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Newsletter 39

"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 Ozer, 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.

Well Star Trek has certainly been in the fore since the beginning of the year - for a while it seemed almost impossible to open a paper without seeing a mention of Star Trek, and there have also been lots of interviews on TV in connection with the Generations film, the Star Trek Exhibition in Edinburgh and the convention at the Albert Hall.

Many thanks for all the comments you have sent in on all of the above events plus general ones for the postbag. Unfortunately as we can't afford to put out a 200 page newsletter we have had to do some savage cutting - and even with this we are having to hold comments on Voyager and general articles over to the next newsletter. Please accept our apologies for this.

The next newsletter will be sent out rather earlier than usual, on May 24th. This is because we are having two weeks holiday after Sol III with Jackie Comben in Rhossili on the Gower peninsular. It is a beautiful place with sandy beaches, cliffs and caves and we are looking forward to the break.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is May 3rd.

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 (address on back page). Send news, cuttings, adverts and anything else to Janet.

Our thanks to Lesley Arrowsmith, Raj Badhan, Jean Barron, Kathryn Boag, Annette

Bohm, Dorothy Bradley, Rosemary Chivers, Jackie Comben, Toni Cumming, Stephen Daniels, Karen Davies, Barbara Ellams, Catherine Flavin, Damian Griffiths, Katrina Heintz, Valerie Herd (Trexports), Nanaki Kaur, Fiona McDonald, Stephen McCall, Stewart J McMillan, Nigel Nixon, Harminder Pal, Gloria Rigg, Jean Sloan, Alan Stephen, Jenny Turner, Marion van der Voort, Joan Verba, Linda Ware, Linda Watt, Jacqueline Wells, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

We've had one bit of sad news recently - Toby, the German Shepherd who sired 'our' guide dogs Aero, Jade and Sadie, died on Saturday 21st January. He was found dead (of natural causes) in his kennel. (For new members, Aero, Jade and Sadie were bred by a member of IDIC. She donated Jade to the GDA, who then bought the other two and another one which went to England and was successfully trained as well. We were lucky enough to have the money to sponsor a dog when first Aero, then Sadie, were ready to start their training. Normally, to get the temperament needed, the GDA breeds their own dogs, but they liked the breeding line of these ones.)

I've been asked if we could print a photo of Darcy. We'll do that automatically once he qualifies and we get a photo of him in 'uniform'. The latest news about him is that he's gone to continue his training at the unit in Belfast and will probably be partnered with someone in Northern Ireland.

Sheila recently took 21 kilos of stamps to Forfar - two binbags full - and the collecting box, which held £27.70 from the autumn - we delayed taking it to Forfar in the hope of getting some more in it at the Glasgow meetings, but Sheila hasn't been managing to get to these.

RAFFLE

The winners of last newsletter's raffle are Dave Styles - The Lost Years; June Cain - Dark Mirror; Clare Finkel - IDIC membership.

Our thanks to those who bought raffle tickets. Unfortunately we have decided to suspend the raffle for a while because it isn't really financially viable. There are only about 30 of you who take part, bringing in less than £50. We may try it again later on if we get some 'interesting' prizes to offer.

We are still collecting Star Trek merchandise to sell for the Guide Dog Fund at conventions. Donations will be gratefully received. You can send these to Sheila, or we'll accept them at the sales tables at SOL III & Conundrum.

USED STAMPS

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

We would like to thank Frances Abernethy, Brenda Adams, Ahmet Ali, Lesley Arrowsmith, Elizabeth Barrie, Jean Barron, Jacqueline Beswick, Sandra Blackwell, Jennifer Blanchard, Annette Bohm, Joyce Bowen, Ralf Breiden, Julie Burton, Helen Cakebread, Alan Callaby, Catherine Carter, Hallie Chase, Phill Coleman, Denise Colucci, Linda Court & her mum, Charlotte Davis, Miss E.D. Davies, Matthew Deegan, Veronica Duthie, Barbara Ellams, J Evans, Magie Ferguson, Clare Finkel, Anne-Marie Flowers, Ian Forrester, Antje Freudenberg, Merta Galtarossa, Vered Gilad, Damian Griffiths, Jo Healy, Katrina Heintz, Martin Helsdon, Linda Hepden & Stage 8, Valerie Herd (Trexports), Catherine Hill, Rosita Hill, Glynn Holland, Irena Hradecka, Amanda Ings, Anne Jordan, Nanaki Kaur, Carol Kean, Jane Kincaid & Walton Citizens Advice Bureau, Vivien Little, Barbara Lucas, Nancy Mackay, Jean MacLean, Gill Marsden, Ingo Meinerzhagen, Kerry McGuire, Anne McKay, Stewart J McMillan, Rodney Milton, R Morris, Melvyn Morrish, Nigel Nixon, Maureen Norton, Suzanne Perry, Kayta Phillips, Ronald Reid, Gloria Rigg, Jim Robertson, Patricia Robinson, Dave Rogers, Michael Sadler, Neil Safi, Carla Salveta, Baerbel Schmidt, Corinna Seller, Martin Stahl, P&J Von der Fecht and the crew of

U.S.S. St Trinians, Alexis Stokes, Jenny Turner, Moira Warburton, Linda Ware, Warin Wendt, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible

please trim them, leaving ¼" of envelope around the stamp.

We plan to post the next newsletter out around May 24th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 19/3/95



OBITUARY

We were sorry to hear from Michelle 'Cuddles' Drayton of the sudden death of Joyce Slater.

Joyce and her husband Ken were probably better known to SF fans than to ST ones; they sold SF books and magazines by mail order and also had tables at conventions, mostly mainstream SF ones, where they have also been fan guests of honour.

Joyce had to leave Albacon 94 early because of illness; her health has not been good since then and after a short stay in hospital, she died suddenly, at home, on February 27th.

Both she and Ken were well-loved in fandom and she will be very much missed. We extend our condolences to Ken and to her family.



LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



STAR TREK
THE NEXT GENERATION

TV & SATELLITE

- Sky One started showing DS9 in their twice daily repeat slot, starting on Monday 13th March. Sky One will be showing DS9 at 5pm and at 10pm daily. The first episode will be "The Emissary, Part I".

Sky One will continue to show season 2/3 first-run DS9 episodes in the Sunday slots (3pm and 9pm). This will mean that Sky One will be showing DS9 on no less than 12 occasions each week!

- According to Broadcast 7th season TNG continues to appear in the Satellite top ten but not DS9. On BBC2 TNG still fails to make the top ten.

- Voyager - It is rumoured that SKY have the rights and will broadcast the pilot sometime in October

- The following two Star Trek documentaries were shown on Sky One. Journey's End was about the making of the TNG finale All Good Things and was hosted by Jonathan Frakes. Captain's Log was a look back at the original series and movies and it was hosted by William Shatner.

Journey's End
Captain's Log

9/3/95
10/3/95

BBC - Star Trek screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
204	Silicon Avatar	11/1/95
205	Disaster	18/1/95
206	The Game	25/1/95
207	Unification I	1/2/95
208	Unification II	8/2/95
209	A Matter of Time	15/2/95
210	New Ground	22/2/95
211	Hero Worship	1/3/95
212	Violations	8/3/95
213	The Masterpiece Society	15/3/95
214	Conundrum	22/3/95



• 'Generations' opened strongly in Germany and England. It grossed \$10 million dollars its opening week (on 728 screens), which made it the number one film of the week as well. In its second week "Generations" added another \$13.8 million to the coffers. And in its third week, "Generations" sat as the number three film – grossing \$3.6 million (837 screens) for a grand total of \$19.9 million in three weeks overseas. (Variety)

In the United States as of March 12th, "Generations" had grossed just over \$75 million.

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

• Avery Brooks goes behind the camera to direct "Improbable Cause, Part I," a DS9 episode scheduled to air in April.

• Tim Russ, who portrays the Vulcan tactical/security officer, Tuvok on Voyager, will make a guest appearance on an upcoming episode DS9.

For the first time, a Voyager character crosses-over – against all odds - to Deep Space Nine from a far end of the galaxy.

The episode is entitled "Through The Looking Glass" and it is scheduled to air the week of April 17. In this episode, Commander Sisko returns to the parallel universe that Dr. Bashir and Kira visited last season when they met their mirror counterparts. In this universe, Sisko must assume the role of the Mirror Sisko in an attempt to save his wife, the Mirror Jennifer (Felicia Bell). Sisko takes command of the rebel forces, whose soldiers include Dr. Bashir, Lieutenant Dax, O'Brien, Rom and Tuvok.

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine.
Season 3 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title
04/2/95	460 Heart Of Stone
11/2/95	461 Destiny
2/18/95	462 Prophet Motive
2/25/95	463 Visionary
9/4/95	464 Distant Voices
16/4/95	465 Through The Looking Glass
23/4/95	466 Improbable Cause
30/4/95	467 The Die Cast
7/5/95	Explorers
14/5/95	Family Business
21/5/95	Shakaar

EPISODE SPOILERS

460 Heart of Stone - Directed by Alexander Singer; Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Guest stars - Max Grodenchik as Rom & Aron Eisenberg as Nog. Kira is trapped... doomed to die... And to save her... must Odo admit that he loves her?

461 Destiny - Directed by Les Landau; Written by: David S Cohen & Martin A. Winer. Guest stars include Tracy Scoggins as Gilora, Wendy Robie as Ulani, Erick Avari as Vedek Yarka, and Jessica Hendra as Dejar. Sisko ignores an ancient Bajoran prophecy of doom in order to undertake a joint scientific venture with the Cardassians.

462 Profit Motive - Directed by Rene

Auberjonois; Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Guest stars - Max Grodhe'nchik as Rom, Juliana Donalds Emi, Tiny Ronas as Maihar'du, and Wallace Shawn as Zek. When the Ferengi leader suddenly decides to abolish his race's greedy ways, Quark is determined to find out the truth behind his actions.

463 Visionary - Directed by Reza Badiyi; Teleplay by John Shirley; Story by Ethan H. Calk. Guest stars - Jack Shearer, Annette Helde. An accident causes O'Brien to inadvertently jump into the near future, where he witnesses his own death... and worse.

Distant Voices - Bashir awakens in an underground cavern filled with terrifying people and curious sights. An alien is trying to kill him. We'll get to see him age to over 100. It turns out that he was in a coma all along and the entire episode takes place in his sub-conscious.

Through the Looking Glass - The crew return to the Mirror-Mirror Universe that we saw in DS9 "Crossover". The M-M Sisko is killed and his crew kidnaps our Sisko and takes him to their universe to save his wife (the Mirror-Jennifer; you KNEW they'd find a way to bring her back, just like Denise Crosby). Sisko takes command of the rebel forces, whose soldiers include Bashir, Lieutenant Dax, Miles O'Brien, Rom and Tuvok. Guest stars include Tim Russ as Tuvok and Felicia Bell as Jennifer Sisko.

Improbable Cause/The Die Cast - Parts I & II of an Garek episode.

Explorers: Sisko and Jake episode.

Family Business: Rom and Quark visit the Ferengi home world.

Shakaar: An episode dealing with Bajoran politics

STAR TREK: VOYAGER

• "An equality of sexes in space" The Beacon Journal 15/1/95. An article about Paramount's launch of Voyager. The launch

was attended by Sally K Ride, America's first women in space.

Ride was a fan of the original series; she was interested in math and science and space, so her interest in Star Trek and the space program probably had the seed.

Ride became an even bigger Star Trek fan with the premiere of TNG.

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry was also at the launch. Majel was cast as the first officer in the first pilot for Star Trek but the network balked at a woman playing even second in command. When asked how she felt about Mulgrew playing Capt. Janeway - "Triumphant!" she shouted. "When I think it took only 30 years for Gene's vision to come true; I dread to think how long it will take for the next advancement. Perhaps we've wised up a little bit."

- Robert Duncan McNeill played Cadet First Class Nicholas Locarno in the 5th season TNG episode, The First Duty. On being asked why his Voyager character was named Tom Paris not Nicholas Locarno he said,

"I think the producers wanted a similar character but with different problems, a different family history. Also Locarno came off as too much of a bad guy and maybe they thought he couldn't be redeemed.

"Paris is different. He's an excellent pilot, basically a good guy from a long line of Starfleet officers who really couldn't handle the pressure put on him to be the next in line."

Following an accident for which he wasn't at fault, Paris was booted from Starfleet. He joined the Maquis, not because he believed in their cause but because he couldn't resist the thrill of flying their ship.

On his first Maquis mission Paris was captured by Starfleet and imprisoned until Captain Janeway chose him to pilot Voyager. (High Trek Chicago Tribune 3/2/95)

- Voyager Special - The one hour special Inside Star trek: Voyager was scheduled to run in the States March 18th/19th.

- Voyager Cast Excluded from Merchandise Profits. SAG(Screen Actor's Guild, the union all TV and Movie actors belong to) had a required paragraph in every actor's contract with a studio. This paragraph guaranteed

the actor to receive 2.5% of 50% of all net proceeds from the sale of character-related merchandise. Well, when the Voyager cast went to sign their 7-year contracts, they found this paragraph had been unilaterally deleted from the contract by Paramount.

Star Trek: Voyager.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Title
16/1/95	721 Caretaker (2 Hour Opener)
23/1/95	103 Parallax
30/1/95	104 Time and Again
06/2/95	105 Phage
13/2/95	106 The Cloud
20/2/95	107 Eye of the Needle
27/2/95	108 Ex Post Facto
13/3/95	109 Emanations
20/3/95	110 Prime Factors
10/4/95	111 State of Flux
24/4/95	112 Heros & Demons
1/5/95	113 Cathexis
8/5/95	114 Faces
15/5/95	115 Jetrel

Spoilers

103 Parallax - Directed by Kim Friedman; Teleplay by Brannon Braga; Story by Jim Trombetta. Guest Stars Martha Hackett as Seska, Josh Clark as Carey. The Starship Voyager encounters a quantum singularity and what appears to be another ship in jeopardy. In their attempts to rescue the vessel, the crew comes to realize that it is they who are trapped, and the race begins to free themselves before the ship is destroyed.

104 Time and Again - Directed by Les Landau; Teleplay by David Kemper and Michael Piller; Story by David Kemper. Guest Stars - Nicolas Surovy as Makull, Joel Polis as Teria, Brady Bluhm as Latika. The Starship Voyager experiences a shock wave in space, a wave set off by a huge explosion on a nearby planet. When they beam down to investigate, they discover all life has been eradicated. In addition, they discover

subspace fractures which ultimately transport Captain Janeway and Lt. Paris back in time to right before the explosion. They must discover a way to avert the catastrophe to save their lives.

