, if only to see Riker de-evolve into a proto-Human, a vast improvement in my opinion! Only joking - Honest! Lower Decks is my favourite episode. I like the idea of seeing the regulars through the eyes of junior officers. Shame about Sito - I hope she comes back in Voyager.

Finally - Anyone who listens to the Waterboys album Dream Harder will hear some very familiar sound effects on the track Corn Circles.

• **Sarah Rooke - Portsmouth**

I just wanted to write and say hi. As a new member, I've really enjoyed reading through the newsletter. It was lovely to see so many letters from Trek fans.

Nude crew members - Yes, but what about my favourite character Riker? Have we ever seen him in the nude? Apart from seeing his hairy chest in Shades of Grey (swoon) and in Angel One, we haven't seen much of him since. More, please, I say.

Star Trek the Official Fan Club - at last someone has had the same experiences as me. It took me ages to get a reply and that's after two letters. I still haven't received the

latest zine or even my 'joining pack' as promised a while ago from them.

I'm afraid I'm stuck in a time warp where the 5th - 7th series of TNG and DS9 is concerned. I cannot afford Sky or a video, but if Paramount are doing what I hear, then I wonder how near it is to Gene Roddenberry's vision. It seems upsetting to me to think of Sarek, Spock and Kirk etc, and what'll be happening on ST: Generations. I only hope the studio bosses realise they may upset a lot of fans. I for one mourn TNG already.

As a new member, I have never attended a convention before, but if any IDIC members are going to it, I'll probably be at the Horizons convention, so I hope to see you there. I'll be looking forward to it. Does anyone know where I can get a Star Trek uniform (CT, TNG, DS9), TNG phaser and tricorder? A Bajoran ear-ring wouldn't go amiss either.

And to the creation. May I offer an alternative viewpoint? As a student of the mysteries, there is in the arcane wisdom a legend of the seeding of Earth by a race of beings from the stars. They mixed with the indigenous population and later became the archtypal gods of many ancient civilisations, after leaving us with their teachings. This race still watches over our planet, since later, due to cosmic interference, the original blueprint became distorted and we forgot our cosmic links en route. At the onset of Aquarius, we are now (hopefully) in the process of regaining our lost heritage by remembering it slowly.

To Taruka - Yes, what the Europeans did in the name of religion was unforgivable. As a practitioner of the Old Religion, I can empathise. We still have not forgotten the 'Burning Times' either, ourselves.

As we say in the Craft and from the old country - Wise, Merry and Blessed Be.

• **Sheila Clark - Dundee**

Jackie Comben's "Guide" last N/L amused me very much - I was there at least twice when someone, seeing her with Valerie

and me (both of us wearing large name badges) said "Hello Sheila, Valerie, Janet". It reminded me of an early con (before Valerie joined us); I was crossing the foyer (alone) and was greeted with, "Hello, Janet." "I'm Sheila." "No you're not."

To Baerbel Schmidt - Any recording from TV to keep is a crime, but it's impossible for the authorities to prosecute everyone who does it! It is therefore considered acceptable to tape something for one's own use, but showing such a tape to friends in your own home is, strictly speaking, illegal, because the actors are not getting paid for these showings. This is why (as Lesley Arrowsmith said) a surcharge on blank tapes (both video and audio) was suggested, this surcharge to be used for royalties. The idea seems to have been dropped for the moment (at least I haven't heard it was ever put in force) but it's a pretty fair bet that Equity and the TV companies haven't forgotten the matter.

To Judith Hopkinson - Re Worf's surname. He may have used Rozhenko on Earth, but there is no indication anywhere in Trek that Klingons have surnames - they seem to use one name, and if further identification is needed, 'son (daughter) of X' or 'of the house of Y'. Surnames, after all, only came into force as a means of differentiating between two or more people with the same given name, and were originally descriptive - John son of Robert, John the Smith, John the incomer, John with black (brown, red) hair etc, and in some places by-names are still used because there may be half a dozen John Smiths in the immediate neighbourhood. On the ship there is only one Worf, so he would drop a surname as unnecessary, but Alexander would have to use Rozhenko as well because out of 1000+ on board there must be more than one Alexander.

To Glyn Holland - Re the Star Wreck books. I enjoyed the first two, but after that I found the joke had worn too thin to be funny any more. They must sell well, though, for them still to be printed - they're up to No 6 now, aren't they?

To Andrew Roper - Re Crusher in command. Would a Doctor actually go through Starfleet Academy? This is something in Trek I've always had difficulty with. A doctor would have full medical training, with the number of years that would require, and presumably some work experience to make sure (s)he was fully competent before being accepted for Starfleet. Surely an extra year at Medical College specialising in xenomedicine would be regarded by the Surgeon General's office as more essential for the medical section of starship service than time spent at Starfleet Academy getting non-medical qualifications.

• **Annette Bohm, Kuhstr 35, 42555 Langenberg, Germany**

I am a new member, and I really like the idea of the Postbag. Members can actually communicate. I think now I can take part in one or two of the discussions.

To Rebekah Owens - I think the whole fault with Lore is that his creator tried to make an artificial Human with Human ambitions and values. I would not really say Lore is 'failed'.

To Peter Benei - In my opinion DS9 is very much a Star Trek story. You said it had too much Bajoran religion and politics. So what are TOS and TNG about? In those series you can find a lot of Human religion, politics and ethics. I feel that religion and politics have a lot to do with Star Trek (its original idea).

My ten favourite episodes are (in no specific order) All Good Things...; Violations; Penpals; Yesterday's Enterprise; Emissary; Face of the Enemy; Armageddon Game; Trouble with Tribbles; Mirror, Mirror; Unification.

To all members who read German and English ST novels/watch ST in these languages. Aren't some of the translations horrible? Although my English is not the best, I really prefer reading/watching ST in English. I have to say, not only did it give me a great time, but I learned quite a bit of my English from it.

To Matthew Hemsley - You wanted the favourite characters: mine are Bones, Pulaski and Dax. You're right, it's hard to decide!

To Tracey Williams - I totally agree with you that it would be a tribute to Gene Roddenberry to continue Star Trek. I do not think ST will just vanish in a few years. I feel that there will be many people wanting to continue, to carry on with his idea.

Next, I want to thank IDIC for the 5 new penpals I get through the club. Anyone who would like to trade ST cards with me (almost all series) or does not have enough penpals please write to me. I will answer every letter.

• **Jay Stevensen - in the wilds of Essex**

To Martin Stahl - P 43 - Many thanks for the explanation of Epigones. Now it makes sense.

To Irena Hradecka - P 46 - Someone somewhere over here probably speaks Czech - but not me. I took the titles and translations from a list printed by the Star Trek Action Group N/L No. 112. I did give them a credit!

To all responsible for Contagion 94 - Congratulations! £14,000+ is serious money! A record? *[Ed - The final figure, once all the bills, etc, had been paid, was £18,585, split between 7 charities.]*

To Clare Finkel - P 26 - Good point. There's no real evidence for a telepathic link between Kirk and Spock in the episodes although you can probably read it into some of them if you want to. But it's a nice idea... and logical. I like to believe it evolved slowly, strengthening as Spock grew more comfortable with the concept of personal friendship. In the novelisation of ST:TMP, Gene makes it clear that Spock 'feels' Kirk's thoughts, which would imply that a link had been forged.

To Anne Marie Flowers - P 27 - Why was Sarek left to suffer? Because it's good TV drama! But in "my Trek" I'm sure the Vulcans would have practised euthanasia. They knew the katra would survive. (In "my Trek" Kirk won't die either... whatever the

film says! So there!)

To Tracey Saunders - P 23 - The Vulcans *do* have emotions. They just try to control them. Not always successfully, it seems.

To Clement Chung & Patricia Doyle - P 48 - To Clement, thanks for asking about the TNG blooper reel (N/L 35) and to Patricia, thanks for sending in the address. I've always wanted to see the Classic reel.

To Anyone - What is a 'filk song'?

• **Russell Witheyman - Crawley, West Sussex**

Firstly, to everyone who is thinking of phoning Sky's Trek Hotline, don't bother. It's updated every week but features little new info from week to week and is a bit of a rip-off. Your best bet is to keep reading TV Zone etc, and of course IDIC!

On the subject of the Generations con in London next February, I will be going. I'm not opposed to professional cons taking place just as long as fan cons don't become obsolete because of them, and I hope to be going to a fan-based con as well next year.

On the DS9 V Babylon 5 debate, DS9 is better than Bab5, but I like the mystery element in B5; nobody is quite what they seem and Garibaldi is certainly worth a watch. Pity he's not in DS9!

Now that I've seen all of season 2 of DS9 I'd say that the series has greatly improved. There were some excellent episodes like Blood Oath, The Maquis, Crossover, Invasive Procedures and the season finale, The Jem'hadar. By the third season they would, with any luck, become worthy of the quality TNG delivered during seasons 3, 4 & 5. Let's hope that they do.

On a last touching note, I'd like to say goodbye to TNG and although season 7 wasn't the best season they had done, they did deliver some gems, such as The Pegasus, Pre-emptive Strike, Attached, Sub Rosa and All Good Things. Goodbye, TNG - I shall miss your weekly episodes. Chapter 1 is just finishing, but a new chapter is just beginning!

• **Sally Woods - Norwich**

To everyone - I've read that if Voyager becomes a success, DS9 is likely to be cancelled. If it happens, the loss of some characters would be a shame. Giving it some thought, I came up with this; DS9 is about to explode, Sisko orders an evacuation. With the senior staff left, Sisko orders Kira and the others to leave via the wormhole. Against her wishes, Kira, Dax, Odo and Quark escape just as DS9 explodes, collapsing the wormhole and propelling the runabout into the same area as the Voyager, thus giving us the chance to continue seeing these characters...

To Matthew Hemsley (N/L 34) - My favourite characters are Kirk, Data and Kira.

To Adam North - I live in Mulbarton, just outside Norwich. Maybe you'd like to get in touch? I too write stories - maybe we could collaborate.

Does anyone know if the rumours are true that the Big Screen Adventure Generations will be released before Christmas? [Ed: See Eric Stillwell's article.]

To Simon Growcott - I agree with you, why is Data only a Lieutenant-Commander? Surely he's more qualified than Troi to command!

To Henry Gallagher - Prefer B5 to DS9? I think not. At least with DS9 we don't have to put up with the Bruce Willis clone. Although Sinclair and Sisko are similar, both unbearable. Who else would like a DS9 command change? Bring back Riker. What a conflict he and Kira would have!

If Odo would die if he used the transporter (The Host) why hasn't it affected Dax?

• **Jean Sloan - Liverpool**

To Margaret Rainey - P 23 - Are you suggesting that there is a Generation gap in fandom (sorry!) Seriously, I would love to attend your 'wrinklies' con but your criterion for attendance would exclude me; I didn't find fandom until 1989, though I was a fan long before that.

To Clare Finkel - P 26 - Many OT zines deal with the friendship between Kirk and Spock and the idea of a telepathic link is one (logical?) development of that friendship which I think must have been invented by zine writers, perhaps after seeing Spock's use of the mind meld in the episodes. I suppose the link is intended as a vehicle to allow Spock to express his hidden emotions without compromising his Vulcan philosophy of logic. I have read stories which deal with the friendship without using the idea of a link, but such stories still tend to show emotion winning out over logic in Spock, often after an inner struggle, usually when Kirk's safety is compromised. The best of these stories explore the balance logic/emotion and succeed in keeping Spock in character. I also agree that logic must rule over emotion and I try to work by that principle myself; unfortunately I don't always succeed...

To Teresa Dawn Whaley - P 26 - What kind of zines do you like? And which stories?

To Chris Bailey - P 28 - I agree about the Christmas cards: if someone produces some - I'll buy them!

To Anne Marie Flowers - P 27 - I agree with your praise of the Bohemian Rhapsody compilation. It was also shown at Archon, and won a prize in the music/editing competition. I have lost the names of the two people who produced it, which is very annoying as I would like to credit them. With a bit of luck the Archon post-con report will give that information. The said Bohemian Rhapsody tape would make an excellent exhibit for Maggie Symon's exhibition (if she decides to get involved).

Finally, N/L 36 had quite a few comments about Babylon 5; are we sort of 'adopting' the programme alongside Trek??

• **Jean Perrin - Burton on Trent**

To David Raper, who says "Surely if all Starfleet commanding officers were cast in the same mould, there would be complaints". I think it takes a special sort of person to be a Starfleet CO and most of them would be cast

in at least a similar, if not the same, mould.

To Sarah Finch - Many thanks for your offer to let me have your spare copy of Pawns and Symbols but I have managed to get one from Sheffield Space Centre, thank you. I really enjoyed it and recommend it to anyone looking for a good book, but if it's in short supply, Sarah, perhaps you could offer yours to someone else - thanks again anyway. I'm currently scratting round trying to get my hot little hands on a paperback copy of Prime Directive (can't afford the hb) and even Sheffield Space Centre hasn't got one of those.

To Suzanne Vann - I think the reason Kirk and Co are never off the bridge is called poetic licence. It wouldn't be much of a story if they weren't there. After all the sensible thing would be for Kirk and Spock to work different shifts anyway, otherwise it wouldn't take long for any Klingon with half a brain to work out when they were both in bed and attack accordingly, and by the time they got back to the bridge it would all be over.

To Jay Stevensen - I'm always trying to understand Spock's sex life or lack of it. If pon farr comes round every seven years why are there no little Spocks running around? I know that fighting Kirk on Vulcan got it out of his system the first time (if it was the first time he was a jolly late starter) but what about the next times round?

To Matthew Hemsley - When you have got in everyone's votes for their favourite characters are you going to tell us your findings? I told you mine last month, but if you decide to do a least favourite poll put me down for Riker, that man really gets up my nose. Even though Picard is sitting on the bridge, Riker is shouting out orders like "Shields up!" and "Fire phasers!" If he'd tried that on James Kirk's bridge, he'd have found himself going head first out of the nearest airlock before you could say "Beam me up, Scotty".

• **Craig Lemon - Braintree, Essex**

To Matthew Hemsley - Favourites are Kirk, Worf and O'Brien (because he says "Bloody hell" all the time).

To Mark Cooksey - Absolutely agree about the little scenes at the end of TOS. They added so much character in perhaps one or two dozen words that TNG would've been much better if that had incorporated these scenes.

To Jenny Turner - I didn't like TNG when it started either, nor DS9. It took until the 3rd season of TNG for me to like it, but only till midway though the first of DS9 - perhaps I'm becoming easier to please? Anyway, I don't think films make as much money as the TV shows - films must make three times their cost to start being profitable, whereas the TV show had already been sold to various networks throughout the world. So why did Paramount kill TNG? I did hear that they wanted to wipe out all traces of Gene R's legacy; that would explain Voyager coming along so quickly. Also Patrick Stewart said in interviews that he didn't want to do Picard on a regular basis any longer - perhaps they thought it couldn't run without him? Any thoughts?

To Maureen Norton - Re Trek computer games. I played the Atari ST computer version many years ago and frankly it was rubbish. I've played the 25th Anniversary game on PC CDROM, with speech by the original actors, and it's disappointing - there's no spark in any of the actor's voices, it sounds like a very poor radio play, just reading by rote. I've also seen a demo of the TNG game on PC CDROM, and that's not impressive either.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - Mutiny is never justifiable; if the Captain has gone bonkers, there are laid-down procedures for the First Officer or Medical Chief to follow to relieve him of command *legally*.

To Carole Taylor - I've stopped buying the books new, as £4.50 or £4.99 is just too much to pay for a couple of hundred pages of what sometimes is a load of rubbish. Especially the new Titan books, at between one and two hundred pages! I buy them all secondhand.

To Stephen Daniels - Most VCRs nowadays have an extended play facility,

giving 8 hours of recording on a 4-hour tape - a heck of a lot of ST episodes.

To Ann Lindsay Wright - You may need to free up more conventional memory - type MEM at the DOS prompt after booting up; you need in the region of 590+K. If you haven't got it, you'll need to LOADHIGH various stuff - without more details it's difficult to diagnose. If your problem is still occurring at the time this is printed I'll try to help if you give me a call on 01376 343432 after 19.30 or at weekends.

To anyone - Re Gene R. I've just read Captain's Logs, and that book implies that the true force behind what made a success of Classic Trek was Gene L Coon; that Rick Berman is responsible for the development and direction of TNG and that Gene R is widely regarded as a bad writer. My question is; is Gene R's contribution over-rated? Comments? *[Ed - To get a properly balanced view of Gene, you want to read David Alexander's excellent biography, Star Trek Creator, when Bantam releases it.]*

• **Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford**

To Tracy Saunders & Taruka Quauhtezcatl - My comments about American aborigine culture were not intended to denigrate those cultures or to justify their destruction by the Europeans. I have the utmost respect and fascination for Mesoamerican culture, whilst accepting that there are some aspects of those cultures such as mass human sacrifice, ritual torture and warfare that are not very appealing to me. I cannot believe, Tracy, that those acts can only be viewed within the belief structure of those engaged in such activities except with the objective perspective of an anthropologist. Killing people is not subject to inter-cultural tolerance.

As for a justification of the European invasion, there is none, but historical events rarely require a justification. When events occur due to 'historical justification' they usually number among the worst outrages humanity is capable of.

To David Raper - There is one problem with humans or humanoids moving to

lighter gravity worlds; they will grow very tall without modifications to the amount of growth hormone their bodies produce. No doubt such genetic tinkering is feasible so they could stay 'standard size' but they would have all sorts of problems going anywhere with a higher gravity. All their muscles would be weaker, not just the ones needed to move about and breathe. Melora's heart would not have been strong enough without yet more genetic engineering.

To Sheila Clark - On a similar vein one of the reasons insects were bigger earlier in Earth's history is that the oxygen content of the atmosphere was much higher so a faster metabolism was possible. Amber may not have provided us with dinosaur DNA but there has been some success getting samples of ancient air from trapped bubbles - though the data is not definite. Insects were still limited by the limitation of how 'deep' air could penetrate their tissue - allowing a thickness of no more than about one inch radius. One of the theories about dinosaur extinction suggests that they died out because of the gradual loss of oxygen to space - they lacked a diaphragm and were unable to service their lungs with enough air to power their massive bodies.

To Sacha J Cowan SPOILER ALERT - The anomaly in All Good Things was visible when Admiral Riker returned to the scene because it is a convergence of Time and Anti-Time effectively moving forward and back along the time line 'after' its inception. They could see it in the future after the creation of the anomaly (as a Time event) and could have seen it, if they had gone *back* in time to before it was created (as an Anti-Time event) - but the USS Pasteur couldn't see it because it didn't yet exist in Time or Anti-Time. Confused? I am, but that's the nature of a paradox.

So DS9 is going to have a new warship, the Defiant? Good grief! Whatever happened to "We come in peace"?

• **Maureen Norton - Canvey Island, Essex**

To Di Williams - I think you took my comments on Worf/Troi a bit too seriously. I'm sorry if I upset you. I *have* seen Parallels -

in fact it was that episode that prompted me to write!

Can anyone tell me if Worf came straight from the Academy to the Enterprise, or what, if any, were his other ships; also similar info on Data, please.

Unfortunately, my husband 'treated' me to a 2-year subscription to the OUKFC, so I'm stuck with it! From what I hear, we have all been ripped off. I wish there was something we could do other than not taking out further subscriptions. Any ideas?

To the person who just sent me a list of magazines with a price list, yes it was cheeky! When you are stuck at home, hoping for a nice letter to read, it's a bit disappointing. By the way, my other half has picked up quite a few of those same mags for 50p at a local market!

I think my favourite female character at the moment is Kira, she has a lovely smile for someone who is rarely happy. When she is, she really 'twinkles'; credit must go to Nana Visitor. I was also fond of K'Ehlyr and Ro Laren. I can't decide about the men!

• **Damian Griffiths - 55 Rickmansworth Rd, Watford, WD1 7HS**

SPOILER ALERT

Well, I've just watched All Good Things and found it to be a most exciting and enjoyable episode. However, I did find it rather off-putting, seeing Picard and Co as they were to become in the future. I mean - Geordi becoming a famous novelist and Data a University Professor. Similarly, finding that Picard suffers from a terminal illness (I guess this is similar to people's objections over having Kirk killed off in the new movie.)

Anyway, I still liked the episode and loved the futuristic Enterprise (with 3 warp nacelles) and I felt the ending (with Picard joining in the card game) was also good, making Picard more friendly and more like Kirk's relationship with his crew.

I do however have one problem with the episode, and that is this; Q says that *he*

created the time shifts in order to give Picard a chance to save humanity - and yet if Q hadn't done this, then Picard wouldn't have emitted the tachyon beams (which created the anomaly in the first place) and so the anomaly wouldn't have existed! Can anyone explain this to me?

Recently quite a few people have been saying that they don't feel seasons 6 & 7 have been as good as the earlier seasons, yet I would disagree - in my mind they have been just as good and indeed many episodes even better - in particular Frame of Mind, Second Chances, Schisms (season 6) and Gambit, Thine Own Self, Journey's End, Pegasus, and of course All Good Things (season 7).

To Ann Lindsay Wright - Re ST 25th Anniversary. I too have a PC with CDROM, and am quite experienced with it, so it you are still having problems with it please write to me at the address above giving me the exact problems (ie how far you can get, does the Star Trek logo appear, etc). One thought, though - don't try loading it through Windows!

To Suzanne Vann - Re Kirk and Spock always beaming down together. While this would rarely happen in the Next Generation time period, during Kirk's day, Starfleet was less strict over Captains going on Away Missions and didn't recognise the danger of this. Interestingly, in one Trek novel (I can't remember the name) Starfleet actually starts to implement the idea of the Captain remaining on the ship while the First Officer conducts the Away Missions (much to Kirk's annoyance, since it makes him feel 'useless').

To anyone - I was at Camden Market a few weeks ago and came across a record which I believe was titled Captain Kirk (or something similar) and had a drawing of Kirk's head on the front, surrounded by psychedelic orange and red. Unfortunately I didn't get a chance to take a look at it and hence was wondering if anyone else has heard of this?

Roughly how many members of IDIC are there? I know the print run is 1175 copies, but you may well print spares. *Id -*

Membership varies from day to day as renewals come in and new members join. Membership is highest before a newsletter is sent out, but then we deduct those who have not renewed and the number falls again. On newsletter compiling weekend we decide the print run by working out how many members are due to receive the next newsletter, add 50, and take the number to the nearest 25. As memberships and renewals continue to come in we often run out of newsletters before the next one is due so the number of members is usually higher than the print run. We ran out of copies of Newsletter 35 less than two weeks after it was printed. We printed an extra 25 copies and ran out again. Members renewing late do risk missing a newsletter as we can't afford to print too many and be left with copies.]

• **Julie Evans, Flat 1, 31 Newsham Dr,
Liverpool L6 7UG**

I would like to thank Janet Quarton for printing a few lines (N/L 36) concerning my hunt for Data and (especially) Lore stories. I hope people can help me. I already have the ones in Make It So Nos 12, 14, 18 & 19, all of which I thoroughly enjoyed. Lore definitely occupies a very special place in this withered old thing that I suspect used to be a heart, and Data comes a close second. No amount of stories will ever be too much!

I welcome info on stories of an alternative nature (you know, kinky stuff). After all, the nights will be getting cold and I'll need something to keep me warm. Naughty Lore and Data tales will do nicely, thank you!

I have been considering making cartoon T-shirts for sale, and if anyone wishes to write to the above address just to prod me to get going, I'd be delighted! I welcome all correspondents and look forward to making more new friends. Hello to all who wrote to me already - Tony Alldis, Ann Brightman, Melody Rondeau of Data Entries, Tanya 'Lore' Dean, the elusive I DeBeer, Amanda Smith, Sylvia Paddock and Deb Coleman. Thanks, guys. I'm only as good as the sum of all my parts, and your letters are always a pleasure!

To Karen Davies and Clare Solomon of Data Matrix, Melody Rondeau, all those at IDIC, Bill Hupe etc - thank you all for encouraging me so wonderfully with my cartoons. My thanks and appreciation are more than you know. And to Marty Sigris and Jean Kluge for giving us Pulse of the Machine - what can I say? Look forward to the sequel! And Tony, lest I forget, thank you for starting me off. Big gold star with sound effects to you, mate.

Finally, Rebekah Owens, who offered storage space for Lore. I'd like to contribute a few cans of WD-40!

• **Nanaki Kaur - Birmingham**

I hate the Troi/Worf relationship! I must admit it's purely for selfish reasons. I've *always* wanted Riker to get back with Deanna, however unlikely that would be. Then Tom Riker came along and I thought okay, I can live with a Tom Riker/Troi relationship. Now with Worf on the scene the chances of Deanna getting together with either Riker are pretty thin.

To Patricia Doyle - When did we see Geordi without his clothes on? I can't believe I missed that one! By the way, did you know John de Lancie was *really* naked in Deja Q? They tried to put a jock strap on him but it was visible so in the end he just took it off!

• **Ali Neill - Aberdeen**

To Maureen Norton - I believe the programme you are referring to was called The Quest. I think that Tim Matheson's character was called Quentin and Kurt Russell was raised by Indians and called Two Persons. They were brothers who had been separated (I can't remember exactly how) and their quest was to find their long-lost sister who had also been raised as an Indian. I keep hoping that Sky will put it on again.

Re replicators - I have read with interest the various ways in which the crew would be billed for food but surely the crew wouldn't be charged. I mean, sailors don't have to pay for their food when they're at sea, do they?

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Any chance

you could write your surname down phonetically so that I'd know how to pronounce it correctly?

To Dave Styles & Alan Stephen - I have to admit that your letters to each other are the ones I first look for in any of the newsletters. I'm ashamed to say that I thoroughly enjoy eavesdropping on an argument. In the words of Mr Data - "Please continue the petty bickering".

• **Clare Finkel - Woking, Surrey**

To Maggie Symon - Re Changing Face of Vulcan, N/L 36 P 74. Your sentiments are mine exactly and then some, but you express them so well!

My answer? Vulcans are no longer a priority in official Trekkdom, and/or official Trekkdom seems bent on humanising Vulcans. Vulcan logic, the needs of the many, etc, are all but gone. Even Spock doesn't want to follow them any more; 1) in ST IV, he wanted to risk the destruction of the world to save Chekov because "it is the Human thing to do". 2) I agree that there is wisdom beyond logic, as Spock told Valeris in ST VI, but I was very disappointed when he also told her that she should have faith that everything in the Federation would turn out all right.

As much as I enjoy NG, I hate what they did to the Vulcans. I'm not a DS9 fan, though I still watch it because I'm hoping, but I don't like what they have done to the Vulcans either. In fear and trepidation I am looking forward to Voyager, but I must admit I am losing faith that everything in official Trekkdom will work out all right.

My solution to the problem? Actually, I believe my solution to that problem is also the solution to many of the fascinating, on-going discussions in the newsletter - Fandom.

I want the old Vulcans back!

I want Gene's dreams back!

I have faith in Fandom!

• **Jenny Turner - Birmingham**

Does anyone else have trouble getting

merchandise, etc? I waited recently 4 months for one item only to be told that it was no longer available. I seem to get a lot of this and I'm totally fed up with it. Also the books and zines seem to take an age. I know it takes time to send out zines but 5 weeks is ridiculous. The Hamilton Collection keeps sending me ads for plates, mugs etc. I do buy some but I couldn't possibly afford all their stuff. I wish someone would come up with a reasonably priced 3D chess set - I'm no good at making one myself, I'm all thumbs - and I nearly had a heart attack when I saw the prices for Franklin Mint's one.

To everyone - What do you think of a zine of members' poems? I think it would be a good idea. *[Sheila - I don't know whose zines are taking 5 weeks to arrive, but I would like to point out that (unless I'm on holiday) I try to send out zine orders within 24 hours of receipt, 48 at the most. Very occasionally we advertise a zine just before it's ready, but if so we say 'due...' so that people know not to expect it before the end of the stated month. Re a zine of poetry - we're pushed to have enough poems to put one out since we include poetry in the other zines, but if enough people were interested and enough people sent in poetry submissions, we'd consider it.]*

• **Helen Cakebread - Coventry**

I must say how I enjoy reading the newsletter and all the points of view.

I am still upset that they are going to kill off Kirk, and cannot understand how WS can do this to his fans even if he does not want to do any more. Only alien beings can come back. That it's without Spock as well does not give you much heart. I know the rest of the cast are good, but those two shine. (I'd like a film with Captain Sulu!)

I'm not keen on TNG. I know the effects in TNG would knock the old Enterprise into a tin hat, but wonder how it would have been if the original series had the gadgets of today. It was done on a low budget, the scenery moved about, but it was the crew you watched. I'm glad TNG has done so well, even though I get bored watching it - some of them of late seem to be

all Data trying to be Human. Why? I could write better parts for him since he is a superior machine! And where have Worf and the others gone?

At least Spock was proud to be Vulcan and never wanted to be anything else!

I do not like DS9, although I still haven't seen many videos of it, but I love Babylon 5 - at least they show their feelings even if the sets are a bit daft at times!

• **Heather Fairgrieve - Plymouth**

I've just finished reading Crossroad by Barbara Hambly, and very disappointed I was, too. For the first time I left a Trek book unfinished till the next evening!

There just didn't seem to be any sort of relationship between the main characters. Considering that they were nearing the end of the five-year mission, Spock/Kirk/McCoy acted as if they were more like 5 minutes into the mission. And books aren't cheap now, either.

• **Maggy Edwards - Coventry**

"The Changing Face of Vulcan"

Thanks for an interesting item Maggie. I too have found over the last few years that the Vulcans (if you can spot one!) have changed from the original concept. My belief is that the reason for this is scripts are written by people who have no in-depth knowledge of the Vulcan race, or even Trek for that matter. They are doing it for the money and nothing else.

There seems no continuity at all, and it is getting worse. eg. Spock has stated many times that violence is abhorrent to Vulcans since the teachings of Surak, yet here we are presented with a Vulcan, Tuvok, in the new series Voyager, who is a security officer... whose ability to use his physical skills in battle inspire the crew...

As Voyager is set so far after the original series, does this mean Vulcans have given up the way of emotional control and the teachings of Surak? If so, why? Is this the reason we rarely see Vulcans, because

with the slip back into violence they lose their importance within the Federation? Or is it just that once again the knives are out, but this time it isn't a single character (Kirk) but a whole race belonging to the original series that is targeted...

I understood the 'S' was in honour of the memory of Surak. If Vulcans no longer follow his way then maybe they would drop the use of 'S'.