105 Phage - Directed by Winrich Kolbein; Teleplay by Skye Dent and Brannon Braga; Story by Timothy DeHaas. Guest Stars - Cully Fredricksen as Alien #1, Stephen B. Rappaport as Alien #2; Martha Hackett as Seska. In their continuing for a source of dilithium crystals that could be used to supplement the Voyager's power core, the crew of the Starship come upon a planet that seems replete with the substance. Upon closer examination, they find that the place is really a base for a strange alien culture that must steal bodily organs to fight the "phage," a disease that eats away at their bodies and destroys their organs. Neelix falls prey to them, and the race is on to save his life.

106 The Cloud - Directed by David Livingston; Story by Brannon Braga; Written by Michael Piller. Guest Stars Larry Hankin as Gaunt Gary, Angela Dohrmann as Ricky, Judy Geeson as Sandrine, Luigi Amodeo as The Gigolo. While investigating what they believe to be a nebula in search of fuel, the crew of Voyager discovers that they have in fact entered and injured a new life form, which they must help heal as they try to escape.

107 Eye of the Needle - Directed by Rick Kolbe; Story by Hilary Bader; Teleplay by Jeri Taylor. Guest Stars - Michael Cumpsty as Lord Burleigh, Carolyn Seymour as Mrs. Templeton, Vaughn as Telek, Tom Virtue as Baxter. The Voyager crew becomes hopeful when they encounter a small wormhole through which they communicate with a cargo vessel on the other side...in the Alpha Quadrant.

108 Ex Post Facto - Directed by Levar Burton; Story by Evan Carlos Somers; Teleplay by Evan Carlos Somers & Michael Piller. Upon visiting a world in the midst of a war with a neighbouring planet, Lt. Tom Paris finds himself accused of a murder he didn't commit. His sentence - to relive the crime from the victim's point-of-view every hours

for the rest of his life. It is up to Tuvok to prove his innocence by using the Vulcan mind-meld before this sentence destroys his sanity.

109 Emanations - Directed by David Livingston; Teleplay by Brannon Braga. While exploring an uncharted planet, the crew stumbles upon the burial ground of the alien race Uhnori. During an investigation of the bodies, Harry Kim is caught up in a subspace vacuole and is transported to the alien culture's homeworld. His presence there causes many to doubt their traditional belief in the afterlife, and Kim soon realizes that the only way he can return home is the same way he came... through the Uhnori's death stations. Kim places his life in the hands of fate, trusting that the crew of the Voyager will be able to revive him upon his return.

110 Prime Factors - Directed by Les Landau; Story by David R. George III & Eric Stillwell and Michael Perricone & Greg Elliot; Teleplay by Michael Perricone & Greg Elliot and Jeri Taylor. The crew of Voyager encounters alien beings known as the Sikarians - a race renowned for their incredible hospitality. When it becomes known that the Sikarians have the technology to "fold" space and travel more than 40,000 lights years in an instant, the Voyager crew think they've found their way home. But the hospitality of the Sikarians is not all it seems on the surface, and both races' code of ethics is put to the test. The teleplay was written by two freelance writers, Michael Perricone & Greg Elliott, and the story was written by David R. George III and Eric A. Stillwell. (Eric's previous Trek writing credit was for the TNG story "Yesterday's Enterprise"). "Prime Factors" marks his first professional sale with writing partner David R. George III.

111 State of Flux - A traitor on Voyager betrays the crew's technology to the Kazons.

112 Heroes and Legends: While foraging for food, the Voyager Crew encounters the characters in the Old English epic "Beowulf". This is the episode that had scenes show on E! around the beginning of March where we

see some crew members fighting with warriors in period armour. Later in the special, shooting in apparently the same location, Neelix and Chakotay shown with dialogue digging up some bad-tasting roots for food.

113 Cathexis - Alien possession of the entire crew.

114 Faces - B'Elena is divided into two separate entities: a Human B'Elenna and Klingon B'Elena.

Jetrel - A scientist who invented a bomb that ruined Neelix's home world visits the Voyager.

Learning Curve - A Lower Decks/Disaster type story involving Tuvok and a Maquis Officer

Eloquin - Kes goes through puberty. She worries why she has not had a child yet.

MISC

- "The Science of Star Trek" On 18/1/95 PBS broadcasted an episode in their series The New Explorers called "The Science of Star Trek". The show looks at how science is portrayed in Star Trek and how much of that science is coming true and continues to inspire current scientific research. It includes interview segments with Leonard Nimoy, Avery Brooks and Colm Meany.

- Star Trek Theme Park Planned For Las Vegas Martin Peers. 23/01/95

LAS VEGAS (Variety) - Viacom is expected to announce a joint venture with the Las Vegas Hilton to build a "Star Trek" theme park.

Viacom and the Las Vegas Hilton have scheduled a press conference Tuesday morning at the Hilton, saying only that it is to announce a joint venture between the hotel and Viacom's Paramount Parks division.

Real estate sources said the joint venture is a "Star Trek" theme park, apparently to be built on a vacant lot adjacent to the Hilton.

The park would be the latest in a series of family-oriented theme parks built at Las Vegas in recent years, including MGM

Grand's Adventures theme park and Circus' Grand Slam Canyon.

As well as giving Viacom the opportunity to exploit the growth of Las Vegas as a tourist attraction, it will help the Hollywood studio build on the value of the "Star Trek" franchise.

The latest use of the franchise was to successfully launch Viacom's United Paramount TV network. UPN launched Jan. 16 with the high-rated "Star Trek: Voyager."

Merrill Lynch VP Jessica Reif said Monday, "It's natural for them to want to extend the 'Star Trek' franchise."

Viacom has signalled in recent weeks that it is not in a big-spending mode, a point repeated by company CEO Frank Biondi Monday.

Biondi noted, however, that Viacom was focusing on internal growth, which could include theme parks. The Hilton also is likely to bear a significant part of the cost of the project. (Reuter/Variety)

- Starting on 30/1/95 The Sun had a week of Star Trek articles. They also had tokens for a behind-the-scenes Generations video. The only catch was that you had to collect eight tokens from the Sun and the News of the World then take them to a Woolworths before they ran out of videos.

- The Bank of Scotland is bringing out a Star Trek credit card. Elsewhere Pobjoy Mint is preparing coins with a Star Trek theme. Sources confirm that the mint is working on a limited edition of gold coins that will feature Kirk and Picard.

- To tie-in with the Trek Exhibition at the City Art Centre, the Museum of Childhood on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh is putting on an exhibition called First Steps Into Space

It runs from 24th February - 7th May, 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday and admission is free.

The exhibition looks at some of the first steps into space, be they factual or fictional, taken by children throughout the years. The fiction includes toys, books and other items from programmes ranging from Dan Dare to Star Trek. Some posters, pictures and an original prop Phaser Two were donated to the museum by Herman Zimmerman and

they will remain on display after both exhibitions are over.

The majority of the fiction items came from my collection and that of Bill Lindsay. (info Jeremy Briggs)

- Mary Henderson, curator of the Smithsonian Air and Space museum, is currently writing a book "Star Trek: American Odyssey" that will examine in more detail how 1960s social/culture issues were interweaved into TOS stories. It is scheduled for publication in late 1996.

- Malta Festival - we have received word that this event has been cancelled/postponed. Apparently Paramount had to pull the plug on the event because the two hotels that were to be used at the festival had Libyan connections which, on the advice of the US Treasury Dept., is illegal for US nationals to set foot on. Hence the guests were all advised against attending, thus forcing the cancellation. The organisers are trying to find another suitable venue, probably in a different country.

- According to an article in the Colchester Evening Gazette, an Essex company, Hothouse Models and Effects, has won a contract with Paramount to turn out dozens of giant-size models of the Enterprise for shops, conventions and Star Trek fans.

The models are exact reproductions of 1701-D. The finished models are 6.5ft long, 5ft across and 1.5ft deep, internally lit and boast dozens of tiny windows and external features. Price £1,499 for the finished model, which includes packaging, hang wires and UK delivery. Or you can buy a kit for £799.

Models have already gone to Page's Bar and Forbidden Planet in London.

- Monogram, not AMT has acquired the rights to ST: Voyager models. (info Scale models International Feb '95)

- TV Guide's first-ever Star Trek stand-alone beams down to newsstands.

The 128-page special edition, which arrives at US newsstands on Tuesday, March 14, celebrates Star Trek's status as a global pop culture icon with exclusive articles, photos, and artwork. Gracing the cover are

the four series' leads - Kate Mulgrew, Patrick Stewart, Avery Brooks, and William Shatner.

This special magazine is destined to be a collector's item. In addition to a unique pull-out poster of the Voyager cast, "Star Trek Four Generations" presents readers with a rare opportunity to beam into Voyager through an exclusive sweepstake offered in the issue. The winner will receive a four day/three night round-trip for two to Hollywood and a walk-on role in the newest Star Trek series.

The special issue features essays by esteemed science-fiction writer and futurist Arthur C. Clarke, author Harlan Ellison, and pop-culture pundit Camille Paglia. In his tribute to Trek creator Gene Roddenberry, Arthur C. Clarke reveals *his* role in saving Trek from the black hole of cancelled TV series. Harlan Ellison, on the other hand, takes Roddenberry to task over the controversial changes he made to Ellison's script for "The City on the Edge of Forever", which is generally agreed to be the best episode of the original series. Camille Paglia, meanwhile, confesses her love for Data, the android from The Next Generation, a character she found simply irresistible.

The issue also features: a look at how women have fared on Trek from the "intergalactic go-go girls" of the first series to

a female captain on Voyager; an examination of cosmic culture using paper-dolls to illustrate how Star Trek style has always reflected today's take on tomorrow; and a review of the medical miracles on the series from the prescient to the implausible.

The issue will remain on newsstands for 60 days, and TV GUIDE is projecting a rate base of 400,000.

• Coinciding with the Star Trek Exhibition, Edinburgh International Science Festival on association with BT is staging a series of talks on the futuristic science and technology that feature in Star Trek.

The talks are at the City Arts Centre 6pm - 7pm.

3rd April - Surfing with the Enterprise (Star Trek on the Internet).

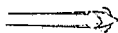
4th April - Designing Star Ships

5th April - Beaming Up

6th April - The Ferni Paradox (Is interstellar travel possible and if so, why aren't *they* here yet?)

7th April - Can You Cross Humans With Vulcans?

[Sources of information include rec.arts.startrek.current/infofandom, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]



6 O' CLOCK NEWS

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 COMMUNICATOR** 101 Feb/March 1995. Articles in this issue include: Voyager and TNG Movie Update; Interviews with John de Lancie, Armin Shimerman and Tim Russ, Malcolm McDowell, Nichelle Nichols;

articles on the Universal Translator; director Rick Kolby, Kirk's Passing; the episode Attached; artist David Archer plus regular columns.

• **STARLOG** 211 February 1995. Includes an article on ST Voyager.

• **STARLOG** 212 March 1995. Includes articles on: Voyager's Captain Janeway, Captain Picard and Captain Kirk.

• **STARLOG** 213 April 1995. Includes

articles on Voyager's Tom Paris - Robert Duncan; The Man Who Killed Kirk - Malcolm McDowell.

- **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE Vol.10** (Starlog). Contains articles on: Rene Auberjonois and Mark Gehred (writer), plus episode reports on The Search Pts. I & II, The House of Quark, Equilibrium, Second Skin, The Abandoned.

- **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE Vol.11** (Starlog). Contains articles on: Mark Shepherd (Morn), Doug Drexler (scenic artist), plus episode reports on Civil Defense, Meridian, Defiant, Fascination, Past Tense I & II.

- **STAR TREK VOYAGER No. 1** April 1995 (Starlog) Magazine dedicated to Voyager similar to its sister publications on TNG and DS9. Interviews with Rick Berman, Rick Kolbe the director of the pilot Caretaker and Richard James on designing Voyager. Also the synopsis of Caretaker plus oodles of colour photographs.

- **TV ZONE 63** January 1995. Includes an interview with Naren Shankar who was science advisor on TNG for 3 years.

- **TV ZONE 64** March 1995. Includes articles on Star Trek Voyager; the Albert Hall Convention and DS9 Season 3 first half credits.

- **TV ZONE 65** April 1995. Includes an interview with Rick Berman and Pt 2 of the interview with writer Naren Shankar.

- **TV ZONE SPECIAL #16 - Next Generation Special** Includes overviews of each season plus articles on Marina Sirtis, Jennifer Hettrick (Vash), Robert O'Reilly (Gowron) and David Gerrold.

• **ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS**

Issue 81 - Article on the Hazards of Technology plus episode guides to Force of Nature and Inheritance.

Issue 82 - Article on the The Cloaking Device plus episode guides to Parallels and The Pegasus.

Issue 83 - Article on the dilemma of making

the right choice plus episode guides to Homeward and Sub Rosa.

Issue 84 - Article on the ranks and promotion plus episode guides to Lower Decks and Thine Own Self.

- **STARBURST 197** Jan 1995. Includes an article on the Two Captains in Generations and an article on ST Voyager.

- **STARBURST 198** February 1995. Includes an interview with Walter Koenig on Generations.

- **STARBURST 199** March 1995. Includes an interview with William Shatner.

- **STARBURST Special #22 - Yearbook.** Includes articles on DS9 Season 2; TNG Season 7 and David Carson on directing Generations.

- **STARBURST Special #23A - Star Trek Generations.** Full of articles on the film.

- **STAR TREK GENERATIONS Official Movie Magazine Titan.** Includes interviews with the cast.

- **STAR TREK Monthly No. 1 Titan.** Includes news plus articles on Generations, a Rough Guide to the 24th Century, ST Voyager, The Star Trek Exhibition, a 24 page, TNG/DS9 Comic Strip, Patrick Stewart.

Many thanks to everyone who has sent in articles over the last two months. Recently it has seemed that you can't pick up a paper without finding something about Star Trek in it. The main topics have been ST Generations, the Generations Convention, Star Trek Voyager and the Star Trek Exhibition. There are so many articles that I am just selecting a few which I think you may find of interest.

- **TV Guide (US) Jan 14-20** had a large article on ST Voyager and the cast.

- **Entertainment Weekly No 258** Jan 20 1995 Cover feature on Star Trek Voyager, long article on the show and lots of coloured photographs.

On this occasion only the first six people to

send me an SAE will receive a copy. (Alan Stephen, 45 Collieston Road, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB22 8WP)

- The Scotsman 28/1/95 had three full page spreads on: Patrick Stewart; a course at Manchester Community College in Manchester, Connecticut, called The Cultural Importance of Star Trek; Jonathan Hall meeting members of the group, Klingons Unite.
- Scotland on Sunday 29/1/95 had a lovely colour picture of the cleaners cleaning the bridge of the Enterprise at the Edinburgh Exhibition.
- Omni February 1995. Star Trek: Launching Voyager.
- Edinburgh News 6/2/95 had an article about a seriously ill schoolboy, James Scott (12), who had a VIP tour of the Star Trek Exhibition. He returned to the Exhibition on the Saturday and met Marina Sirtis. James had to have a third operation on a tumour.
- "The Enterprise Culture" Sunday Times 12/2/95 2 page article covering fandom, the Edinburgh Exhibition, Page's Bar, Generations Convention and the film. William Shatner is interviewed and says that he has developed his appearances at conventions into a one-man show.
- "Educating Albert" The Independent Magazine 25/2/95. In this article about the Albert Hall, the Generations Convention gets a mention and member Martin Stahl and Klingon Andy Wilson are quoted. Apparently Patrick Deuchar the chief executive, hoped to get money from the lottery to renovate the building. He commented, "We must let people eat, drink and have a pee. We don't do any of that properly, yet."
- "Our Trek to the Top" News of the World Sunday Magazine 12/2/95. This article features William Shatner and Patrick Stewart and looks back at the difficult times they had in their lives. Patrick grew up with disciplinarian father who he feared. William's Shatner's life hit a low after the original Star Trek series was cancelled; he was broke, divorced and separated from his children.
- The Star Ship Enterprise The Sun 24/2/95 Wacky barber Chris Jordan has turned his saloon into a mecca for Star Trek fans. There are Star Trek pictures on the walls, annuals to read, and he offers a choice of space-age cuts. The Federation features Kirk's tapered sideburns and the Spock Back and Sides comes with a fringe.
- Fine Scale Modeler Feb 1995 had an article about filling models with foam.
- Empire March 1995 had articles about William Shatner, Patrick Stewart and Page's Bar.
- "Klingon Expert's Enterprise" Wrexham Evening Leader. Article about Alex Green who has started a 10-lesson correspondence course in Klingon. The course costs £5.95.
- "What the hell is all the fuss about?" Empire (Movie Magazine) Rather negative article on Generations/Bill Shatner, plus articles on Patrick Stewart and Page's Bar with some small coloured photos of fans dressed up. Several are mentioned, including Dave Styles.
- What next? In the Herald 2/3/95 there was a full page advert for second-hand cars with a picture of Kirk, Spock and McCoy - The Great Superior Used Car Trekathon Boldly Goes Where No Car Dealer Has Gone Before!
- The Klingons, including John & Grace Bonella and Andy Wilson, have been fairly prominent on TV and in the papers recently, mainly to publicise the Edinburgh ST Exhibition and in connection with the Generations Convention. Many other fans, including Romulan Kimberley Bonella, Vulcans and Starfleet representatives have also appeared in the press and on TV.
- FOCUS March 1995 - The March Focus carries a 9-page dossier on Star Trek. There are two pages on its origins, two on the technology of the Enterprise, two pages on fandom, particularly (of course) the way-out

elements, and two on Generations with a mention of Voyager. All are nicely illustrated with colour photos. And the ninth page? An ad for the Franklin Mint 3-D chess set...

- The Guardian 1/12/2004 - The Today Listings include TREKSEARCH Ch 942 - The autosearch-gopher channel which globally seeks out all Star Trek related programming, and relays it direct to your home. As well as showing The Original Series, TNG, and ST Voyager, it lists such

programmes as:

Wake Up and Meld with Kirstie Alley (Fitness Channel US)

Star Trek Animals - "Wolf v. Wolf" (Pets, Pets, Pets)

I'm Not a Doctor, But I Play One On TV. Interactive chat show. Gates McFadden and De Forest Kelley answer your medical queries.

Film - What is this Earth Emotion You Call Love? (Mills and Boon)



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• BOOK UPDATE

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

Books are published by Simon & Schuster and are paperback unless indicated otherwise.

- Apr DS9 10: Valhalla by Nathan Archer £4.99
 TNG All Good Things... £4.50.
 TNG Young Adult 7: Secret of the Lizardman by Michael Jan Friedman £2.99
 ST Blindfold by L A Graf audio £7.99
 ST Logs 1-3 by Alan Dean Foster (Animations) £4.50
 Creating the Next Generation £9.99
 ST Adventure 11: Vulcan by Kathleen Sky Titan £4.50
- May The TNG Companion by Larry Nemecek £12.99
 TNG 36: The Romulan Stratagem by Robert Greenberger. £4.50.
 Voyager 2: The Escape by Peter David £4.50
 ST Shadows on the Sun Audio £7.99
 ST Logs 4-6 by Alan Dean Foster (Animations) £4.50
- June ST 74: STVI Sequel by DM Finn £4.50
 DS9 11: Devil in the Sky by Cox & Bentacourt £4.50

DS9 Young Adult 5: The Arcade by Diana Gallagher. £2.99

TNG Relics audio £7.99

ST Ashes of Eden by William Shatner £9.99/audio £7.99

ST Logs 7-10 by Alan Dean Foster (Animations) £4.50

ST Adventure 12: World Without End by J Haldeman Titan £4.50

The Law of Trek by Paul Joseph Boxtree £9.99

DS9 Hearts and Minds Boxtree £7.99.

• VIDEO UPDATE

CIC - The "TNG Movie" Release will be the full AGT, not the edited two-part version (info Terry Shuttleworth)

Preliminary release dates and prices from CIC/Paramount Video

March:

DS9 Vol 3.4 - Civil Defence/Meridian
 TNG Movie 6 - Chain of Command

April:

DS9 Vol 3.5 - Defiant/Fascination
 DS9 Vol 3.6 - Past Tense (Pts 1 & 2)
 TNG Movie 8 - Descent

May:

TNG Movie 9 - Gambit
 DS9 Vol 3.7 - Life Support/Heart of Stone
 DS9 Vol 3.8 - Destiny/Prophet Motive

June

DS9 Vol 3.9 - Visionary/tba

Voyager 1 - Caretaker

July:

DS9 3.10

DS9 3.11

Voy 2 - Parallax/ Time and Again

Voy 3 - Phage/The Cloud

• "Star Trek: A Captain's Log", the CBS special that aired in November, should be out in the U.S. before summer.

• "William Shatner's Star Trek Memories" is a direct to video release. It is being made by the same company that made "Captain's Log". It will include clips from the original series, longer interviews with all of the original cast, and an interview with D.C. Fontana. This should be out in the U.S. by summer as well.

• Rules of Acquisition DS9

A ninety-six page paperback compiled by Quark with the assistance of Ira Steven Behr discussing the Ferengi Rules of Acquisition.

• William Shatner's upcoming Trek novel "The Ashes of Eden" will be released this

May. The adventure takes place six months before the launch of the Enterprise 1701-B. Captain Kirk faces the prospect of retirement and a life devoid of challenge and excitement. But in the apparent twilight of his career, Kirk's life takes an unexpected turn when a mysterious young woman offers him an irresistible adventure, a perilous voyage and the ultimate temptation. The restructuring of the Klingon Empire has created the means for dangerous military technology to fall into the wrong hands. When Kirk comes under suspicion of turning against the Federation Starfleet sends the Starship Excelsior commanded by Captain Sulu and aided by Spock, McCoy, and the rest of the Kirk's old crew to stop him...dead or alive.

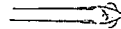
This novel will also be translated into comic book form by DC Comics, as well as an audio version by Shatner himself.

• AMT will release the following models in May:

Deep Space Nine Fibre Optic Station Model

Generations Enterprise NCC-1701B

Klingon Bird of Prey--When finished the model measures over 10" long and 14-1/2 in width.



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

• LeVar Burton is quoted in TV Guide (March 4-10, p 5) as not being happy with Congress' plan to cut funds for public television. He calls it a "no brainer". Burton was quoted because of his 12 year long association with Reading Rainbow.

• Denise Crosby guest stars in an episode of "Sisters". NBC.

• Terry Farrell is engaged to be married to Josh Drode, an entertainment lawyer who used to do some legal work for her. The

wedding is set for late June

- Whoopi Goldberg left her mark on February 2nd, when her imprint of her hands, feet, and braids was placed in the forecourt of Mann's Chinese theater.

- Max Grodenchik - According to the Inside Trek Column, Max Grodenchik (Rom) recently completed the horror film "Rumplestiltskin", tentatively slated to open in the spring, as the title character. He also finished another DS9 episode, which calls for a Rom who's "tough, hotheaded and bloodthirsty for revenge" and will be seen in the big budget epic "Apollo 13," opening this summer. Apollo 13 stars Tom Hanks and is directed by Ron Howard. Grodenchik plays a ground controller.

- Walter Koenig - An episode of Babylon 5 titled "A Race Through Dark Places" will feature Walter Koenig in a reprise appearance as a Psi Corps "cop". Koenig's character will ask the B5 character Talia to help stem the tide of telepaths who are not registered with the Psi Corps.

- Gates McFadden was in the pilot episode of UPN's show "Marker". She played the main character's sister in Hawaii, a person who is competent but perhaps a slightly evil/ruthless business person.

- Kate Mulgrew - Kate Mulgrew was at the White House in March, where she met First Lady Hillary Clinton, VP Gore and was recognized for her "role in increasing awareness of women in science and mathematics." From there, Mulgrew attended a Women in Science and Technology meeting at the Kennedy Center. (Variety)

Various papers have reported that Kate Mulgrew, who plays Capt. Janeway on Voyager is having an affair with series director Rick Kolbe.

- Leonard Nimoy - Capitalizing on the successful launch of Tekno-Comix's Leonard Nimoy's Primortals comic book title, the Company stated that the first three toy products to be developed by TeknoToys will

be action figures based on characters featured in Leonard Nimoy's Primortals. These characters include: Primaster, the mysterious, powerful alien leader of the aliens; Prisar, the horned, fearless captain of the Primortal's ship; and Zeerus, the evil winged renegade. TeknoToys anticipates the launch of these first action figure products to be in time for the 1995 holiday season.

Leonard Nimoy has been commuting between L.A. and the SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) Institute in San Jose - where he has been studying the firm's giant radio telescope and listening for signals that might be generated by civilizations on other planets.

Nimoy is so into the subject that he's travelling to Australia in November, when the SETI radio telescopes are transported there to examine the sky from the Southern Hemisphere.

- William Shatner was a guest at the Creation Convention in his home town Montreal on 19th February. During his talk he explained, in French, that he used to speak French with his neighbourhood friends in NDG.

He was thrilled to be back in his hometown, the last time being when he buried his father, and spoke about his childhood and that the city changed so much he has a hard time finding his way around.

He was born in Monkland and raised in Marcil between Terrebonne and Monkland. He went to Westhill highschool (I could have this wrong) where he played football. He was the second quarterback on his highschool football team and rarely got to play.

Horses? Well, Marcil Street where he lived apparently was the edge of town and he worked at stables that were near by, shoveling manure. He worked in exchange for free horseback riding, where he learned riding and the love of horses.

He did not graduate from McGill in winter but in the fall because he had to retake a math course. His course work was just about passing mark but he did take part in school plays and the like.

His first stint as an actor was with a theatre company up on "Beaver Lake" (that's on Mont-Royal at the back of the McGill

campus). There were no parts left but since he had a commerce degree he could handle the money and the tickets. He "lost money, tickets" and the whole thing was a mess but he did get a chance to do some acting.

Shatner forgot to grow his sideburns before "Generations". So on the first day of filming the makeup artist cut a moustache in half, trimmed it and Shatner wore two half moustaches during the entire filming.

(Info Patrice Scattolin)

In the Philadelphia Inquirer dated 20/2/95, William Shatner was reported to have recently taken control of a new Toronto-based animation firm called CORE Digital Pictures. CORE deals with the use of computer software to create special effects for films and TV programs.

• **Brent Spiner** does a guest spot on NBC's "Mad About You" as an agent who signs Paul and Jamie's dog for commercials. "The agent wants to start Murray off slow," Spiner says. "He's thinking maybe a few days on a soap before hitting it big prime time."

Spiner, who used to spend an hour every morning having gold makeup applied, says that "it's been very refreshing" to act as a human.

Mercury News, 15 December 1994.

• **Patrick Stewart** joins 'Richard III'

By Anita M. Busch. 7/2/95

HOLLYWOOD (Variety) - Patrick Stewart, has joined the cast of the feature film "Richard III" in the role of Clarence, while Marisa Tomei has entered into negotiations for the part of Lady Anne, sources confirmed. The picture is being directed by Richard Loncraine.

Adapted by Ian McKellen (who stars as Richard III) and Richard Eyre from their legit staging, "Richard III" was first brought to the screen by Laurence Olivier in 1955. Stewart will play Clarence. Stephen Bayly and Lisa Pare are producing.

"Richard III" will go before cameras in May or June.

Patrick Stewart received a nomination for Best Actor in a Drama Series by the Screen Writers Guild Awards, but unfortunately Dennis Franz won the award.

Patrick and Whoopi will be two of the narrators on "Liberation," a documentary about the liberation of Auschwitz. (Variety)

Saturday 18th March saw the start of "MGM: When The Lion Roared" on BBC2 at 9pm - Patrick hosting/narrating, of course. It's fairly corny in dialogue, but a good fashion parade of outfits! - Margaret Rainey

Earl Grey's tea appreciate the space trip.

The Sixth Earl Grey, a member of the House of Lords and heir to the original Earl Grey, former British Prime Minister, has, as a reward for Picard's faithful advertisement for Earl Grey, sent Patrick Stewart, who plays Picard, a special commemorative tea service.

The 22-karat-gold-embellished tea service, one of only 500 made, and with an estimated value of \$495, was designed by the Countess Grey, and presented to Stewart as he entered Manhattan's Richard Rodgers Theater where he was performing his one-man rendition of "A Christmas Carol." Along with the tea service was a note from the Earl Grey which said, "I have been interested to observe the character you have so successfully portrayed in "Star Trek: The Next Generation" has a penchant for the beverage that bears my family name. As you have now become one of the most famous Earl Grey tea-drinkers in the world, I would like to take this opportunity to present to you a "Heritage" Limited Edition Earl Grey tea set to commemorate its introduction into the U.S."

San Jose Mercury News 25 December 1994

Patrick Stewart narrates the educational CD-ROM, "Next Stop: Mars?" available now from IVI Publishing.

[Sources of information include rec.arts.startrek.current/infofandom, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]





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'.

You might find it useful to use the following smile symbols occasionally to indicate that your comment is not to be taken too seriously.

- :-) Basic smile
- ;-) Winky smile
- :(Frowning smile

• Ann Neilson - Glasgow

To the editors - I think it would be a good idea if you operated a 'humour alert' along the same lines as the 'spoiler alert'. From reading some responses to letters which have appeared it seems that some people out there are deficient in the humour department, and need ample warning to switch on their humour button could read at their own risk or skip completely the relevant section and remain unoffended and able to enjoy the rest of the newsletter without their blood pressure hitting the roof. [Ed - This was sent

in with a smiling face attached. Actually, we have been thinking about something like this anyway - in print, you don't hear tone of voice and it can be easy to misunderstand something meant lightly as being serious.]