• **Gina Lepore - Mitcham, Surrey**

Well at long last I have taken the bull by the horns and done it, I am going to my first convention, the Horizons, in a box no less. I just cannot wait, roll on 4th Feb.

I am glad I decided to join IDIC, I really enjoy reading all the newsletter. Keep up the good work, I know it cannot be easy.

I hope to see some of the other IDIC members at the RAH, even though I do not know any others by sight. I will carry my latest IDIC newsletter with me, so if any of you would like to come up and say hello please do.

• **Shaun Brannigan - 7 Talbot Drive, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8HG**

Please forgive the fact that this letter is mostly an unashamed series of Thank Yous. A Thank You is so easy to give, but I fear we do not do enough of it. And I must publicly express my gratitude to a number of people.

To The IDIC Committee - Thank You for circulating the leaflet on G-Force with Newsletter 35. I was pleased to be able to make your acquaintance at last (at least Shiela and Valerie) in the dealers room at Archon.

To Edward Woo - Thank You for your observations and constructive comments on my article about promoting Fandom. I note your point about an interest in Star Trek is a prerequisite to an entry into Fandom. The AIDA typology was considering an Interest in Fandom, although this makes your comments no less valid. You must be complimented on your recruitment techniques. Prowling WH Smith etc for casual ST fans must be very labour intensive.

Does this mean that you will be prowling the queues at your local Multiplex cinema come next February as well? On this more serious note, has anyone any suggestions as to how Fandom can best benefit from the impending Generations film? After all there's a limit to how many cinema queues we can prowl (but I'll be out there as well, Edward).

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Thanks for just being there. I don't think Alton Towers will ever be the same again - or at least not until next July 8th for G-Force '95.

To Gerry Taylor - Thank You for your efforts with First Contact. Being there makes promoting Fandom in a balanced way so much easier.

To Carole Taylor - re: Mr Spock vs Dr Spock, yes I have tried convincing others about the correct title. It's not easy is it?

To David Sykes - I second your suggestion for "home-made" cons whole heartedly. ST Fans shouldn't need much excuse to get together and there is a need for low cost options. Part of the aim of G-Force at Alton Towers was a lowish cost get-together - although it was only low cost for Midlands based fans with transport. However, you are perfectly correct that it doesn't have to be on a grand scale. To back up your assertions let me tell you about the Midlands-based SFC unit, USS Monarch, which holds a number of such small events.

As well as small gatherings and the grander G-Force, we have "Away Missions" where, as a group, we visit localised places of interest. Our latest impending venture (sorry it will have happened by the time this is published) is "Q'Pid - The Rematch" (similarity in title to another recent East Midlands event is purely deliberate, but SFC in no way intends to infringe on the copyright of NCC-1701 A-D). "Q'Pid", as you would expect, is pursuing the Robin Hood Trail, from The Tales of Robin Hood, to the Sherwood Forest Visitors Centre, to Nottingham Castle - all spread over a weekend with a party on the Saturday. The grand cost of all this will be/was (sorry slight time distortion there) a shade over a fiver

plus a bottle for the party. My point, is to back up David's encouragement to anyone contemplating a "home-made" con-type event: DO IT. IT'S FUN.

• Catherine Carter - Harrogate.

Kate@carterce.demon.co.uk

I've seen comments from a few people asking for recommendations for zines of a particular type - Vulcan-orientated stories was one I remember. Might I make a suggestion? If you can't find stories of the type you like - write your own. I did and jolly satisfying it was too AND I sent 'em to Valerie AND they've been accepted for publication (There's glory for you, said Humpty Dumpty!) Now all I have to do is wait for them to appear - I suppose a hint about the date is out of the question Valerie? I thought so - ah well never mind.

Seriously, Valerie is very kind to us authors so if you've got something hidden in a drawer you're too shy to share, dig it out.

In that connection I have seen pleas from authors for comments on their stories. I recently read one which I believe to be below the author's usual standard. (No, Sheila, not yours!) So a question to authors - I can produce a reasoned critique but would I only upset the writer without doing any good? Authors, think carefully before answering - I may mean you.

With regard to the pro novels - Good grief! Two decentish TOS books in succession - whatever is the market coming to? First Traitor Winds and then Crossroads, both of them entirely acceptable. My biggest problems with them - Traitor Winds was very badly edited - vicious and viscous mean two entirely different things, as do clamoured and clambered, and I fail to see how someone could be both diffident and supercilious to the same person. Worst of all ('tho I yield to no being in my admiration for Admiral Jim) even his best friend wouldn't continuously refer to him as "wiry"! And with Crossroads set that close to the end of the five year mission I would have expected some reference to whatever it was that scattered the crew and sent Spock off to Gol. By the way, my spell checker kept insisting on

changing Gol into Goole - I rather like the idea of Spock retiring to purge his emotions in Goole, it adds an entirely new dimension to the Kohlinahr.

Reading over old NL's I have come to the conclusion that no sooner does someone describe an episode as dreadful somebody else declares it to be their favourite. So what I want to know is - is there anyone out there who loves Spock's Brain, or Shades of Grey or Sub Rosa or any other of the real stinkers? To start the ball rolling I proudly announce that I like Masks, Rascals and Lessons, all of which I have seen denounced.

Stephen Daniels - Smailholm, Nr. Kelso

A talking sentient machine that quite often saves the day, and has an evil twin. Data? No, K.I.T.T. in Knight Rider! I hadn't thought of those parallels before.

I can't believe they are going to destroy the Enterprise D in 'Generations'! It took 20 years to build, so what will they fly in in the next film (if there is one)?

To Neil J. Barrett (n/1 36 p37) I have to disagree with your theory of Bev getting away from people in her working environment. They are all crew on a ship, so the ship is their working environment, hence there is no getting outside of it (apart from shore leave). When I see Bev interacting with Alyssa in the sick bay she doesn't adopt an authoritative air, she seems quite pleasant. I don't think superior rank affects their relationships; if it did we wouldn't see the romance between Riker & Troi, Worf & Troi, Data & Tasha, and of course Beverly and Jean-Luc.

Having said that, it's really all academic as recent episodes (Lower Decks & Genesis) have shown. Unfortunately I wrote my bit for the postbag before seeing these, and I'm sure you're a very nice person indeed!

To Elizabeth Barrie (n/1 36 p42) Do you really not like DS9 & TNG, or are you just indifferent to them?

To Alan Callaby (n/1 36 p44) The

aliens I liked were Ardra from 'Devils Due' (humanoid), a marvellously composed character who spoke to the captain like no-one else! Oh, and I liked that poor stupid Ferengi who was trying to learn the Enterprise computer with Riker in 'Rascals'!

To Simon Growcott (n/1 36 p44) From what I made of it, in 'Genesis', they were not devolving into species in their evolutionary chain, but via a genetic link into species in other evolutionary chains, reptiles, insects etc..

I forget who it was, but in a previous newsletter someone asked about storing their Star Trek videos. Well in the Science Museum Christmas Catalogue (a trading name of Innovations Ltd.) they are selling what I think are very sophisticated-looking upright video stands. They take up about a square foot of floor space and each one holds 30 videos, so three of them would be ideal for the 89 TNG cassettes, plus the special edition. The snag? RRP £44.95.

Marysia Kolodziej, Troon.

E-mail: 933914K@psy.gla.ac.uk

Does anyone know if the Franklin 3D chess set is any good and where else you can buy 3D chess sets? How similar are the rules to 2D chess?

I think leaving a big empty gap between STV:TUC and TNG and not telling us what happens to a lot of the old characters is a good idea because it leaves lots of room for the books to fill in instead of what they're doing at the moment. If I read one more story about negotiations that don't go smoothly I shall scream, though I admit that the TNG books are by far the worst at doing this. What happened to science and exploration? All we ever get is politics.

My favourite characters are Chekov (close second Sulu), Data (close second Troi) and Bashir. In B5 I like Ivanova (is that right) and Molari (that one's almost definitely not right). These may change for no apparent reason at any time.

To Stephen Daniels - Troi had been in Starfleet long enough to be a Commander but

had not been through official command training. Thus she had to prove to the paper pushers she could command if necessary. Data has taken command training already so he has to wait until Starfleet decides he is experienced enough to move up a notch; this is likely to take longer than with a non-android as nobody is quite sure of his capabilities, not even Data.

To Ann Peters - sending electricity through primeval soup to create peptide chains has been done in laboratories. Also why should any scientifically intelligent life function well on dry land? You don't need fire to be scientific. I expect there are whole realms of science we haven't fully explored simply because certain things are more natural above than below the surface of the sea. Look at The Abyss where the aliens' technology was based on manipulating water. Also why should manipulative limbs be necessary? Telekinesis has not been disproved, and even if it is just cause we can't do it doesn't mean aliens can't. I don't think the Universe began expanding at the speed of light as the speed is yet undecided. How fast we are travelling will tell us whether or not we will keep going or gradually slow down and fall in again (we also need to know the mass of the universe).

Speaking of which did anyone hear about the possibility of the Universe being younger than the oldest stars? Here's my theory if this does turn out to be true. The universe oscillates (bang, crunch, bang, crunch etc). Advanced alien civilisations from previous oscillations have seen the big crunch coming and thought *oh heck let's get out of here before we get compressed to the size of an atom*. So they picked up their star system, galaxy, whatever and whisked it through time to after the Universe has expanded again.

To Sara Jackson- I'm afraid I haven't seen Time Trax. Also I wasn't aware Khan was an alien, I thought he was a genetically altered homo sapiens.

Does anyone know if the Bohemian Rhapsody tape from Contagion is available for purchase?

To Suzanne Vann - Star Trekkin' can be found on a compilation tape called The 80's, if you write to me enclosing an SAE I will try to get you a copy. My address is 21 West Cres, Troon. KA10 7BL.

To Brenda Allan - What is this obsession in sci-fi with unpronounceable names? I think it's just an excuse when the author can't think up an interesting/suitable name. We can make a very wide range of sounds and I never noticed the Vulcans having different speech patterns from ours. Also re Ferengi women and the quote "Never make fun of a Ferengi's mother." Perhaps Ferengi women are only treated with respect after they have borne children.

To Rory Smith - I think the best way to get anywhere near the space program is probably through the military. Engineering, astrophysics, physics (optics, lasers), medicine, flight training, computer programming and management are courses I can think of that could be used in the space program.

To Gaile Wood - I quite liked Sub Rosa. I live in Scotland but nothing about it offended me because the people weren't meant to be Scottish. They wanted to live in a stereotype of Scotland, not the real thing. I liked the story too cause it made such a change from the norm. Also a DNA molecule is 2 peptide chains stuck together and you have to start somewhere.

To Alan Stephen - I would think Vulcans would make very good security officers, with their superior strength, their analytic minds and their strong sense of morality and truthfulness.

To Martin Stahl - it's not just mutation that causes evolution. All species have spectrums of height, weight, length of various bits etc. Eg not all humans are the same height. Natural selection often selects for one end of the spectrum, shifting it towards that end though leaving the range of variety the same. This does not involve mutation but a gradual change. Sometimes both ends of the spectrum are selected for and the middle is at a disadvantage; this

eventually cause two spectrums, eg a small and a large in the same species.

To Sheila - I received a script for STVII through e-mail but rest assured it was very clearly a spoof and I found it very amusing.

To Simon Growcott - mammals evolved from reptilian ancestors (but don't quote me on this) just like birds did. The reptiles got there first. Though I doubt our ancestors were iguanas.

To Mike Hazlewood - a hologram would work with the computer and tell it what to do and also instruct nurses. Plus it could control a remote control arm like those used in making cars; these devices are at the moment used to fit replacement hips with greater precision than doctors.

To Patricia Doyle- Geordi in a strategically placed face flannel! When? Where? Why? How did I manage to miss this?

To David J Raper- all right, they could have evolved on a heavier planet, but that still doesn't explain how a planet with gravity low enough to fly on holds a breathable atmosphere.

The increase in militarism and renegade officers etc doesn't necessarily invalidate Gene's vision of the human race getting better and better. There are plenty of other species in ST that are not as socially advanced as humans and we have to be able to cope with their illogical and dangerous moves.

• Gill Marks - Oxford

To Alan Callaby - My favourite alien characters in TNG are 1) Q, 2) Hugh Borg, 3) Tin Man, 4) K'Ehlyr (shouldn't have been killed), 5) Kivas Fajo (The Most Toys).

To Matthew Hemsley - Finally, my favourite ST characters! A very difficult decision as I like them all. Data, McCoy, Kirk, Spock, Picard, Riker and Odo.

To Dominic Hornblow - To add to your list of what should be included in any new

series of Star Trek is development of characters. For example, this very lack with regard to Jadzia Dax's character lets DS9 down, although I've only seen 1.5 seasons so far - so perhaps things improve?

• Raymond Spencer - South Benfleet, Essex

I've just bought Entertainment Weekly - the Star Trek special. It has a feature ranking all episodes of TOS, TNG and DS9's two seasons. Well, I wonder how they compiled the list. Did they pick them out of the hat? How could they rate The Neutral Zone and Final Mission higher than A Fistful of Datas or Gambit?

Anyway, being a new member, I'm not sure if you've done this before, but how about compiling a survey of favourite episodes by IDIC members. My favourites are as follows.

TNG - 1) All Good Things, 2) Tapestry, 3) Face of the Enemy, 4) Ship in a Bottle.

DS9 - 1) Bloodoath, 2) Rules of Acquisition, 3) Playing God.

TOS - 1) Space Seed, 2) Charlie X, 3) Miri, 4) The Enemy Within.

• Jo Healy - Surrey

To Maureen Norton - P 36 - The TV series you are describing which starred Kurt Russell and Tim Matheson is called The Quest. The pilot film was recently shown on TV.

To Margaret Rainey - I really liked the idea of the 'Campaign for the Preservation of Real Fandom'. Your idea for a pre-1985 convention reminded me of many happy conventions at the Dragonara Hotel, organised by Dot Owens and her team.

I agree with Henry Gallagher about Janet appearing on the Star Trek hour (2 hours?!) on QVC, so that you can keep the presenter Steve in line. Does anyone else find him irritating?

HELP! Has anyone ever bought any of the Star Trek 'standups' by mail order? If so, who did you buy them from and in what sort

of state did they arrive? (My hubby is a postman and I have heard a lot of horror stories from him about how the mail is treated!)

Also, I know that this subject has probably been discussed before, but I would like to start purchasing merchandise from the USA, but I'm not sure which companies are good and which are bad. Has anyone got any hints or suggestions? *[Sheila - Just remember, you're liable to be charged Customs duty on almost anything except printed matter. Before ordering from the US it is worth checking whether the shops below have what you want.]*

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

FINAL FRONTIER BOOKSHOP, 43/44 Silver Arcade, Leicester LE1 5FB.

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

I have just seen Gene Roddenberry's ultimate nightmare in my local branch of Tesco's. Yes, it's Star Trek: The Next Generation Bubblebath. Argh!! It's blue in colour and cost 99p. (Well, at least it's not Klingon bubblebath.)

Just one final word on Tales of the Gold Monkey, it was Roddy McDowall as Bon Chance Louis, not Malcolm McDowell. (I expect everyone is thinking about Generations.)

To anyone who lives in south-west London or Surrey, Starlog will be opening up their first UK shop in the Bental's Centre in Kingston at the end of November. They have been advertising for staff with a knowledge of Star Trek, Star Wars etc, and retail experience. Needless to say, my Christmas shopping list has been put on hold until I can get to the shop and see what goodies they have to offer (and please, no phoning up with requests, Irene Ambrose!)

Finally, if anyone is considering purchasing tickets for the Horizons convention at the Royal Albert Hall, may I suggest they do so quickly, as when I visited the box office a few weeks ago, tickets were selling fast.

P.S. - On Telly Addicts (17/10) a girl on the 'Crackerjack' team had what I can only describe as a 'rag doll' Riker. Does anyone know who makes these, and the cost?

• Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

Recently my fiancé and I watched the CIC copy of All Good Things. We couldn't believe it - my copy from US TV is several scenes longer than the sales cassette! I wouldn't be surprised if CIC bring the whole uncut episode in a 'special Edition', perhaps with a new 'Behind the Scenes'. This is really a rip-off! If you, Roger Buck from Cambridge, read this, please ask CIC why they did that. I think there is no excuse to cheat customers like this and perhaps complain at the same time about so-called pirate copies! *[Ed - In fairness, CIC didn't know that the copy they got for the October release was cut - see Terry Shuttleworth's letter.]*

To Suzanne Vann - I have seen Mind War, the Babylon 5 episode with Walter Koenig. It is one of my favourite episodes. The story reminded me of TNG's Transfigurations, but it is not a copy of it. The special effects are breathtaking (especially the ending) and the characterisations are wonderful. Walter Koenig as Bester was excellent and could show in a very impressive way that he is a great actor. I am already looking forward to his return.

I think the acting in the series is very good. I think the impression of wooden acting some people still have comes from the pilot. I think the first telepath and definitely the first doctor were indeed very wooden and I am glad they replaced them. But now I can't complain - and the stories are certainly first class. I can only agree with what Glenn Cooper said about Babylon 5, although I still think that TNG, DS9 and Babylon 5 are on the same quality level.

There are two points I would like to add to Glenn's view, pointing out how good Babylon 5 is; first, Babylon 5 has no transporter and no tractor beam. For me, this makes it much more realistic, and it also got rid of most of the technobabble that very

much gets on my nerves sometimes when I watch TNG or DS9. Second, women in Babylon 5 do not necessarily look like beauty queens as in Star Trek (like the actress playing Sinclair's girl friend. I like her) but they are very natural people with their own personalities. They wear the same uniform, no mini-skirts or revealing clothing on duty. There is no question about it that men and women are equal in the series, something I also feel when watching DS9; but not always in TNG and certainly not in Classic!

Perhaps at the end a remark concerning the discussion about German titles for ST episodes. I certainly agree, most of them are dull and some are terrible. But nevertheless, I was surprised how insensitive the people doing the 'translations' really are when I learned that the DS9 episode Melora is called in German The Melora Problem. Being disabled myself, this annoyed me a lot and shows again that there are still many prejudices against disabled people.

• Keith Morton - Switzerland

To David Cameron - P 25 - I agree with your analysis of the 7th TNG series. The Enterprise's mission seemed to have been changed to 'boldly seek out strange new relatives' rather than new worlds and new civilisations. At a quick count I can think of 13 actual or pseudo-relatives who appeared or reappeared and that does not include Spot's kittens! I admit, however, that Inheritance was one of the best 7th season episodes.

SPOILER ALERT (?) In contrast, I think there were only 4.5 new life forms encountered. I'm defining 'new' as aliens not previously encountered by the Federation, with the .5 coming from Emergence. None of these are treated very sympathetically, with the exception of the Liaison ambassadors. Geordi has to disobey orders in Interface to save the aliens, and Bev's vampire is hardly given a warm welcome! DS9 however encounters at least 7 new alien life forms in their second season and no visiting relatives yet in sight. I just hope it continues that way.

To Henry Gallagher - P 46 - I also read that the B5 creator had approached

Paramount before DS9 started and he later accused them of taking some of his ideas for DS9. I also read in an interview with Michael Westmore that the original idea for the DS9 station was that it had been built by a number of different races over a long period of time. Different areas of the station would have different alien architectural designs but was discarded at an early stage as the initial design wanted something more slick than someone else's leftovers. The initial concept however sounds very much like B5's alien sector.

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite characters are McCoy, Geordi and Kira. For the original series my favourite has changed over time. Initially it was Spock and I went around at school trying to raise one eyebrow, then later it became Kirk but for the last 5 or so years it's been McCoy. TNG was difficult but Geordi just wins despite the writers overlooking his character for the last 2 series. And on DS9, Kira is light years ahead of the rest.

On a recent trip to France I notice they have released some of the dubbed original episodes on video and 4 episodes on a tape (just think of the shelving space saved!) The titles were L'Imposteur (Enemy Within), Cour Martiale (Court Martial), L'Equipage en Folie (Naked Time), Contretemp (City on the Edge of Forever), Menagerie (Menagerie), Echec et Diplomate (Taste of Armageddon), Les Arbitres du Cosmos (Errand of Mercy), Les Mines de Horta (Devil in the Dark), Le Derniers Tyrans (Space Seed), Miroir (Mirror, Mirror), Le Mal Du Pays (Amok Time), Les Annes Noires (The Deadly Years), Tribulations (Trouble with Tribbles), Un Tour a Babel (Journey to Babel), L'Important (Turnabout Intruder), Nuages (Cloudminders), Retour sur soi-meme (By Any Other Name).

• Lesley Arrowsmith - Hereford

To Tracy Saunders - Of course Vulcans have emotions - they just hide it well!

About American Indian spiritualism, I'd like to recommend Twinlight Trail, which provides an outlet for American Indian art and information about the tribes, including

'The Gospel of the Redman' by Edward Thompson Seton and Julia M Seton, which is very good despite the old-fashioned title (it was written in 1937). The address is Twinlight Trail, PO Box 52, London N10 3TG.

To Maureen Norton - More Indians! The series you're thinking of is The Quest. Kurt Russell played Two Persons Baudine (? Sp - Pronounced Bo-deen) who was raised by the Indians. Tim Matheson was his doctor brother, and they were looking for their sister who was still with the Indians (I can't remember which tribe).

• **Vivien Little, 7 Beattock Park, Beattock, Dumfriesshire DG10 9RA**

This is my first letter to IDIC, and I'd just like to say thanks to everyone involved for keeping me sane through a bad spell. Special thanks to whoever it was who left the flyers about IDIC in Dillons in Liverpool - Edward Woo, perhaps?

To Henry Gallagher - Yes, J Michael Straczynski did take the idea of Babylon 5 to Paramount in July 1989 but the response was "Maybe some day" as they were concentrating on TNG.

To Catherine Hill - I have to agree with you about Sisko. His command presence is there, but often the writers neglect this in favour of pushing Kira forward. Let's give him a chance!

To Dominic Hornblow - Blues is not the only musical style to be ignored. It seems that other than 'classical' instrumental and limited Jazz (with Will and his trombone) many other genres have been forgotten about. Music in all its glorious forms plays an important role in society, especially in as diverse a group as on the Enterprise.

Finally, if there is anyone from Dumfries and Galloway interested in meeting up to talk about my favourite subject, please contact me at the above address. Also if anyone wants to write to an isolated fan, feel free.

• **Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh**

I'm writing from Boston. My first

night here I switched on the TV and there was a familiar face in an unfamiliar suit. Yes, it was an episode of Rescue 911. The next day I went on a Full Foliage tour and the first place we went through was Newton, Leonard Nimoy's home town. Tonight they were interviewing, somewhat facetiously, the owners of the company that perpetrated William Shatner's - er - unusual album. Are these men *following* me? Will I see something to do with Nimoy (it's his turn) tomorrow?

A few points from a year's worth of newsletters. Whatever Gene Roddenberry intended (and with all due respect he was a sick man at the end and may have been remembering things as he'd like them to have been, not as they were), Starfleet certainly came over as a military organisation. Civilian bodies must obey civil law, not their own, yet there have been several court-martial conducted almost entirely by Starfleet. In the Army, Navy and Air Force civilian lawyers can be called on to defend, so Sam Cogley does not disprove my theory. To draw an analogy, the Royal Navy can court-martial anyone who commits a crime at sea. The merchant navy must either hand over the criminal to the local authority, if in port or in territorial waters, or put him or her under arrest until they return to their home port and then hand him or her over for trial.

On Uhura's memory wipe - I've always felt that what Nomad did was wipe her *conscious* mind - her subconscious, including all her memories, was intact. The treatment McCoy and Chapel gave was to restore her learned skills, but was only the first phase. They'd be calling in a telepath (Spock might do it, but more likely it would be a specialist with experience in amnesia cases) to connect up her conscious and subconscious again. Hence her personality and memories would come through intact.

To Jay Stevensen - The 'Get a life' bit was said in a comedy sketch, not by Shatner to any fan or group of fans. Though having said that, he has enough clout that he could have had the script changed if it hadn't pleased him. Maybe he is - it would be understandable - a bit troubled by his more extreme fans. After all, the sort of fan who

gets upset when reminded of his age - which to his credit he has never tried to conceal - might just take it a step further and decide to make sure he doesn't get older. Just like Mark Chapman did for Lennon. That, I think, must be in the minds of all the objects of adulation. Of course the overwhelming majority of fans are reasonable people - but it only takes *one* unbalanced one, especially if you live in America and can go and buy a gun any time you like.

The infamous Joan Collins interview - she also misrepresented her own character by saying Edith Keeler sympathised with the Nazis. Nonsense - she was undoubtedly a pacifist and that was why she spoke against America's entry in to WW2 in the alternate future. If she had been a Nazi she would not have been running a mission to help people who, in Nazi ideology, should be left to survive, in which case they were strong and deserved to live, or else to die so that their genes didn't contaminate the race. Did anyone see any signs up in that mission saying "No Jews", "No blacks", No homosexuals"? The Nazis gassed Jews and homosexuals and undoubtedly would have done the same with blacks, Asians (except the 'honorary Aryan' Japanese), native Americans et al if they got the chance.

• **Neil J Barrett - Dammit, Edward! I'm a doctor not a byline writer...**

On Commanders Deanna and Data - There seems to be some confusion over which exam Troi is taking. Is it the COMMANDER's exam which entitles you to wear three pips or is it the COMMAND exam which entitles you to sit in the middle seat? They must be separate things even if you can take both at the same time. We're probably going back to the old distinction between line and staff officers. Line officers like Data (remember he is formally the Second Officer) will probably have taken the command exam as part of their Academy training or when they made Lieutenant. Staff officers like Troi and Crusher may take it as a career move. In either case the exam itself will only be part of the process, assessment by the examining officer or the CO will also be considered.

Why hasn't Data been promoted? Maybe he doesn't want to be. How many times did we hear Spock say that he had no desire for command? Since Data tells us that the pursuit of knowledge is his greatest goal then the position of Ops officer is ideally suited - if he were to become executive officer then more time would be taken up by running the ship and he might not be able to indulge himself. We've seen him do it competently a couple of times ('Future Imperfect' and 'Chains of Command II') so there's little doubt of his ability. Consider also 'All Good Things'; 25 years on and Data could certainly be a starship captain if he put his mind to it but instead he has chosen to become an academic.

On the phaser alarm - Valeris knows perfectly well that the alarm will go off if she fires a phaser on a high setting. What is dubious is that former Security Chief Chekov appears to have forgotten about this. I think it's also an example of Valeris not behaving in a fully Vulcan manner since it is extremely illogical to discharge a weapon in a crowded room (and destroy an item of Starfleet property) when the same object could be achieved by a spoken reminder.

The whole scene is further spoilt when Uhura comes running in response to the alarm. Uhura? Wouldn't a couple of armed redshirts be more sensible? Presumably the idea was quietly dropped afterward. We don't ever hear it in TNG even when Guinan lets off a mighty blast from her 'souvenir' in 'Night Terrors'. Hang on - how come a civilian is allowed to keep a weapon like that anyway? Must be against umpteen Starfleet regulations...

On the Defiant - Could this be a response to all those fans who expressed doubt about DS9 along the lines of "to boldly sit here and wait for something interesting to fall out of the wormhole..."? Or is it a sign that Starfleet have suddenly realised the strategic significance of a wormhole guarded only by a clapped-out second-hand Cardassian space station? So now the gang can go off on adventures together eh? Who's going to mind the store? Jake, Nog and Molly perhaps? Could some of those

interchangeable nameless Bajoran techs finally get some lines?

On an offer of tequilas - make mine a Beamish thanks!

• **Gloria Fry - Glasgow**

I would to thank the Archon Committee for the best convention I have ever attended. The guest list was sensational and we were spoiled for choice. My favourite guest was Jon Pertwee. He was delightful. However the highlight of the whole weekend for me was seeing Arthur C Clarke - the writer who started me reading SF. It was wonderful to see the appreciation he received.

To Mark Cooksey - I agree that the adventures of Captain Sulu could make a wonderful series. I'm sure that George would agree. Your comments on the TNG/DS9 aliens is all too true. They haven't a patch on the B5 aliens.

To Glenn Cooper - Your B5 article hit the nail on the head. I like DS9 but B5 leaves it way behind. B5 - like original Star Trek - is original! Perhaps that is why it captures (as you so rightly put it) that similar passion and feel. There is grit to it, no preaching, good storylines and intriguing hints in each episodes. I would only disagree with you on the best character. I think DeLenn is the star.

To Stephen Shaw - I never understood why the 'powers that be' now disregard the animations, except for 'Yesteryear.' Most of them are terrific stories and I always thought that Gene accepted them as part of the canon. Am I correct, Janet? [*Janet - Sorry Gloria, Gene didn't accept them as canon.*]

To Tracy Saunders - According to 'Unification', Spock and Sarek had fallen out. I don't agree with the premise nor do I think that in a telepathic species a father and son would never have mind-melded. Who would teach the Vulcan child telepathic control at first if not a parent? As Amanda is Human the task would fall to Sarek. I think the writer was trying to make Picard important to the 'plot' by having him meld with Spock.

To Clare Finkel - The telepathic link between Kirk and Spock was given official approval by Gene himself. Read his book -. 'Star Trek: The Motion Picture.' As far as I am aware it has been used from the early days of fan fiction.

To Jackie Comben and Jay Stevensen who both picked up on my Spock article (NL32) with one of their own - Jackie: I still can't accept that a child could be conceived naturally if its parents were of different species. I accept that Humans and their offshoots (whether transferred by the Preservers or not) could interbreed but Vulcans are quite different. So are Klingons for that matter, so why do TNG and now Voyager have half-Klingon women? Jay: My comments on Spock's women were lighthearted but you seem to have gone into it in depth. Droxine a bimbo? Surely she was only interested in his mind as any intelligent woman would be...

• **Martin Stahl - Germany**

To Edward Woo - The change of the episode titles in Germany was a topic of discussion in German fandom for many years. Some of the titles can't be converted into German because they are plays on words, like Hide and Q, Qpid, Q' Who, Timescape. But most of the titles could have been translated into German without problems, and some of them wouldn't even have to be translated, for example Deja Q. Since The Loss, a German ST fan was working with the dubbing company in order to avoid mistakes and help them to translate correctly. When this news came to fandom the fans drew a deep breath and thought that the dubbing and the titles would become better; but the contrary happened and the episodes got titles like those mentioned in N/L 35. Those titles have been discussed in German N/Ls and the answer of the fan responsible for them was (direct quote) "The titles of the episodes aren't always translated literally. The German title refers to the content of the episode and should also address the normal audience." Aha! Although the original titles seem only to address the ST fans in the audience and don't refer to the content, Star Trek gets better ratings than it does in Germany.