• Transmission from the desk of TYomin - Vulcan Embassy

Greeting, peace and long life. May I state I was somewhat disconcerted to encounter a CV belonging to a member of Kan-u-Madi (N/L 38, P 60) publicised in your periodical. As you must be well aware, Vulcans are a private people. The embarrassment to him and his family was sufficient to require the attention of a Healer. The relationship between the son of a high clan member and a Federation officer was also discussed (P62). I can only suggest strict privacy laws are introduced in your part of the Galaxy.

Thanks for a great N/L (38) - the best for some time. It was a nice change not to be turning pages to find any reference to Classic Trek. It seems at last the silent Original Trekkers are beginning to find a voice and speak up for the series that started it all. I am so pleased that someone has seen the need for a 'Classic only' con, where we can get away from the idea that new is always better. As McCoy once said - "If it ain't bust - don't fix it!" (or words to that effect.) Pity no-one listened to him.

To Pam Baddeley (P 30) - I was there when the comments were made about Vulcans being 'done', etc - what about Klingons? Actually, he was right in a way - Vulcans have been done; done to death! But I knew when that comment was made by Arnold that the knives were out for Classic Trek. However, looking back over so-called 'experts' comments at cons, few are ever correct when you reread them in a year or two's time. As many of the cast often say, if you want to know about Trek, ask the fans.

• Sarah Rooke - Flat 3, 20 St David's Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants, PO5 1QN
First, hale and welcome again!

To Robbie Taylor and anyone else interested - do feel free to write to me and I'll try to expand further on anything that I can answer. There are some things one can't write about in a N/L - for one thing it would bore everyone else.

To Maggie Symon - I'm intrigued and fascinated by Vulcan Priestesses and mysticism as well (for obvious reasons). Those crystal head-dresses - wow! I'll have to get a couple of bits of quartz from my collection of crystals and make them up as one, won't I? I'm also intrigued by the Bajoran religion as well.

To Jean Perrin - Yes, why does everyone mock poor old Wesley? After all, he's only saved the ship loads of times and to little thanks from the crew.

To Dave Styles - Morris dancing is a remnant of an old Celtic fertility rite, though I must admit it looks and sounds pretty ridiculous to the rest of us uninitiated in it - that goes for me, too!

My favourite episodes - CT - The Trouble With Tribbles, Miri, Mirror Mirror, Plato's Stepchildren & I Mudd. TNG - Data's Day, The Host, The Best of Both Worlds & Manage a Troi. I haven't seen many DS9 so I can't really comment, but I like the characters of Kira, Quark and O'Brien. From TNG, well, obviously I like Riker (quelle surprise) followed by Troi and Data. From CT it would have to be Kirk, Spock and McCoy (of course).

I love the cartoon of McCoy swallowing the fly in the the last N/L, and the one of Lore in N/L 37 - very funny. Keep up the good work! The one of the Galactica and Voyager also had me in stitches. I must also congratulate Sandra Hunger & Gabi Stiene on the excellent portrait of Riker (N/L 38) and well done to Baerbel Schmidt for translating it.

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Sarah Rooke - Re Clearasil - I have to say I had a good chuckle at Steve Wilson's suggestion. I've been saying for ages that alien races all have such wrinkles that they'd never be able to wash their faces properly!

To Nigel Nixon - OK, I'll accept that medical staff could spend a term, perhaps two, at Starfleet Academy learning some basics, but it might be more realistic for them to be given a course in those basics once they were assigned to a ship with the senior officers doing the instructing. There's a precedent in aired Trek - Chekov at the beginning of The Trouble With Tribbles.

To Jean Perrin - Objectively, I can see the sense in the Captain's not being allowed to beam down to an unknown planet, at least *with the first landing party*. Picture a possible scenario; the Captain and the Science Officer (whose job it is) who just happens to be second in command as well beam down to an area reported deserted, maybe even taking the third in command and the heads of a couple of other departments on the ship too, and five minutes later the landing party is wiped out by a herd of stampeding triceratops that is being chased by a pack of tyrannosaurs, and the ship is left with nobody ranked higher than 4th in command to get her home and also minus several department heads. It makes tactical sense for an exploratory party headed by the science officer to report back before the Captain risks himself. Once promoted to that position, his responsibility is to the ship, and if as a result the junior officers get to do 'the best bits', tough! It's the price he has to pay for his rank. (Mind you, I'm arguing double standards here; I *liked* the landing parties composed of Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Scotty, Chekov/Sulu or Uhura!)

• Vivien Little - Beattock, Dumfriesshire

To Andrew Merritt - Whereabouts in Carlisle is Imagination Station? I've heard about it, but being just the other side of the border it is more difficult to find out where anywhere is in Carlisle!

To Jenny Turner - Not only do a large number of Americans watch the Late Show

with David Letterman, but a growing number of Brits do. When Patrick Stewart was on the film had been released for over a month and A Christmas Carol was the big thing at the time of the show. As to Dave Letterman being demented - who cares if he is?

To Raymond Spencer - My favourite episodes are - TOS 1) For the World is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky; 2) Journey to Babel; 3) The Devil in the Dark: TNG 1) Cause and Effect; 2) Redemption (both parts); 3) The Inner Light DS9 1) Whispers; 2) Duet; 3) Captive Pursuit.

I read in the official Generations magazine that Brent Spiner was thinking about giving up acting and running for Congress. Does anyone have any thoughts?

• Ruth Borgars - Ware, Herts

To Gratiennne Vandekerkhove - I agree it's difficult to recommend particular zines but some authors are consistently good - I'd buy anything by Claire Gabriel (for Spock fans), Sheila Clark (not crawling, ed, honest!), Meg Wright or Sue Embury on name alone. The best way to get a taster is indeed to borrow and then see which authors and editors you like.

To Elizabeth Barrie - Persevere with DS9; I didn't understand Emissary either but the series went on up from there. Note I rate it with the original series for characterisation and variety.

To Jay Stevensen, a person of obvious taste and intelligence - romance ain't what we're after, is it now? Re Pon Farr - it may be an inconvenience but it's necessary - no cute little pointed-eared babies else! Also I'm sure the 'official' Vulcan view would be: better an infrequent episode one can ignore the rest of the time than the continual illogical shenanigans the human race makes of it.

To Jean Perrin - Why do people dislike Wesley Crusher? Because he's a smug brat whose only function is to save the ship in improbably miraculous ways (originally conceived, I gather, as the Great Bird's very own Mary Sue) - eg The Game, etc, etc.

To Pam Baddeley - Vulcanophiles are still out here - superior abilities and logical argument are their own advertisement and no 'trumpet blowing' is necessary.

• Emma Garland - Stonehouse, Glos

Re Star Trek: All Good Things special edition video - where on earth can I get it? I have hunted high and low in every video shop for a 40-mile radius - and I can't find it *anywhere*!! One shop assistant was extremely helpful by saying, "We haven't got it, we've never had it and we're never going to get it" when my friend saw it in that very shop (Woolworth's, Gloucester) less than 5 days before!

To Robbie Taylor - Favourite recurring characters - I can only think of 2 offhand, both from DS9, and they have to be Gul Dukat - he's so evil he becomes enchanting - and Garak, another brilliant Cardassian.

To Raymond Spencer - favourite episodes? Difficult one, that - most of them are my favourites! TNG 1) Parallels (I was completely baffled at first; I only understood it about the 3rd time I saw it!); 2) Chain of Command (Brilliant!); 3) Timescape; 4) Schisms. Oh, yeah - and Power Play!: DS9 1) The Wire (Gives a brilliant insight into Cardassian life and Garak's past); 2) The Maquis 1 & 2 (actually makes Gul Dukat seem quite Human!); 3) Rules of Acquisition (I love Quark!). As for the original series - I haven't seen them all yet, but so far I'd have to say 1) Operation Annihilate; 2) Tomorrow is Yesterday; 3) Trouble with Tribbles. (Does anyone know where I can buy a tribble or buy a pattern for a tribble?)

To Catherine Hill - I watched Generations on Feb 7th in my local cinema, so why did you mention the 17th? Is it different all over the country? [Ed - *The opening was originally announced as the 17th, then it was shifted to the 10th; some cinemas had a special preview on the 5th, and the London premiere was on the 3rd.*]

• Maureen Norton - Canvey Island, Essex

To Jay Stevensen - Is your bit of Essex anywhere near mine?

To Tim Gaskill - I can definitely tell the difference in the magazine since the changeover; much better! The thing that annoys me, though, is after paying to be a member, this same magazine is available to buy in the shops!

Just who is the grey-haired guy in the red shirt who wanders the corridors on Enterprise-D? I thought he could be the ship's purser - I've often noticed him with a briefcase (probably delivering poker chips to Riker's cabin) or could he be the lost property officer? They need someone when the odd saddle or bat'leth goes missing. I think he looks a little too old to be an ensign or lieutenant, but of course Starfleet Academy could accept mature students!

Could Ensign Janeway (Man of the People) be related to Captain Janeway?

Another thought - who does the hoovering? The ship appears to be covered in carpet - I can just imagine something like Red Dwarf's scutters roaming about during night watch, or even exocomps in aprons. And what about laundry? Is everything cleaned, or recycled then replicated? I can just imagine the launderette, deep in the bowels of the ship, where various crew members could sit and watch their uniforms and civvies tumbling away, whilst thumbing through the latest edition of "How to Win at Parrises Squares" or "Stellar Cartography Weekly".

Finally, I was watching a documentary on the Discovery channel the other night, and lo and behold, there was a vulcanologist by the name of Dr McCoy. The very next morning here was a contestant on You Bet Your Life who was a Dr Bashir (all true!). I wonder where Dr Crusher and Pulaski will turn up?

• Annette Bohm - Langenberg, Germany

Somebody told me the producers are going to kill Vedek Bareil off. I hope it is nothing but a rumour - does anyone know more about this?

To Sheila Clark - I haven't had the chance to see too much of DS9 yet, but I would expect the Cardassians to be allied to the UFP when Voyager gets home. I don't believe they

will become members, though.

To anyone - When I was in Canada, I picked up some old Classic Trek books, and one of them had an advert for the Official Star Trek Cooking Manual in it. Does anybody know if and where I could get that?
[Sheila - Long out of print as far as we know. I haven't seen it around secondhand, either.]

To Mark Cooksey - I agree that a revival of Jim Kirk would be the worst thing to do. This way he dies fighting for the right thing, and isn't that the best possible ending for a character like him?

To Paul Taylor - Guess what, you're not the only one being laughed at in school... Why is it a fan of some other TV series (actor or whatever) is 'normal' but a Trekkie isn't? Well, I feel *really* normal but I've heard stuff like that often enough.

Who could give me some information about Jonathan del Arco?

• Adam North - Norwich

To Sally Woods - Sorry I haven't got in touch, but you did not give your address! You should find mine in the Small Ads section in a previous newsletter.

Re Voyager - There's a lot of mixed feeling about this new show, but I'm looking forward to it. OK, it might not exactly follow Gene's Vision, but it will still go exploring strange new worlds, just on its way home. I don't think we should judge it until we see it.

Babylon 5 - Is IDIC now a Trek/B5 club? Please talk bout B5 somewhere else and leave space for our beloved Trek!

Re All Good Things - Trek at its best! One thing bothers me - warp 13? I thought they couldn't travel faster than warp 9.9. Somebody explain!

Finally, did anybody see GMTV on 3rd Feb? Why can't presenters do a bit of research before something they don't know much about comes on? How come they didn't know anything about TNG? Well done Marina for putting up with them!

• Pat Mitchell - Halifax

To Rachel Carradice - Yes, Patrick Stewart was born in Mirfield, on Camm Lane. You may have noticed, if you have bought any of his Christmas Carol merchandise, that it's from "Camm Lane Productions". He returns to Mirfield from time to time so you never know, you may bump into him one of these days.

While I'm writing, can I mention the subject of SAEs and begin with a plea, one that is probably echoed by anyone who runs a fan club. If you write to a club or an individual and want a reply, please always enclose an SAE. Most clubs are run on tight budgets and the extra postage involved where SAEs are not included can be a considerable drain on club funds.

Also, when sending an SAE in response to, say, an advert, always include a short note to say why you are ending it. I have received 3 SAEs this last few months with no covering note, just an SAE in an envelope. As I sell zines for both ST and The Professionals and also run a fan club, it's virtually impossible to guess why an SAE has been sent. I therefore have to use that SAE to write back and ask what they wanted, which is a waste of their SAE.

• Carole Taylor - Rawenstall, Lancs

To Jean Perrin - Re secondhand books, I think our wires have become crossed somewhere! Actually I am in much the same situation as you! I moaned in the last but one N/L that book prices are too high, which prompted people to suggest I buy them second-hand, but I live in a very small town and have to travel to the next town and buy them new. I have yet to set eyes on a secondhand ST book in Rawenstall!

To Neil J Barrett - Thank you for your excellent article Books Bounce Back. Being a fairly new fan I have been reading books for a couple of years now, and although like you say the inconsistencies are very irritating I wouldn't stop reading them. And you're right - I had no idea that the Star Trek Adventure series is re-issues. The ones we read through I've been pleased with on the whole, especially the two Phoenix books.

To Everyone - Has anyone had any bad experiences with a mail order firm called Phoenix Press? I have been trying to get my order since I sent in on the 19th of September last year. I'm now having to get in touch with the Advertising Standards Authority in the hope that they can do something. Other members take heed!

• Helen Thompson - Kilmelford, by Oban

This is my first submission to the Postbag, so it is written in a rather small and tentative voice. Am I really the only person in IDIC who thinks TNG is funny and who is actually, positively, can-hardly-bear-to-wait looking forward to Voyager?

I first got interested in Star Trek in the 80s while I was at High School, when CT was shown on TV, and it was love at first sight. When TNG came on I watched it eagerly and second love proved even stronger, leading to frenzied book buying of both TNG and CT novels. Last year I was really looking forward to CT being screened again, but have to admit that I was disappointed and could not even bear to watch most of season 3. I love the characters of CT, but to me the series seemed to suffer by comparison to the books and I now prefer to read about Kirk and Co rather than watch them.

In contrast I much prefer to watch TNG than to read it. I must disagree with people who don't like the acting. I think the acting and the whole presentation is subtle but excellent - just think of the look in Picard's eyes as Data approaches with a question about love. I like the quiet interplay between the characters and think of their relationships as realistic and affectionate. It's a rare episode of TNG when I don't find something to chuckle at, from the twinkle in Riker's eye as he executes the 'Picard Manoeuvre' (with the uniform) to Worf berating Keiko for a less than 'orderly' delivery, and as for Captain Picard Day - what a hoot!

Re Vulcans. I like the Vulcans and (especially) the old-fashioned Romulans, but again I have found my ideas about them and affection for them shaped more by books than by the actual TV series, and wonder if this is possibly so for other people. When one

comes to consider the TV episodes there is hardly reams of information about these, or any other, aliens. Again I'm more inclined to go to fiction to get satisfaction regarding them.

• Ian McLachlan - Stranraer

Many thanks for another excellent issue. I thought that Chris Coxon's comments on the Babylon 5 fan club were rather unfair. I admit that the club is quite expensive compared to Star Trek ones; however I have been very impressed with their magazines so far. I sent in a comment about the show and got a personal reply via the newsletter from B5's creator himself!

• Russell Witheyman - Crawley, W Sussex

Firstly, the Voyager debate. I personally think that Voy is going to be better than DS9. I've heard people say that they are worried that the Voyager is out in the Delta Quadrant and will be away from the Federation - well, I think this is good. We, for one, will not have any conflicts with Cardassians, Romulans, Klingons etc that have already been done to death in TNG and DS9; also it doesn't really matter that they are lost, they are still gathering info for Starfleet and still searching for new life forms to contact, so what's the problem, folks? I've heard that the first few episodes will be real high concept sci-fi entertainment and not episodes about Bajoran politics, etc!

Star Trek has always been best when encountering new species, not political and spiritual mumbo jumbo. Don't get me wrong - this sort of story is OK on a small basis but not regularly. I have high hopes for Voyager as we're back on board a Starship, and I think a female Captain will bring the series a fresh perspective. I can't remember who said it, but a few N/Ls ago one member said that in order for ST to survive it must move on. I totally agree and I think Voyager will do that. I still enjoy DS9 and accept it as Star Trek, but I think Star Trek is best on board a Starship.

• Jean Sloan - Liverpool

The Spock/Kirk mind link... there is evidence from the original series that Spock could sustain a link with another human without being in physical contact, eg in

Spectre of the Gun, but there is no evidence of the sort of link-over-distance which is characteristic of fan fiction. *However*, if you go to Gene's novelisation of the Motion Picture, there Spock 'feels' Jim Kirk's thoughts across the galaxy. Here, too, Gene discusses the closeness of the Spock/Kirk relationship and defines 'thy'la'. This matter is addressed in a footnote in chapter 2, where the author also tackles the 'speculation' that Kirk and Spock had become lovers. To avoid confusion, I quote the relevant part of the footnote:

"...because 'thy'la' can be used to mean lover, and since Kirk's and Spock's friendship was unusually close, this has led to some speculation over whether they had actually indeed become lovers. At our request, Admiral Kirk supplied the following comment on this subject..." The comment is on P 22 of my edition of the novel.

I have always wondered if Gene inserted this in response to the K/S fiction of which he must have been aware. Also, is the term 'thy'la' used in the series at all? I can't recall it. Or was it invented by Gene in TMP novel? Or was it picked up by Gene from fan fiction, because that's where I thought it had come from. *[Sheila - Gene originated it in the ST:TMP novel and the K/S writers promptly adopted it.]*

To Jay Stevensen - You're welcome! If you write another, I'll review that too. On the subject of reviewing; I've never read a story in a ScoTpress zine that I thought was badly written. I've read one or two that I've not liked as well as others, but that has been to do with my own taste in stories, not the quality of writing. Now I would like to start some petty bickering with Neil J Barrett on the subject of reviews. I would hate to think that a fan would be deterred from submitting a story for fear of a punishing review. Reviewing is not about 'the right to complain'. It is about making an objective assessment of a piece of writing in order to give potential readers a feel for what the story is like, so the choice to buy or not to buy is made easier. Obviously one expresses one's own opinion of the story but this can be achieved in a temperate manner. Like Vicky Roberts, I thought your review of Make It So

22 crossed the line between constructive criticism and savagery! You were much more balanced and reasonable in your article about L A Graf, which I enjoyed.

To Maggie Symon - I'll try to track down the Bohemian Rhapsody artists; watch this space...

• John & Tanya Milton - Liverpool

Just recently we, and a few Trekkers I have previously noted attending various cons regularly, had the very happy chance to enjoy Star Trek movies 1 through 6, "at the movies"!!!

The event was over 2 days, the Saturday and Sunday, 3 movies each day. It was excellent to see all six on the silver screen again. I hadn't realised how much footage from ST:TMP was actually used again in ST:TWOK (or ST:Now Khan's Pissed as I call it). I have to admit the first 2 are my probable favourites.

The old reels were as well worn, as worn well, and by the end of it all I began to figure that 'Us Trekkers' should 'demand' our local cinemas yield these movies to us serious-about-Trek types, on a more regular basis.

The weekend was held in conjunction with a well-known sci-fi retail shop (Forbidden Planet, which recently opened up a branch in Liverpool) who had a stall there, ready and willing to sell the usual naughty-but-nice Trek stock. I took a very keen interest in the special edition Star Trek Generations dolls, replete with new uniforms. We decided to settle for the novelisation of "Gens" instead.

The atmosphere and sound effects (tricorders) in the cinema was great. Applause kicked and rounded off all the movies, and the 'moviecon' phenomenon is a warptastically approvable delight!

• James Keating - Clonmel

To Andrew Merritt - I am also 15 years old. Re people laughing at you because you're a Trekker - of the few people in my class who know, they've not made one joke. Instead they've asked me about it - and they

don't even like Star Trek. Other classmates even talk about last week's episode though they're not Trekkers.

To Pam Baddeley - Although there is a direct conflict between their professions and sending crew to their deaths, they would realise that it is the greater good. If they didn't send them to their deaths, many other people would perish.

Although Data's one-liners are quite humorous (eg in All Good Things... when he says "ignite the midnight petroleum") what are the chances of an android not understanding such commonly used slang as 'fuel'? He has lived with Humans for more than 20 years.

By the way, Sisko comes up as Sissy on my spellcheck - what a coincidence.

• Jennifer Cobbing - London

I enjoyed Generations but thought it was more like an extra long episode than a movie. I'm a Kirk fan and his death scene had no effect on me whatsoever. I thought I'd hate it and maybe even be upset, but I didn't feel I was watching him as Captain Kirk - it was as if he was playing another character in a different kind of film and it wasn't Kirk dying at all. Malcolm McDowell wasn't by any means a "good baddy" - in fact I was totally indifferent to him. I don't think it has the polish or appeal that other major films around at the moment have. I wonder if it can honestly compete with the likes of Interview With the Vampire. And I wonder if that is why there is so much hype about it. There was never so much hype or advertising or free gift offers (or the entire cast turning up for a premier) with the previous Trek films and I wonder if Paramount and the distributors are worried that it won't make money here without letting everyone know what it's all about. Why do the film makers consider it necessary to destroy the Enterprise so regularly? It's no longer an original idea and is beginning to become almost predictable.

To Lynne Banister - A Classic Trek Convention sounds wonderful - in fact you already have an SAE from me! Oh, how my

friends and I look back with nostalgia to the pre-TNG conventions. I do wish you success with the convention. I'm sure you will have no problem filling a hotel or two.

• Raymond Spencer - 21 Hope Rd, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 5JH

To anyone who went to the Generations Convention: Has anyone out there got any decent photos of both Saturday and Sunday. The photos I took are somewhat hazy as the flash reflected off the smoke! Drop us a line if you can help.

To Clement Chung -The reason Data hasn't taken the Commander's exams is because the commander has them locked away in a safe place.

• Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

People who have the special edition of All Good Things should know how lucky they are! At the beginning of January I phoned a friend in Sheffield who works in a video and music shop. Who told me it was no longer possible to order these videos. I sent a complaint to CIC. The reply I got from CIC said, "There were only 20,000 copies and these sold out within one week. I am afraid there is nothing I can do to help you obtain a copy."

Could it be that they hope to sell more of the new release when it comes out as part of the new movie-length Next Gen tapes? This is no way of treating customers!

To David Pipgras and the disgruntled IDIC member - It is certainly worth writing to the actors and asking for autographed photos. Over the years I got quite a few, most recently Andrew Robinson (Garak). I also got some from Babylon 5.

Sandra Hunger and Gabi Steine are writing a new character profile, I think this time Deanna Troi. If there is interest, I would like to translate this new article for the IDIC newsletter when it is finished.

To Zander Bruce - I think Melora is a brilliant episode and I wasn't surprised to learn that the author uses a wheelchair himself. You are right when you say that

there is a fine line between independence and dangerous pride; to find the right balance is not always easy. But what I actually criticised was the German translation. Yes, she used the words herself, but she said that there is only a Melora Problem if people construct one. It is true that disabled people need help sometimes but many able-bodied people judge disabled people for what they can't do and not what they can do. Many of them are over-protective and shy away from employing disabled people because they first think about cost and what help they might need, instead of giving them a chance to prove themselves and become independent of benefits. A title like The Melora Problem gives the impression that disabled people are only a burden to society.

• Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford, Essex

To Sheila Clark - The Maquis might not be that young. Given the history of the Cardassian wars the Federation colonists must have endured decades of raids and strikes. A home guard, perhaps even a funded militia, would have been more likely; merchant ships might have been armed to form a Starfleet merchant marine. In that scenario the origin of the Maquis could have had a long and close relationship with Starfleet and the 'bad treaty' have brought about a parting of the ways. It still begs the question why the Federation plants colonies so near potential aggressors, unless uninhabited Class M planets are rare and many citizens have an urge to get out there and pursue their own ideals.

To John Stublely - Vulcan logic does seem to have the trappings of a mystical religion or philosophy. It might be that it began as a cult and retains those forms - Vulcans appear attached to historical traditions. Spock may not have talked about mystical practices, but his cabin had some artifacts that look awfully like ritual objects. Vulcans may follow logic, but why should they be any more uniform in their beliefs than Humans?

• Stephen Shaw - Stockport

The New Year sales were very profitable here; new ST paperbacks at half price, reduced videos, and from Woolworths a Playmates Deanna Troi reduced from £6.99 to

£3.99... obviously I bought the entire stock, and thus have a spare one if anyone wants it. How much demand is there likely to be? Could we have a postal auction for it, with anything over £4 going to the Guide Dogs? [Sheila - *If you want this, send your bid, and a SAE, to me by April 30th.*]

Patrick Stewart is appearing on a number of CD-ROMS these days - notably as the guide to the 1995 Compton Interactive Encyclopedia. This means I have to look for a PC with a CD player...

The March CD-ROM NOW magazine with its lovely cover showing what appears to be a pewter Enterprise also has on it a give-away CD-ROM with a picture cover showing Kirk and Picard! On the CD is an interactive look at ST:Generations, a playable bit of ST 25th Anniversary and a review of the CD Technical Manual. The magazine also reviews other ST CDs including collections of sounds and pics; TNG; the Omnipaedia - voice activated no less ("Hello, computer...") and Immersion Klingon.

My father is blind and we have discovered a marvellous item of hardware from the US which is proving extremely helpful - I have dropped a line to the RNIB to tell them - how to tell exactly what food is in a tin, what music is on a CD, when you cannot read Braille. Answer - a small piece of card with magnetic tape stuck to it and a small battery-operated played which automatically feeds the card through. Superb! Cost about £60, which included airmail postage and enough material to label 100 items. If you know any blind folk who would be interested, happy to send on more info. (Other useful hardware he uses includes talking kitchen scales, talking personal scales, a light sensor - which way is the window, etc, useful if disorientated) and a hardware pocket memo (20 seconds worth!)

• Radcliffe Downes-Duguid - Longfield, Kent

Finally, after all the usual comments about fan clubs being 'for the fans', I finally received a newsletter from a fan club that actually prints a vast number of pages of members' letters! Newsletters can be simply

broken down into two sections: 'news', ie the latest info on the main subject, details of on-going things, material about connected subjects, etc, and 'letters', ie members' letters, points of view, etc. I still cannot believe that IDIC has the 'audacity' to print from page 16 - 50 full of members' letters. Well done!

How can Jason Wells (N/L 38, P18) make the correct observation that the 'All Good Things...' special limited edition was "well worth the money" and suggest that it would be a good idea from time to time for the TNG cast to appear in one-off episodes like Majel Barrett, and then continue to say that "Sisko has no leadership qualities whatsoever"? Maybe he has been watching a different DS9 from me, or perhaps he has not seen the first half dozen or so episodes of Season 3, but I, and many others, find he has a strong, tireless and unique command quality that people like Captain Jellico (Chain of Command) could not hold a torch to.

The DS9 episodes from Emissary show that despite his apprehension in taking command of DS9, he performs his duties to the best of his many and varied abilities. He continually forms relationships with the rest of his crew that show his compassion, his care of and for these people. If you believe he has none please name me one episode where his leadership qualities are questionable, because I can certainly name you several where such qualities are in abundance. The first three episodes of Season 2 show how positive he is willing to beat The Circle, his cunning dialogue with the General in regard to giving information rather than trading it, his unwillingness to give up the station despite orders from his superior, etc. Paradise showed how strong he is with beliefs and ideologies, even to the extent of demonstrating those beliefs in front of Miles O'Brien by returning to his 'oven' when he did not concede to the colony leader's views. You talk about lack of qualities. You could say that this was one of the best DS9 episodes and that it showed one of his best qualities, personal sacrifice. Not to mention (but I will anyway) his dealings with the Cardassians, especially Gul Dukat.

• Alberto Gorin - de Bruynlaan 5, 6816 PW Arnhem, Holland

I want to mention an interesting point in Star Trek. I've seen all the motion pictures of Kirk and his crew except Voyage Home. (I bought these imported with no subtitles - you're sooo lucky!). In the Motion Picture of 1979, Kirk and crew had their communicators on their wrists like a watch. Later they were back to the old way of holding the communicators in their hand. I felt that around the wrist was more modern.

You're all lucky with everything. We don't have conventions here. And with having Sky, you're doubly lucky. I'm waiting now for Generations, in the cinema or on tape.

(Actually, I am a Human working in the medical field on a Klingon ship as an infiltrator; my Klingon name is Kaz Dracklon. I need to know more about the Klingon world, so would any Klingons who never met a Human get in touch? Also would the member from Israel write, please?)

• Lindsay Wright - Southport

To Jason Wells (N/L 38 P 18) - Your idea that some of the TNG cast should cross over to DS9 is interesting, but I personally don't think it would work. Worf working with Odo? Both are aggressive personalities in their own right and, I think, would have their own way of doing things. Without the calming presence of Picard, Worf would, I think, become more aggressive.

You say Sisko has no leadership qualities. What is he doing now if not leading? He is in charge and I don't think any of the station personnel have asked for a review of his command. I think there is a great danger in comparing him to Picard or Kirk (and anyway, even they have their faults).