To everyone - I have decided to attend the Generations convention and I hope to meet many of you there. Due to your many and interesting letters in the Postbag section I have the feeling that I know you personally and now I'm looking forward to seeing you in person.

• **Edward Woo - Gopher, Spock's Brain**

To Maggy Edwards - Kirk should just be left alone, either retired or with an element of mystery as to his whereabouts; then the legend would live on. With the re-shooting of additional scenes for Generations, will Kirk die on screen or not, and will Q intervene to save Kirk? The Enterprise still gets blown up, though, I hear.

To Judith Hopkinson - I would say two-thirds of the fans of original Trek are women. TNG seems to be more popular with males.

Re the episode Thine Own Self - Troi looks far more businesslike in her duty uniform and deserves her rank of Commander. The only flaw is the way she achieved the rank in such quick time - it makes it seem too easy. I would have preferred it as an ongoing story over several episodes. Surely, though, Riker should have disqualified himself as examining officer for personal, as well as professional, reasons. Data or Geordi could have put her through the exercises, and her final tests should have been done at another Starship or Starbase facility.

To Tracy Saunders - Am I right in thinking this feud between Spock and Sarek started way back when Spock chose Starfleet as a career whilst Sarek wanted him to go to the Vulcan Science Academy? Also does Sarek approve of Spock's cowboy diplomacy on Romulus?

To Clement Chung - In This Side of Paradise, I thought Kirk was the last one to leave the Enterprise, and if he did no-one could beam back up - hence his asking if Spock needed anything from on board the ship. I don't recall Uhura's mentioning Kirk's beam down.

To Roger Neal - Re Descent II. Riker should never have been on the planet if Picard was there also. Picard was wrong to send the complete crew complement down to the planet to search for Data/Lore.

To Stephen Daniels - To me, it seems like 26 years of loyalty to Starfleet means nothing to those Admirals. Why is Data not a captain? His being an artificial life form (android) shows there is still prejudice over a machine giving commands to Terrans. No doubt we would trust Data in real life, but do we dare trust computers today to dictate our actions?

To David Cameron - The majority of 7th season stories were on a downhill slope for inventiveness and originality. Personally, I think Voyager should have been delayed for 2 - 3 years so the writers and production crew could recharge themselves. The same could be said for the film - a year's delay could have produced a better script.

DS9 is good, and should be given a run on its own as it could be deprived of finance and creative ideas with the background production staff heading for Voyager. DS9 is more thought-provoking in terms of storyline and action - just look at the 3rd season opened, The Search Pt I. Part II was not as hot, but you could see the storyline early on. The possibility of Quark getting a shotgun wedding in the 3rd episode looks fun.

To Michael Farquhar - I enjoyed your comment about Dr Selar being eternally paged on the ship's intercom. We should have seen more of her, alongside and learning from Dr Crusher.

To S A M Bedford - Unfortunately Imzadi has now closed, hence you are getting no reply from them.

To Rory Smith - When the USS Excelsior was on experimental test runs she had a registry number of NX 2000; when she became operational she became NCC 2000.

To Adam North - Re Starbases/outposts near the Romulan neutral zone. In

Balance of Terror, 1 - 8 are mentioned. In Future Imperfect, Earth Outpost 23 is mentioned.

To Gary James, Julie Evans and Di Williams - See Local Groups for details of a local ST group forming with latest videos.

I have just watched Identity Crisis. Is Picard right to put out warning signals about the nature of Tarchannen III, so that no-one goes near it? Surely he is depriving an alien life form of the means to continue its species by denying them hosts? Surely there are plenty of Terrans who could be transformed; surely we don't want to extinguish this alien entity.

• **Irena Hradecka - Prague**

I'm glad I'm a member of IDIC and it's a pity that more people don't know about that fan club. Six months ago I was trying to become a member of a Star Trek fan club so I wrote to several clubs for information. I received an answer only from IDIC, and I was surprised because they treated me in a very friendly manner from the beginning. It strengthened my hope. I thank you all for that, especially to you, Janet and Sheila. Keep up your great work. Through Postbag I even found a real friend at last. I only wish more of us were so lucky to experience such a friendship, and thanks to IDIC it is possible.

To Mik Perris - I agree with your second problem (firing a phaser in the galley). Since I'm not entirely acquainted with that topic I can only offer my personal opinion. I find Valeris strange and somewhat illogical. This shooting is just a part of her illogical behaviour. As her name begins with 'V', I think she is from this 'new generation' of Vulcans whom I don't understand.

• **Elizabeth Barrie - Dundee**

To Maureen Norton - The name of the Western series you mentioned was The Quest.

The binders for the newsletters that Dorothy Wallace suggests would be a very good idea.

• **Chris Travers - Nottingham**

Since ST II: The Wrath of Khan has again been shown on TV, it is likely to reopen the discussion as to how Khan could know Chekov when Khan appeared in the first season episode Space Seed while Chekov did not appear until the second season's first episode Catspaw. Assuming the Stardates given in the Star Trek Compendium are correct, Chekov was an Enterprise crew member when Khan was on board. The dates given are: Space Seed 3141.9, Catspaw 3018.2. The second season episode Patterns of Force also has a stardate earlier than Space Seed (2534.0).

To Matthew Hemsley - My favourite Trek characters are Chekov, Troi and Odo. (I'm also a big fan of O'Brien, but can't decide which series I prefer him in.)

To the committee - Can you please tell me how you decide who to give honorary memberships to. *[Ed - Most of the actor or 'backstage' honorary members are ones we've spoken to at conventions, or Janet met when she visited Gene shortly before his death, and asked personally; one or two others answered when we wrote to them. (Gates McFadden declined. Others didn't answer at all.) Non-Paramount personnel got it for their services to fandom or, in a couple of cases, because they are in the public eye and are known to be keen fans. Anne Page, for example, has been very active in convention fandom for many years; Bjo Trimble organised the letter campaign that gave OT its third season (among many other things).]*

• **Lynne Banister - Star Trek Action Group, 49 Nugder Green, Dobcross, Oldham OL3 5AW**

To Jay Stevensen - I enjoyed your article A Rose by Any Other Name in N/L 35. I'm pleased to see you found my translations inspiring and put them to good use.

To Irena Hradecka - You were wondering how we Brits knew the Czech title of The Trouble With Tribbles. I travel abroad as often as time and finances will permit and whilst seeing the sights, riding the trams and browsing in bookshops I'm always on the

lookout for Trek in any form. I revisited Prague two years ago, sixteen years after my first visit, and was delighted to find that Trek had arrived in your country. I collect the Trek novels and if I can find one in a foreign language I'll buy it (even if I can't read a word of it!) In a bookshop near Wenceslas Square I found one of the Blish collections containing nine stories. Among these was Trable s tribbly and Mesto na pokrají vecnosti. The latter is City on the Edge of Forever, but I was unable to translate this title back into English. I would be delighted if you could provide me with the translation.

To anyone interested in the foreign titles of Trek episodes - during this year STAG has published the titles to all the Classic Trek episodes in German, French, Italian and Japanese, plus the nine Czech titles mentioned and a few in Russian (complete with Cyrillic script!) If you would like a photocopy please send me two first class stamps to cover the cost. I'm now working on the translations of the Next Gen titles and would be pleased to hear from anyone who can provide titles in any languages other than German or French.

To Gratiene Vandekerkhove and the IDIC committee - Many thanks for mentioning the STAG Postal Lending Library. I know a few IDIC members have enquired about this and I just want to mention that although Sara Lyford-Smith runs the library from the address given in IDIC N/L 36, initial enquiries should be sent to me as you will have to join STAG first if you want to use the library and borrow from our collection of hundreds of Trek books, zines and comics.

• **Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow**

Can anyone help me find the 'word' for Cardassians? We have *honour* for the Klingons, *profit* for Ferengi, *logic* for Vulcans, but what do Cardassians live for? I would like to suggest *control*. And what about Starfleet? Is their word *truth*?

To Maureen Norton and anyone else looking for zine recommendations, here is my list (all TNG).

Action-adventure 1) any Make It So (ScoTpress), A4 £4, A5 £2.50 - both 100 pages. You won't find better value anywhere, believe me. 2) A Matter of Honor No 2 (Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy) A4, 245 pages, \$15.50 + postage. This has a great Data story and also includes the novella MAB by Debbie Lee. 3) Eridani Omnibus (Orion Press) A4, 458 pages, \$26.75 + P&P. This is a terrific read and has stories covering the first 3 seasons.

Romance - unfortunately there doesn't seem to be any of this around in British zines so you'll have to send to America. 4) Naked Now series (Hupe & Kennedy), dedicated exclusively to Picard/Crusher stories. Some A4, some A5, \$5 - \$8.50. 5) Idylls (Orion Press) A4, 100 pages light romance between main characters, no slash. \$11 to \$15. 6) Involution (Orion) A4, 100 pages, zine dedicated to Picard. Character study, action and a lot of P/C. Approx \$15.

I thoroughly enjoyed all of the above. Be warned - reading zines can become addictive and can seriously damage your cheque book. Second hand zines can be found at most conventions and from Greycloud Services (Janet Ellicott). Also check the small ads at the end of every N/L.

• **Raj Badhan - 27 Kilbys Grove, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 2ER**

To Mik Perris - Re Valeris firing a phaser in the galley. If you read the book ST:TUC, it says that even though Valeris is Vulcan she was brought up by Humans and only later in life went back to the Vulcan traditions. This could account for her illogical behaviour in ST:VII.

To all - I have quite a few sci-fi magazines and would be willing to hire them out, if anyone's interested? SAE address above or phone 021-515-2539.

To all - can anyone supply me with any picture of both Enterprises NCC 1701 and NCC 1701A, and any pictures of phasers or communicators? I have a PC and can accept any pictures on disc. Does anyone out there have any Trek stuff for Visual Basics V2.0 for Windows?

A friend of mine is making a 3-D chess board. Does anyone have any rules for it? If you have, could you send me a copy before Christmas?

Does anyone know of any local ST groups in Birmingham? Or anyone living in my area, why not write to me?

I recently saw an NG episode (I don't know which one) but in it La Forge attached a device to his Visor, and when he looked at Data, he saw an aura around him. What could it be?

To Clare Finkel - Spock failed at Kolinahr because of the V'ger probe calling him telepathically from space (ST:TMP novel).

To Alan Stephen - I recently bought a Starlog magazine for 50p, then found out it is worth \$50!

To the Disgruntled IDIC Member - I sent a request to Paramount for a signed picture of the TNG cast, only enclosing an IRC; and guess what? two weeks later I got a very good black and white autographed picture of the cast!

To all - Does anyone know of any PBM (play by mail) Star Trek games?

• **Bernardo Silva e Carmo - Portugal**

To Ann Peters - Last N/L you said "life... if it were that simple, it would have been done in a lab by now". In Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, Ch. 2, Mr Sagan says that in his lab at Cornell University they mix the ingredients of the primitive atmosphere then expose them to electric discharges, similar to the bolts of the primitive Earth and today's Jupiter. After some time, in the container which was transparent, some brown pitch forms, which contains proteins and nucleic acids' components. This kind of experiment, plus the discovery of organic material on comets, weakens the volcano theory, not by invalidating it but by being a more feasible alternative.

To Catherine Carter - Re Kirk's medal. Those colours (red, white, blue) remind me of

France - perhaps their so-called Legion of Honour?

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - Re postal zine library. To join, one would pay the medium price of the zine plus some more. Then if a borrower failed to give a zine back, he would lose his money. I think this can't upset anybody, because one could read dozens of zines without actually spending a cent.

To Edward Woo - Re titles - They don't change episode titles around here. They simply ignore them. They only translate the dialogue with labels, which I simply ignore. One thing I like is when there is a technical word, for example 'warp' or 'deck', they don't translate it, they write it in unchanged English.

To Mik Perris - Re your question about firing the phaser. It surprises me you didn't ask how Chekov didn't know about that in the first place. It was a scene just for drama. Other good, rhetorical questions (don't think too much on these!) - how did Valeris know Kirk said "Let them die!"? Spock told her? And who was the fourth traitor inside the Enterprise - you know, the one who teleported Gorkon's killers back to the Enterprise? (Perhaps they were the same Ferengi who stole the last 'o' from my name last N/L (p43). That could happen with Mr Pock, Captain Irk, etc. [Ed - Ooops! Sorry!])

Re Avery Brooks' portrayal of Sisko, N/L 34. This annoyed me greatly, and I was surprised not to see any reactions last N/L. "Ask anyone in the military" he says. In the military? Could somebody explain "Starfleet's mission has only been one of peace" - Spock said this, and he is incapable of lying!

• **Glyn Holland - Willenhall, W Mids**

I'd like to raise a point re fancy dress entries at cons. Does anyone think the Dr Frank'n'furter (Rocky Horror) entries should be discouraged? I say this after seeing a young man at Archon who was, to be honest, so embarrassing he was booed off the floor. I'm no prude and am not having a go at Rocky Horror fans - on the contrary, I've seen

the show more than once and attended the Transylvania Con in London (and had a thoroughly good time) but I don't think a Trek con is an appropriate venue for a rendition of "Sweet Transvestite", especially as the song goes on for too long and there's nothing original that can be done in the accompanying routine. Unless someone played it for laughs and did a Klingon or Cardassian version!!!

On the other hand, bouquets and applause to everyone who volunteers. Speaking as a first timer at Midcon, I can vouch for the fact that it takes a "lotta bottle" (preferably the Romulan Ale variety) to parade around the floor. (If anyone's interested I was Yeoman Rand to my friend's 'first female Captain' - it was her idea, folks.)

To Kirstie Jordan - Thanks for the supporting comments. Much appreciated.

• **Judith Hopkinson - Hull**

Oh dear, so that's it. The last episode, but what a treat. Incredibly complicated, you have to pay attention, but it is so good to see old friends and events long awaited, all mixed up with new ideas and rounded off so the future seen here doesn't have to happen in the forthcoming films.

Talking of old friends, I was very sorry that Guinan did not appear in any of the last season, let alone the last episode. I believe it is the only season she hasn't appeared in since she joined the ship at the beginning of the second season.

To Roger Neal - Many thanks for the tridimensional chess information - and then it appeared in the Merchandise Section!

To Catherine Carter - P 23 - What a good idea. I too feel the need to hide my addiction to ST from my family. My videos are all on my bookshelves, but carefully concealed by rows of hardbacked books placed in front of them. (Fortunately I am an avid collector and reader of books!)

To Gaile Wood - P 40 - I agree that the storyline in Masks was a bit incredible, but it was more than made up for by Brent Spiner's

acting. To that, I can only say Wow! We forget that the crew are being acted because we see the same actors playing the same parts episode after episode. It isn't until they play a part out of character that we realise just how good they really are. I have always been impressed by Brent playing the three parts of Data, Lore and Soong, but the different characters portrayed in Masks really hit me. I think it is the jumping straight out of one character into another.

I was also a little disappointed with Emergence (I'm never willing to admit to very disappointed, even to other ST fans). I thought the idea of the Enterprise perhaps becoming a lifeform in itself a pretty good premise. I didn't feel that justice was done to this idea, though, and found the holodeck appearances rather confusing. *[Sheila - Actually, this theme has been used two or three times in fan fiction. Yes, folks, fan writers beat the professional writers to the idea!]*

• **Alan Stephen - Aberdeen**

To David Styles - Re pirate videos - count me as one of those people who buy the videos when they are released; I'd rather have the proper video in a presentation box than the video I receive from America, they look really cool on the shelf. Of course you can change your mind, I've changed my mind and opinions on numerous things, but never between two N/L postings.

Re Pizza Hut cups - I hope you looked in N/L 36 small ads - someone wanted to buy them, and good luck to you. My reason for disagreeing with you is that the art collectors, postage stamp collectors and comic book collectors have all suffered from the same problem, speculators who don't like what they buy but only buy it to sell at a profit. The worst aspect of capitalism, they succeed in artificially pushing up the value of things and leave the real lovers of the form scrambling for money. What eventually happens is that the bubble bursts and people are left with stuff that's overvalued and no-one wants. I have no sympathy for speculators caught in this predicament, whether art, postage stamp, comic speculators or Lloyd's names and property

speculators - they are all victims of their own greed. Apart from that, we'd all like the general public to have a higher opinion of ST fans, and this isn't going to happen as long as we give credence or value to Pizza Hut cups.

To Glenn Cooper - I thought your article on DS9 v B5 was spot on. I especially liked your comment that Michael O'Hare had all the facial expression of Troy Tempest. Very funny. ST cannot be too complacent with B5 nipping its heels. Did you know that all the B5 comics and novels will be tied into the continuity of B5?

A correction - Oblivion isn't Peter David's first movie screenplay, that goes to Trancers 4.

Star Trek trivia - Did you know that the top of the transporter in TNG was in fact the floor of the transporter in the original series?

I've heard a rumour that on DS9 3rd season, Spock appears - that is, the Spock of the universe featured in Mirror, Mirror and Crossover. Can anyone confirm this?

In closing, may I wish everyone (yes, even you, David Styles!) a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful 1995.

• **Rory Smith - 1 Cwmbach Cottages, Cwmbach, Glasbury, Hereford HR3 5LE**

To anyone - According to Mr Scott's Guide to the Enterprise, Enterprise 1701A is her own class of ship, the Enterprise class; but according to the NG Manual she is actually only an upgraded Constellation Class ship, much like the old Enterprise. Which is correct? I would imagine she is a new class of ship because of ideas such as the way her controls can be changed to any stations and the use of touch sensitive boards.

Re Starfleet as a military organisation. To restart an old argument, according to Balance of Terror (OT) a naval organisation separate from Starfleet exists. Scotty suggests that it might be better to not attack the ship themselves and instead leave it up to the navy. By the way, why did the Romulans stop using their molecular implosion field, or

is it still in use?

Will anyone be writing a collection of short stories telling of the NG adventures seen on TV? Blish did this for the old series, but I haven't seen it done on NG. There may be a few too many of them to write all of them, but maybe they could be written in series like The Classic Episodes 1, 2 & 3 by Blish.

Re Dave Smith - Re communication with whales. I have recently read Probe and in this book it says how they manage to decipher the probe's language. The reason they couldn't understand it before was because it is actually hundreds of messages being told at once, the same as if hundreds of people spoke at once; the sound would be gibberish.

Can anyone give me more details on STAG or FIB? [For STAG, see *Lynne Banister's letter, this Postbag*. For FIB, contact *Kim Farey, 38 Rochford Ave, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS*]

I don't understand why people are objecting to Spock staying on Romulus. It wouldn't be right for him to join another ship without Kirk and Co with him. He has gone on to do something logical and helpful for the Federation - an attempt to become more friendly with the Romulans.

To Dorothy Wallace - The idea of the binders is great! Right now my IDIC collection is swelling and toppling on my cupboards - I'm having to use straps to keep them from falling off the shelves altogether!

To Alberto Gorin - The NG Technical Manual is a must for you. It contains information on all aspects of ST technology in depth. If you can't get it, just write to me. Can you get a series called Tomorrow's World or the like on TV? Though nothing to do with ST, it has interesting information on future technology.

To Dave Styles - Thanks for the model shop address. Does anyone know or any other model shops so I can try and then review them?

What exactly is the time it takes from one newsletter to be posted to the next? Is it about two months, eg October 5th to November 30th. exactly 56 days each time? *[Ed - Our target is to get the newsletter posted by the 7th of the month it is due. However, Valerie works every second Saturday and we have to fit in newsletter compiling weekend with her Saturday off. This sometimes means the newsletter being posted out in the latter half of the previous month. Since Sheila has to arrange for her mother to go into care on newsletter weekend we already have all the dates planned for next year.]*

• **Gillian Lennox - Cumbernauld**

For the interested, my favourite characters are Picard, Worf and Quark and my favourite episodes (in no particular order) All Good Things, The Best of Both Worlds, Gambit, Starship Mine, Firstborn and A Fistful of Datas.

SPOILER ALERT I was extremely disappointed, although not in the least bit surprised, that sections of Generations' ending have been reshot due to negative test audience reactions. I can only presume that Kirk's death has been the cause of most uproar. It was inevitable that an American audience, far less original Trek fans, would not accept the death of an icon. It was a brave move for Moore/Braga/Berman to write such an ending and I think that having done so they should keep the ending that way. After all, the death of Kirk does not mean the death of Original Trek or any of what it stood for. Spock is still (presumably!) alive and well on Romulus, after all. Kirk may die, but the legend will live on. Shouldn't Kirk fans be happy that he has made it to the big screen for one last adventure and not be petty enough to threaten to boycott Generations because of it? Hasn't the time come for writers to stop bowing to the test audience desire for a happy ending?

On a lighter note, has anyone else noticed the change to Data's ranking in All Good Things? In the past sections his uniform shows the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade, and yet in Encounter at Farpoint he

holds his current rank of Lieutenant Commander. An unnoticed mistake, or does anyone have an explanation?

• **Ann Lindsay Wright - Southport**

To David Cameron - I don't agree with you when you say that the writers of TNG have run out of ideas for the 7th season characters. All the previous seasons have had their mediocre stories and also some quite outstanding ones - to name but a few, The Inner Light, The Best of Both Worlds, Sarek, The Measure of a Man, and many more.

I also disagree with you on your point that the show ended up with "an unlikable soap opera feel". After seven years you get to know the characters pretty well and their thoughts and feelings about themselves and others. To meet and get to know other family members, long lost or otherwise, gives it for me, anyway, a continuity. For example, I thought Dark Page was very moving; also Lower Decks, which I enjoyed as it gave me an insight into what it was like to be an ordinary Ensign. However, much as I disagree with you, I respect your point of view and presume you understand mine.

To Alberto Gorin - If you want an insight into life aboard a Klingon ship, watch A Matter of Honor from season 2, when Riker spends time as First Officer aboard the Klingon ship Pagh.

To Maggy Edwards - I too feel it is a mistake to kill off James Kirk in Generations. Although I am an avid Next Generation fan I think that Kirk's character had a lot more material that could have been used in future films. I know some people might argue that the Classic Trek characters are now too old, but as with everything in Trek poetic license is used.

To Glyn Holland - Being bereft of anything Trek to read that I'd not already read, I bought the Star Wreck books and found them totally hilarious. She certainly knows her characters! James T Smirk and Jean-Lucy Ricardo, I ask you!

Finally to Pen Cramphorn - Hope to

see you soon. I'm really looking forward to the Generations con with you; roll on Feb.

To all IDIC members, have a very happy, peaceful Christmas.

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**

To Ann Peters: I'm afraid that a few bolts of lightning on some amino acids is enough to start life going. It has been done.

To David Cameron: I agree totally, I am forced to change my mind. You are right; as season two of DS9 has gone on, Commander Sisko has become a much better character. It strikes me that whereas the Classic Trek and Next Gen had definite "stars" and "supporting characters", DS9 has treated all the characters equally. Consequently it has taken longer to develop what is really the leading role.

While I'm changing my mind, I'd like to contradict what I said a couple of newsletters ago. I am now convinced that The Official Star Trek Fan Club of the UK is a complete rip-off. They've had fifteen quid off of me. In return I've had four of the shabbiest magazines I have ever read. Multiply that fifteen quid by the thousands of others who have joined, and someone somewhere is laughing all the way to the bank. The most recent magazine came yesterday. It is nearly double the price of the American magazine, and is half the thickness.

SPOILER ALERT And another thing: Have you noticed that quite a few scenes have been cut from the CIC video of "All Good Things", eg much of Tomalak's speeches, Q with an ear trumpet, etc. I predict that in a couple of months the complete version will be available as a "Limited Edition", limited to as many copies as CIC can sell, priced at about £16.99. Or am I just being cynical?

To Alan Stephen: Our differences have now gone on for over a year; and it's clear that you have missed my point entirely. When the "Graphic Novel/ Comic" debate was current there was a range of views on the subject going from rapt admiration to

frank condemnation. This, to me, is what IDIC is all about; being able to discuss our differences of opinions. Your comment of "fly with the crows, shot with the crows" has amazed me. With this brash statement you unfairly lump together everyone with whom you do not entirely one-hundred percent agree. So much for infinite diversity!

In the last NL Jennifer Harrington said that ST fandom is a well-kept secret. Other people have claimed that fandom is introspective. Well, a recent half-page article/advert in the "Kent Today" featuring our local ST group only gained us two extra members. In the last NL I wrote an article asking if Trekkers in the South East would like to get in touch with me and join in with what's going on in Ashford. I had one reply. ONE! Mostly I meet other Trekkers through word of mouth. If other ST activists have had the same response from advertising as I have, you can appreciate why fandom does not advertise as much as some people feel it should.

• **Paul Lazarus**

Re Newsletter 36 - Someone suggested about having binders for the Magazines. I think it's a good idea. Maybe a binder to hold 2 years of zines and every 2 years you publish an index of articles to go in the front of the binder. I know it's a lot of work but it's better than the rubber band and post-it note filing system I have.

• **Carole Weatherill - Twickenham, Middx**

I really wish I could look forward to the up-coming Star Trek film but in my opinion the films finished when the cast signed off with the last film. It was bad enough for fans to see Spock die in STII:WOK (shown on BBC1 - always nice that the Beeb remembers us fans) but to have to go through the sadness of seeing our intrepid Captain die is something none of us Kirk/Shatner fans want to see. Think again Paramount, please!

• **Pen Cramphorn - Pudsey, W Yorks**

To Tracy Saunders - P 22. I'm afraid I stand by my statement that it is selfish to have children at any age. I don't say it's *wrong* to have children, but by definition it has to be

selfish - after all, the parents are having children for themselves, simply because they *want* to! I'm very glad to hear you have such a good relationship with your mother - but youth alone is no guarantee of good parenting - check with the NSPCC. I found both my grandmothers (one of whom was nearly 70 years older than me) invaluable for their advice and understanding during my adolescence; in many other cultures the old are respected and consulted for their wisdom, and I don't think that because someone is 50+ they lose their ability to recall their youth and emotions of that or to be good parent material.

To Margaret Rainey - P 23 - I note you say your idea of the preservation of Real Fandom is slightly tongue in cheek - but I find it very insulting. Who's to say just exactly what a real fan is? I have been a fan since the very first episode in July 1969 - but no, I have never been to a con (can't afford it) and I'm not particularly active in fandom, unless watching every episode (from TOS) and all the films several times and as many of the episodes of TNG as I can is being active. We can't all afford Sky and videos - indeed, were it not for a *very* good friend, Lindsay Wright, who I met through IDIC, I would still be reliant on the plodding BBC for my 'fix' of TNG! Thanks, Lindsay, for all that and masses more!

Surely being a fan means loving Star Trek - so let's try and keep fandom and Star Trek lovers together - not divide into factions!

I found The Changing Face of Vulcan (N/L 36 P74) very interesting- Maggie Symon raised some interesting points - but, on reflection, has Vulcan changed that much? In the original series all we really saw of Vulcan we saw through Spock's eyes - and he, being only half Vulcan, did not want his adherence to logic challenged by admitting to this mysticism - as it certainly would have been by Bones! Can't you imagine how Bones would have taunted him? Amok Time certainly seems to indicate a different side to the logical Vulcans - and also, Vulcans are not devoid of emotion - they suppress it. Maybe it leaks out a little into this mysticism? Even Spock could go into a

healing trance - and didn't he sometimes meditate before some sort of lighted shrine?

His half brother Sybok was the son of a Vulcan princess, not priestess - and about Vulcans and Romulans looking alike - they look less alike in TNG - in TOS episode Balance of Terror, when Romulans were first introduced, the Romulan Commander was played by none other than Mark Lenard (Sarek!) - who looked exactly like a Vulcan, causing a few problems for Spock! As to Vulcan names, T'Pol's boyfriend was called Stonn - so there were variations in the names even in the original series.

So maybe it's not that Vulcan has changed in twenty years - maybe it's just that we've seen more of Vulcan life in that period.

• **David Raper - Hull**

Hi, there. Having recently seen All Good Things, I just thought I'd say that I enjoyed it, but however appropriate the title, it was still a shame. On the other hand it was a good way to end the series, and I look forward to seeing it again. My only regret about it is that we did not see more of the Romulans and Picard's old adversary Tomalak - and what would Q have made of him, I wonder? Perhaps a hatstand.

SPOILER ALERT I have also seen The Maquis, a good story though I thought Sisko took a big risk for the sake of his friend that might land him in a lot of trouble with Starfleet - but it was his friend. However, it does raise the question; if the Maquis are terrorists/outlaws, what will happen when/ if the Voyager gets home? If half the crew are Maquis then the other half may end up having to arrest them and I do not think they will be inclined to come quietly. That is, assuming that the Maquis do not beat them to the punch. A Federation Starship would certainly be of use to them, as opposed to their clandestinely built fighters - after all, the Phoenix all but blew a hole through the Cardassian fleet by itself - something that the Maquis cannot do with their current fighters.

Re ST:VIII - I am glad that Paramount is now taking the time to get it right. I hope and I plan to see the result at the first

opportunity. As to the final fate of Kirk, I only hope it is worthy of him and Picard.

To Marie Park - You're right about Data's cat. She was a he in Phantasms, but otherwise Spot has been female all the way, unless Dr Crusher does feline sex changes on the side, which I doubt. She obviously does not do neutering operations.

To Simon Growcott - Re 'commander' Data. I was under the impression that under most circumstances it was usual to refer to a lieutenant-commander or lieutenant-colonel by the full rank, ie as Commander/Colonel - possibly as their full title rank is somewhat unwieldy, especially in a crisis. If I am wrong, I would like to know.

Almost finally, to Matthew Hemsley - Personally, I always fancied the idea of a ST series on a Klingon battlecruiser, perhaps one of the old 'vulture' type, with plenty of plotting and skullduggery and maybe a Starfleet officer as part of the Officer Exchange programme. If Riker could do it, and Kurn, why not?

Finally, B5. I like it and it has certainly got better as the series progressed. I do not plan to miss an episode when it starts again in the New Year - showing that C4 has a better appreciation of a good thing than the BBC, I am sad to say.