To Elizabeth Barrie (N/L 38 P 21). I wasn't aware that TNG was supposed to be played for laughs. OK, you don't exactly say that, but that's the impression I got from your letter. Sometimes the humour is very subtle, even down to eye contact, sometimes it's not. On occasion the material the characters are given to say is corny, but I think on the

whole they then make the most of a bad job.

I take it you are a fan of TOS. How about Kirk sometimes coming across as wooden? Especially when he always seemed to get the girl. I seem to remember that some of the planets that Kirk visited looked decidedly like a back lot at Desilu - which we seemed to revisit quite often. Fair enough, we all like some action, and with technology moving forward from the 60s the effects and equipment (24th century) are much better.

What I enjoyed best was the interplay between the characters, especially McCoy, Kirk and Spock, and how they solved the dilemmas they faced and interacted with the people they met, even if they never got out of the ship. Gene Roddenberry's dream of Star Trek was basically very much concerned with people working together, concerned with peace and exploration. I think this is shown in his excellent authorised biography written by David Alexander - read it if you can. I'm sorry to have gone on a bit, but your letter seemed so negative.

To anyone in the Southport area - fancy getting together? If there aren't that many you're welcome here, so long as you don't mind a big dog. The drinks are on me!

Finally, my favourite characters. Picard, Bev Crusher (much under-rated, anyone agree?) Data, Troi, Riker, Worf, Reg Barclay, Geordi... I have many more, but I won't go on. (What, I have already? Sorry!)

• Michael Sadler - South Wirral

To John Stubbley - Thanks for your kind comment on my past cartoons, it was much appreciated.

To Dave Styles - Myself and my fellow scholar, Neil Safi UF, are both keen Morris dancers. We were thrilled to see our favourite pastime mentioned in your letter. When not practising our dancing Neil can be found as an acrobat in the local circus and I am a top secret'spy.

To H S Duhre - Your joke about winning the lottery didn't fool me for a second because I fix it every week. I was also sorry

to see your name misprinted in N/L 38 - surely it is H M S Duhre, the famous battleship?

To Neil Safi UF - I must hereby pooch your preposterous paltry evidence regarding Kaferian apple pips, it's pretentious prittle prattle. Every half decent Trek fan knows for a fact that Kaferian apples do have pips. To finally prove to you that the pips exist, I have written to Paramount for confirmation.

• Meg Wright - London

To Jason Wells - By all means replace Sisko (and his irritating child) with Riker or anyone else, but please don't lay a finger on Odo! He and Quark are the best double act since Eric and Ernie.

To Alan Stephen - Um - some of us do like SF, you know. In fact, if you check up with any of my daughters you will hear that I wouldn't let them watch Trek for the first 18 months it was on "because SF on television was rubbish and not worth turning on for". I'm still living that down.

Where is the logic in Vulcans having no security section? Even if they were all prefect (how dull), they have to deal with other races. I find it hard to believe they would survive as a people with all the baddies there seem to be around out there if they didn't take Security seriously.

Greetings to everyone I haven't seen in ages. I miss going to cons but one can't do everything one would like, unfortunately.

• Rory Smith - Hereford

In one episode (I think it was Redemption II), Tasha Yar's daughter - a young Romulan Commander - appears. But Tasha would have to have been about 12 or something at the time of birth. Which episode concluded this problem, and how? (Sheila - *In Yesterday's Enterprise, Tasha Yar, from a different time line, went back in time with the 1701-B, and was believed killed when the 1701-B was destroyed. However, she was actually captured by the Romulans, taken as mistress by one of the Romulan commanders, and had a daughter. I don't remember which*

episode actually explained this, but I think it was the first one in which Sela appeared.]

Has anyone noticed that there seem to be far fewer aliens serving on Enterprise-D compared to Enterprise-A in ST:VI? In ST:VI there was a wide range of races, most of whom I hadn't seen before, working just about everywhere on board Enterprise and Excelsior; but the aliens in NG are extremely limited to main characters in the storyline, and very few crewmembers. Perhaps something to do with make-up budget?

Can anyone tell me the name of the episode where Q forced a meeting between Enterprise and Borg? Does anyone have this episode on video along with The Best of Both Worlds I & II? Please could I borrow or buy these? I will pay any expenses (P & P, etc).

To Adrian Thompson and other computer game players - In your review of Klingon Wars you mentioned a company Firebird. Though it has nothing to do with Trek, does anybody have, or know where I can get, a copy of Firebird's Virus? It's a 3-D shoot-em-up where you try to protect a planet in a hoverplane. My computer is an old, decrepit 1512 Amstrad PC with 5.25 disc drive and CGA graphics (yes, CGA) but the old version I had ran in most graphic modes (CGA, EGA, VGA).

• Anike Bissenger - Germany

To Elizabeth Barrie (N/L 38 P 21) - Please don't judge DS9 only by one episode. I don't know what I would have thought about OT is I had only seen The Omega Glory.

My word for the Cardassians would be 'duty'.

My favourite characters - Kirk, Picard and Kira; recurring characters - Khan, Q and Garak; episodes - OT, Conscience of the King, Balance of Terror and Amok Time, TNG The Inner Light, Cost of Living and Chain of Command, DS9 The Wire, Duet and Cardassians; alien characters - Kang, Gul Madred, Garak (again) and Bareil; alien race - either the Cardassians or the Bajorans, I really can't decide.

To Jean Perrin (N/L 38 P 28) - I think Wil Wheaton left TNG because he wanted to pursue a movie career.

To Judith Taylor (N/L 38 P 38) - Re Genesis; if I remember correctly, Data mentioned that Spot managed to escape from his cabin several times and there are a few male cats living nearby.

To Neil J Barrett (N/L 38 P 35) - Re Vulcan Security Officers. In OT it is clearly emphasised that Vulcans are extremely loyal to their commanding officer, and as part of Starfleet they surely have to have enough discipline to follow an order even if they don't agree with it.

To Anne-Marie Flowers (N/L 38 P 41) - Re The Pagemaster, you forgot to mention Leonard Nimoy who 'donated' his voice to Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

• Ahmet Ali - London

I've become a big fan of Trek through the movies then TNG and now, especially, Voyager.

To Jason Wells - I don't honestly think DS9 can conceivably be cancelled as it has the prefix "Star Trek". Four more seasons to go, whether it improves or not! I agree with you that DS9 needs new faces, perhaps not Worf as you suggest but Michael Dorn as... (wait for it) the new Benjamin Sisko! I feel Michael Dorn possesses all the charisma that Avery Brooks sorely lacks. What do other members think? (I hate the way the ensemble casts are contracted to seven seasons without consideration as to whether the cast will 'gel' or not.)

To Liz Caldwell - What do you think of Voyager now? I've seen the pilot and I think the cast is amazing! Unlike DS9 the group interaction is superb; this is possibly the best TV Trek yet! I think the fact that they're so far from Federation space will work in its favour and constantly keep things fresh; they truly ARE "where no one has gone before".

• Martin Stahl - Germany

It was great to see all of the actors in London. The biggest surprise was, perhaps,

Jonathan Frakes. I didn't expect him to be so funny and entertaining. After the convention, Patrick Stewart and Brent Spiner went to Munich, and together with Bill Shatner appeared in the Gottschalk Late Night Talkshow. On Wednesday they travelled to Berlin to the premier of Generations.

Generations started in Germany on February 9th and it was the first time in the history of German Star Trek that our cinema was sold out; even more, it was sold out *four hours before the movie began!* I didn't book tickets in advance and was shocked when I read the sign "Sold out". Fortunately there were some tickets left because some people who booked in advance didn't come in time to get them, and I got the last three of those tickets. The atmosphere in the audience was the best I ever found in a Star Trek movie in Germany (although I think that the other movies were better). I remember when we watched ST:VI in 1992, on the first day there were not even 20 people in the cinema!

• Ingrid Smith - Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

I've just seen ST:Generations. I didn't think I would enjoy a ST film without the entire original crew - I was wrong! Apart from some inconsistencies with the NG series, I thought the film was exciting and emotional with some brilliant acting from Bill, Patrick and Brent. I shall look forward to the next one.

• Michael Johnson - Leek, Staffs

This is the first time I've sent a letter into the Postbag even though I've been a fan for a while. I've been a Trek fan for 14 years; I've grown up with Star Trek, and as far as I can see, I think each series should stand up on its own. I don't think it fair to compare one series with another. I like all of Star Trek from the Original to DS9 and I'm looking forward to Voyager.

About the special edition of the last TNG episode, I think it was worth the money, but I also think CIC knew what they were doing. Has anybody seen the new edition of The Best of Both Worlds? Is it me, or where the end of Part I should have been, do we miss about 10 seconds of Part II? I'm sure Geordi says to Riker, "Powering up the main

deflector dish" before they fire. If this is true, then CIC has done it again. The only reason I got this video is that The Best of Both Worlds is my favourite episode (followed by All Good Things..., I may add).

Can anybody tell me, does Kirk die like he does in the book in Generations? I'm not sure if the book is the same as the finished film. I know Spock, McCoy etc aren't in it, but I know they reshot the end. I guess I'll know how good the film is soon enough. I've read so many different reports I think there must be two films! [*Ed - The book was, of necessity, written from an early draft script.*]

Can somebody explain why almost everybody I talk to hates DS9? I love it, but I do have to admit that Sisko doesn't have much of a command presence. I think the best character is Kira, and I'm a very big Nana Visitor fan. I've sent her a letter to wish her well.

• Irena Hradecka - Prague

To Maggie Symon and anyone else interested - There were debates about Vulcan 'mysticism' mostly based on your article The Changing Face of Vulcan. I really appreciate most of your opinions. Since I do not have all the available information on that topic (eg I do not have the English version of ST:TMP novel) I could really be wrong. I'd like to state that my comments on that topic are just hypothetical.

I noticed that the subjects of the above-mentioned discussions were Koon-ut-kal-i-fee, Kolinahr and Fal-tor-pan. Because many fans find Koon-ut-kal-i-fee understandable, I decided to skip it.

I was surprised by the use of the term 'Vulcan Priest or Priestess'. I believe the term 'Vulcan Master or Mistress' was used in ST:TMP. That sounds more appropriate to me because in fact they were Masters of philosophy or mental disciplines. I believe 'Vulcan priest' is the term Humans could use in relation to a Vulcan Master. Maybe it is because of these robes Vulcans wear, these dark and quiet areas in large buildings reminiscent of churches or something similar, and of course due to Vulcan dignity.

If I consider all of that, they could surely be mistaken for Priests.

I think Fal-tor-pan was necessary for the resurrection of Spock and that it was no mystic because that looks more spectacular than a simply hospital room. However, we could try to explain it as well. Since T'Lar was obviously a Mistress she could live near the place which was shown, which the hospital could be quite far away. Then it was easier and faster to give Kirk's ship instructions to land near that site instead of transporting T'Lar and her company somewhere.

Since I value your opinions, I'd like to know your opinion on Katra. Katra is the soul, the living spirit, isn't it? Well, I wouldn't like the idea of storing my Katra in The Hall of Thought. If that was merely storing of knowledge, I could understand it, but to trap my soul somewhere?

• Jason Wells - Stevenage

As some of you know, TNG has finished its run on Sky1 (except repeats, of course). DS9 has returned starting with Playing God (does anyone know what was the last show before it was taken off, as I'm sure there is an episode jump of about 5 or 6 episodes (according to my season 2 guide).

Anyway, back to Playing God. This episode, like the rest of DS9 (so far) was very boring, very 'unTrek' in my opinion. It's not the Trek both OT and TNG fans have come to know and love; "To boldly go where no one has gone before" is what Star Trek is all about and not "To boldly stay in one place for a whole series". We are told that a starship has been brought in - well, it's a little too late for that now, especially with Voyager here.

Isn't it funny that Voyager came upon us so quickly? The producers of DS9 must have felt that it was lacking the Star Trek aura, so to speak. I can see DS9 being cancelled and Voyager going further - maybe even further than TNG.

I have a friend in Malta, Charlie, and in September he's getting married to Natalie and they are going to Florida for the

honeymoon. He wants to know if the Star Trek experience is still there, or is it in California?

• Vered Gilad - Israel

First, many thanks to IDIC member Alon Kirsh who introduced me to IDIC.

The Israeli viewer and fan is quite deprived here when it comes to ST. I have never seen DS9 in English, only on German cable, and we are watching reruns of TNG 1st season on our Educational TV (ETV) and TNG 7th season on Middle East TV (once a week in each case). I wanted very much to see TOS again and wrote and begged to all sorts of places, with no result. In desperation, I went and bought almost all TOS chapters and would like to thank Tower Records in Israel for giving me a discount and for being very helpful.

Alon and I phoned the company distributing Paramount Pictures in Israel to find out if ST:Generation will come here. We got a very cold answer, "We still don't know" (something like "no comment"); I wrote explaining how popular the series is here, and got, for a change, a positive reply (though a very, very short one). The film is coming to Israel soon. You should have heard Alon's screams!

Next thing I want to do is find out why Sky1 isn't broadcasting to Israel any more. Is it because they don't broadcast outside GB, or not to the Middle east, or because the cable companies here refuse to pay them? If anybody can give me some information regarding this I would be very grateful - I intend to use it to try to convince the cable companies here to bring Sky1 back.

I saw Lower Decks a few weeks ago, and boy did I enjoy myself. This episode was so good that most of the other episodes compared to it seem weak (no offence meant). I am basically an Original Series fan and am very critical, but this episode was above average. I can't say "Why don't they have more episodes like that one?" because it deals more with guest stars and less with the regular cast, and that is a big No, but this was for sure a refreshing change.

It really brought the Enterprise crew close to earth; it dealt with everyday situations that all people have to deal with, but in the future and on a spaceship; and that is what ST is about - the people.

To Jean Perrin, N/L 38 P 28 - Re captains not beaming down; I agree that captains should beam down to planets, but I do not agree with the reasons you gave. I live in a place where military life is a reality. If I knew that in our army there were commanders who preferred to go in front because that would be more "exciting", and why should all their subordinates get all the "best bits", then I would be quite worried, because that is rather foolish. Such commanders should be thrown out of the army.

A captain should go down first because of his sense of duty, and because maybe he's the best one the job.

A captain in deep space is just like a commander in the field. Just being on a ship in space is dangerous enough (just like going to the front). Many of the dangerous happenings occur on the ship and not on the planet, so if you're already in danger on the ship, what difference does it make going down to the planet?

• Clare Finkel - Woking, Surrey

To Irena, p 63. My favourite ST aliens are the Vulcans, because I think I can understand them better than the others, including (I am sad to say) Humans, which I am. But (I guess Jay said this more than you) I don't think Humans are above Klingons, or Vulcans are above Humans. I think, in their way, Klingons are trying to improve. They just happen to have different values and morals than we do. I do believe that we need a common ground so as to avoid impinging on each other's (just as we need on Earth), but that discussion is beyond me.