• **Marie | Park - Hull**

I'd like to open this letter by saying thanks to Nanaki Kaur and Adam North for their encouraging remarks concerning my article Command Ability in N/L 35. I myself was very pleased to see that particular article in print. Actually, I'd originally written it almost 12 months ago, so I was beginning to think that it had become dated or that it wasn't up to scratch. It was a very pleasant surprise to see it in N/L 35. *[Ed - some articles are kept for a while simply because of the balance of material we've got. Over the summer months, when there are a lot of con reports, there is usually less room for general articles, though we do of course try to include some; but, to over-simplify the situation, if we have one OT article, one DS9 one and six TNG ones, and only have room*

for three articles, five of the TNG ones have to be held.]

To Suzanne Vann - Star Trekkin' was sung by a group called The Firm. I believe that it reached No 1 in the UK Top 40 in 1987, at about the same that STIV:TVH was making the rounds.

Concerning the recent discussions about the episode In Theory, I believe that Jenna D'Sora had started a relationship with Data on the rebound from breaking up with someone else. Data was understandably out of his depth, due to inexperience, which was why he sought advice from his friends as to how to proceed. I don't believe that Jenna completely understood what she was letting herself in for when she started her relationship with Data. It could be argued that she had gone in with her eyes closed and was expecting the impossible from him, love and affection, neither of which he could give. Also entering a relationship on the rebound the way that she did was extremely selfish on her part and totally unfair on Data.

Whilst I'm on the subject of Data, I would've thought that he was still a Lieutenant-Commander because he saw no reason to put himself forward for promotion. Captain Riker summed it up best in Best of Both Worlds II when he stated that "(Data's) very nature precludes ambition." Data does have the knowledge to pass the Commander's exams if he chose to do so, but at the moment it seems that Data has neither the ambition nor the desire to move up any further.

To Roger Neal - SPOILER ALERT In Descent II, the Enterprise D, with Beverly Crusher the de facto Captain, did not attempt to beam up 1000+ people in less than one minute, because the chances are there simply weren't that many on the planet's surface to begin with, since the Enterprise D has a crew complement of 1014. There is just no way that there would be 1000+ people on the planet's surface. Who'd keep the ship running? I was thinking that there would probably be in the region of 100+ rather than 1000+.

Finally, to Mik Perris - I don't think that V'Ger is connected in any way with the Borg. The history would be all wrong for a start. If I understand it correctly, Guinan stated that her people were invaded by the Borg "centuries ago", long before Kirk and Co came on the scene. The impression that I got was that the Borg have existed at least as long as Guinan's people - Guinan herself is at least 500 years old - if not longer.

• **Taruka Quauhtezcatl - 15A Clevedon Road, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YL**

Re Voyager - being me I thought I'd run a check on a couple of names - Chakotay's name in Quechua means "to crucify" and the word Ocampo is a very subtle South American joke - I believe it's from the name of the Paraguayan composer Felix Ocampos.

To Maureen Norton - Don't buy zines - I run a postal library!

Tracy Saunders. If you get in touch with me I might be able to track down some aboriginal American music for you. Re racism - my mother comes from the East End of London and she isn't in the least bit racist. My dad, however, is.

The translation - Watch out who you offend, you might find it difficult to apologise later on.

I'd like to know which Indian tribe White Cloud (Ixtacmixtli in Nahuatl) belongs to. I could then try and fill in a few gaps for you.

To Margaret Rainey - Hey, don't you think you're taking things a bit too far? I mean, if you applied your criteria to all entrants to your con you'd lose me for a start. Though I've been a fan of Trek since 1969 I only discovered proper fandom in 1991, and my first con was in 1992. (And I'm in my thirties).

To Roger Neal - I refuse to be drawn into the sentient hologram argument, if only because (as some of my friends know) I suggested the possibility in a story I wrote back in 1992.

To The Leeds Corncob (you know who you are!). re the Hamilton Collection. ARRRRRRRGGGGHHHH!!!! I'll continue this one at Lightspeed 95 if I can find a costume I don't fall out of. (Sheila, leave this in)

Clare Finkel - I'm not sure where the idea of the telepathic link came from but it is intimated in several episodes, as well as Spock's knowing exactly how Kirk will behave in a given situation. Fan writers - and professional ones - have seized on this. I wonder if there is a hint of it in TFF?

To Joan Marie Verba - re Ted Sturgeon. There is, of course, a famous story about his habit of answering the door totally naked. (Nichelle Nichols I think). Anyone with the courage to do that has to be taken seriously.....

To Dominic Hornblow - I don't know about Blues music - save the "Andorian blues" gag in Unification but from what I've heard the music in Trek is remarkably evenly balanced between all genres. even - dare I say it - the odd Andean folk melody style courtesy of Jay Chattaway.

To Marie I J Park re cats. ALL cats are choosy in their like of people - among my four, Jadzia Minbari and Spot seem to like everyone, even if you tread on Jadzie's foot (she makes a habit of getting in the way), Ro Laren is fairly choosy and Geordi curls up on the radiator and won't let any one near him. Mind you, having said that, they love everyone who has a plate of cat food in one hand.

To Mik Perris - re V'Ger. As stated some IDICs back (Spirits in a Mechanical World by Judith Taylor and Taruka Quauhtezcatl) it was Gene Roddenberry's slightly tongue-in-cheek belief that V'Ger had some connection with the Borg - in fact that he (it?) was the first Borg - after all he assimilated Decker and Ilia.

• **Leslie Moyes - Glenrothes, Fife**

I have just read the last newsletter and I thought it was just brill, especially the con reviews. Keep up the good work, Taruka.

By the way has anyone seen the cover of the latest single by Blur? It has a painting of a very dodgy looking Enterprise and if Paramount see it I don't think they'll be very chuffed about it. What do other fans think about their favourite programme being so cheaply parodied like this? Comments please!

I just heard about something really nasty. It's a Star Trek musical! Please - no thanks! I hate musicals; they make me cringe. I may be a Star Trek fan but I object to this treatment of its concept. Comments please, and if anyone feels otherwise inclined towards this project then I respect that, but it is just not my cup of tea.

On a lighter note All Good Things was a great episode. DS9's second season ended brilliantly with a classic, more traditional episode in the Jem'hadar who look like being deadlier than the Borg. I hope DS9 is not cancelled because it has a lot of scope for more intriguing story lines. So please - make DS9 and no dreaded musicals!

My favourite characters from all eras I subtitle Beauty, Brains and Brawn - Dax, Spock and Picard. My favourite episodes - from TNG, Best of Both Worlds 1 & 2; DS9 - The Jem'hadar and Crossover; and TOS - Mirror, Mirror and Enterprise Incident.

To Taruka - Did you see Channel 4's the Lonely Planet series by any chance? There was a rather interesting one about the Mexican Indians and after seeing this I think they are quite a fascinating people. By the way, when are you getting in touch?

Does anyone have any knowledge of a Terry Farrell fan club and also any info on what else she has done prior to DS9? If you do please let me know.

• **Neil Safi, Willenhall, West Midlands**

Firstly, a big thank you must go to the Wolf 359 team for an excellent convention. Also may I say hello to anyone I met at Wolf - I was dressed as Al from Quantum Leap and the Highlander (even though my 'friends' neglected to tell me that I had my kilt on back-to-front!)

To Michael Sadler - Kaferian apples definitely do not contain pips. Kaferians are an insectoid race and so would provide excellent cross-pollination. The shape of the plant suggests a complex interconnecting root system several feet underground, which would allow it to produce offspring without the need for pips. The comments made by Gary Mitchell when referring to the high quality of the fruit clearly substantiate this.

• **Michael Sadler - South Wirral**

To Neil Safi U.F. - Re your argument about whether Kaferian apples have pips; I must disagree with you as I believe that they do indeed have pips. This is because the Kaferian race are expert geneticists who probably used their skills to create the apples from a hybrid of other plant pips.

I must also compliment you upon your mastery of the 'Sadler Manoeuvre' which can create 'great escapes' worthy of Steve McQueen.

However to hone your Jedi skills, answer these questions - what does a snooker player use? Which famous gardens are in Kew? What is an actor given when it is his turn to speak?

Thanks to the organisers of Wolf 359. Fox, Scully and I say hello to the USS Pegasus and anyone else we met at Wolf.

• **Vicky Roberts - Brentford, Middx**

To Margaret Rainey - Ahem! Excuse me, but where did you come off with the idea that only older fans could possibly be real fans? I've only been 'active' in fandom since 1989, but I don't consider myself (or anyone else for that matter) not to be a real fan. Although I can't remember cons as they were, I too am concerned about what has/will happen to fandom, no less than those who *can* remember. Myself, I'd be very interested in joining any campaign that aims to preserve fandom (wonderful thing that it is!) - so if you don't mind a non-wrinkly joining your campaign, where do I sign up?

To Teresa Dawn Whaley - If you want to read zines and are a hard-up student - I suggest you try Taruka Quauhtezcatl (Tierra

Venida, 15 A Clevedon Rd, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YL). She runs a postal zine library with quite a number of very good titles and is also quite cheap!

To Glyn Holland - I too enjoyed the Star Wreck books - I couldn't stop laughing! More, please!

To Brenda Allan - Yep! I remember Dukes of Hazzard, and the Duke boys, Bo and Luke.

To Paul Taylor - I love your idea of using Wesley for target practice - when do we start? Seriously, though, Wes wasn't all that bad (cue howls of dismay) but I wish he wasn't the one to charge to the rescue *all* the time!

To Neil Barrett - Re your review of Make It So 22 - talk about savage! I sincerely hope Carol Sterenberg didn't take it to heart, as that set of comments would be enough to discourage anyone from writing another story ever again. I hope no tale of mine ever comes under your editorial pen - I'm not sure my ego and 'professional' pride could take it! *[Ed - Actually, Neil admitted that his review was pretty critical, and he would understand if we cut it. However, we felt that his comments about Carol's story did not criticise the quality of her writing, but, rather, criticised the theme. Humour is a queer thing, very difficult to write, and what one person finds hilarious may just seem stupid and pointless to someone else.]*

As for preferring rude replies - all that proves is that you've ticked someone off royally and/or hurt their feelings. I don't see anything nice about that.

To anyone - Are there any other veterinary nurses out there who could loan a hard-up trainee a copy of Jones's Animal Nursing? I'd gratefully appreciate it!

• **Brenda Allan - Canada**

To Maureen Norton - P19 - If you like NG, you'll love Make It So, from our own IDIC editors! I'm currently reading my way through all back issues, and the stories are awesome! I haven't bought a pro novel since

I started MIS!

To Judith Hopkinson - 20 - Ever hear the one about judging a book by its cover? Why did so many people not take Troi seriously simply because she wore a more casual uniform? If you didn't take her seriously then, why would simply changing her clothes make you see her any differently?

To Ann-Marie Flowers - P 27 - Oh! You too have noticed how gorgeous Vedek Bareil is, eh?

To Julie Evans - P 38 - Read Make It So 14 - excellent Lore story by Debbie Lee (and many other great stories!)

To Bernardo Silva e Carmo - P 44 - Talk about chain of events! Here's how I got into fandom. In the foreword to the NG novel Survivors, Jean Lorrah gave the address of the Star Trek Welcommittee, which is like the yellow pages to ST fandom. I wrote to them, and they in turn sent me the address to join The Official Fan Club (US) (among other useful info). I joined TOFC for 2 years, and in my second issue I found a tiny address in the classifieds section for a Scotland-based fan club called IDIC! That was 3 years ago, and I haven't looked back since. May IDIC prosper long!

To Marie I J Park (P 47) - Data's cat has *always* been referred to as a he, but in later episodes Spot became a she (possibly in preparation for Genesis?)

• **Annette Bohm, Kuhstr 35, 42555 Langenberg, Germany**

Does anyone have any information Pioneer, shot into space 1992? If you do, I would be very grateful if you could send it to my address.

To Gaile Wood - P40 - I believe that everybody has the right to have an own opinion, that is why I do not criticise yours about Tasha Yar. I personally really liked her. Sure, it is not too easy to make a character a role model in just one season (actually only 22 episodes including Skin of Evil, if I remember correctly) but does everyone on board have to be a role model? I

also think that Tasha and Kira have a lot in common in many aspects.

Can anyone give me an autograph address for Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis, Diane Muldaur, William Shatner or Denise Crosby that is *not* a Paramount/Lincoln office?

Hi. Janet! What if there is someone, let's call him/her X, and X is not able to get any UK stamps, whysoever. Perhaps X does not live there but somewhere else, wants to have an IDIC badge, but reads in the N/L - "Please make your payment in stamps". Should X now a) give up, b) pay a lot more for an IRC c) send other stamps? [Janet - *That's a good point. When X is renewing his/her membership, or buying a zine, X should add 50p to the cheque, bank draft or credit card instructions and put in a note saying, "I want an IDIC badge, please." If X would*

like to get some UK stamps, say to be able to send a SAE to Britain, he/she could also add more money, and ask us to send some stamps to that value. At the moment it's 25p to EC countries, 30p to non-EC European countries, and 41p airmail everywhere else.]

Finally, I would like to say Hi! to Fiona, Tracy, Gillian, Samy (?), Raj, Michael and Donald. See ya?

Can you help

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Carolyn Boydell? I think that is her surname. I have tried several times to make contact with her but no luck. If anyone knows of her could they ask her to make contact with me in connection with a new K/S zine which we hope will be ready in the spring of '95. Contact Carole Weatherill, 8 St Margarets Grove, Twickenham. Middx TW1 1JG. *

HORIZON CONVENTIONS, INC

from Eric Stillwell

In February 1995, I will be the Master of Ceremonies for the Royal Albert Hall event featuring the entire cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation. This event promises to be one of the most exciting moments of my life, and I hope all my fellow Star Trek fans will join me for the festivities in London, just ten days before the theatrical release of Star Trek: Generations.

I've been told that there is great consternation within the fan community regarding our event. Rumours abound that 'the yanks are coming' to destroy fan conventions in the U.K. Nothing could be further from the truth. I'm writing to personally assure everyone that Horizons Conventions has no intention whatsoever of competing with fan conventions. I have been, and continue to be, a guest myself at fan conventions. I have no desire to see these conventions harmed in any way.

I.D.I.C. says it all. Infinite Diversity. I believe there *is* room for fan conventions and professional events. In the United States these events exist side by side. Despite their

best attempts, 'other' promoters have been unable to put fan conventions out of business. The small conventions continue to thrive. Horizon is in the same boat. We are a small, fledgeling business dedicated to the promotion of Star Trek.

We have to compete with the 'other' promoters on the same level as the fan cons. We have competitors that would like nothing better than to see us fail, but we're here because we care about Star Trek. We care about the fans. We care about putting on a great show. I have personally been an avid Star Trek fan since the age of 12. I organised a Star Trek fan club when I was 18. I landed a job on Star Trek: The Next Generation when I was 25. I co-wrote the story for Yesterday's Enterprise when I was 28. I organized Horizon Conventions when I was 31. This year my writing partner and myself have sold a story to Star Trek: Voyager. I genuinely love Star Trek with all my heart.

Earning money to survive in the business world is important to any enterprise (pardon the pun), but the profit motive is *not* the most

important issue for me. Designing the highest quality events possible for the fans is my most important goal and priority. How many other 'professional' promoters can honestly say the same thing? Some of 'them' are not even Star Trek fans!

Let there be no mistake; our event in London is not a convention like the conventions fans are accustomed to in the U.K. Yes, we have a dealers' room, and yes, lots of fans, but the 'event' itself centres upon the star-studded stage appearances of Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, Brent Spiner, LeVar Burton, Gates McFadden, Michael Dorn, Marina Sirtis, Rick Berman, Ronald D Moore and Brannon Braga. There will be scarce time for little else, but we do plan to have a great, great time! So we hope everybody will join us. This has become a global event with people travelling from numerous nations to join Generations.

Finally, for the record, let me announce that Horizons Conventions International is a joint venture with its American counterpart. Ninety-five percent of the London event has been financed, underwritten and supported by a British promoter. This business is headquartered in England, not America. This event is not an American production.

Generations is a British event, and we're proud to present Patrick Stewart and Marina Sirtis in the land of their birth, with their American compatriots coming along as 'the aliens' for the first time in their seven year association!

If anybody is interested in contacting us directly, I encourage them to do so. We appreciate the feedback. We can be reached though the regular post, and via e-mail too! Please address correspondence to:

Horizon Conventions, Inc, Eric A Stillwell,
Post Office Box 4138, Burbank, CA 91503-4138, USA ++818-841-8735 or e-mail
horizinc@aol.com

or Horizon Conventions Int'l, Simon Jenkins,
22 Reindeer Court, City Centre, Worcester
WR1 2DS, England
100431.72@compuserve.com

Tickets for Generations can be ordered directly through the Royal Albert Hall Box Office by phoning 0905-613005 or 071-838-3100 during business hours in London.

Best wishes to our friends throughout the United Kingdom. We look forward to meeting you in February! ❀

STARFLEET ACADEMY WEEKEND - MORECAMBE

Reported by Gillian Lennox

This was my first ever Star Trek convention so I arrived in Morecambe unsure of what to expect. I was not disappointed.

This convention was on the verge of being cancelled 9 weeks before its start when the original organiser pulled out for personal reasons. Not wanting to disappoint those who had already registered for the weekend, in came Tina Lucas and Simon Hage to save the day. Given the short amount of time they had to get things up and running, I think they did a great job.

On the grand size scale of conventions, this was one of the smaller ones, with about 300 delegates in total present for the weekend. This made for a friendly, intimate

atmosphere. "300 strangers arrive and 300 friends go home" was the aim of the weekend.

With the small size of this convention there were no major guests as such. Terry Shuttleworth from CIC was there as ever to keep us up to date with forthcoming releases - the Borg Box being my personal favourite - and to delight us with a trailer for Generations. Kenny Baker unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute.

Guest instructors were at hand to keep out Starfleet knowledge up to date. These ranged from the in-depth techno stuff to very light-hearted, the most fun one of these being Klingon Kookery class. Rokeg Blood Pie was

dish of the day - made from Klingons' favourite ingredients such as Targ balls, gagh and Romulan fingers. Mmmmmm, yummy!

The lecture that stood out the most had to be Gerry Taylor from First Contact with the Zefram Cochrane Warp Theory Lecture. This guy had done his homework and gave the most informative, in-depth and yet good-humoured talk.

Willie Thorne made an appearance on Saturday to demonstrate some intergalactic snooker (or should that be dom-jot) skills. Friday and Saturday night gave us the opportunity to put our disco dancing lessons to good use, and some similar moves were used at Sunday's laser combat practical. My thanks to Keith the Vulcan for shooting me at every given opportunity.

I must admit that I was disappointed with the number of stalls in the dealers' room. This was put down partly to the fact

that Midcon was the previous week and that stocks were low - not that that stopped me from spending an absolute fortune!

The Klingon trio were the stars of the fancy dress, but alas were robbed of first prize by what seemed like a show put on for Gerry Taylor's benefit, and it was a shame that the house lights could not be put off for the entry titled 'Even Geordi has a bad day', which required total darkness to get the full UV effect of Geordi being transformed a la Identity Crisis.

Sunday's charity auction saw £541 raised for charity - not at all bad for a small con, and a good time had by all. The closing ceremony saw a motley assortment of montage clips as well as some hilarious TV adverts from the US.

All in all I had a great weekend and would highly recommend to anyone who has not yet been to a con to take the plunge. ✨

STARFLEET ACADEMY

reported by Katrina Heintz, Janice Battersby & Susan Bell

Stardate 2010.94, Thursday 11 am, we began our journey to Starfleet Academy. Success or failure - we were determined to enjoy our time there.

Arriving at the hotel exhausted from the long trip we found to our dismay that we were on the 4th (top) floor with no lift. Help! Just as we began to struggle up the stairs with our cases, a very very nice gentleman appeared. We could use the lift as long as we didn't go to the 5th floor where the problem was. What 5th floor? There was no such floor on the panel! Just to make sure we only went to the 3rd - one flight to climb was better than four! (The lift was available from the next morning.) The view couldn't have been better, right on the promenade and looking over the sea. Great!

Registration was from 7.30 pm onwards, and as we picked up our con packs, we recognised a fellow Scot. Hi, Ian, we hope you've recovered by now - and hello to

all the Scots contingent we met over the weekend.

There were two official video rooms along with a video channel to the televisions in the bars and, pleasure of pleasures, a video channel to our room. Bliss!

Friday morning dawned with a brisk walk along the promenade which began a daily ritual - our morning constitutional on the beach. This began a most enjoyable weekend filled with informative and hilarious lectures. The highlights have to be the Klingon language and cookery classes for pure fun, and Zefram Cochrane's warp drive theory for the most surprising news - CalTech in California is working on warp drive theory and transporter technology. One thing we thought should have had more publicity was that fusion power had been available for 8 seconds in June. Star Trek predicting its own future?

For a small con there was a great deal going on, though the dealers' room was very small. Food was ample and cheap, available almost all day. Great emphasis was placed on everyone being involved, such as "Whose Trek is it Anyway?", Romulan Spy Hunt, Panel Discussions, Disco Dancing lessons and Quark's Casino (no, not dabo tables but blackjack, poker and roulette - proceeds to the Con charity). A prize was awarded to the winners with the most amounts at the end of the evening. Both Friday and Saturday ended with a disco; each night had heats of "Whose Trek is it Anyway?" and Saturday included the fancy dress.

Sunday night and the closing ceremony came around all too quickly, and the con was over.

We send our apologies to the little boy who must have thought he really had met aliens from outer space after meeting us. After that, he avoided us every time we appeared!

Our congratulations to the organisers and lecturers who, fans themselves, entertained us royally.



WOLF 359 - THE REMATCH

reported by two links in the Chain Gang

Compiled on the train journey home while we were still on a high!

We'll get the boring bits over with first.

Caught train from Dundee at 0906, changed at Peterborough and arrived in Leicester about 1600 - pleasant journey. Met two other fans at railway station (recognised them from previous cons) and shared taxi to hotel. Registration desk was immediately inside hotel entrance. The entrance was a revolving door-type and F tried it out and kept on landing back in hotel - we decided we were 'foreign investors' and would have to buy the hotel out, lock, stock and barrel at the end of the con (The Royale). Picked up con packet and booked in to hotel. Room on top floor - again - still, it does have one advantage, and that is sharing lift with guests on their way to and from their rooms, regardless of what floor they are on.

On arrival at our room, we consulted con packet, put our autograph tickets away safely and decided on itinerary for weekend (naturally we didn't keep to this). The 5 video rooms, one each for Classic, TNG and DS9 and 2 for alternative programmes, were situated on 1st floor, alongside the 3 dealers' rooms and The Battle Bridge (where a member of committee was on call at all times). The dealers' rooms were open for a few hours on Friday evening, which was a

bonus, although a few of the tables were empty. We then went to dress for the opening ceremony at 21.00 (C in Troi dress and F in Geordi uniform). While we waited in the main hall we were shown a trailer for Generations and music videos. The committee introduced themselves and then their first guest - Wow! Shock! Why didn't anyone tell us how gorgeous Guy Vardeman was!!!

The committee mentioned that a couple of the guests had not yet arrived and we thought they meant Walter Koenig, but after showing a video with scenes of Chekov in the series and the films and caption saying *Wolf 359 Welcomes Walter Koenig*, the star received an extremely warm welcome when he walked on-stage, and although he seemed tired he appeared to be genuinely pleased to have been invited.

After the opening ceremony we stayed in the Main Hall and watched a DS9 2-parter (The Search). Not bad, some nice Bashir bits. About midnight we felt we were tired after all the travelling, excitement etc., and decided to have an early night (for a con, that is). We had just arrived in our room when the fire alarm went off, so we grabbed our coats and headed downstairs onto the grass area

outside the Hotel. Luckily it was a false alarm and we were only outside in the cold, rainy October night for 10 - 15 minutes. We know this is quite common at a Star Trek convention, but next day Wendy (one of the committee) did point out that 4 fire engines were called out at a cost of £2000, and if the con had been charged for the call-out then whoever had deliberately set off the alarm would actually have been stealing £2000 from the con charity. It stops being funny when you think about it like that. Personally, though, the only good thing that came out of it (for us that is) was that we ended up in the same lift as Guy Vardeman for a whole 10 seconds - swoon! After all the excitement (the fire drill, of course!) it took a wee while for us to settle down to sleep.

Because of the number of guests we were allocated tickets for breakfast and we were lucky enough to have a later sitting (8.45 - 10.30). Buffet style breakfast was fantastic and hotel staff throughout the con were most helpful and friendly.

We found out that our autograph tickets were for the last session on Sunday.

We visited the dealers' room after breakfast, and then on to the main hall for Walter Koenig's talk. He started with some info about Generations; how when he was first approached he refused to do the movie due to the limitation of the part - "Warp 4, Keptin" type lines did not appeal to him despite the offer of quite a substantial fee, *but* he was then called to the studio for some discussions and Chekov's role was developed further. Unfortunately some good scenes involving Chekov and Scotty ended up on the cutting room floor because Paramount decided they wanted a 93 minute movie in order to squeeze in as many screenings as possible in a short space of time in the cinemas before going on to distributing videos. Despite the cuts which he, personally, felt helped the movie, Walter was sure that we would enjoy the film (especially the TNG fans). He then went on to a Q & A session. A German firm has the option to make Moontrap 2 until early 1995, and then who knows. He had also done another episode of Babylon 5 as Bester, only this time

he is much nastier than before, and he thoroughly enjoyed doing the part. He spoke for over an hour and then went to the first autograph session.

After lunch we went back into the hall for Guy Vardeman's talk at 14.30. He proved to be a witty, entertaining guest (apart from being gorgeous, tall, good-looking - not that we noticed - *much*), sharing anecdotes and memories of his time with Star Trek. He mentioned that when he attended cons a few years ago he was much thinner because he only worked as an extra, having to go out every day and prove that he could play a certain part that was required - "You want a Klingon - I could do that!" "You want a Romulan - I could do that!" - and sometimes only getting one or two days' work a week - when he was lucky. He was literally starving. He now has a full-time job with merchandising at Paramount (Viacom) but why he wasn't picked to be part of the crew of Voyager we will never understand. He was on the spot, knows Star Trek in and out, is tall, handsome and hero material - guess who are GV fans, then!

Back to his talk - he also did a Q & A session, but for the life of us we can't remember much about it - we think we were in a daze - and all too soon he had to leave for autograph session 2. Can't remember what we did after that - head in the clouds!

21.30 was fancy dress, and they also had audience prizes for the 'shy' folk. As usual, two children won (the Ah-factor prizes). We think Sol III, Blackpool '95, has the good idea of having separate children's competitions. Next came the cabaret and we weren't too sure about what to expect. The 'surprise' guest turned out to be George Marshall (impressionist); we'd only seen him on QVC before. He did over an hour-long NG sketch, written by himself, with marvellous impressions of the entire crew in an adventure, and the audience, at times, were literally rolling in the aisles (there weren't enough seats) laughing. He is a very talented artiste and obviously a great Star Trek fan. We thoroughly enjoyed his show and feel he would definitely be an asset to any convention (committees take note). We

stayed at the disco for a short time then left to go for 'refreshments'. We struck up a conversation with a guy sitting on his own (that's what cons are all about - meeting people). He turned out to be a guest speaker on astronomy/planetariums, etc (Steve Tidey). Had interesting conversation and then Steve mentioned he was hungry. It was after midnight by this time, the restaurant was closed, room service only sandwiches; ended up going town centre for chicken and chips, then off to bed; F slept, C dreamed about GV.

Sunday - Great breakfast again. Charity auction was 10 - 11 and as F has no will-power whatsoever it was decided we would go down much later to the auction in order to get a seat for Guy's talk. When we did eventually go, before we even sat down F had bid £30 for a William Shatner autographed photo. It went a bit higher but she got it then shouted at C for not stopping her. Just when she thought she was safe, they brought out a gorgeous autographed photo of Jonathan Frakes and before she knew where she was, JF had cost her the same as WS. She reconciles herself with the thought that the money is going to a good cause. Then C sat on her hands, lips clenched, when an autographed Brent Spiner photo was offered. Such self-control!

Guy's talk followed the auction, and he commented that he hoped more people would ask questions this time - little did he know that on his first appearance we were all too gobsmacked to speak! (Well, that's our excuse anyway!) Again his talk was interesting, entertaining and far too short. He has an unnerving capacity to under-rate himself, and it's very refreshing to see this. We have decided that our latest hobby is 'Guy-spotting' in episodes of TNG, and look forward to seeing him in Generations. (He plays a Klingon, and from the still we saw, it's really difficult to recognise him - hope there are not too many Klingons in the Movie!) He then left for the 3rd autograph session (still not our turn!)

After another enjoyable lunch we went back to the main hall for Walter's talk. Videos of the trailer for Generations, music

videos and the teaser for next season's Babylon 5 with Bruce Boxleitner filled in the time between talks. This was a very good idea as we were all kept occupied if guests were delayed for any reason.

Walter again gave an interesting talk, telling us about the two-man play he does with Mark Lenard about Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn later in life. They have been doing one-night stands at the weekend, but are hoping to expand. He also told some amusing stories of the cast on the original series. Although still obviously tired from the travelling, talks and autograph sessions, Walter remained enthusiastic and friendly. (We spotted him in the dealers' room on Saturday.) When F met him in the lift on Sunday forenoon she asked him if he was enjoying the con or was he too tired - he said he was tired *and* he was enjoying the con. She then nearly incapacitated him when she nearly shut him in the lift doors - was in quite a state thinking *I nearly killed Chekæ!*

At last came the final autograph session (ours!). We stood in line around a blazing fire (we didn't mention this earlier - there was a roaring fire in the centre of the foyer with settees around it) and after not too long a wait, *our time had come!* The guests were signing 2 items each and we were able to get a personalised autograph and time for a short chat. There was also an opportunity to get your photo taken with your own camera after the autograph session had finished. Walter remarked on our Scottish accents and asked how far we had come - red face - we didn't know. We also had photos taken with Guy (C is still on Cloud Nine after the hug) and we asked if he was going to any British cons in '95, because anywhere he goes, we will follow! Seriously, though, folks, any convention looking for an interesting and entertaining guest with up to the minute news on Star Trek could do a heck of a lot worse than ask GV, and that is without the pull he would have amongst female attendees! His charisma has to be seen to be believed. The next few hours were spent coming back down to earth.

The closing ceremony was held on the Sunday evening. Unfortunately Guy had to

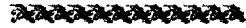
leave to get back to the US, but Walter appeared and presented the prizes to the winners in art, fiction and poetry, and fancy dress competitions. After telling us how much he had enjoyed himself, Walter left the stage to a standing ovation. George Marshall then drew raffle tickets and threw in a few more impressions of Captain Picard, and the con was officially closed with the promise of a con next year in Manchester with the combination theme of Star Trek/Babylon 5. The evening finished off with a very well-attended Hallowe'en party (the majority wore fancy dress). Not too many skulls or death's heads about, thank goodness.

There were fewer videos shown at this

con, and only one 24-hour room, compared to others we have attended, and perhaps this was a good thing; instead of watching videos (especially those who come to cons alone) they were getting involved in the events and talking to other attendees, making new friends along the way. Everyone we spoke to thoroughly enjoyed Wolf 359.

Congratulations must go to the committee for organising a really great con and being friendly and approachable at every opportunity throughout the weekend.

By the way... did we mention how gorgeous Guy Vardeman is???



ARCHON GUEST TALKS

Steve Wilson

Star Trek characters as archetypal heroes

Reported by Alan Boag

Steve Wilson is a member of the British Council of Druid Orders and is a priest in the Fellowship of Isis. He has published a book on the Robin Hood legend and has a long and deep fascination with Star Trek in all its incarnations.

Steve started his talk by solemnly intoning a version of a well-known introduction that wasn't quite how Gene Roddenberry wrote it.

"These are the voyages of William T. Riker. His mission, to seek out alien women, to explore strange new genitalia, to boldly come where no man has come before."

Then he got on with his talk. Star Trek characters, he insisted are not 'people' and can't be judged as people.

There are two main story types which involve archetypes, the Myth or Legend and the Fairy Story. Star Trek was a modern version of a myth.

Why is Star Trek so popular? You

might as well ask why there are seven days in the week. In fact really the answer is the same.

Star Wars also had mythical elements and was deliberately packed with references. It incorporated images and characters drawn from the Major Arcana of the Tarot. The first two movies made use of 14 out of 21 characters which left 7 to be used in the third film. Steve had written an article for Starlog (which they did not print) using his knowledge of the Tarot to correctly predict most of the plot of the film.

Heroes Gods and Archetypes have played an important role throughout time. Can we talk of Star Trek as mythology as distinct from Science Fiction? One clue is that Star Trek takes place outside of time like myths.

There are questions about Star Trek that nobody asks, like, "How does the Federation fund itself?" Space vessels are obviously massively expensive yet when most of Star Fleet was wiped out by the Borg it was restored in a matter of months. Steve reckoned he had the answer. The Federation has a monopoly in the galaxy's most valuable product - Clearasil. Clearasil must be extremely valuable since it appears that Earth Humans are the only species in the Galaxy

that doesn't have some form of skin condition.

Star Trek is a modern myth. Archetypal characters of mythology represent different facets of humanity. We do not respond to them as whole people rather we see them as aspects of ourselves.

The seven day week goes back to Babylonian times although it was based on an even earlier religion. The number seven was seen as important because there were seven moving object visible in the sky. The Greeks called them planets, which was their word for wanderer, because they moved in regular patterns in the sky. Each planet was assumed to have different attributes, related to deities in mythology.

Sun - decision maker, leader - Picard
Mars - the warrior - Worf

(Despite going on about honour so much the only Klingon who acts honourably was brought up by Humans and learned about Klingon honour from books. All the rest go around stabbing each other in the back. But presumably in an honourable way.)

Venus - love, sympathy, empathy - Troi.

Mercury - maker of things, first architect - Geordi.

Jupiter - king of gods but also of pleasure. Enjoys ruling and seeks out physical pleasure. ("Will screw any thing that moves regardless of the species.") - Riker.

Saturn - deeply brooding on the nature of self - Data.

Moon - the lunar Goddess is a major feature in mythology, goddess of mind, body, healing - Crusher. (Pulaski filled this role too.)

Apart from these archetypes no characters have 'stuck'. For example Wesley was packed off just before assassination. Tasha Yar could not survive because there could only be one Mars and Worf is more convincing in the role.

He was less interested in the original

series, limiting himself to identifying Kirk with Jupiter.

Star Trek is the most radical TV programme we have yet seen spreading a message of racial and sexual equality. It is a myth of the future. This is because of the influence Roddenberry had on the writers, especially those who wrote for ST:TNG and had been raised on the original series. The series has become a vehicle for women writers.

He noted that more feminists were writing Science Fiction and quoted somebody as saying "The only way feminists can write thoughtful stories is to write SF."

ST:TNG has also tackled the gay issue. He was impressed by the scene in Outcast when Riker gives a speech which is blatantly supportive of gays but it is dressed up as an appeal for tolerance of heterosexuality.

He commented on the significance of the 25th anniversary of the moon landing and expressed annoyance at the fact that the amount spent on pretending we're in space is going up but the amount spent actually getting there is falling. This is because there is no 'space vote'.

He recalled how the action of fans had kept ST on the screens and had battled to get it back. He wondered if the international fan network could be 'politicised' to form the nucleus of a movement dedicated to getting into space.

Myths are meant to inspire and ST had been inspirational because of Roddenberry's vision and those who carry it on.

In the US the number of people entering university to study science is increasing and many quote as role model Jean Luc Picard. In the UK the figure are dropping and he blamed one man - Rupert Bloody Murdoch

Warping of space has been shown to be theoretically possible which means that FTL travel is possible without breaching Einstein's theories. To actually achieve it will

mean massive research and huge support for science. ST fans could be the ones to "make it so."

Encounter with Doctor Who?

Reported by Kathryn Boag

Apologies to anyone who expected to read a report on Jon Pertwee's appearance at Archon in the last newsletter. Would anyone believe that I lost my notes? No? Well that is my story and I'm sticking to it.

My earliest memories of Jon Pertwee date back to the days of the Navy Lark. I can remember listening avidly to the programme every Sunday lunchtime and spending most of that half-hour in fits of laughter. Even so, for me, his definitive role is the third Doctor Who? and it was wonderful to see him arrive dressed for the part - velvet jacket, ruffles and long coat!

Before he started talking I had no idea that his family had such a long connection with the theatre, nor that they were originally from France and that the family name had been Perthuis. He kept us entertained for most of an hour with numerous funny anecdotes which frequently exercised his talent for mimicry. There were far too many of them to mention here even if they had all been suitable for family consumption.

He was just as interesting when he started the question and answer session. I am sure he must have been asked many of the questions before but he was unfailingly polite, amusing and informative. I think the audience would have been willing to sit and listen to him for far longer than the time he had been allotted. Luckily, we did have a return engagement for the following day.

One thing he did mention in his first talk was his recent back surgery and it was obvious on the Sunday that his back was still causing him some problems. Still, it did not prevent him from telling us more about his life and answering many more questions.

All in all he kept us amused and well-

informed for two hours and I am glad that I had the chance both to see him and to listen to him talk. For me he was a highlight in an altogether excellent weekend. Well done and thank you, Archon.

DAVE PROWSE

reported by Jean Sloan

David Prowse's career started when he bought a Charles Atlas course to build up his 6' 5", 11 stone physique after wearing a leg brace for four years. He was 17. He gained 3 stone then began entering junior physique competitions. Eventually he entered Mr Universe but lost it because of ugly feet! Competitive weight-lifting followed. In 1962 he became the British heavyweight champion.

In 1965 he turned professional and formed an act, 'British Strongest Man'. He joined an agency called Tough Guys which got him a job playing Death in the stageplay Don't Let Summer Come. This got him his equity card.

Once he was invited to a pub in the East End for a job. He was told to ask for Ronnie and Reggie Kray - at the time he knew nothing about the notorious brothers. He went along. The pub was full of "guys my size". There was a buffet, and some drink; everyone had a good time and then went home. The next day DP rang his agent to find out what it was all about. The Krays had filled the pub with muscle to frighten some guy who was contemplating crossing them.

In 1970 DP opened a health studio, then took over Freddy Foreman's gym, paying rent to Foreman who was locked up with the Krays. DP knew little about Foreman until he was offered a part in a film called Mad Axeman Mitchell, a film about the real life villain that Foreman shot on the Kray's behalf. DP's work as a fitness trainer has remained as a thread through his career; he trained Christopher Reeve, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Vanessa Redgrave, Bianca Jagger, Albert Finney, Edward Heath, Stephanie Powers...

David Prowse has had a lot of work in film and TV - always the villain, usually beaten up. He has done TV commercials, *The Saint*, *Department S*, *Beverly Hillbillies*, *Jason King*, *Randall and Hopkirk*, *Hammerhead*, and a series of involvements with *Hammer horror*. He knew Peter Cushing well, and went to his funeral... "I am not sorry he died, it was what he had wanted for a long time..."

In 1974 *Clockwork Orange* gave him a chance to act, and in 1975 he was offered the part of Darth Vader in *Star Wars*. He reprised the role in *Empire Strikes Back*, but not in *Return of the Jedi*; an ankle joint, injured in a weight-lifting accident, had finally given out.

While he was filming *Star Wars*, David Prowse was invited to take part in a national, government-sponsored road safety campaign. He became the Green Cross Code man, filming the TV promos and then touring schools with the message. As a matter of interest the Government nearly got

cold feet when someone realised that Darth Vader was a villain.

Now David Prowse does a lot of work for research into arthritis and rheumatic diseases, fund-raising and publicising the cause of arthritis research. He suffers from arthritis, as do 28 million other people. It is not an emotive disease - no-one dies of it. Only one quarter of doctors who treat the disease know anything about it. His advice and the advice of the Royal Institute for Research into Arthritis and Rheumatic diseases is to take cod liver oil as treatment. His closing statement at the con was a plea - if anyone is looking for a charity to support, consider Arthritis Research.

I enjoyed David Prowse's contribution to Archon. He is a lovely man; he had to put up with some disruption to his talk times because Patrick Stewart had messed up the programme by asking to come to the con! DP didn't seem to mind and seemed to enjoy himself. I hope he did - it was a hysterical weekend!



CREATION CONVENTION, ROOSEVELT HOTEL, MANHATTAN, NY, JUNE 1994

Reported by Annette Cranfield

I have been a TNG/Jonathon Frakes fan from the word go and decided to meet several American friends who were also big fans in New York and attend a *Star Trek* convention with him as guest. Flight was booked, hotel booked, child care arrangements were made for my two children and then the convention tickets arrived. Not only had the tickets arrived safe and sound but front row both days, WOW!

Having only attended fan-run cons in the past I wasn't sure what to expect, but it was fantastic, and so was Jonathon. The theme tune played and in he strolled, all 6' 4" of him, and my, how slim he looked in real life!

This had to be the best two hours of pure entertainment I had had for a long, long

time. He's hilarious, exciting, charming and very down to earth, but perhaps what was most noticeable of all was the respect and love he has for all his fans, and *Trek* fans in general. He treats them all as equals. He doesn't look down on them as so many famous actors, actresses or famous people in general do. This man definitely has Personality Plus.

They had only that week finished filming the new *Star Trek* film and Jonathon gave out as much 'dish' (as he puts it) that Paramount would allow. He also told us that the previous day he had received his wedding invitation to Whoopi Goldberg's wedding. He tells some wonderful stories from behind the scenes of TNG, both very funny and emotional too. My ears have just about recovered from the 2000 screaming and

cheering fans who attended.

Be prepared, all you fans who are attending the Generations Convention at the

Royal Albert Hall in February, to come away with a sore neck from looking up so far and a very bad stitch from laughing so much. Jonathon is fabulous in convention.

Y
rja

WILLIAM SHATNER - A FAREWELL TO KIRK

Extracted from TV Guide 8/10/94

TVG - Capt. Kirk finally dies in "Generations". How did you prepare for your final moment?

WS - *[long pause]*

TVG - What's the problem?

WS - I'm torn about being the one to say straight out what everyone knows. I don't want to forfeit a pfennig of box-office potential to somebody who says, "Oh, I know how this one ends."

TVG - Do you not want to say that Kirk dies and this is it because he might actually be back?

WS - *[smiles]* As you know, with Star Trek, there are endless possibilities.

TVG - No matter what, no one will want to miss Kirk dying.

WS - I understand. But my instinct is that I see an executive from Paramount reading my saying, "And here's what happens in the film!" and he says, "Why in heaven's name did you do that?" On the other hand, I've got a second Star Trek book coming out in November in which I spend the last chapter discussing how I did, in fact, prepare *[for it]*.

TVG - How did you want Kirk to go out?

WS - I believe you die the way you live. Capt. Kirk lived pretty much the way I wanted him to live. He was a distillation of all that I would like to be: heroic and romantic, forceful in battle and gentle in love, wise and profound. The ideal soldier/philosopher.

TVG - Now that it's over, are you going to miss all this?

WS - Sure. Star Trek is family to me.

TVG - You finally met Patrick Stewart on the set of Generations. After years of rumours about one or both "captains" disliking the other, did that contaminate the moment?

WS - I'm sure he never said he didn't like me. Actually, our first meeting was at Sho-West, the movie exhibitors' convention, this year. When we finally met, instant liking and

respect transpired. Also, Patrick told me that he felt very lost among all these people, neither one of us knew, so we held hands and kind of clung together like two howler monkeys might *[laughs]*. Neither of us ever brought up the rumours. That night, just the two of us shared the Paramount corporate jet from Las Vegas back to Los Angeles.

TVG - There were reports that you fought on the set.

WS - That's absolutely false. It was quite the opposite. We became very friendly. If the opportunity were there, in terms of time and space, I feel that we would be very good friends indeed. Frankly, until the movie came along, I hadn't given the idea of meeting Patrick much thought. I hadn't even watched his show because it was on at hours when I was busy. but when we met, it was excellent. We discovered many mutual interests.

TVG - For instance?

WS - Horses. He turned out to be unexpectedly good on a horse. Then he told me about a wonderful old house that he bought in England. And that the Air Force flew high-speed sorties directly over the house. I urged him to march into the commandant's office and say, "I am an actor who has returned home. I am Capt. Picard. And I request that, with all due speed, you change the sorties to 2 or 3 miles down the road, not over my house." He looked at me and said, "Do you think I could do that?" I said, "Absolutely, Patrick! You go get it!" And he marched forth, determined to do what I told him.

TVG - Why do you like Stewart?

WS - He's got inner dignity. He has had to make things happen for himself. He is talented. He has a good heart, great soul, great generosity. He's steadfast and loyal. All the things you want in a friend.

TVG - Is it true you wore panty hose together?

WS - *[laughs]* During the filming some

scenes required us to spend all day on horseback. I did a 25-mile ride in the Santa Monica mountains some years ago. When I got off the horse, my boots were filled with blood from the constant chafing on the inside of my legs. Somebody said to me, "Didn't you know that you should wear panty hose?" I hadn't heard about that. When it came time to play this scene, I had the wardrobe people go out and get some panty hose. I presented them to Patrick: "Patrick, I'd like you to hear about something very important - I wear panty hose a lot, and I was hoping you would."

TVG - Did he break into a smile?

WS - A cold sweat, actually.

TVG - What type of panty hose do you recommend?

WS - Sheer, with the seam in the middle. It's a rather pleasant feeling, akin to scratching yourself all the time.

TVG - Didn't you ever feel you'd gotten too old to be gallivanting around in space?

WS - Leonard Nimoy and I would talk about getting too old for this, just in general terms. But I don't think either one of us meant it.

TVG - Other cast members are writing books. How will you handle it if they vilify you?

WS - I don't see any way that could be possible. The truth is that I just don't know the other cast members well - [James] Doohan and [Walter] Koenig, and to a lesser extent, Nichelle Nichols and George Takei. I've had so little to do with them. To get together for a few weeks every couple of years - when our characters came together, because most of the time they were separated - is not to know anybody. If they thought that I was cold and formidable as an actor, they were misinterpreting my desire to do other work in my dressing room. I really don't know what else they could say.

TVG - In your book you give Gene Roddenberry his due as inspiration and creator of Star Trek. Yet it's still not a very pretty picture. He comes off as tyrannical and aloof. Could Roddenberry have come in from the cold?

WS - Gene Roddenberry conceived all of Star Trek. Being angry at him is like being angry at your mother. But could he have come in from the cold? With great difficulty.

For him to have been part of the team would have meant him saying, "Well, maybe your rewrite is better than mine." That's tough for anybody to do.

TVG - His ashes reportedly took a ride in a space shuttle. Does that interest you?

WS - I would hesitate to believe that. Nonetheless, I want my ashes firmly planted in a loved spot.

TVG - You've had a varied and successful career - in addition to the Trek TV series and movies, your resume includes T.J. Hooker, Rescue 911, plays, radio work, and now TekWar. Yet there's a common impression that you've basically been stuck on the bridge of the Enterprise. Do you somehow feel unrealized?

WS - On the contrary. These last few years - and the coming few years, as it looks - are the most creative, productive, enthralling years I've ever spent in my life. TekWar is going weekly. I wrote the first-line concept, I directed what essentially was the pilot, I helped sell the series. And I've been writing books and stretching the envelope in other areas. I'm getting involved in the electronic media with TekWar games. And there are, potentially, TekWar CD-ROMs.

TVG - What vision of the future does TekWar propose?

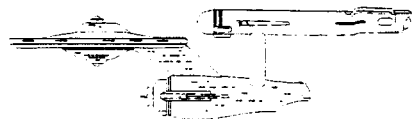
WS - That, contrary to educated opinion, mankind gradually comes to its senses within the next 50 years and begins to solve many of its problems - at the same time incurring others. We are still at war with the evil forces that have besieged man from the beginning of time.

TVG - Are things now getting better or worse?

WS - Our main problem is overpopulation. Until that is checked, the problems of starvation and toxicity will exist.

TVG - So now, with your own series and vision of the future, do you feel a little like Gene Roddenberry yourself?

WS - I hadn't thought of that [laughs].



PROFESSIONAL CONVENTIONS

by Baerbel Schmidt

I was surprised to see in N/L 36 that there are obviously quite a few trekkers who have misgivings about professionals organising conventions. Well, I have never been to a convention, but reports from my friends who went to the huge convention in Mannheim organised by fans are still fresh in my mind and this event was a disaster.

My friend Gabi sent me an article from a German TV magazine that summarised everything I had heard very well. The program was badly organised. You could only attend everything if you could divide yourself into different parts and if you didn't want autographs. This convention had 13 stars and to get an autograph you had to wait in line for hours - if you were lucky. Lots of fans were sent away because the stars stopped their autograph sessions. For my friends, this was extremely tiring and frustrating. I am very grateful that they were so nice as to get some autographs for me. The article told about the experiences of a 15-year-old girl who tried in vain to get an autograph from Gates McFadden. She cried, and was told to "try again tomorrow". But she only had a ticket for the one day. It must really have been a disaster, and it was certainly also no fun for the stars. Giving autographs for hours must be stressful for them. Gabi told me that Gates McFadden especially had trouble to stay friendly; she was obviously fed up, understandably, and on the second day she gave autographs wearing sunglasses. Gabi especially enjoyed the appearances of Dwight Schultz, John de Lancie and Jennifer Hettrick. She said they were very entertaining and lightened up her mood considerably, but her conclusion was, never again!

Another friend told me about the horrendous prices the organisers charged for everything. In the article, I could read it myself: a program (including 3 pages of adverts) cost DM 10. Cups and T-shirts cost more than DM 30. TV and newspapers had to pay: fees for interviews and filming cost between \$200 and \$800!

Gabi told me the highlight of this convention was for her when Jennifer Hettrick saw her Vash drawing and liked it so much that she asked Gabi if she could have a copy. Gabi ran to the next copy shop and came back in order to give it to her - but it was impossible. The security people were very unfriendly and refused to give it to her for Gabi. Gabi tried a few times more with the same result until someone promised to do it for her. One told her "Send it to Paramount". I know what would have happened if she had done this. A few weeks - or months - later the letter returns with the remark "Not at Paramount". I tried it often enough enough to reach former cast members like Denise Crosby and Michelle Forbes via Paramount. It sometimes even happens with supporting characters that the letter is simply sent back with that remark.

At the beginning was a big speech about the ideals of Star Trek and that "we are all a big happy family". The family feeling was lost very quickly at this convention.

In spite of that, I now have tickets for the Generations convention. I hesitated a long time and then wrote to Horizon. My problem is that I am disabled. I am not able to walk long distances or stand for hours in line for signing sessions.

Horizon replied very quickly and sent me a very nice personal letter, not the annoying standard one a friend received from the organisers of the Mannheim convention. I got quite a few extra leaflets for giving to friends and clubs and information about hotels. Obviously when you send back the attached form for hotel booking, an organisation called Capital Conferences will book rooms for you.

They offered to seat me at the side of an aisle so that I don't have to wriggle my way past other people with my crutches to get to my seat, and I was even able to book a space in the staff's car park! That was much more than I would have expected and this is

the main reason why I decided to go, together with my fiancé and a friend. I was told that there are quite a few parking spaces around reserved for the disabled. I can only hope that other visitors, who are not disabled, are not blocking them - often they don't think and sometimes don't care. I have experienced this only too often!

Horizon told me that the Royal Albert Hall has railings and lifts, and a friend told me there are also ramps. I must admit I am still a bit nervous about going, but at least I will not be on my own and if everything goes right, it will certainly boost my self confidence.

I asked if I could have a chair if I have to wait a long time for an autograph.

Horizon's reply was that signing sessions are not planned because they expect about 5000 people and even if the star stayed all day signing it would not be enough to let everyone get one, and in worst case they are afraid this could lead to riots. Horizon asked each actor to sign 1000 photos ahead of the event, and these will be sold. (I asked if I could reserve one by Michael Dorn, offering to pay for it, but this was not possible. I only hope I will be lucky enough to get one when I arrive!)

So far it looks to me that this "professional" convention is much better organized and will be more fun than the Mannheim chaos. It will also be my first convention and I am already quite excited; for me it will be quite an adventure. ✨

STAR TREK, FANDOM AND FAN CONVENTIONS

by Nicole Comtet

I have renewed my subscription to IDIC and realised with a shock that I have been a member from the very first, from number one issue, when I first met Sheila and Valerie at Midcon in 1987 in Leicester and began collecting the ScoTpress zines. How time flies... It is almost frightening, and since my first convention, I have attended, off and on, two or three cons a year, including the very special yearly L. Nimoy con in Nottingham.

But now I find that the spirit of Star Trek and the future of fandom in general are open to question. Things are changing and apparently not to the best. So I feel rather pessimistic about the future and it is not the new series that Paramount may launch every second year which will make me change my mind.

Curiously, many articles and members' letters in N/L 36 seem to ring the same note of gloom. Many of the writers have put my thoughts into words and I am glad to see that I am not the only one to sound negative about Star Trek.

To mention a few: I fully agree with

Glenn Cooper and what he says in his 'DS9 v Babylon 5'. I have not seen the latter series, and I admit that I rather like DS9, especially the actors and the interplay between the characters (a refreshing change from TNG) but Paramount had better watch out or other series run by other studios may well supersede Star Trek in the near future. In their letters, Mark Cooksey, Maggie Edwards (to name a few) expressed their indignation at the way the NG producers have messed up the original characters. That is exactly what I thought from the start. The way they used, ridiculed Sarek, Spock in Unification and turned Vulcans into Romulans, and Romulans the most fascinating aliens ever created by Star Trek, into sinister boors. Yes, Maggie, you may well ask "Where are the Vulcans of old, the Vulcans we loved?" in your article 'The Changing Face of Vulcan'; and not only the NG producers have changed them so as to make them look all alike with the same haircut, male and female alike, but they have killed them. What right do they have of disposing of characters who do not belong to them but to the original series?

The same thing happened to the films. Remember, after the success of ST VI,

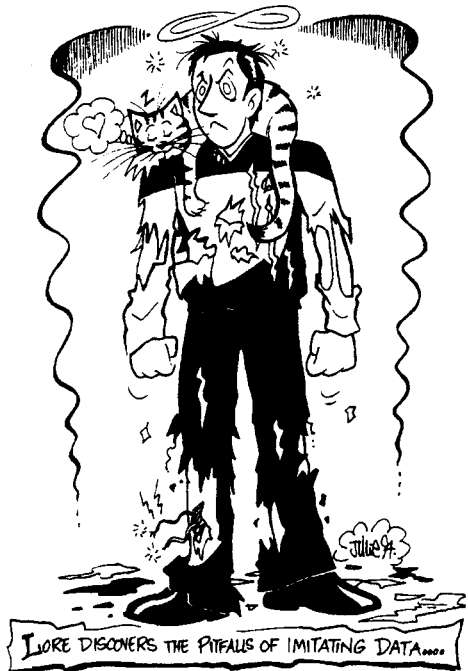
Paramount decided to make another film with the original cast, or so we were told. Then, change of director, change of mind? The film will be a mixed original and NG story so as to take leave of the classic crew and introduce the new one. Result - ST VII is now a full NG film, with only cameos of Scotty and Chekov and the demise of Captain Kirk - good riddance! What about Sulu, Uhura, McCoy and Spock? Nonentities, not even to be mentioned probably. No wonder, as Maggie Edwards says, the fans who have done wonders for the last 25 years to keep these characters alive are so angry! Well, it seems that Paramount has to start reshooting parts of ST VII all over again! I do not want to sound spiteful, but serves them right. If R Berman and M Piller had listened to Leonard Nimoy and his suggestion to change the script (as we read in IDIC a few months ago) they probably would not be in the present messy situation.

Mark Cooksey is quite right; it would have been more sensible and more successful to start a new series around Captain Sulu and the Excelsior. That would have the opportunity to bring back actors we love, like Saavik as science officer, Janice Rand at communications, maybe Riley at navigation, and Chekov as First Officer. Why not? With occasionally the appearance of Admiral Kirk, Captain Spock and Dr McCoy. Instead of that, Paramount is starting a new series. They have a problem finding the right actress for Captain, and even have the bizarre idea to appoint a Vulcan (Vulcans are non-violent, everyone knows that) at Security! It really seems that they know very little about Vulcans. Why don't they ask Spock, or his second half, Leonard Nimoy? He knows all about Star Trek and the Vulcans, doesn't he?

And finally, to put the lid on it, professional conventions are invading Britain! If you, British fans, are not careful, before you know where you are there will not be any more conventions as you know them. That is what happened in USA a few years ago, and now all the fan-run cons have all but gone. I was looking forward to attending Starbase 95 next

February. It is one of the best run, convivial cons I ever attended - but what happens? They had to cancel because of the Generations Convention which just turned up, a professional convention which can afford to parade all the actors they like. I think that it is very unfair - so in conclusion (at last!) I shall say to Margaret Rainey that her idea of a 'Wrinkly Con' is just wonderful. I am all for it - Classic Trek and zine library etc. Yes, I shall come, but could you make an exception regards the pre-1985 limit? I only discovered Star Trek in 1986 and my first con was Midcon in 1987. Please, do not cut me out, because I am now considering giving up conventions altogether, with the exception of the Nimoy Convention which remained faithful to its original ideal throughout the years.

I also think that the idea of having a maximum of 250 attendees is very good. It makes the con more cosy and you get to know more people that way; and last, Leeds as a venue suits me fine. There is a direct air UK flight from Paris! So I hope to hear more about it...

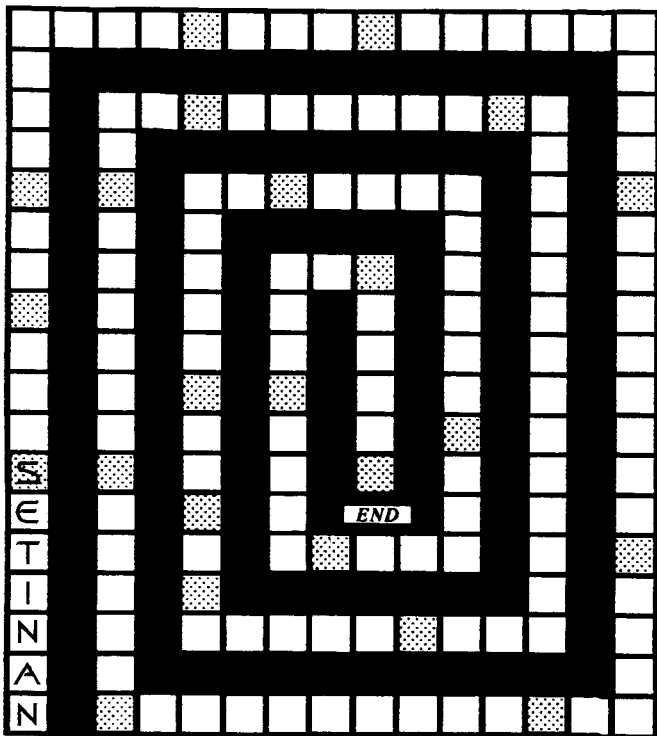


THE WORDSPIRAL

by Stephen Daniels

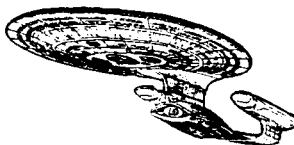
Clues

1. Microscopic intelligent robots (7)
2. Doctors Hill and _____ couldn't be located in 'Remember Me' (5)
3. A popular planet for shoreleave (4)
4. Master Rozhenko (9)
5. Picard played this Hood (5)
6. A nogo area for Federation and Romulan ships (7,4)
7. The study of non-Earth lifeforms. La Forge's father was one (10)
8. Tasha fought this lady in the season 1 episode 'Code of Honor' (7)
9. Ardra agreed to _____ to settle the dispute in 'Devil's Due' (11)
10. Dr. _____ Soong (7)
- 11 One of this species stabbed Picard through the heart (8)
12. The standard dress code for a Betazoid wedding (5)
13. Joe _____, a baseball player featured in 'The Big GoodBye' (8)
14. ODN (7,4,7)
15. Alexander's mother (1'6)
16. Crusher thought Riker may be suffering due to this type of sleep deprivation (3)
17. The doctor who, initially, blamed Data for the destruction of life on Omicron Theta by the crystalline entity, and the resulting death of her son (4)
18. They abducted and surgically altered Deanna (8)
19. This new system could revolutionise warp propulsion systems (7,4)
20. Data fought for these robots' lives (7)
21. For some reason Geordi can't see this kind of fire starting in the cargo bay in 'Disaster' (6)
22. LCARS, Library Computer _____ Retrieval System (6)
23. This ambitious officer represented a serious threat to Riker's position on the Enterprise (6)



Solution Page 79.