Though not mentioned in Irena's article, I would like to say that I don't think Vulcans are as boring and perfect as a lot of people seem to think. First of all, their peace wasn't obtained by magic, and I think they struggle to maintain it. Also, being smart doesn't mean that they have all the answers. As Q

said, the trial isn't over.

To Clare Finkel. (Yeah, to myself) I realize I made a great error in my article. I complained about something regarding Vulcans that Gene R invented in his book, ST:TMP. I did that after praising his invention. I guess, since Gene invented Vulcans, he had the right to do with them as he saw fit. That confuses me, because I still don't like what he did to the Vulcans in that book.

I have also been wondering about IDIC. Surely it cannot mean infinite diversity. It cannot include bigots, murderers, liars, etc. I know that is absurd, but it does say "infinite."

I'm also puzzled about the vision of the future. It seems to me, at least on NG and DS9, that greed, overcrowding, genocide, torture, etc, still exist. Maybe not on Earth, but what difference does that make?

• Damian Griffiths - Watford

I consider there is a glaring problem with the Next Gen. episode 'Clues'. My problem is that, by the end of the episode the crew have missed two days (due to their memories of those days being wiped), but as soon as they communicate with another vessel they will find out that they are two days behind everyone else. i.e. If their memory of Monday is wiped twice, they will believe it still to be Monday, but everywhere else it will be Wednesday, and they will soon realise that something is up! - Any ideas?

Well, last week I (like many of you I expect) had the fortune of going to the Generations Convention in London (only Saturday though unfortunately!). I thought it very good (though it was packed - queues to get into the dealers rooms were often over forty minutes, and as for the programs - £6!!!! (still, they were nicely done). All the talks were good, and I enjoyed seeing a preview of Voyager (incidentally, did anyone else notice that Tuvok, the new Vulcan Security chief looked rather like the navigator on the Enterprise B in ST:Generations?!).

Finally (!!) did anyone else collect the vouchers in the Sun for a free Star Trek

Video?- I diligently collected all eleven, went down to my local Woolworths (Coventry) to get the free video, only to be told that they had run out (on the first day they were available) - as had two other Woolworths I managed to try!! I, as they say, was not amused.

• Dave Rogers - Preston

Firstly, having just seen Generations, I didn't think it was a bad film. Definitely better than TMP & TFF, even with the continuity errors. They still should not have killed Kirk off.

Secondly, Voyager - Caretaker. Not a bad pilot in my opinion, I preferred it to the DS9 pilot. Although DS9, from what I have seen of the third season is turning out all right (eventually!!)

Has anyone ever noticed, how much Taruka's surname looks like Quadrotriticale, (Long live the tribbles!!!!!!).

To Matthew Hemsley, my favourite characters are Kirk, Data & Kira.

My favourite episodes are Trouble With Tribbles, City on the Edge of Forever & Miri. Sorry to all the TNG & DS9 fans, but they're not a patch on the Originals.

• Gloria Fry - Glasgow

Is it only me but do other members feel that the media spotlight on ST lately has bordered on overkill! One could hardly open a paper, turn on radio or TV without mention of the exhibition in Edinburgh, the convention, the actors, film, books, 'Voyager' etc. If a long-time fan like me feels that the whole thing is being milked dry, one wonders what the general public thinks.

To Jay Stevensen/Irena Hradecka and Tyomin - You are all under the misapprehension that there was no Vulcan at the now infamous re-opening of the PDSA shop. I have photos to prove that there was, and I reported how I arranged the event in my article in newsletter 30 - October 1993. She was outnumbered seven to one but that did not daunt her from supporting the charity as enthusiastically as the Klingons. It

was only logical that a Vulcan should support an animal charity, especially with those ears! Perhaps none of you were members then and have not read the article but if you are interested please write to me (address in zine ads) and I will send you a copy of it. Irena - I would not necessarily agree that Vulcan/Spock fans are shy. Most of my Trek friends are Spock fans and believe me it just is not the case. They are all very articulate and can talk endlessly about him and anything else for that matter.

To Jay Stevensen - I'm delighted that my 'Naked Times' article helped persuade you to join IDIC but I'm afraid I have to pay my subscription regardless. I think part of the joy of fandom is being able to poke a little fun at the characters, the stories etc. Look also how many affectionate spoofs have been made on the original series. Fandom should be fun.

As for Vulcans in general? I don't think I have seen a decent one yet outside the original series and movies. Dr Selar is often mentioned, but she did little and I cannot understand why now both male and females sport similar hairdos. Neither of the Saaviks, T'pring, T'pau, the various priestesses had to have their long hair shoved behind a wig like these latest 'Vulcans.' Pointed ears, slanted eyes and a dark wig doth not a Vulcan make!

• John Stubley - York University
(E-mail- jps3@unix.york.ac.uk)

I have noticed (I'm being very observant lately!) a recent rise of the Vulcan spirit among our IDIC membership. I hope this continues.

To Irena Hradecka (P63) - A well written article! Don't worry, I think that when 'other people' see Star Trek they will always talk about "Dr Spock with pointy ears" and (despite the best efforts of our Klingon brethren) "all Star Trek fans wear blue science uniforms and pointed plastic ears". Anyway, who needs to be so illogical that they need to wave fake swords at passing Police Constables <no, it was a joke - REALLY!!>?!

To everyone else involved in the 'My

Vulcan' debate. A suggestion. Out there..... on a hot desert planet orbiting a red sun that some human named Vulcan, live many 'types' of Vulcan. Some adhere to the 'old' ways of the Katra and all the mysticism. Perhaps they are the influential people on the planet - Priestesses, Ambassadors and their families. Some take Kolinahr. Yet there are some, perhaps many, who think the old ways are somehow illogical..... What do you think?

To everyone in IDIC (but especially all those Vulcan watchers out there)..... Live Long and Prosper!

• David Styles

To Sarah Rooke: Good luck in obtaining your "Kira" outfit. I ordered one (for a friend) from the Official Star Trek Fan Club in the States five months ago, and despite numerous international phone calls and letters, I'm still waiting.

To Alan Stephen: I have never said that comic book readers are necessarily sub-literate. My point (two years ago!) was that the growing popularity of comic books / graphic novels / whatever were a symptom, NOT a cause, of the academic, social and moral decline in our society.

(Rather than weapons and a field of conflict, how about Brown Ale instead?)
[Ed - Can we now please close this topic?]

To Jean Perrin: I am afraid I must with you re Captains. It's very dangerous on Away missions; to wit the reams of red-shirts that got killed in OT. It makes sense to send more expendable crew members into potential conflict while more valuable Captains wait in safety.

To Henry Gallagher: I've a novel way of dealing with people who laugh at me because I'm a Trekker: I ask what they do with their lives that is so much better than Star Trek. Invariably my would-be tormentors reply with an embarrassed silence.

To whoever drew the Deanna/Data cartoon in NL 38: Brilliant!! I'd love to buy an A4 size copy. (Please contact me at 117

Beaver Road, Ashford, Kent if it's possible)

To Tim Gaskell re OSTFCUK: OK, so you're trying hard. I'm afraid that no amount of saying "It wasn't my fault" will cover people's abject disappointment with the initially poor performance of OSTFCUK. Granted that Absolute Field Marketing might have made a bog of the first three magazines, you missed a golden opportunity to show change was in the air. With Generations, DS9 Season 3 and Voyager all about to happen, why did your first magazine (#4) miss them out entirely, and your second (#5) give them, at best, only passing mention? One expects the "Official" club to be THE source of Trek gossip. The OSTFCUK lags way behind TV Zone and IDIC on that score. I see that a "Star Trek Monthly" magazine is about to start. I suspect that this magazine will leave OSTFCUK high and dry!

Also I take exception to your line "Eventually things get licensed, Fan Clubs are not exempt from this." Surely you don't believe that Paramount would ever try to force existing established Star Trek fan clubs to apply for their official sanction. Surely a case of biting the hand that feeds you! Or do you envisage OSTFCUK taking over clubs such as IDIC, STAG, etc?

Having said this, I'm renewing my membership of OSTFCUK to see what happens. However, many of my friends are not. I did write a constructive letter to you to this effect last November, but received no reply. I sincerely do wish you well in your venture, but I think you may find you've bought a pig in a poke.

Re the creation of life in a laboratory: This is bound to be a touchy subject, since it is seen to border on morality, mysticism, religion etc. Now, I am afraid that I have little time for religion in general, (I delight in Trek episodes where Kirk and Picard, and now Janeway, explode religions!) and personally I feel that I will be wasting my time talking to anyone who approaches this topic from a "religious" viewpoint. There is this thing called "faith" ("don't ask, just accept") which makes any attempt at reasoned debate futile.

(PS If you don't like my religious standpoint, write to me at home: IDIC's postbag is about Star Trek, not religion, after all!)

• Judith Taylor - Live from the cave of wonders 70 Leadale Road, Leyland Lincs PR5 1QR

And yes, ten thousand years can give you such a crick in the neck.

I must express extreme disbelief: Thomas Riker a member of the Maquis? Whose stupid idea was that? It's like the Pope becoming Protestant! And isn't it weird that huge swarms of Starfleet members are becoming Maquis members, just so that they can kick some Cardassian butt. Somehow I feel this was not what Gene would have wanted. His idea was for an organisation which nearly everyone wanted to join to explore the universe. It seems to me it's just becoming a parallel of the American government which is in the process of fragmenting.

To anyone out there, PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE IT, I am looking for a copy of the Generations script that was sold at Contagion. I am willing to pay twice the original price plus the postage. Please, if you have it get in touch with me.

To Robbie Taylor, I must apologise for my brother Paul's erroneous comments about the being Wesley Crusher. Wesley gets better with age, but I can still see the situation of an alternate ending to Best of Both Worlds. They manage to disconnect Picard and Riker looks the Borg in the collective and says, "If you don't get the hell out of this sector I'll set Wesley's homework on you." The vodered voice comes over the view screen, "NOT THE BEING CALLED WESLEY'S HOMEWORK" and the ship warps out at an incredible speed. This is the cause of much mirth in my house as Paul is much like Wesley in the brain department.

• Paul Taylor, Under the Fridge

Boy, isn't it fluffy under here! Hey, there's the Deltived Asteroid Belt. Well I'm under here as I seem to have mislaid my little sister (I wish) long enough to write in. I hope I

saved this correctly this time. *[Janet: Much better, Paul. The hyphens are translating as â, but I can cope with that.]*

To anyone willing to read, yes I went and saw Generations and thoroughly enjoyed it although it seems when Kirk is buried by Picard he seems to lose a couple of feet. Actually it looked more like both his legs.

Here you go, alternative saucer landings: Saucer comes in over the sea and skips till it lands on the beach.

Saucer lands on its edge and rolls getting trapped between two mountains.

Saucer lands on its edge and rolls to a stop like a coin.

Saucer lands upside down.

Saucer lands, almost screams to a halt then falls down a ravine.

Saucer hits planet head on and ends up sticking straight out of the ground.

• Neil Safi MD, A Small Moon in the Yavin System (or Willenhall)

To Mike "Where's my Battenberg?" Sadler - I read with interest (N/L 38) your latest offering on the Kaferian apple pip debate. Upon studying the TOS episode Journey to Babel, I noticed the sliced fruit to which you refer. Upon closer examination, I found this was not a Kaferian apple but merely a Palofian pear, distinguishable from its cousin by its longer stem and abundance of pips (Ref: ST Tech Manual, pg 239) thereby rendering your argument nul and void. Kaferian apples do not contain pips, however I welcome any contributions that try to prove otherwise.

To Marwan Bhukari - Are you still out there? Haven't seen anything off you for a while. Does this mean I can dust the cobwebs off my old VISOR?

To Edward Woo - The Backward Kilt Club is now officially formed! Can I ask if you wore your kilt in the, ahem, true Scottish fashion? I hope I'm not being two cheeky (sic)!

A friend recently commented on how great it would be if a convention were to have Rolf Harris as a guest! No, think about

it for a minute, it would be great. He could give Trek related art lessons, sing songs, give a guest talk and maybe play his Didgeridoo or Stylophone at the disco. Does anyone know if Rolf is a Trek fan?

• Raj Badhan

Did anyone notice the mistake in Star Trek Generations, where Dr. Tolian Soran attacks one the Duras sisters, after arriving on the Klingon ship. Her blood, to me looked red; shouldn't it be purple, as in Star Trek 6?

To Alan Stephen, I suppose you're right, but if you look in any recent Starlog magazine, for the back issues, you will find a list of what they charge for the magazines. If you write a letter to Starlog, wanting to sell your magazine, if it is in good condition, and is worth a lot of money, (according to Starlog), then they may decide to buy the magazine off you.

Does anyone know if the game Star Trek Star Fleet Command is out for the PC?

• Alex Blakeney - 148 Shrewsbury Street, Upstairs Flat, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 7NY

I just got a story published in LE-92 (YEEHAH!) Valerie, Sheila and Janet - the blood of my first born is yours by return of post. However I am desperate for feedback, my family think I'm half barmy for writing it and my partner only disagrees with the half part. If you loved it, if you hated it (in fact especially if you hated it) I need to know. If you don't tell me I'll never get any better at this and I want to get better at it! I'll answer any letters received or not if you don't want to enter into a correspondence, I'll even refund postage (that's how desperate I am) - fellow authors I'll read yours if you read mine... is there anybody out there??? *[Sheila - initial reaction to your story is excellent.]*

• Stephen Daniels - Smailholm, Nr. Kelso

To Neil J. Barrett (n/l 36 p38 & n/l 38 p34) - I hadn't considered that it might be Alyssa that doesn't care much for Beverly's company. By the way, Deanna is two ranks above Worf (Commander & Lieutenant respectively).

Speaking of Worf and Deanna, now there is a couple that would never be. They are so unsuited to each other. I can hardly envisage Deanna enjoying a Klingon mating ritual, and as we have seen in previous episodes, Worf does NOT take the softly-softly approach to matters romantic.

Did anyone else know that there actually is a Wolf 359? I thought it was something just made up for the 'Best of Both Worlds' episodes, but I heard Patrick Moore mention it on 'The Sky at Night' a while back!

To Robbie Taylor (n/1 38 p35/36) - Yes, the Enterprise-D did take 20 years to build from first concepts, rather to physically build, but the actual construction did take 13 years (2350 - 2363). The only way I can see that they will get around this obstacle for the next film, is to make the Enterprise-E a ship that has just been (or is almost) constructed.

To Rory Smith (n/1 38 p38) - There is one simple explanation that resolves the transportation contradiction regarding the Trill. Perhaps Odan (or his symbiont) was allergic to the transportation process, so he couldn't use it, but the rest of the Trill can. That's how I like to think of it anyway.

Does anyone know why the actor who played Gosheven in the 3rd season TNG episode "The Ensigns of Command" had all his lines dubbed over by another actor?