Info Phill Farrand's Nitpicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers



LA Graf

or

Chekov's in Sickbay again...

by

Neil Barrett (with help from Sheila Clark)

In the 1960's DC Fontana was obliged to hide behind two initials to gain acceptance by studios, directors etc. In the 1970's female fan writers often used the same technique. Even in the enlightened 1980's it happens (though perhaps in homage to Dorothy) with the most well known being AC (Ann) Crispin and JM (Jeanne) Dillard. Up until August I thought that LA Graf was following the pattern.

One of the biggest clues I've found when spotting a female writer is the tendency to concentrate on one of the three main characters whereas a male writer would give equal billing or highlight the Kirk-Spock team in action. Graf started out pro-Kirk; Spock is pushed firmly into the background for all of the books and McCoy is presented as a follower rather than his usual position of being allowed to challenge Kirk's judgement. I therefore concluded that LA Graf was a woman.

On reading Sheila's review of Traitor Winds (IDIC 35) I was surprised to be told that "LA Graf is a writing partnership and the joins in the writing don't show". Definitely surprised since I hadn't even considered that Graf might be more than one person. Further inquiries brought forth the revelation that LA Graf is actually three women - Julia Ecklar, Karen Rose Cercone and Melissa Crandell. So I was vaguely on the right track! I'll come back to collaboration at the end but let's have a look at the novels themselves.

First up was 'Ice Trap' written by all three of above. This surprised me by the uncommon pairing of Uhura and Chekov in some dramatic scenes on an unstable ice-bound planet. These are the slightly older versions of the characters (after ST:TMP) and the combination works well. I enjoyed seeing Uhura in a leadership role for a change and

Chekov away from Sulu has a new facet to his personality. Chekov got mangled but I didn't attach any great significance to this since it is an occupational hazard for Security Chiefs and after a few films he's probably used to it.

The characterisation and the descriptive passages are the strengths of this novel. The weakness is the plot. I feel that too many authors are using Trek to push their own ideas. In this case Graf jumps on the green bandwagon - the villains are big business, primitive peoples have great nobility, don't mess about with the planet - Sting probably bought this one. Basically it's a quick recycling of the Gaia hypothesis with doubtful physics and it really spoils the overall effect of the novel for me.

This meant that I was a little wary of approaching 'Death Count'. In fact it sat on my bookshelf unread for a total of six days, a delay which would be unthinkable for some other Trek writers. When I did get around to reading it, I was quite pleasantly surprised. 'Death Count' has all the good points that 'Ice Trap' had but not so many of the bad points and I spent an enjoyable couple of hours with it.

The plot is a common one - only Kirk and the Enterprise can prevent a major war - but this time round the bad guys are the Orions. As before, the secondary characters get more prominence - this is very much a Sulu, Chekov and Uhura tale rather than Kirk, Spock and Bones. I enjoyed this, not because I dislike the Big Three but because I'm a Chekov fan and the Sulu/Chekov pairing was being treated seriously not as a double act (e.g. 'Prime Directive' by the Reeves-Stevens).

I spotted the saboteur quite early on

but despite this the suspense kept going all the way as the gang hunt down the intruder and fend off attacks from the outside. The presence of a bunch of Federation auditors and efficiency experts was a lot of fun for me. I have to deal with the same sort of thing at work and I was tempted to cheer as they started to meet messy ends. Chekov got battered again and I started to wonder if this was in fact veering towards hurt/comfort. There was more evidence of this in 'Death Count' as Sulu helped Chekov back to a semblance of normality.

'Death Count' has all the action and pace of 'Ice Trap' without the didactic element and I prefer it. I thought I had begun to get the hang of Graf's writing when 'Firestorm' arrived but they managed to surprise me. There was a possibility for a cop-out ending and I'm pleased to say it wasn't taken. I was ready for Chekov to get splattered and teasingly we had to wait more than halfway into the story before it happened.

In some ways 'Firestorm' has similarities to 'Ice Trap' with Uhura leading a landing party against both the enemy and the elements but this time the hostile environment is volcanic. Obviously the Graf gang go for straightforward titles... I've noticed how some groups of people tend to get rather stereotyped in the Trek universe; colonists in 'War Drums' and bureaucrats in 'From The Depths', for example. This time round it's scientists who are always assumed to be blinkered and out of touch with reality, so involved with their research that they cannot talk for more than two sentences without lapsing into technobabble, so obsessed with their latest discovery that they disregard anyone else's needs. Yes, there are people like that and I work with a few but surely the Federation could try and keep them away from the more dangerous field expeditions.

By coincidence, I read 'Firestorm' the week after the BBC managed to show 'Elaan of Troyius' and was able to compare the two portrayals of the Elasian race. 'Firestorm' develops them further and explains some background to their culture and how the

Elasian tears enslave men. I'm not sure how feasible it is (same as I'm not 100 percent convinced about Deltan pheromones) but it seems to hang together well and it's interesting to see Kirk having to back down from his alpha-male stance. I enjoyed 'Firestorm' and I'd decided by now that I rather liked Graf's style.

Finally we have 'Traitor Winds', the third book to fill in the period between Classic Trek and The Motion Picture by following on from 'The Lost Years' and 'A Flag Full of Stars'. There are however no references or ties to the preceding novels apart from the presence of Kevin Riley as Kirk's chief of staff. This may be due to the fact that this novel came some time after the others and was not in the original plan. As a result there was an actual continuity gap between the three. In 'The Lost Years' Dillard referred to the Rittenhouse scandal (which took place in Diane Carey's 'Dreadnought!') as having shaken public confidence in Starfleet but there is no sign of this in 'Traitor Winds' even though a similar situation arises.

But what about the story itself? Well, it wouldn't be Graf if Chekov didn't get mangled and as expected he spends a good part of the time with a broken arm and hypothermia. But it doesn't end there, this time round Sulu and Uhura get mildly battered too and in a sudden change of tack Graf also manages to put Bones into hospital. Conveniently, perhaps too conveniently, there are other Enterprise regulars to help them along the way - Chapel, M'Benga, Kyle and Rand all put in brief appearances.

Trying to fill in the gaps of Trek history while maintaining both backward and forward consistency is probably a difficult task and I think the Graf team did a decent job here. Most noticeably there was a reasonable explanation of Chekov's move from command to security and the start of the transition from the eager young ensign to the slightly darker character of the movie era.

Initially I was uncomfortable with Graf but having read and re-read more I came round. If I had to put the novels in order then it would be 'Firestorm', 'Death Count',

'Traitor Winds' and 'Ice Trap'. As I said at the start, I hadn't noticed Graf was a team and I didn't notice that Melissa Crandell departed after 'Ice Trap'. With hindsight, I can see the similarities between the Graf novels and Crandell's solo work 'Shell Game'. However, the question that now comes to mind is which of the others keeps bashing Chekov? I'm told it's Julia Ecklar and a quick

look at Ecklar's 'The Kobayashi Maru' supports this. I can live with this as long as they keep the formula going. I enjoy seeing the supporting cast coming to the fore and the novels have plenty of pace and tension. If you feel the same and you can cope without Spock, who tends to be forgotten in Graf stories, then give them a try.



THE CRACK BETWEEN THE WORLDS

by Taruka Quauhtezcatl

"In the dusk, or the morning twilight, there is the crack between the worlds." - Carlos Castaneda, The Teachings of Don Juan. (1965)

Search for me at the end of night and the beginning of day; at that endless borderline where all things begin and all things end" - Jeanette Hurknoran, "Of Silver-Winged Falcons" (1988)

Well I suppose you could call it the Andean equivalent of the Twilight Zone if you were being facetious, but I seem to have been living in it for much of Season 7 of TNG.

There is a very obscure (and very long - over 300,000 words) novel which I read some time ago called "Of Silver-Winged Falcons" which dealt with the symbolism and mythology of South America within a fictional framework. It would appear that at least one of the script writers of TNG has had a look at it as well, if the following examples are taken into consideration;

In Sub Rosa, Ronin needs the plasma lamp to live in when not in corporeal form. I "borrowed" the idea of the spirit living in a lamp or other similar container from "Falcons" when I wrote "Golden Star". The idea was that in order to be protected from the elements, the spirit must reside in something - half a step sideways from the standard Aboriginal American belief of spirits of animals and trees being able to take human or animal form.

Hiding in there too, whether consciously or subconsciously is a second

idea from "Falcons". Threaded through the latter story is the belief in ancestor worship. Now, what is Ronin but in a strange way one of Beverly's less scrupulous "ancestors"? After all he states himself that he's been with the family for hundreds of years. Would the "ritual" of keeping the lamp burning at all times be considered a form of covert worship? Often, in ancient temples, fires were kept constantly alight in honour of the gods.

In "Masks", which many of my friends found difficult to comprehend, I saw another thread from the novel. The sun and the moon, hunter and hunted - or maybe just a playful brother and sister? In the Andes they are known as Inti and Mamakilla, brother and sister. Someone commented that the society depicted in "Masks" was Inca-like. Not quite.

From what I read between the lines of the script it was more like the Tenochca or Aztecs, in that it still allowed human sacrifice (E'hat is an escaped sacrifice) to the sun, in this case Masaka. The point E'hat makes is that the moon has stopped chasing the sun - endless day, and that is why the symbol for Masaka is synonymous with death. There is no escape from the burning sun. This to my ears suggested a shift of planetary axis to leave one side in sunlight and the other in darkness. In those circumstances, even if the people understood what had happened, old beliefs would re-emerge. To an Aztec-like people, the thought of sacrifices to the sun - an offering of someone, usually a captive warrior's blood in order to spare their own,

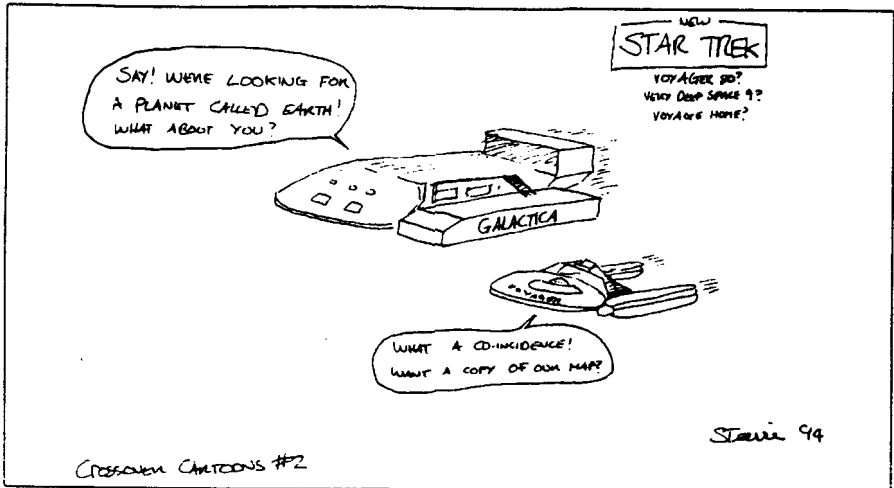
would not be amiss. Please note, during solar eclipses it was the Aztec custom to sacrifice dwarfs, cripples and hunchbacks to help the sun drive away the serpent who was trying to eat him. The belief was then that they went to Tamoanchan, the warriors' paradise. Against this was set, of course, the fact that the sun was also the Aztec war god, who demanded and got large numbers of sacrificed warriors. No wonder E'hat was frightened. A note about the architecture of Masaka's temple. Was it pure chance or deliberate, I wonder, that the mask on the wall bore a striking resemblance to a famous Chimú mask of Inti? The name symbols which appear on Data's chest are very good approximations of Maya hieroglyphs turned on their sides, and the constantly recurring circle and compass points is a standard Aboriginal American symbol for the sun. (And did anyone spot that one of the symbols shown on the Enterprise's computer screen while Data is interpreting them is a tropical fish tank?)

Finally, and the one which really convinced me I was in the Twilight Zone, in Journey's End. You will have to excuse my lack of memory on details here, but the temple up the stairs was reminiscent of an Anasazi or Hopi kiva temple and the dolls representing animal spirits are known to me as kachinas, another Hopi word. The ritual of the Dream Quest was lifted almost bodily from its use in "Falcons". The powder scattered about was not maize dust as

someone suggested, but more likely, in the circumstances, magic mushrooms (this also from Castaneda, Teachings of Don Juan), or teonanakatin to give them their native name. They are hallucinogenic not only if eaten, but if the smoke from them is inhaled as well. This would certainly explain Wesley's vision far more easily than any explanation the scriptwriters could come up with! The ritual (from "Falcons") was that a group, four or five students and a master, sometimes two, would settle in a circle around a fire. Powdered teonanakatin, sometimes mixed with coca leaves, would be thrown onto the fire in the centre and from there onwards reality and illusion combined - the "endless borderline" mentioned at the beginning of this article. What the students saw varied. This kind of vision is, of course part of the training of all Aboriginal American shamans.

I have to consider the three instances to be purely coincidence or possibly synchronicity, as to my knowledge there is no way the writers could have seen the novel I mentioned - I only know of the existence of two copies; one is owned by a friend in Leeds and the other is in my bookcase. (I could, of course, be wrong).

If any other members have thoughts on this I would be interested to hear them. I must admit I look forward to seeing what is made of Chakotay (whose name incidentally, means "to crucify" in Quechua) in Voyager.



ORIGINAL TREK WORDSEARCH

by Margie Ferguson

Clues

1. Planet orbiting Theta Kiokis (6)
2. Mr Mudd (8)
3. Vulcan offshoots (8)
4. Separates the Federation from 3 (7,4)
5. Card game (7)
6. Not a fan of transporters (2,5)
7. The Roman Empire had more staying power here (5,4)
8. Chekov made his first appearance in this (7)
9. To travel here is forbidden (5,2)
10. Kirk's beloved social worker (6)
11. An underground computer (4)
12. Their bite is poisonous (6)
13. First Captain of the USS Enterprise (5)
14. They hate Klingons! (8)
15. Element mined on Janus VI (7)
16. Accused of murder on Argelius Two (6)
17. Destroyer of 4 billion people in the Malurian System (5)

X E E P U K B E N F I N N E Y Y Z Q
J Z I W S A T B D T K E K N' T O C E
X X O A V N N A R B A U E T A J H K
O T F D A K A U L K M U O C B K P U
J I I A S M O L X O T C K Y E I S V
F P V X Q C O O U R S G G E Q S G L
I E N O R V T R A M W I L I I N P X
Z R S A R A V L A H O E V N V T F G
Z G H L G D Z S W N R R T M Y E X S
B I X U S O R F S I G R U S W O R L
I U M K N E A M V G E A J X S M Z S
N M O E N U L K C P M K M M M E S B
P L R L A L J B I C W A P S T A C O
R T S V I T N D B P O X E V T V W F
K C T R M I S L G I G Y A N O M A D
H K P Y A N A C H I R A A F G E N E
B A S K E X L F R R L T L O D S Q F
U N X G U M T O K L E M F J R L S X

18. Record Officer with a grudge against Kirk (3,6)
19. Ship manned by Vulcans (3,8) (???)
20. She was seduced by Khan Noonian Singh (8)

Solution P. 79



THE HOLODECK, MORIARTY AND CARDASSIAN BLOOD

by Brenda Allan

What do these three things have in common, you might ask? Many IDIC readers have commented on the holographic character in ST:VOY, and this in turn has set me thinking on the initial concept of the holodeck and replicators, and the many 'stretches' that we've been forced to accept. I've only touched on a few of the questions that came to my mind, and perhaps these will get other discussions going. I welcome any comments.

When ST:TNG began and we were introduced to the holodeck, which used transporter technology to create inanimate objects and facsimiles of life, but not actual sentient beings. This theory was shattered in Elementary, Dear Data when Geordi

misspoke a sentence and 'accidentally' created a sentient holographic being in the form of Professor Moriarty. Consider for a moment Sirius Redblock and his gang in The Big Goodbye. They were not classified as 'sentient', and yet they seemed aware enough of their existence to see the exit to the holodeck and curious enough to venture out and explore. To my way of thinking, a holographic person would be programmed to react only to the action central to the story played in the holodeck and would be oblivious of anything not associated with their programming (like the holo exit!)

If it were that easy to create a sentient being in the holodeck by simply misspeaking a phrase, wouldn't it have been tried before?

How many other 'accidental sentients' have been created and then terminated because sentience was not recognised? Would safeguards be built into holodecks to prevent Geordi's mistake from happening again?

By saying that the computer can create a sentient being, that's saying that the computer is capable of creating life, and we know that's not possible! This has been proven by the fact that Picard has an artificial heart, not a replicated heart, which would not be living tissue. In *The Enemy*, Dr Crusher had to ask Worf to donate blood for the Romulan, because she couldn't replicate it - blood is made up of living cells. However, in *Lower decks*, Crusher instructs Ogawa to "synthesise at least a litre of Cardassian blood". How could they do this if they couldn't make Romulan blood?

Which brings me to my final thought - If Klingons prefer to eat Gagh live, how could they replicate this food? Food processors are not capable of creating a live chicken to be killed, plucked and roasted, yet Riker ate gagh as part of his last meal aboard the *Enterprise* before serving aboard the *Pagh*. I'm sure the *Enterprise* stores didn't have a serpent worm farm to provide for this dish!

I am notorious for nitpicking, and these questions have picked me for quite some time now. All comments, explanations, or more nitpicking, will be received most gratefully. If you'd like to debate more fully than Postbag allows, write to PO Box 935, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H9, Canada.



KLINGONS RULE! OK?

by Jay Stevensen

If you were asked to guess *Trek's* Most Popular Aliens (note plural) would you pick the Klingons? If you did I'm sure you'd be right.

Joan Verba (N/L 34 p 37) might think they're "dull" but she has to admit they've got numerous "enthusiastic fans". Some of them (presumably normal in all other respects) are given to dressing up (or should it be down?) to look like their heroes and even risk serious throat injuries by trying to speak (grunt? expectorate?) Klingonese.

All this We Love Klingons stuff might be understandable if Klingons had improved their image over the years. But they haven't. They've got worse. Classic *Trek* Klingons, tidied up a bit, could have passed for Human. You could have taken Kang, Kor and Koloth home to meet your mother. They'd have munched cucumber sandwiches and probably drunk tea with their little fingers stuck in the air and turned on the charm. (They could do it, believe me. For proof just rewatch the videos.) Your mother would have been totally won over.

But the later variety.....? Knobbly

foreheads, varnished skin, bushy hair, rotten table manners and not by any stretch of the imagination good looking (all right, so Worf has nice eyes) they clank around in costumes very far removed from their original lured trousers, and you have only to look at what Kruger did to his girlfriend/wife/whatever after she had obtained the Genesis device for him to know that you wouldn't want characters like this anywhere near your pet budgie, let alone your Mum.

Klingons just aren't nice. Given the old one about the Irishman, the Englishman and the Scotsman in the plane that's diving towards earth and will crash unless the load is lightened....the Irishman sings "The Wearing of the Green" and heroically jumps out. The plane still dives. The Englishman sings "There'll Always be an England".....and throws the Scotsman out.....you know the kind of thing? Substitute Klingon for Englishman and the story still works, although I'm not sure that "There'll Always be a Kronos" sounds quite right.

So how come these appalling characters are so popular? How come they appear in leading roles in some of the (better)

Classic episodes, and lots of times in TNG? How come they not only frequently feature in the pro novels they get their pictures on the covers too? How come they get important parts (or decent cameos) in all of the films? And how come they've made it to the Bridge of the Enterprise while the Vulcans have been banished?

Vulcans are honourable, non-violent, generally nice looking, and their ears are sexy even if their biology only wakes up every seven years. Their standard greetings tell all: "Live Long and Prosper" and "We Live to Serve". You could safely leave any Vulcan to babysit your little sister, or the family cat. (Leave a Klingon with the cat and he'd probably think it was a snack. Come to that, he might feel the same way about your little sister.)

So where is the Vulcan equivalent of the Klingon Assault Group? (Vulcan Philosophy Group?). Where are the language tapes? Do we see groups of Vulcans showing off in PDSA shops? Do we see groups of Vulcans anywhere? We do not.

Why is this? Could it be because full Vulcans are a smidgen too noble for Humans to take in anything more than very small doses, a bit like hot chocolate fudge cake and cream? (Not that it's noble, but you know what I mean). Could you really let go and enjoy yourself with God standing right by your shoulder? Vulcans have that effect. They're as far above us as Klingons (so most of us probably like to think) are below us.

Physically Vulcans (even half-Vulcans) make us look like a design failure. They have extra eyelids, better memory, acute hearing, greater strength, a resilient body, longer life span. They don't need aspirins. They don't really seem to need doctors....just a clout round the head occasionally. I could go on, but it's too depressing. Intellectually it's even worse. Can you really like someone who gets Grade A + (or even ++++) in every exam he/she takes? And worse yet....never laughs at your jokes?

We can sympathise with Spock, struggling to meet all those near impossible

Vulcan standards and doomed to failure because of the small human weakness that actually make him interesting and likable in a way that full Vulcans never are. I suspect this is why full Vulcans rarely feature successfully in stories ("Strangers from the Sky" is an exception). What can you do with them? They won't lie, or cheat, or kill. They're as near perfect as dammit and if you try to make them anything less they cease to be believable.

Klingons, on the other hand, clumping around looking for a mind to shred or a superior to assassinate, are definitely way down on the Nice Guy scale. They'll do anything: swear, bully, belch, lie, cheat. They're unpredictable, untrustworthy and motivated by self-interest.....although they can be relied upon to go off and kill people *en masse* if the Empire tells them to. They sometimes surprise themselves by being noble. But not often.

So who do they remind you of? Right first time! They're just like us.... well, almost. There's no effort involved in the transition from Human to Klingon. We relax our scruples a little and hey presto, we're there! We understand them.

Do we understand the Vulcans? I doubt it. We might admire them, but that's a different ball game. We might pretend to "be" them, but we know it's a sham. With the Klingons we don't even have to pretend. Just don a knobbly forehead and the rest comes naturally.

No wonder they're popular. Don't we always like ourselves?



STARSHIP NAMES AND THEIR ORIGINS

by Edward Woo

This article was prompted by JS as a way of keeping me out of Liverpool bookshops - however, Forbidden Planet has just opened up in the city centre of Liverpool, Jean!

The following shuttlecraft have been named after renowned scientists of our Earth: the famous astronomer, *Galileo*; the astronomer who devised the theory of the solar system, *Copernicus*; the discoverer of radium, *Marie Curie*; the discoverer of penicillin, *Alexander Fleming*; three physicists, *E Fermi*, *S Hawking* and *R Feynman*, and finally the oceanographer *Jacques Cousteau*.

Other names in history used for Starships and shuttlecraft are - the writer of War and Peace, *Tolstoy*; Louis *Pasteur*, the chemist who discovered the fermentation of bacteria in milk; French writer/philosopher *Voltaire* and American writer *Thomas Paine*. Two figures from Greek mythology are *Agamemnon* and *Ajax*; then there are *Gus Grissom*, an Apollo astronaut who died in a pad fire and *Onizuka*, named after one of the mission specialists who died in the Challenger accident. *El-Baz* was a NASA planetary geologist.

Ghandi and *Sakarov* were two peacemakers of the world; *Magellan* was a Spanish navigator and *Crazy Horse* was the Indian war leader at the battle of The Little Big Horn. *Zhukov* and *Potemkin* were two Russian military leaders.

The famous SF writer *Ray Bradbury* had a ship named after him; the *Goddard* was named after the American rocket pioneer.

The DS9 runabouts are all named from famous rivers around the world; *Rio Grande* in Mexico, *Yangtze Kiang* in China, *Ganges* in Bangladesh/India, *Orinoco* in Venezuela and *Mekong* in Vietnam and *Kampuchea* (Cambodia).

A large number of Starships have been

named after military events; ships like the *Gettysburg*, *Charleston*, *Lexington*, *Concord*, *Yorktown* and *Saratoga*, all famous battles of the American Civil War (Lexington being the first). The *Monitor* and *Merrimac* were two warships in the civil war, but on opposite sides. Ships that were involved in the Battle of Midway in WW2 were the *Hornet*, *Akagi* and *Repulse*, and other WW2 ships were *Hood* and *Yamato*; in ST the *Hornet* served alongside the *Akagi*, just like the *Monitor* and *Merrimac*.

Three famous sailing ships were the *Sutherland* (the ship captained by Horatio Hornblower in CS Forrester's novels); the *Santa Maria*, one of Sir Francis Drake's ships; and the *Endeavour*, flagship of the explorer Captain James Cook.

Melbourne and *Constantinople* were named from their respective cities in Australia and Turkey; *Tian-nan-men* was named after the student demonstration in China, whilst *Yosemite* was named for the famous National Park in America; the *Aries* is a constellation and the site of the moon landing of the shuttle in the film 2001 - Space Odyssey (1969).

The *Trieste* is the name of a bathysphere in which oceanographer Jacques Piccard explored the Marianas Trench in the 1960s.

Other ships used ST fact and fiction. *Surak*, from ST:TMP was a Vulcan philosopher; *Gorkon* was the Klingon Chancellor; then there were Captain *Christopher Pike* and the inventor of the warp drive, *Zefram Cochrane*. *Bozeman* is the home town of Brannon Braga; and is there any need to explain the shuttlecraft *Berman*, *Piller* and *Justman*?



TV VERSUS BOOKS

by Jean Perrin

Judging by the points mentioned in the newsletter, not all our members are quite the devotees of the Star Trek professional books that I am. I am a fan of the original series and have read nearly 70 books and there have been only a few which I have not enjoyed. After all, these and zines are now the only way we are going to get new stories. However, I think one of the problems with the books is that they are inconsistent, presumably because they are written by so many different writers who fail to liaise with one another; so in one book we are told that Uhura is only child, in another she acquires an older brother and younger sister, and in yet another the younger sister becomes plural. In the TV series, Dr McCoy's middle initial is H but in the books it becomes E for Edward. One book deals totally erroneously with the time span of Sarek and Amanda's courtship and marriage which in no way adds up to Spock's age in the TV series. Even such minor characters as transporter chief Kyle is English in one book and Australian in another and whilst these are only insignificant bits of information they do niggle away and detract from your enjoyment when you are trying to build up a picture of your favourite characters and their backgrounds.

Raj Badhan tells us that you can work out the warp speeds in Kms by taking the warp speed number, multiplying it by itself 3 times then multiplying this number by 300000. Well, my sums aren't good enough for that but various books give warp speeds as follows - warp 1 = speed of light. Warp 3 = 24 times speed of light. Warp 4 = 100 times speed of light. Warp 6 = 216 times speed of light. Warp 7 = 343 times speed of light. Warp 8 = 512 times speed of light. Whether this fits in with Raj's arithmetic I don't know but I suspect not since there doesn't seem to be any correlation between the book figures as far as I can see.

However, even the TV series is not totally error-free, so to speak, because like

life it gradually evolved; Gene Roddenberry could not have thought of everything right from day one. The most well-known 'error', although that is not quite the right word, is of course the total change in the appearance of the Klingons on the flimsy excuse that they come from different hemispheres. The reason for that was lack of finance, but in Mudd's Women what was the excuse for Uhura being seen in a command gold tunic instead of her more familiar red? And in the Way to Eden, right at the end just before the landing party beamed up, there was a head and shoulders shot of Captain Kirk which was completely the wrong way round, making it look as if his hair was parted down the wrong side and his breast badge on the wrong side.

If any of our members haven't got into the professional books, I urge them to make the effort to read half a dozen random ones. I'm sure they will find something to interest them - I was hooked after one. My favourite authors are J M Dillard, Jean Lorrah, M J Friedman and several others. Diane Duane is a favourite with many of our members, it seems, but some of her plots are not fast moving enough for me, and member Neil Barrett can add me to his list of people who hated How Much for Just the Planet, although I can understand why many people might like it; but in accordance with the philosophy of IDIC there is room for everyone. However, I do feel that we are being ripped off a bit with the new series of Star Trek Adventures; they cost almost as much as the original Giant series, have half as many pages as most of the ordinary books and in many cases are not as good. Somebody has been reading the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition.

To sum up, it is a pity the various authors don't get together and iron out the little glitches, but in the meantime I shall still continue to enjoy their work. I'm sorry I can't tell you which books give the various information, but at the time of reading they

just annoyed me and I didn't make a note of the titles, as I wasn't expecting to have to

refer to them in the future.



STAR TREK GENERATIONS CD

SPOILER - BEWARE

The following was posted on Usenet by Ford A Thaxton.

Mark Banning at GNP CRESCENDO RECORDS was very kind and sent the Track listings and notes to their upcoming release of "Star Trek: Generations" featuring music composed by Dennis McCarthy.

The record will be available in stores on Dec 6th. However you can place orders directly with GNP CRESCENDO by calling (800) 654-7729 (Toll Free in North America), or (213) 656-2614, or you can fax them at (213) 656-0693.

BE WARNED MAJOR SPOILERS. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW THE PLOT OF THE FILM

Total Time: 44:05

1. STAR TREK GENERATIONS OVERTURE*
2. MAIN TITLE*
3. THE ENTERPRISE B*/KIRK SAVES THE DAY
4. DECK 15*
5. TIME IS RUNNING OUT
6. PRISONER EXCHANGE
7. OUTGUNNED
8. OUT OF CONTROL/THE CRASH
9. COMING TO REST
10. THE NEXUS/A CHRISTMAS HUG
12. JUMPING THE RAVINE
13. THE FINAL FIGHT
14. KIRK'S DEATH*
15. TO LIVE FOREVER*
16. STAR TREK GENERATIONS SOUND EFFECTS

Music published by Famous Music Corporation ASCAP

* Contains "Theme from Star Trek - The TV Series" by A. Courage published by Bruin Music Company, BMI

A champagne bottle is seen spinning through

the blackness of endless space as a gentle, ethereal theme accompanies its journey. As the strings and voices swell to a crescendo, the bottle strikes the hull of the U.S.S. Enterprise-B, and the legendary Alexander Courage fanfare heralds the launch of both the mighty starship as well as the opening of STAR TREK GENERATIONS. The seventh in a long line of successful features based on Gene Roddenberry's classic television series, this film unites the two most famous captains of the U.S.S. Enterprise: James T. Kirk (William Shatner) and Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart). Two generations are brought together by one man's obsession with a place called the Nexus, a heavenly universe where linear time has no meaning. Captain Picard meets Dr. Soran (Malcolm McDowell), a 300 year old Elorian scientist rescued from a ravaged stellar observatory. By manipulating a powerful ribbon of energy, Soran means to gain entry to the Nexus, stopping short of nothing but universal destruction to achieve his goal. It is a story of good vs. evil as Picard and Kirk must prevent Soran from destroying a solar system, thus killing millions. It is also a story about coping with personal tragedies as Picard receives distressing news from Earth. Finally, it is a story involving personal growth as Data (Brent Spiner), like the Tin Woodsman of Oz, at last finds a heart in the form of a newly installed computer chip.

For this film, composer Dennis McCarthy has delivered a score with a wide range of textures and emotions. There is pulse-pounding excitement when the Enterprise-B battles a renegade Klingon Bird of Prey and when Captain Kirk saves the Enterprise-B from destruction by the energy ribbon (Outgunned, Kirk Saves The Day). There is a soft, tender movement accentuated by choir as Picard, after entering the Nexus, finds himself sharing Christmas with the family he has always desired but never had (A

Christmas Hug). In addition to his large complement of strings, woodwinds and percussion, Dennis utilizes many musical effects involving synthesizer and waterphone (a jug-like instrument with several protruding pipes along which the player runs a violin bow). For the cue Time Is Running Out, a soft choir highlighted by waterphone is heard as Soran catches sight of an old acquaintance tending bar. Deck 15 features a somber version of Dennis' theme for STAR TREK GENERATIONS with elements of Alexander Courage's familiar STAR TREK fanfare. Dennis brings it all to a close with To Live Forever, where Data, having found his lost cat Spot, cries tears of joy. Picard and Riker, meanwhile, survey the wreckage of the Enterprise-D; and as they are beamed aboard a rescue ship, a powerful version of the Courage fanfare heralds the promise of new adventures to come.

DENNIS MCCARTHY

Many of us reach an apex in our lives, that moment when the limitless possibilities of a bright future open wide, signifying that our reward for a job well done is at hand. For composer Dennis McCarthy one such moment came when he was assigned to score STAR TREK GENERATIONS. In what is an undeniably stellar career, he has garnered the respect of his peers as one of the busiest and most talented composers working in television today. When the time came to select a composer for the first feature film based on the multi-award winning series STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, director David Carson and producer Rick Berman had to look no further than one of their own.

episodes were composed by McCarthy, who had been with the series from the first episode "Encounter At Farpoint" (GNPD 8012). Composing over 80 hours of music in the show's seven years on the air, he was rewarded with Emmy nominations for "Yesterday's Enterprise" (GNPD 8031), "The Child", "Half A Life" and "All Good Things". The coveted statuette became his for "Unification" - Part I (GNPD 8031) and the main title for STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE (GNPD 8034). In creating the musical voice for STAR TREK GENERATIONS, McCarthy and director Carson wanted a score that would stay true to the feel of the original series, while at the same time reflect a much larger scope. Since this was a story that would be played out on giant screens in thundering digital sound, McCarthy could bring forth a new level of intensity.

The resulting score for STAR TREK GENERATIONS has set a new standard for STAR TREK. McCarthy has assembled 95 of his best musicians (more than twice the orchestral complement of a regular TV episode), many of whom have been longtime associates. Adding a gigantic choir and extra time for mixing the film and album, the walls didn't just come tumbling down, they exploded! After so many years working in television, feature film composing is a new and exciting challenge for this veteran composer.

Evolution is a part of life however, and the time has come for Dennis to spread his wings and soar in his new role as a feature film composer. With a man of his talents, the possibilities are limitless.

Over half the scores for the show's 178



STAR TREK COMPUTER SOFTWARE

by Tim Goodchild

EGA TREK (IBM PC): published by The 5 CD-ROM: approx £35.99.
Computer Software Store:

This game is not really that good, although if you have a quick five or ten minutes spare it could provide you with some light entertainment! All it says on the packaging is, "Your Starship Command is waiting... Save the Galaxy!!!" Basically, all you have to do is warp to different sectors of the galaxy and rid space of any enemies.

Requires DOS, EGA/VGA monitor.
Price £4.99

STAR TREK: 25th ANNIVERSARY (IBM PC, PC CD-ROM, MAC CD-ROM, AMIGA 1200): published by Interplay Productions.

You are Captain James Kirk of the USS Enterprise. You and the Star Trek crew are about to embark at warp speed on a voyage through the final frontier. Features: 256 VGA colour, actual sound effects and musical score from the series. Interact with dozens of enemy races, point-and-click icon interface, engage in spectacular 3D digitised space confrontations and investigate mysterious disturbances throughout the Federation. Soundcards add greatly to the sound effects. Also: if you own a CD drive for the PC or MAC this game does not have the point-and-click interface, but instead the actors - Shatner, Nimoy, Kelley, Doohan, Nicholls, Takei and Koenig have all provided interplay with their voices!

Requires: Amiga 1200 - 9 MB of hard disc space. MAC - unfortunately I do not know. PC-IBM PC and compatibles with 640K, EGA & 256 colour MCGA/VGA, no on-disc copy prot. Manual required. Sound cards - Adlib, Roland, Soundblaster & Tandy, 9 MB hard disc space, DOS 2.1 or better, and 10 Mhz 286 system of faster required. PC CD-ROM - minimum 386 PC, DOS 3.3 or higher, CD-ROM drive, 2MB RAM EGA/VGA. pro Audio Spectrum or Soundblaster soundcards. Ratings: 85%. Price: PC, MAC, AMIGA: Approx £30.99. PC CD-ROM, MAC

STAR TREK 2: JUDGEMENT RITES (PC): by Interplay Productions.

The 5-year mission continues. Captain's Log Stardate 6238.4. There is no doubt that you are being watched. By whom and by what type of life form is unknown. Even Spock is unsure. Things are just too strange. Is that truly an ancient WW1 triplane heading for you at warp 9? How can your sensors suddenly report life on a dead planet? You're a long way from Starfleet Command and only you can discover what-or-who is challenging you beyond your wildest nightmares. Or can you? Features: true episodic format beams 8 original missions into your computer; as Capt Kirk, you and your entire crew - Spock, Dr McCoy, Uhura et al, bring the original, unique TV series on board. Excellent graphics, original series sound effects and music that take you back to the action and test your strategy in mind-boggling situations! Again, a soundcard adds even more to the game than the 25th Anniversary game! Also available, but in short supply, is the special edition box which includes a copy of ST:II - The Wrath of Khan!

Requires: IBM PC or 100% compatibles. 386 SX - 16 Mhz CPU or faster. DOS 3.1 or higher. 2MB RAM + 1MB EMS. 256 VGA colour monitor. 18 MB of hard disc space. Mouse. Sound cards: Soundblaster, Adlib, Roland and 100% compatibles. Ratings - 85%. Price: £34.99.

STAR TREK: STARFLEET ACADEMY (PC) Published by Interplay Productions.

Star Trek Starfleet Academy takes you thought the training you would need to become a Starfleet officer. In other words, all the missions are actually holodeck simulations although completing them is just as important as it would be if they were 'real'. In this game you get to command any of the three starships available, from a Constitution

Class to a Science Vessel!

Release date - should have been in the spring of '94 but looks set to be released next year! Price: unknown.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: FUTURES PAST (SNES): published by Microprose Productions.

From the bridge of the Enterprise, chart a course to strange new worlds to uncover the mystery of the Derandomiser. Pass certain tests and seek guidance from Captain Jean-Luc Picard. But in the end it is **your** decision. Features: An absorbing puzzle-solving story. In keeping with the TV series themes, become one of the Next Generation crew as they beam down on Federation missions, navigate across the enormous distances of interstellar space, and explore hundreds of worlds in far away Galaxies!! Release: Christmas 1994. Price: not decided.

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: A FINAL UNITY (PC CD-ROM): published by Microprose Productions.

This is the one which all PC CD-ROM Trekkers have been waiting for! Based on Paramount's Emmy-Award winning Star Trek: The Next Generation, A Final Unity is an original, specially written and produced episode that takes you to the interstellar worlds of an interactive space adventure. Experience a journey far beyond your imagination in the company of the Next Generation crew. Your mission is to maintain the integrity of the Galaxy and to manoeuvre the USS Enterprise within 3-D tactical space. Features: beam down the Away Team to investigate alien planets, explore *any* of the *hundreds* of stars within known space, use the vast resources of the starship to meet the challenges that await, command from the bridge or engineering. Includes music, sound effects and characterisations faithful to the TV series, a total experience in mind-popping brilliant 3-D Super VGA graphics!!!! This game will most certainly be on my Christmas list! Requires: PC 486. CD-ROM drive. 4MB RAM. SVGA colour monitor. Release date: Christmas 1994. Price: £34.99

Coming soon:

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: A WORLD FOR ALL SEASONS (3DO): published by Microprose Productions.

A review of this game was shown on the Channel 4 series Equinox last year. But it is based on the game above for the PC CD-ROM!

STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE (PC CD-ROM): published by Paramount Interactive.

Play either a Klingon, Ferengi, Bajoran or a Federation Officer. All characters from the TV show will be in it. The missions will be based on the episodes. As this game is in early stages, there is little information. Release: late 1995 or early 1996.

TNG Word Spiral Solution:

Nanites, Sellar, Risa, Alexander, Robin, Neutral Zone, Exozology, Yareena, Arbitration, Noonian, Norsican, Naked, DiMaggio, Optical Data Network, K'Ehleyr, REM, Marr, Romulans, Soliton Wave, Exocomp, Plasma, Access, Shelby.

Original Trek Word Search Solution:

X E E P U K B E N F I N N E Y Y Z Q
J Z I W S A T B D T K E K N T O C E
X X O A V N N A R B A U E T A J H K
O T F D A K A B L K M U O C B K P U
J I I A S N O L X O T R K Y E I G V
F P V X Q Z Q O U R S G G E Q S G L
E N O R V T R A M W L E I N P X
Z S A R X V L A H Q E V N V T F G
Z G H L S Q T S W N R R T M Y E X S
B I X S Q R P S I G R U S W O R L
I G M K N E A N V G E A J X S M Z S
N N O E N U S K C F M K N M M E S B
P L R L A L J B I C W A P S T A C O
R T S V E T N B E P Q X E V T V W F
K C T R M I S L G I G Y X N O M A D
H K E Y A N A C H I R A F G E N E
B A S K E X L F O R R E T L O D S Q F
U N X G U M T O R E E M F J R L S X

1. Melkot,
2. Harcourt,
3. Romulans,
4. Neutral Zone,
5. Fizzbin,
6. Dr McCoy,
7. Magna Roma,
8. Catspaw,
9. Talos IV,
10. Keeler,
11. Vaal,
12. Mugato,
13. April,
14. Tribbles,
15. Pergium,
16. Scotty,
17. Nomad,
18. Ben Finney,
19. USS Intrepid,
20. McGivers.

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



TO THE STARS, by George Takei. Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

George begins his biography by telling how the handprints *really* got into the cement at the Chinese Theatre, describing the opening of the Star Trek exhibition at the Smithsonian, and recalling the Silver Anniversary con in Los Angeles. Having reminded us of the long duration of his involvement with Star Trek, he then goes back to the beginning with the story of his family's internment after Pearl Harbour. From there he takes us through his later childhood in the Mexican area of Los Angeles, and allows us a glimpse of his obviously close-knit and supportive family. His fondness and respect for his parents is particularly marked. While studying architecture he decided that he really wanted to become an actor, and we are shown something of the trials and tribulations - and successes - as he pursued his goal. There are insights into some of the other roles he has played over the years, and some very interesting details of his involvement in politics.

George shows us the Star Trek years through his eyes, and gives his version of some of the more notorious anecdotes, including the Naked Times sword story, and the 'Don't call me Tiny' scene from Search of Spock. Of especial interest are his accounts of some of the unfilmed scenes, such as Sulu's promotion, and his meeting with his ancestor in Voyage Home. He describes his meeting with Patrick Stewart on a flight to America, attributing it to the machinations of a Trek fan working for the airline, and has stories to tell of his fellow cast members. His admiration and respect for Gene are graciously acknowledged.

George has always been a welcome guest at British cons - he was at the very first - and this book will appeal both to those fans who have come to know him over the years, and to those of the 'next generation', who will learn something of the continuing history of

Star Trek from its most irrepressible representative.

Interesting, funny, thought-provoking - and highly recommended.

AUTHORISED BIOGRAPHY OF GENE RODDENBERRY - ST CREATOR by David Alexander RoC Books 1994, 600 pages, 524 Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is the most eagerly-awaited book for ST fans this year, being his official biography. It's a thick and heavy book, but highly addictive to read. The prologue is most moving, describing Gene's last fight and I still feel sad every time I read it.

The whole book was very illuminating about his life, his highs and lows. I enjoyed his early career in the Air Force and the B17 he flew, being too tall for single seater work, also his exploits as an airline pilot and his being part of an investigation team for air accidents. I knew he was a policeman (more of a street cop, I thought) but he was also a speech writer for his Chief. In between his speech writing he was developing a TV career, finally making it full time.

What I found revealing was that Gene could have had even more TV success if some of his early pilot programmes had been taken up by the networks. They could have been just as successful in the 60s and 70s. In fact, he was so ahead of his time with his writing visions, it was the executives who never saw the light. His ultimate success came in the form of ST.

The book reinforced my views that Paramount has been very fortunate to have a 'cash cow' like ST. (It was nearly sold to another studio.) Gene was frank about the ST films and again I'd agree with his thoughts on the failure of ST V.

Gene had his ups and downs in life; his overnight rewrites on ST scripts, his divorce from Eileen to his second marriage - to Majel

- proposing to her in Japan. Throughout the whole of his life he was always fighting and enjoying a fight. The book is a celebration of his life and what he has achieved and given us. It is a book for fans and non-fans alike.

Hopefully a cheaper softback version will be available in the UK soon.

I never had the fortune to meet the Great Bird of the Galaxy in real life, but he has given me the stars to aim for in my life on this planet.

REQUIEM by Michael Jan Friedman & Kevin Ryan TNG32 Pocket Books \$5.50
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Twenty five years previously, Picard had been involved in negotiations with the Gorn. Now, the Enterprise is en route to the Gorn home world to continue with these negotiations.

On the way they stop to investigate a mysterious alien artifact; a power surge sends Picard back in time to Cestus III, just two or three days before the Gorn attack that totally destroyed the Federation colony there... leaving Riker, in his own time, desperately searching for his missing Captain, and the situation with the Gorn deteriorating hourly.

This is yet another recurring theme - the very advanced alien artifact, found deserted, but which still works... if only they could understand how. To say nothing of the threat of a war which can only be averted by one man.

I have a few doubts about the basic plot here. The events on Cestus III were used as an Academy training exercise, but when the Metrons send a record of what happened to Starfleet, they ended it with Kirk's building his gun, so nobody knew what his solution was. Did Kirk himself not report what happened? I can accept 50+ years before the Gorn were willing to negotiate with the Federation, but 25 years between the start of negotiations and any sort of continuation of them? This is what seems to be implied. I'm slightly iffy about Riker and Co realising that

Picard could have been sent through time as well as space by the alien artifact. I have definite reservations about Picard's being sent to Cestus III just before the Gorn attack when he was involved in the negotiations with the Gorn. Coincidences happen, agreed, but I'm not happy about this one. Much of the reason for Picard's arrival on Cestus III seemed to be to explore whether he would adhere to the Prime Directive and not tell the colonists they were due to die.

To put it bluntly, the story didn't seem to be going anywhere in particular, with the possible exception of the segments involving Barclay and Ro.

Technically, it's well written; I would expect that of Mr Friedman, of course. But emotionally it left me completely unmoved. A maximum 6 out of 10, I think.

ANTIMATTER by Jon Vornholt DS9 No8 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

A Bajoran shipyard has built a new starship for the Federation, but the tanker bringing a supply of antimatter for it has been attacked, captured by hijackers and taken through the wormhole. Sisko, Dax and Odo follow and become involved with the hijackers as they attempt to retrieve the antimatter.

I have to admit right from the start that this is the kind of story that I don't like, where the protagonists are involved in undercover work. Looking at it objectively, however, I'd say that from the point of view of plot and development, the book does maintain the quality of previous DS9 books, though I'd have liked a bit more explanation of the culture of the Ecocids - the native race of the planet where Sisko & Co end up in the Gamma Quadrant. We were given some intriguing glimpses that were never carried through.

On the down side, there was one point brought out in *The Search* that was ignored in this book, so we have to assume that in DS9's time scale, it happened before *The Search*. I realise this is not Mr Vornholt's fault, as the book will have been in

production for some time, but because I'd just finished reading *The Search* it did pull me up short.

THE SEARCH by Diane Carey Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is the story of the opening two-part story of DS9's third season, featuring the Dominion and an attempt by the Federation to make peaceful contact with them.

Once again I'm reviewing the book before seeing the episode, so I'm not sure how much Ms Carey has added. The story is... interesting, though I have to admit to some disappointment in the way it developed. I'm not happy with the indestructible and deadly enemy (in this case the Jem'Hadar) so I can't say I thoroughly enjoyed it. In addition, I was aware of some of what I can only call gaps in the development, though the way the story finally developed does explain this.

I don't blame Ms Carey, who could only work within the parameters of the episode, but I was left feeling that I had read a book written by a not particularly experienced writer; one who had made many of the faults that an experienced writer normally knows how to avoid.

FEDERATION by Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens Pocket Books hardback
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Zefram Cochrane invented the warp drive. Because of an accident during the early development of the drive, Adrick Thorsen, an officer in the Optimum Movement (originally designed to prevent Man from making the same mistakes as he had in the past, now become probably the most restrictive fascist movement Earth has ever known) believes that Cochrane holds the secret to making a warp bomb - which he wants in order to carry on the Optimum's work. Refusing to believe that there is no such thing, he pursues Cochrane into the 24th century.

The basic plot of this book is good and interesting; however, I found the story very

difficult to follow because of the way in which it is written. It alternates chapters between Cochrane in his own time, Kirk's Enterprise and Picard's Enterprise, and contains an inordinate amount of technobabble as the writers try to explain the working of technology that does not yet exist and use all the correct scientific terminology for present-day knowledge. While a purist would argue that this is desirable, and while I do know what a phrase like 'event horizon of a singularity' means (even though I doubt I could explain it), I wished that the writers had found some simpler vocabulary for the narrative, at least; as it stands, I thought much of the narrative was wordy. I found myself skipping whole paragraphs, in at least one case nearly two pages, to get past all the technobabble. As Gene once said, in a Western you don't stop to explain what a gun does; you let the reader see what it does by showing him its effects.

Because of the alternating chapters, the writing style is disjointed; I was just beginning to get into one segment with Cochrane when another chapter-end emergency arose and we were immediately catapulted to another time segment with Kirk which, in its turn ended with an emergency and a shift of time segment to Picard... While I suppose the writers and editors had their reasons for presenting the story in this fashion, for me it would have worked better if it had gone in a straight line instead, following Cochrane until he ended up on the Companion's planet, then following Kirk until the natural end of his segment, finally moving on to Picard. Basically all it would have needed was a rearrangement of the existing chapters.

All I can call this is a good story spoiled by its presentation.

SHADOWS ON THE SUN
Reviewed by Jenny Turner

This book concerns McCoy and how he arrived on the Enterprise. He has to confront his past. The Enterprise has to go on a diplomatic mission to Alpha Gederix Four, but the colour drains from his face as he knows it as Ssana. Kirk asks him if he has

been there before; he certainly has. The people on Ssana are assassins and won't listen to anyone, so it's a dangerous mission. Then McCoy is told that his ex-wife Jocelyn and her husband Clay Treadway are the diplomats assigned. McCoy isn't happy, and that's putting it mildly. The men had vied for Jocelyn's affections when they were young and McCoy won; then he caught Clay in bed with her and just walked out and joined Starfleet. Then Kirk and Jocelyn are trapped on the planet by a group of assassins. They employ a rescue mission. Clay does not want McCoy to go, but the Doctor realises he is still in love with his ex-wife, whose marriage to Clay is not all that it should be. Once on the planet, Clay saves McCoy's life. They find Kirk and Jocelyn - and read the book and find out what happens. It's another hardback that I couldn't put down and well worth the money (although I had it bought for me).

FIRESTORM L A Graf Pocket Books 1994 £3.99. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

Rakatan has a breathable atmosphere, the largest strato-volcano in the galaxy and a group of Elasians that Starfleet doesn't think ought to be there mining for dilithium and getting stropky with the Federation's geologists who are trying conduct a survey.

Sent to sort out whether the Elasians have a genuine claim to their mining rights Kirk (and the landing party) come up against the young Dohlnan Israi (sister of the now dead Elaan) and some internal treachery among the Elasians themselves. Who has the mining rights soon becomes secondary to who will survive the double dealing....and whether anyone will survive the imminent eruption of the massive Rakatan Mons.

Good writing and excellent characterisation carry this story along so well that I'll forgive the author(s) for giving Kirk, Spock and McCoy a less than central part of the action. Uhura Sulu and Checkov play major roles here....and about time too their fans might say!

Recommended.

PROBE Margaret Wander Bonnano Pocket Books 1993 £4.50 (UK)
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

As the title indicates, this is post ST:IV. The Romulans are experiencing an unexpected *perestroika* after the death of the Praetor....and the mysterious Probe is heading for Romulan territory in response to a call for help. After destroying the Romulan outposts on the planet Wlaariivi it seems to be *en route* for Earth. The Enterprise tries to communicate with it while also keeping one step ahead of the Romulans, who have initiated peace talks but don't seem unanimously committed to liberalism yet.

There's rather more talk than action in this readable but not particularly gripping story and I could have done with fewer author generated characters and more Kirk-Spock-McCoy interplay. We get a deeper look at the Probe's origins and there's a hint that it could feature in a Next Gen novel in the future.

Another hint suggests that we might expect some more updated Classic adventures. Or maybe I'm reading too much between the lines? If it happens I hope they won't give most of the action to new characters and confine Our Heroes to desks. They may be sort of fifty-ish in the Star Trek timescale, but they're not using walking frames yet!

THE TRELLISANE CONFRONTATION

David Dworkin Titan Books 1990 £4.99
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

This is a scrappy and unsatisfactory book.

Captain Kirk, transporting some terrorists, responds to a call for help from Trellisane, under attack from the Sealons (yes, they're aquatics with webbed hands).

A lot of things happen: the Enterprise is taken over by the prisoners; Kirk and Spock are captured by Klingons; McCoy, on Trellisane, discovers some unpleasant things about his apparently civilised hosts (and would seem to be contravening the Prime

Directive by interfering); Chapel has an interesting experience with an alien; Chekov makes a conquest of sorts and the Security Section is grossly libelled in an attempt to explain why they didn't do more to prevent the terrorist take-over.

But it requires more than a pot-pourri of events to produce good Trek. There is no tension, no excitement and very little characterisation to be found in this disjointed ramble. A pity, because if some of the ideas here had been more fully developed this could have been an interesting read.

But they weren't. And it isn't.

THE LOST YEARS J M Dillard Pan Books 1989 Reviewed by Jay Stevensen.

None of this rang true for me. It's not my idea of what might have happened after the Five Year Mission ended and before the events chronicled in ST:TMP began. I can't believe the highly trained and not very old Bridge Crew would be split up. Or Kirk (in the TV series one of the youngest Starship captains in the Fleet) would accept a desk job. Or Spock react to this news by deciding to abandon his career.

I also found the story rambling and disjointed with too many characters cluttering up the action, not all of them believable. An evil old Vulcan like something out of a fifties "B" movie was pretty hard to take seriously, and so was Spock's reason for finally attempting the Kolinahr. Surely coming to terms with a willing and noble act of self sacrifice would not fill a logical Vulcan (capable of doing the same thing himself) with guilt?

According to the acknowledgements this is not the author's very own baby but the result of consultation with three other Trek writers and two editors (from Pocket Books and D C Comics). What was that about too many cooks.....?

ICE TRAP L A Graf Titan Books 1992 Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

This is straight action adventure. A

strange madness is afflicting the members of a research station on the ice-bound planet Nordstral where the planet's indigenous plankton is being harvested by a pharmaceutical company. Kirk and McCoy take a planetside trip in a submarine harvester to investigate. Uhura and Chekov go off in search of a missing research team. Spock is reduced to an occasional voice from the Enterprise.

As always in the L A Graf books the characterisation and dialogue are excellent but splitting the crew into separate stories (and virtually making Spock redundant) is never my favourite scenario. There are no really startling surprises here. It's strictly a question of will-they-won't-they survive....and we know they will. Battling monsters, madmen and natural hazards at a fairly fast pace doesn't give anyone much time for inter-character relationships or humour although McCoy features strongly, which is a bonus for his fans.

I found this the least successful of the three L A Graf classic stories I've read so far.....although it's still a great deal better than many of the pro offerings.

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY - STAR TREK SPECIAL Reviewed by Alan Stephen

What can I tell you about this magazine? Well, it costs £2.95, square bound, with oodles of colour and black and white portraits of the Star Trek crew, an especially lovely black and white of Patrick Stewart, an extract from William Shatner's book Star Trek Movie Memoirs, loads of articles on the movie and an overview of the ST mythos, plus lots of fun stuff and a photograph of what looks like my son's bedroom. Also our own Janet Quarton gets not one but two honourable mentions. What are you waiting for? Go and get your own copy!

STAR TREK ANNUAL No 5 Pub D.C Comics. Reviewed by Alan Stephen.

For those members who can't get enough of the original series, this is the comic book for you. The crew keep having memory flashbacks, set early during the first five-year

mission. The story opens with Spock having a flashback to The Corbomite Maneuver, next Bones has a flashback to Miri, Uhura has one of Charlie X. They discover that the common thread through all these episodes is Janice Rand, who has already left the Enterprise.

While on a clandestine mission Janice is captured by aliens who exist by living off other people's memories and dreams. The Enterprise races to rescue her. The story is written by Michael Jan Friedman with art done by Carlos Garzon in a lovely sketchy style which evokes the period very well.

STAR TREK DS9 4-PART MINI-SERIES,
title HEARTS AND MINDS. Writer, Mark Altman, Art Rob Davis & Terry Pallot
Reviewed by Alan Stephen

This mini-series is a perfect example of poacher turned gamekeeper. Mark Altman is the critic of ST in Cinefantastique, who gives his pithy comments in a season overview of ST:TNG and DS9. (In fact, an issue of Cinefantastique is out now with a look at the final season of ST:TNG and season two DS9, plus a peek at Generations. A highly recommended magazine.)

In this story, Sisko and crew have to prevent a Klingon/Cardassian war which has been instigated by the Romulans; also Quark has his bar taken over by a Seltari woman (Maura) who wants to use it as a base of operations for transportation of contraband. Dax and Bashir are assigned an undercover mission along with a Klingon (Koleth) to discover hard evidence that the Cardassians did not begin the attacks. The team of Altman, Davis & Pallot captures the essence of DS9 perfectly, which is either good

or bad news for you depending on whether you like or dislike DS9.

You may find it difficult to get the mini-series now, but a book collection will no doubt be published soon.

REVIEW OF ENTERPRISE 1701-D ERTL
Reviewed by Rory Smith

If you're looking for a model which is quite large, very detailed, not too pricey but looks great when it's finished, buy this one!

The model can be shown with primary and secondary hulls joined or separated. As usual, ERTL has shown a lot of detail on the hulls and a huge number of small stickers. You can choose how detailed you want to paint it - if you want it really detailed, there is info in the decal page so that you can paint just about every other tile a different colour; but the colour difference is so slight that it gives a real impression of size, so I'd recommend painting it the detailed way no matter how long it takes. The painting of the thousand-odd windows also takes some time! My only slight worry is that the ship has been moulded in the basic colour - but it is a light blue. I always thought Enterprise was a metallic white? A recommended model to all modellers who want detail - 9.5 out of 10.

To any modellers out there - am I correct in thinking you can get paint made out of some type of liquid glass that can be painted onto starship windows instead of the poor quality black and white?

Next month I hope to review the DS9 station - as long as someone buys it for Christmas!



ZINE REVIEWS

THE CRACK IN THE MIRROR by Sheila Clark. Reviewed by Jean Sloan

I remember the first time I came across a story by Sheila Clark. It was in the first zine I ever read, at my first con in 1989. After

years of being vaguely dissatisfied with the published novels I discovered this new source of story, and realised that there were people out there who could write stories in which our Enterprise friends behaved in character as I perceived them. That zine was

Log Entries 8, and to my distress, the first thing Sheila did in the story was kill off Kirk... The title of the story is Cause of Death - Unknown - I looked it up. As a matter of interest, Valerie Piacentini also has a story in that zine; and she also kills off Kirk in it... The title of that one is Legacy.

I digress. The Crack in the Mirror does not kill off Kirk; it is set in the Mirror, Mirror universe and Sheila moves events back to the time when Commander James T Kirk becomes First Officer of the ISS Enterprise. We are presented with the career the alternative Kirk might have had; his assassination of Christopher Pike, sadist and bully; his acquisition of Marlena as Captain's Woman; his installation of the Tantalus field to protect his position. This Kirk is ruthless, but not wantonly cruel, possessing his own brand of honour, and some compassion which he dare not show lest it be interpreted as weakness. I watched Mirror, Mirror after reading the zine and I think that Sheila has done a really good job of fleshing out the Mirror universe characters while keeping them true to what we see of them in the episode. The Spock/Kirk relationship is particularly well done.


The world of the Empire is ruled by the despotic and insane Noonian dynasty. Rebellion is brewing, orchestrated by Vulcan. After the Halkan incident, Kirk becomes sympathetic to the cause of reform. At the

end of the story the scene is set for the development of a new regime - in government, and on the Enterprise... in fact it demands the next instalment of the adventures of the ISS Enterprise.

The zine is 107 pages long in A5 format so it is a much fuller story than I have suggested in my summary. For instance the story covers the alternate Kirk's early life, and adventures from the 'alternate' 5-year mission which I haven't mentioned.

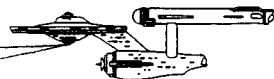
I really welcome Sheila's return to writing. I am rather hoping that Valerie might follow suit... OK, I can hint, can't I?

Postscript - To zine collectors; Log Entries 8 is well worth seeking out. In Nessie by Gerry Downes, Scotty meets a whisky-swilling Loch Ness monster. In Those Blasted Klingons by Donna Nixon Spock is crippled and Chapel aids in his recovery. In Once Upon a Time by Sue Bradley the Enterprise landing party beams down into fairyland. In The Storm by TGZC, Spock is injured and Kirk can't take time to find out how he is. In Dearly Beloved by Janet Ellicot Chekov gets married; and then there is poetry, and a monologue by the salt vampire...

And don't forget the stories mentioned above by Sheila and Valerie. 



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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.

LEGENDS - stories by Waltraud Zucha-Glass and Jennifer Cobbing. 93 pages, U.K. £4 inc P & P.

Still available: **SECOND CHANGE/A COLD BY ANY OTHER NAME** (Previously appeared in Stargate and Stargate II) 75 pages £3.50. **TROUBLES REVISITED/THE RIFT/ JUSTICE SHOULD BE SEEN TO BE DONE** (previously appeared in Stargate III and Enterprise Log Entries 61 (ScoTpress)) 95 pages, £3.75. **FREEDOM** - full length story 167 pages £5. **TOO MANY AVENUES** - full length story £5.25. **IN PERSPECTIVE** - full length story 177 pages £5.25.

For other items, ie pens, pencils, notebooks, bookmarks, etc, please send SAE for information. I have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell these zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

Merry Men Press (12/94)

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 - 40** available. **WITHIN THE MIRROR 1 - 9** - an all mirror-related K/S zine, series and movie. Full of first time stories, and on time. **BESIDE MYSELF 1 - 3** - well-illustrated K/S zines exclusively written by Robin Hood and her assorted pen names. **SCATTERED STARS 1 - 6** - an alternate universe K/S fanzine where wild imagination and first time plots collide. **PLAYFELLOWS 1 - 7** - MULTIMEDIA '/' If you know what slash is, you don't need any more words. New novel, **WHERE ANGELS FEAR** by Pandora Guy(?); **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. **FETISH** - a K/S novel by Jenny Starr. Winner of 1988 Best Novel. **PORTRAITS** - A K/S novel by Charlotte Frost. Prices for all zines are \$20.00 US, \$22.00 Canada, \$26.00 foreign. US currency only please. We are also looking for quality submissions of prose and art. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Rd, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

MULTI-SPECIES MEDICINE (10/94) 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.

Gloria Fry (12/94)

New: **SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR** - (A mirror universe crossover novel taking place immediately after the events of 'Mirror Mirror.') Federation - Concern mounts as the region of space around Halka shows signs of instability, and members of the landing party have difficulties in coming to terms with their experiences in the mirror universe. Empire - Kirk, after a purge against all who oppose him, is unable to resist an

opportunity for vengeance on his and Spock's counterparts. He embarks on actions which alter the course of the Empire and his relationship with his First Officer forever. A4 format. 124 pages. Price UK. £6.00 (incl P & P). Europe - £7 (or £5 + 5 IRC's). Sterling only. **SLAVEWORLD** - A Novel. On an alien planet where the humanoid population are subjugated by vulcanoids, Kirk is captured by slave-traders and sold to a brutal owner. Spock disguises himself as a member of the ruling class in an attempt to rescue his captain. **WARNING - ALTHOUGH THIS ZINE IS NOT EXPLICIT, IT CONTAINS ADULT THEMES. ONLY SUITABLE FOR READERS OVER 16.** 2nd printing. A4 Format. Price - U.K £5. Europe £5 + 3 IRC's. Sterling only.

Both 'zines illustrated by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless Available from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort St. GLASGOW G41 3XG SCOTLAND. I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell my zines in the U.S.

VILLAGE PRESS (10/94)

IN THE WILDERNESS 4 - Risk, danger, humour and passion! Why do the alien Susurra people demand a life, and why does Kirk grant it? Why does the arrival of the youth David and his mentor Dr. Moss raise such a storm of feeling? How does Vulcan fidelity cope when faced with Vulcan duty? Plus "There are Always Alternatives", the Ultimate in Multiple Choice; and "Not Passion's Slave", McCoy and Spock are again in the tense world of "Choice and Chance and Change" (Sequel to ITW2). High quality stories by Daniels, Stuart, Carnall, Roe and Sarne. Beautiful art by Graves, Parnes (full colour) and Ann. Price: UK £7.00, USA \$23.00, Canada £10.00, Australia £10.50, Europe £9.00. (inc overseas airmail and p&p). Please make cheques payable to Rosemary Wild (not Village Press, new bank regs.) Dollar cheques accepted.

IN THE WILDERNESS 3 is temporarily out of print.

IN THE WILDERNESS 2 - Spock falls foul of xenophobic Dr. Quailie; Lt. Spock faces Command Training; Strange desert encounters on Vulcan; Sarek loses control! A densely packed read! Quality writing by Rowes, Stuart, Daniels, Carnall and Forrest. Price as ITW4..

IN THE WILDERNESS 1 - Highly original writing from some of fandom's best talents. Stories by Resch, Daniels, Stuart, Stallings and Ferris, Gates, Rowes and others. Prices as ITW4.

THE EXTREMISTS a novel by Eva Stuart. The Klingon Peace has been signed. The Enterprise and Ahrax must prove that they can work together. Follow their crews through danger, deception, dinosaurs and the conga as they battle to keep the peace. Prices as ITW4.

All zines contain the K/S premise. For new readers; an age statement please plus a note that you understand the premise.

ITW 5 is now looking for stories. No restrictions. I'm looking for: Risk, danger, humour and passion! Very gentle ed. Please say whether you wish comments or a yes/no decision without comment.

Mrs. Rosemary Wild, 'Cwm Croesor', Stuckton, Fordingbridge, Hants.

10/94

LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE Issue 2 - a multi series zine. A4 size. Picard has a lot of trouble on his hands; Trelaine pays the Enterprise D a visit; Dr Bashir has women trouble; Kirk and his crew encounter a ghostly wreck, plus many more. UK £4.95, overseas add 2 IRCs. Available from K Heintz, 23 Birniehill Avenue, Bathgate, West Lothian, Scotland EH48 2RR.

10/94

GROPE - In the 70s and early 80s the GROPE series was probably the best known adult Trekzine in the UK and also enjoyed a strong following in the USA. The following issues are available.

GROPE FLASHBACK (reprints from GROPE & MORE GROPE) £1.50

DEEP GROPE (1977) £1.50

BEDSIDE GROPE (1981) Free for postage (75p in UK stamps)

GRAVESIDE GROPE (1983) £2.00

Also, a few copies of **SON of GROPE** (1977) £1.50, **THE GROPEs of ROTH** (1978) £2.

From: Ann Looker, 12 Russell St., Swansea W. Glamorgan SA1 4HR. (Not for under 18s. Age statement please when ordering)

Orion Press (12/94)

Many zines available. Prices given are for

Europe. New - Dinner At Ten Forward. TNG novella by Anne Davenport, \$21; Number One II, stories about Riker, \$19.50; Tantalus 7 (TNG short stories) \$19.25; The Inheritor, TNG novella by Cyndi Bayless Overstreet, \$16.75; The Shadow Keeper, TNG novella by Gail Christison \$19.50. Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Ave, Albany, Georgia 31707-2952, USA.

10/94

FREE ALNITAH - Another golden oldie and winner of "Best UK Trek Fanzine" award on several occasions in the 70s and early 80s. ALNITAH is a general Trek fiction zine with high quality printing and good illustrations. It is available for postage only (75p in UK stamps) from: Joyce Cluett, "Antilath", 40 Lordsfield Gardens, Overton, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 3EW. Availability of any particular issue cannot be guaranteed as early ALNITAHs are long out of print (NB The house name is not a misprint - just a private joke!) Send SAE to Joyce for full info on availability and prices.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (10/94)

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.

Canada: Star Trek Association of Regina, POB 36007, Regina, Sask, S4S 7HG Canada.

United Kingdom £8/6 issues. Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN.

Europe: Antje Freudenberg, Scharnebecker Weg 5, 2126 Adendorf, Germany

Australia: Shayne McCormack 49 Orchard Road, Bass Hill, NSW 2197, Australia.

Orient: Masako Noguchi, 1-9-1 1006 Chikko Minato-ku, Osaka 552, Japan.

Brenda Callagher (12/94)

AIRWAVES: a computer printed multimedia zine, over 34 issues available. Submissions wanted for future issues, no limits to length but no "/" please. Cross-overs

and/or spoofs especially welcome. PCW (3" - 180k or 3.5" 720k) users can submit their work on disk to save postage. Compatible with PC's (except Amiga) using MSDOS on 3.5" (720K) but please use ASCII for documents. PC's using 3.5" 1.44Mb drives can use 720k discs, if you don't have one to hand and wish to submit your work on disk, please drop me a line and I will supply a 720k disk. Disks will be sent back by return of post, manuscripts if requested. SAE (2 IRC's) 10 page comprehensive flyer to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

10/94

K/S Zines - various. Including Kismet I, an anthology of K/S stories. £16. Also - slash

Hooker/Corrigan stories. A Touch of Blue £7, Blue Heat £7. All prices include p/p. Make cheques payable to Mrs Barbara Grainger. SAE for lists. Mrs Babs Grainger, 268A High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1OZ.

Vampyric Press 12/94

STARGAZERS needs fiction, artwork and articles. TNG, DS9, CT and Babylon 5, but no K/S please. I'm also looking for stories about the adventures of other Starfleet crews. Please note: Stargazers is intended for readers over 18. An SAE (or an IRC) with your submission would be appreciated. Eunice Pearson, 2 New Houses, Pant, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan, Wales CF48 2AB.



CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



GENERATIONS 4th & 5th February 1995. Professional convention organised by Horizon Conventions International. Guests: Patrick Stewart, Jonathan Frakes, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Gates McFadden, Marina Sirtis and Brent Spiner, plus Rick Berman, Ronald D. Moore and Brannon Braga. **Note:** The actors may be appearing on stage only once each over the weekend and are subject to filming commitments. The event runs from 9.45am to 7.00pm each day and includes a dealers' room, charity auction and fancy dress. Tickets start from £8 for students to £30 for privileged seating per day. Tickets will be on sale at The Royal Albert Hall Ticket Shop, London SW7 2AP or call the 'Generations' Ticket Lines and reserve your ticket now on 0905 613005 or 071 838 3100. There will also be a 2hr Star Trek Writers' Workshop on the Sunday for an extra £35 per student. There are limited seats. SAE for info to Horizon Conventions International, 22 Reindeer Court, Worcester WR1 2DS.

KONMOREX KLINGON Star Trek Convention emphasising Klingons. The

Hobbit, Halifax 4-5 March 1995. Guest Klingon specialist from the USA. Also demonstrations, panels, Klingon ceremonies, good food, good music, horror waxwork tour, two video programmes. Places strictly limited so book as soon as possible. SAE for details to Something Else, P.O. Box 16, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 8YZ.

AKFT Convention Angel Hotel, Northampton 3 - 5 March 1995.

There will be no named guests at this convention. The emphasis will be on audience participation, anarchy and some risque items. Registration of £20. SAE for information to Carol Jackson, 16 Connaught Mansions, Cold Harbour Lane, Brixton, London.

THE NEUTRAL ZONE March 10 - 12 1995

Forte Crest Hotel, Newcastle.

Guests include Bjo Trimble (+ John and Kat), Richard Arnold, Ron B. Moore (specialist in the Visual effects of Trek) & Robert Llewellyn. Full Registration £35. Room rates £33.50 single, £27.50 twin/double pppn. SAE for info to The Neutral Zone, 16 Annandale, Darlington, Co. Durham DL1 3QX

TIMEWARP 2 11th & 12th March, 1995. Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co. Dublin.

Registration: Adults £30, Junior (under 16) £20, deposits £10. Guest: Majel Barrett Roddenberry. Timewarp 2, P.O. Box 4183, Dublin 16 or email: davmc@toppsi.gn.apc.org

TREKKERS WEEKEND April 1995

Sponsored by Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Events include: video rooms, debate sessions, guest talks, dealers' room, Saturday night live entertainment and disco, fancy dress, quizzes, games etc. and half-price tickets on all rides. Registration £10. Send SAE for details to Tina Lukacs and Simon Hage, Voyager Enterprises, 43 Lodore Road, South Shore, Blackpool FY4 2JL.

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.

CONUNDRUM - The fifth Scottish Star Trek Convention, 15 - 17th July 1995, Hospitality Inn, Glasgow. Guests to be announced. Registration rates until 31/12/94 - adult (15+ years) £30, child 10 - 14 £15; from 1/1/95 - 8/7/95, adult £35, child £18. Hotel rates available on request. For registration form, send to Conundrum, PO Box 1598, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

D.E.S. O'CONN - A 25th-28th August 1995. Full registration £19.98. SAE for info from Tina Lukacs and Simon Hage, Voyager Enterprises, 43 Lodore Road, South Shore, Blackpool FY4 2JL.

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.

NE'A'DRIAR VII A Two-Day Star Trek Convention. 2nd-3rd September, 1995. The Shepperton Moat House Hotel, Felix Lane, Shepperton, Middlesex. For details, please send a SAE to: Joan Foxley, 143

Northumberland Road, North Harrow, Middlesex HA2 7RB.

IRECON 5 16th & 17th September

Conference Centre at University College, Galway. Gene Roddenberry Special Con with Guests including Peter David (writer), Shelley Jarvis and Fionnula Flannagan (Data's mother, TNG Inheritance) (to be confirmed). SAE/IRC to: Mairéad King, c/o 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shanno, Co. Clare, Ireland.

CAMP KHITOMER '96 24th - 27th May 1996. Southport Pontins Holiday Camp. Camp Khitomer, 14 Norwood Avenue, Southport PR9 8D

OTHER EVENTS

NEW YEARS PARTY in Swanage, Dorset. SAE for details to Something Else, P.O. Box 16, Consett, Co. Durham DH8 8YZ.

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.

STAR TREK EXHIBITION City Arts Centre, Edinburgh. February - May 1995. Adults £3.50, children and pensioners £2, family tickets £9.

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.)

G-FORCE 95. Saturday 8th July 1995. A one day get-together for Star Trek Fans at Alton Towers. NB: This is NOT a convention. Do not come expecting guest stars or too many organised events. The main attraction is the

Alton Towers theme park plus the opportunity to meet fellow fans in a fun environment at a discount to the normal gate price. Tickets are only available in advance at £12.50 Adult, £10 Children from Shaun Brannigan, 7 Talbot Drive, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 8HG, or send an SAE for details.

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

VIENNA-CON 17th - 19th February 1995. Austrotel in 1150 Vienna, Felbergrasse 4. Guests to be announced. Activities include: videos, dealers' room, guest talks and autograph sessions, games, discussion panels, fancy dress etc. Send an SAE + IRC for details to Galactic Friendship, c/o Maria Nausch, Schmalzhofgasse 20/12, A-1060 Vienna, Austria.

CON-COURSE 4, 12th - 14th May 1995, Rieckhof Hamburg-Harburg. Guests confirmed: Rene Auberjonois, Bjo Trimble and Richard Arnold.. 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

I am 46 years old, I like ST and general science fiction and science fact, also horses, amateur operatics, walking, reading. If you would like to write contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX.

Looking for pen-pals from all around the world. Is anyone going on Cruise Trek '95? or loves going to conventions?? Then please write to me: Miss Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 8SH.

PLEASE, please, could the lady I lent a dozen or so zines to many, many months ago return them as soon as possible to Carol A Roberts, Tyn Llan, Trefdraeth, Bodorgan, Gwynedd LL62 5ES.

My name is Kristien Carmen Hearnshaw. I am 10 years old. My hobbies are reading, bike riding and playing recorder. I would like to write to anyone in the world, it doesn't matter what age they are. Kristien Hearnshaw, 2 Church Road, Wood Norton, Dereham, Norfolk NR20 5AR.

Can anyone out there help me find a fan story called Murder on the Enterprise, referred to in two poems in Log Entries 83? I am also interested in acquiring certain US zines: Galactic Discourse 1 & 2, any issues of Contact and of Nexus, originals or reprints/xeroxes acceptable, good prices for the right zines. Please write to me with SASE: Ruth Borgas, 130 High Oak Road, Ware, Herts SG12 7NY.



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 - Star Trek books and videos, (due to shortage of space). Please send SAE for price list to: Mrs D Burch, St Loye's College, Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 6EP.

FOR SALE - Massive amount of ST items from A-Z. Prices from 50p to £5, send SAE for huge list. Mark Payne, 5 Bassett Road, Coundon, Coventry CV6 1LE.

FOR SALE - Trading cards singles of the following sets, TNG Inaugural, TNG episode collection, 25th Anniversary Series 1 + 2, DS9, Masterpieces and Masterseries. I also have some complete sets as well as TNG Panini stickers. Please send SAE to: Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE - Excellent quality 6x4 close-up con photos of the following people - Patrick Stewart, Brent Spiner, LeVar Burton, Michael Dorn, Marina Sirtis, Gates McFadden, Jonathan Frakes, John de Lancie, Majel Barrett, James Doohan, William Shatner, George Takei, Siddig el Fadil, Rene Auberjonois, Colm Meaney, Mark Lenard and Nana Visitor. £1.75 each or £5.00 for 4 of any choice. 50p p&p. Donna Macey, 66 Albert Road, Worcester WR5 1EB.

FOR SALE - TNG & DS9 artwork A4 made by charcoal each £0.50 + p&p. Say which character you want (even from which TNG episode) and you got it. And if it is possible, please order at least five portraits at once. I also have special 'All Good Things' portraits. For more information or orders contact Dejan Ladika, 10 Bocka, 68330 Metlika, Slovenia.

FOR SALE - Could anyone give me a quote on a book. It's a Starlog Photo Guidebook about Spaceships, published in 1982, and in perfect condition. Also for sale, over 2MBs of

ST pictures on disc and a 20-page document on the subject of warp, etc. (PC only) For details, phone Raj on 021-515-2539.

FOR SALE - Various Star Trek items e.g postcard book, old posters & calendars, plus assorted issues, Starburst, Starlog, Future (all from no.1 onwards). SAE for list and details to Miss P. Kay, 59 Peel Street, Lincoln LN5 8AB.

FOR SALE - STAR TREK CLIP ART Original series, Next Generation and Deep Space 9. 16 colour 640x480 resolution in pcx format. 32 pictures on Disk 1 £5 inc. 20 pictures on Disk 2 £3 inc. write to Mike Pulham, 8 Knightstone Grange, Hythe, Southampton SO45 5LR

WANTED - First 4 episodes of Babylon 5 on video, and does anyone have "TKO"? Please contact Ruth King, 3 Red Lion Yard, Wareside, Nr. Ware, Herts SG12 7RJ.

WANTED - a word processing program to run on a Commodore 64 with Basic 2.0 to borrow or buy from you. I cannot run programs with Basic versions higher than 2.0! Brenda Allan, PO Box 935, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H9, Canada.

WANTED - Can anyone lend me the last 2 episodes of Babylon 5 on standard play video? Leslie Moyes, 22 Carleton Crescent, Woodside, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5AN. Tel: 0592 757000.

WANTED - anything on Picard/Patrick Stewart. Please send list to: Mrs J Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ.

WANTED - Two zines, T'Za'du (K/S) and The Bloodstone. I will pay any reasonable price or will swap the following zines - First Time Novella, Candlelight and Flames, Within Reach, Alexander. Contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX or phone 021-443-2995 after 6 pm, please.

WANTED - ST:TNG 20th Century Computers and How They Worked; ST:TNG episode Relics (even just on loan); any pics of

the Enterprise (movies only); has anyone got, or knows where to get, the manual for Visual Basics Version 2 for Windows, reasonably cheaply? Phone Raj on 021-515-2539.



CLUBS & GROUPS



WANTED - A 'bought' copy of Dune on video. If anyone has one they wish to sell, please contact Linda Court, tel: 01647 52376.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE UK, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA. £14.99 for 4 magazines.

Anyone wishing to E-mail the Official STAR TREK Fan Club of the UK with letters for possible publication or more info on the magazine, please mail to: tim@tgaskill.demon.co.uk

SHUTTLECRAFT BOOKSHOP - Second hand books, Media SF a speciality. For mail order write to Lesley Arrowsmith, The Darren, Llanigon, Nr. Hay-on-Wye, Brycheiniog HR3 5QD. Or visit us at The Victorian Bookshop, Beckfold, Hay-on-Wye.

MISC

FIRST CONTACT - if you are planning a convention and want to avoid it conflicting with other planned events contact Convention Diarist, Anne Page, 55 Weston Way, Baldock, Herts SG7 6EZ. For a copy of the Convention Diary write to First Contact, PO Box 45, Oldham, Lancashire OL9 0QH. Enclose an 8"x6" SAE with all correspondence.

Would you like Star Trek penfriends in Australia? Write to Anita J Faunt, 28 Margaret Street, Fennell Bay 2283, Newcastle, N.S.W. Australia.

STAR TREK FOR TREKKERS Saturdays 5pm - 11pm. No door charge. Large screen viewing and quiz. **PAGES BAR** London's Star Trek Bar, 75 Page Street, London SW1P 4LT (near Horseferry Road Courts). Information line 071 630 0911.

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.

QUARK'S BAR is a year old, so if you would like to know more details then please write to Miss Maria Woodward, 'Ashcroft', East Street, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 8SH.

THE ARGERIAL KONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADERS. Ever wanted to defect from the Empire or the Federation, well now's your chance. Bring your ship and join AKFT. See your profits soar, increase your capacity for alcohol and meet the best wenches in the Galaxy. Membership is free but if you want to receive the quarterly newsletter you should send £3 for 4 issues. Contact Pat Lennon (alias K'Rotch The Kinky Klingon, Lord High Pervert of Argerial) 22 Charlieville Road, West Kensington, London W14.

KHEMOREX KLINZHAI A new Klingon organization formed by loyal Klingons to represent the Empire on Terra. All loyal warriors are commanded to communicate with this organization and if not on assignment join forces with them to gain honour and glory in battle. They also have a cultural exchange programme with all races to further knowledge and understanding of our great and, proud Race. All communications are to be directed to them at their Terran Base as follows: Lee H. Close,

101 Barton Terrace, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9LL.

ATTENTION ALL WOULD-BE ROMULANS! The Romulan Star Empire is an association of fans who are interested in the Romulan Empire created by Gene Roddenberry for Star Trek, and its aim is to bring together individuals who hold a common interest.

You can be Civilian or Military, serve in the Imperial Fleet, the Intelligence Command, the Praetorian Guard, or on a Colonial post, or even join the Tal Shi'ar.

As the Provincial Commander for Western Europe, with a possibility of expansion to Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Africa, I would welcome any interested people writing to me in the first instance. I will answer any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lesley E. Hatch, 74 Pitfields Road, Brandhall Estate, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 0RQ.

*** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ***

I.A.A.P.S., Patrick Stewart's official fan club, will cease as from the end of its 1994 year (around Spring 1995). When IAAPS folds, its former UK directors, Pat Mitchell and Margaret Rainey, will launch a new, independent club, tentatively called 'The Patrick Stewart Appreciation Society'. This new club hopes to accept new members from march 1995 onwards. Anyone interested in joining the new club should send an enquiry plus an SAE to Pat Mitchell, 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU any time after January 1995. It is unlikely that IAAPS will accept any new members after the New Year.

JONATHON FRAKES APPRECIATION SOCIETY - Bimonthly newsletter, magazine articles, photos, conventions reports, video performances, personal encounters, stage performances, T-shirts and much more. For submission and membership details please send SASE or IRC to Anna C Bowling, Cat Toy Publications, PO Box 632, Enfield, CT 06083-0632, USA.

ENVY is a fan club for Kira/Nana Visitor/DS9/Bajorans, not necessarily in that order.

ENVY isn't acronym for anything; it just stands for the sound of Nana Visitor's initials. The club was formed in July 1993; the first issue of our monthly newsletter "Invidius" was published in August 1993. As of this writing there are over 100 of us, from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. The newsletter is the point of contact for both the members and Nana, who reads it closely and values our opinions), but we also meet up at conventions and have a really good time together.

Membership Fee: \$8 if you're from the U.S., \$10 if you're from Canada, and \$13 if you're from anywhere else, for an initial three month membership period. Initial membership entitles you to four issues of "Invidius." The newsletter contains episode reviews and info, opinions on just about every aspect of DS9 but focusing primarily on Kira and Bajor, info on Nana Visitor's non-Trek work, fan fiction, photos, artwork, ads for conventions, fanzines, and other DS9 clubs, a large member bulletin board, member news, and other fine things (whew!). Send the money (U.S. funds) to me at ENVY, c/o Kimberley Junius, 2116 W. Garfield Blvd., Chicago, IL 60609 and I will promptly send you the current issue of Invidius.

RENE AUBERJONIS sanctioned fan club is just being started by Lisa Wilcox at ORACLE 26-04 B El Camino Real, #377 Carlsbad, CA 92008. U.S.A.

OASIS - Official Armin Shimerman Information Service. Join the fans of the talented actor Armin Shimerman in his only sanctioned fan club. Share your news, views, ideas and points of view on Armin, DS9, Beauty and the Beast, or other related topics. Membership includes: autographed photo of Armin, four quarterly newsletters, last minute news, exclusive interviews and information. Dues: US/Canada \$20, UK £12, others \$25.00. When joining or renewing, please send check or money order (U. S. Funds only) made payable to KATHY BAYNE to: OASIS c/o Kathy Bayne, 26 Dogwood Street, Jersey City, NJ 07305-4842. USA. All UK applications (UK pounds only) write to: Wendy Thorley, 53 Valley View Road Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 2EA England.

Please allow 4-8 weeks for membership

packages to arrive. Please retain a copy of your canceled check or money order receipt for your records.

TERRY FARRELL - Check out the Terry Farrell Internet Fan Club on the Web at the following URL:

<http://trill.pc.cc.cmu.edu:80/~jkoga/tf.html>

If you'd like to join the club send an e-mail with your full name and e-mail address to the following:

jkoga@128.111.96.143

And if that doesn't work (but it should):

ukoga@mcl.ucsb.edu

There is now a mailing list for discussion of things Vulcan: IDIC, philosophy, planetary conditions, history, speculation, whatever. The mailing list has only recently started, as of June 1994. There is a gateway that echoes the list to the newsgroup alt.fan.surak at many sites.

To join the mailing list, send a one line message of

subscribe vulcan-l

to listserv@netcom.com. The mail header will be used to determine the mail address of the subscription. If you want to subscribe using a different email address, then send the one line message as

subscribe vulcan-l your-email-address

Note that this form will require manual intervention. If there are any problems getting subscribed, send email to deltal@netcom.com.

X-FILES. Are you a fan of "Spooky" Fox Mulder and Special Agent Dana Scully? Do you want to find what "The truth is out there" is all about? Then join the X-Files. Receive a bi-monthly news-sheet with all the latest hot news about this new cult American TV series. Write with an SAE to Mike Mullen, 19 Manor Avenue, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BY or e-mail: mike@mikemul.demon.co.uk.

BABYLON 5 UK Fan Club 4 newsletters per year plus a special annual. Dues £12.50. SAE for info to: Babylon 5 UK Fan Club, Questong Beast Ltd., P.O. Box 1147, London W3 7ZT.

LOCAL GROUPS

Most of these groups have monthly meetings. Please enclose an SAE when writing to them for details.

Anyone interested in joining/helping to form a new national UK sci-fi club primarily for gay and bisexual fans, their friends and families. Also included will be K/S writers and fans, as well as any clubs who wish to pledge support. For details/exchange of ideas contact 73 Brown Cres, Thornton, Fife KY1 4AB.

I am looking for IDIC members (any age/ any race, Klingons welcome) living in the Edinburgh area who are going to the ST:Generations convention in London, and who would also be interested in getting together to talk Trek every so often. I enjoy watching and reading from all the ST series, but I prefer TNG and am gradually getting used to DS9. If you are interested write to me; I will reply to all letters sent. Maria Nolan (age 18) 12 Caledonian Place, Edinburgh, Scotland EH11 2AS.

Aberdeen - Starbase Apollo Captain Scott McMillan, c/o Starbase Apollo, 73 Thistle Drive, Portlethan.

Ayr Trek - Regular meetings every 2 months in the Elms Court Hotel, Ayr. Latest episodes and dealers' room. Contact Ayr Trek, 75 Caledonia Road, Saltcoats KA21 5AN. for further details. Forthcoming meeting; 4th Dec

Ashford - Energize Weekly meetings. Tel. Dave & Tina Styles on 0233 642687 any time.

Bournemouth - USS Excalibur, Anne Lindup, Holtwood, Nr. Wimbourne, Dorset BH21 7DT. Monthly meetings.

Brighton - The Outer Zone: Ms. Sue Parker, The Outer Zone, 42 Victoria Street, BRIGHTON, East Sussex, BN1 3FQ.

Bury St Edmunds - Dreamweavers (Doctor Who, Star Trek and other cult Sci-fi). Ursula Clarke, 10 Bunbury Road, Bury St. Edmunds, IP32 6HT.

Coventry - Something Else Group Phone Tel (0752) 666591
Maggy Tel: 0203 503113

East Scotland - The Bridge Crew, Wester Auchinricoch Farm, Banton, Near Kilsyth G65 0QZ.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Next meetings 4th December, 5th February, Hospitality Inn.

Hull Starfleet 7 Lynwood Grove, Goddard Avenue, Hull HU5 2BE, or phone Karen on 0482 875 208.

Ipswich Starfleet Chris Wileman, 15 Parkeston Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 8NF.

Leeds Starfleet: Mike Mullen, 19 Manor Avenue, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BY or ring (0532) 742977.

Liverpool - FEK'LIR of Liverpool ST club - regular meetings every 1st Sunday of each month at Rigby's, Dale St, Liverpool, 1pm - 6pm. Forthcoming date, 4th Dec. Episodes, videos, quizzes etc.

London Star Trek Group Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

Manchester Starfleet PO Box 35, Levenshulme, Manchester M19 3GZ.

Merseyside - U.S.S. Discovery. Sharon Rowe, 93 Juddfield Street, Haydock, St Helens, Merseyside WA11 0BD.

Merseyside - Sentinel One SF/ST club. Sheri, 17 Bridge Street, Earlstown, N - LE - W. WA12 9BE.

North Wales Local Group. Martin Hodgkins, 69 Fairways, Llandudno, Gwynedd.

Nottingham - Prime Directive Michael Butcher, 501 Beechdale Road, Aspley, Nottingham NG8 3LF.

Plymouth - Drake Science Fiction & Fantasy Association. Tony Durks, 125 Grenville Road, St Judes, Plymouth PL4 9QA.

West Midlands - Space Central Lee Owers Sansome, 15 Foxglove, Amington, Tamworth, Staffs B77 4HY.

☆☆☆☆

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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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Helen White, 61 Hill Street, Reading, Berks RG1 2NT

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.

Cartoons by Stephen Day, Julie Evans, Keefy, Michael Sadler,

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