• The Bolivian Terrorist, seeking out the nearest Maquis recruiting post.

To Vulcan Ambassador T'Pol - the Vulcan language sounds uncannily like a close relative of one of my mother-tongues, though I suspect that is coincidence. Linguistics is a hobby of mine - how about exchanging notes? In my mother-tongue Yupa wat'akuna kawsay, qhapayay.

To my favourite tough editor - Have you considered that the USS Voyager might find itself falling through a plot...er wormhole and finding itself suddenly a lot nearer home?

To Katrina Heintz - unsolicited letters, especially THAT one. I've had a few since starting my zine library but there are two

courses of action - either politely reply Klingon-style or throw the thing in the bin. I find the former more effective.

To whoever bought the home-made uniform in the auction. Please get in touch. (15A Clevedon Road, Ingol, Preston PR2 3YL) I'm still waiting for your measurements.

To he of the black curly hair and liquid brown eyes (you know who you are, JR Tribble!). Your tribble herewith recalled on account of the by-line not being original.

Catherine Carter re Noonian Singh and Noonian Soong. According to Richard Arnold this was a little joke of Gene Roddenberry's, both were named after Noonian Singh who had been a friend of Gene's in the Air Force.

• Nigel Nixon - 262 King's Rd, Reading, Berks RG1 4HP

To Marie Park (N/L 37 P 47) - Ooops! I did 'misremember', didn't I! Of course you are right, 1000 crew. Sorry!

To Neil Barrett (N/L 38 P 34) - I can see how you get to Enterprise Class, but would Starfleet personnel reason the same way? Remember they know that the movie Enterprises are still officially Constitution Class, so would they just make up a new class name for them? 'New' Constitution Class maybe but 'Enterprise Class' seems unlikely to me.

USS Ti-Ho is new to me. Could someone tell me which film or episode it was mentioned in?

To Taruka Q (N/L 38 P 37) - Errr - Virgil Grissom was known almost exclusively as Gus. A case of a nickname replacing his given name. Check out Tom Wolfe's brilliant book *The Right Stuff* (or the Oscar-winning film of the same title) for more on the people behind the early American space shots.

• Steve Farmer - Tamworth, Staffs

The content of your newsletter is always excellent, and very good value, but I do feel it would benefit from a more interesting layout, with more illustrations/screened black and

white photos to accompany the articles, etc. How about photos of the IDIC staff and members who write in? *[Sheila - We'd like to have more illos, but if we did we'd have to cut some of the articles; and we couldn't afford to get photos screened without putting the dues up.]*

Does anyone realise that the BBC have no plans to show DS9 or Voyager? Not everyone has Sky TV, so if anyone wants to write in to urge them to change their minds, as I did, the address is; Lee Rogers. BBC, Viewer and Listener Correspondence, White City, 201 Wood Lane, London W12 7TS, telephone 081-752 5252. Perhaps if they get enough people showing interest they'll reconsider.

There seems to be widely differing opinions among members as to which incarnation of Trek is best. In my opinion, CT was brilliant for its time, but is now looking very corny and dated, although I do still enjoy it. The movies are generally good, except for No. 5, but they did slip into self-parody a little too often towards the end of the series. TNG is streets ahead of any other Trek at the moment; it's Gene Roddenberry's masterpiece and I don't think it will ever be surpassed. DS9? Well... the first series *was* a let-down, wasn't it? I really *wanted* to like it, but I couldn't help thinking this would not have reached our screens if Gene had still been alive. Rick Berman and Michael Piller made a big mistake in concentrating too much on set designs, make up and SFX, and not enough of strong characters, on *likeable* characters, and good stories. They seem to have been struggling to put these things right ever since... the second series *was* a lot better - more character development and interaction, more humour and better stories. Although I do like it now and will be sticking to it, I don't think it will ever become as 'special' as TNG. As for Voyager - I'm looking forward to seeing it; I've got an open mind. I just hope they've learned from their mistakes.

• Elaine Henderson - Glasgow

I was at the Edinburgh Art Centre on Sat 11th Feb for the Star Trek Exhibition, and I thought it was great - everything you want to know about Star Trek. I have to admit that I am a Classic fan and seeing the uniforms and all the gadgets that were used was fantastic.

The exhibition is very well laid out, and it certainly is a must for fans. The merchandise you can buy there can be expensive, though. Take a camera - it will be well used! (Incidentally - go by bus - it's a lot cheaper than the train.)

I would like to mention William Shatner's new book, Star Trek Movie Memories. It is well worth buying - once you start reading you just can't put it down.

• Catherine Hill - Staffordshire

To Jessie Lemer - Thanks a lot for the contact addresses - I've been looking for one for Denise Crosby for ages!

To David Pipgras - I loved your article on How to obtain autographs. There was a lot of good advice in it. Thanks!

To Taruka Quauhtezcatl - That was a great wordsearch in the last N/L! It took me at least an hour to do, and was good fun. By the way, what was the Trek word from the left-over letters? I couldn't find it!

Favourite TNG episodes - 1) All Good Things; 2) Tapestry; 3) Dark Page; 4) Menage a Troi; 5) Reunion.

To Liz Caldwell - I completely disagree with you. In my opinion, DS9 definitely feels like Star Trek - I don't know why, there's just something about it - call it a 'Trek trademark' if you like, but it feels as much like Star Trek as TNG, and as for Voyager, I have every confidence that it too will feel like Star Trek. I am only 13, so maybe I appreciate the 'younger' series more, as I have grown up with them, particularly TNG.

To everyone - Well, I have seen Generations, and I have only one comment - wow!!! It was the most incredible film I have ever seen, better than any other Trek movies (or any other movies, period). The SFX were fantastic, the plot excellent - altogether superb!

• Donna Smith - Emley Nr Huddersfield

To Rachel Carradine (N/L 38 P 42) - Yes, I think Patrick Stewart does originate from Mirfield, which incidentally isn't too far from

where I live either. I had to laugh when I watched Moviewatch a couple of nights ago - they had an interview with Patrick Stewart. The interviewer asked him what he was a fan of when he was a boy; he replied "Huddersfield Town football club".

To Andrew William Merritt (N/L 38 P 19) - I'm going to Orlando again in May this year... mainly on a quest for Star Trek goodies! Can you tell me roughly whereabouts NCC 1701 is? Also I think there is a big sci-fi shop on International Drive?

Finally to Dave Styles - After flicking through my March issue of Empire film magazine, I came across a large section devoted to Star Trek (mainly interviews with William Shatner & Patrick Stewart). In the middle of all this there was an article about Page's Bar in London... and lo and behold the name David Styles cropped up, closely followed by a comment regarding Morris dancing and a photo of 3 Klingons from Ashford, Kent! Is this the same David Styles whose name graces the postbag in every newsletter? Or is it just an eerie coincidence? *[Janet - Dave tells us that his local group Energise also made front page headlines in the Folkestone Herald and the Folkestone & Hythe Extra]*

• Nicole Comtet - France

To TNG fans who cannot understand why OT fans do not want to view That Film and see Kirk die - Cannot you understand what it means to the Kirk fans? Would you not feel the same frustration if your Captain Picard was killed? Why should we not be upset by Kirk's demise? Personally, I am a fan of Spock and McCoy more than of Kirk, but I fully share Waltraud Zucha-Glass's feelings, so strongly expressed in her letter in N/L 38. She said she will not view Generations because of Kirk's death. She is in good company. Not everyone is interested in the Next Gen series and by doing away with Kirk in their first feature film, the TNG producers have done nothing to encourage OT fans to go and watch it.

I find it most curious, this obsession of Paramount's of disposing so high-handedly of the original characters; first Sarek, dying in

undignified agony, then Spock, left stranded and forgotten in the Romulan Empire, and now Jim Kirk himself. Could this denote some kind of complex towards OT, a complex which can only be relieved by killing the father figure?

Naturally we know that our favourite actors are aging; like the rest of us they are not immortal, but the fabulous characters they created 25 years ago will survive. The galaxy is still theirs to explore, and that is how I shall remember them.

• John Stevens - Reading

How does the Federation feel about an ally which still subjugates other life forms? Or did the Klingon Empire give up all those planets it conquered once the treaty was signed?

To Jean Perrin (N/L 38) - Re dislike for Wesley. I've come up with two ideas (my quota for the year). 1) Resentment that when he's on screen the galaxy appears to rotate around him, 2) Jealousy? Not only is he a young genius, he's growing up in a future most of us will never see.

To Leslie Moyes - Unhappy with the new com badges? Perhaps they should be remoulded to fit onto the forehead. I would like to point out however that the idea of Starfleet officers walking around slapping their heads does not amuse me in any way...

To Judith Taylor - Re Spot's mystery pregnancy. Could Data be conducting experiments on it? Quick observation. Throughout SF films/shows all manner of pets seem destined to be dragged into space with us; cats, dogs, fish and even hamsters, but has anyone seen anything with feathers?

My favourite species is Klingon. Live long and prosper. Don't annoy a Klingon...

• Kay Stagg - Guildford

I was extremely disappointed at Nichelle Nichols' attitude towards William Shatner during her stay in this country. Allowing for the fact that she was trying to sell her book, did she feel it so necessary to do it at his expense? Regardless of any problems they

may have had on the set of either the series or the films, it was only a job. How many of us can say we even remember who we worked with 29 years ago, let alone remain close friends. She ought to take a leaf from WS's book. He never, ever criticises any cast member and treats their unpleasant ways with humour, but it must hurt. Actually, the interview with Richard Madeley on This Morning was rather silly. Having implied that WS had a large ego, she went on to tell Richard Madeley how beautiful men found her, including Martin Luther King. So who has the problem with ego?

She also implied that WS was disliked by all cast members. This is simply not true. At Midcon DeForrest Kelly said he was a good friend of Bill's, and wouldn't allow any criticism of him, and anyone watching the 25 Year Mission tape would know how good a friendship he has with Leonard Nimoy.

It was therefore refreshing to not only read but to hear Patrick Stewart's comments about WS and how well they got on together, something which had led to friendship.

I have to admit that I have found the hype of ST Generations a little OTT. We have never had this kind of publicity for the other films - I just wish we had. Could it be that Paramount feel they have to sell this film?

To Catherine Carter - Valeris was not in the Starfleet Command HQ briefing room when Kirk called the Klingons animals and said "Let them die". You are confusing it with what he said about his son in his quarters, which she overheard.

To Lynne Banister - Oh yes, please, to a Classic Trek Convention. To go back to the small friendly convention where everyone knows everyone and see so many of the faces who have dropped out of conventions over the last five years. You can definitely count me in!

To the committee of Wolf 359. An excellent little convention, extremely well run; and the committee was friendly and very helpful. When I found there was no dealer's table allocated to me it was dealt with quickly

and efficient almost immediately.

Yes, Walter Koenig did stay till the end, because I took a photo of him on Sunday afternoon. I have sort of promised Walter's Number One fan, Kayta, not to dare mention it again... but my word, he did look ill.

If I have a criticism of Wolf 359 it is nothing to do with the convention itself. It was the constant criticism of the Old series, and in particular Kirk, which I found so hard to put up with. Do NG fans not realise that NG is built on the solid rock foundation of Kirk and Spock? Without those two characters there would be no Star Trek, no fandom and no NG. There certainly would not have been a ready-made fandom for NG fans to step into. So please give up the criticism and just allow the fact that we have our ST and you have yours.

• Edward Woo - Guarding Sub Rosa

To Elizabeth Barrie - All pilot films have flaws. I don't think you should judge DS9 on just one viewing. I believe it is just getting into its stride.

To Di Williams - Sorry, I can't put a face to your name, but Warp One was a distant past as illness on that Monday made its memory worse. No need to go to Preston if it's too far - come to our gathering, it's just over the water. As for 'IDIC Legend' - not me. The committee are the heroes of ST. I just write.

To Jean Perrin - Re the beaming down of Captains on away missions - it seems like Voyager is returning to that situation just like in Classic Trek. And have you noticed it's Captain Kathryn T Janeway, just like James T Kirk and William T Riker? Does Ben Sisko have a middle name?

To Paul Taylor - Yes, many people think watching ST is strange, but like you say, those who laugh at it tend to know enough about it! Personally, I think that each has his/her own interest and why should people poke fun at someone else's hobby?

To Robbie Taylor - I would not like to lose DS9 even if Voyager is a success. I feel

DS9 can go all the way to its 7th year. I hear rumours that any subsequent ST series like Voyager may run 3 - 4 years before being replaced by yet another creation. Surely a series should be allowed to run its course before termination?

To Stephen Daniels - I know Data has gone wrong in the past, but I think you have over-estimated his past flaws. Perhaps you could research in which episodes he has malfunctioned? Surely a race, Humans included, will make mistakes (like Data); and surely the insane Captain of a ship can do an equal amount of damage as a defective Soong-type android.

To Rory Smith - Shouldn't Picard have made a greater attempt to communicate with the alien species on Tarchanen III and is he not preventing an alien life form to continue by denying them the use of Terrans? Surely this is genocide.

To Pamela Dale et al - Re my Starship name article. My apologies to all those, especially Pamela, over my errors and inaccuracies. I thought I had done my homework but it seems to have failed. Phasers on stun, will have to do better next newsletter. Sorry, folks.

• Eunice Pearson - 2 New Houses, Pant, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan CF48 2AB

Re Liz Caldwell's More Trouble with Trills (P78); in Invasive Procedure Jadzia Dax agreed to let Verad have her symbiont because he threatened the lives of her friends, not because Dax wanted to preserve itself. Dr Bashir refused to perform the operation at first but then Verad injured Chief O'Brien. Dax then asked Bashir to do what Verad wanted so long as no-one else was harmed. Verad's own personality was able to overcome any guilt Dax may have felt at surviving at Jadzia's expense. In Playing God, Dax tells Arjin that Jadzia was an extremely shy and withdrawn young woman who became confident when she was able to draw on Dax's experiences. Verad says he wants a symbiont so badly because he is tired of being an under-achiever. He gives up because he is threatened by Sisko with a phaser, not because the symbiont is

manipulating him! No-one who has seen Jadzia talk about Curzon with affection and the sympathy she shows towards Verad and Arjin could think that the Trill symbionts have an "I'm all right, Jack" mentality or think that Dax regards its hosts as disposable.

To Sue Taylor (P34) - If you can't beat them, join them! Star Trek has given me something to share with my daughter (age 8 and the only ST fan in her class - the other kids think she is crazy) in a way I never had with my own mother. It's helped us grow closer and understand each other a little more.

My favourite ST characters are Uhura, Lt Barclay and the totally adorably Dr Bashir! If we're talking about favourites, my favourite clip has to be from a TNG episode, The Game, when Troi showed Riker the correct way to eat chocolate ice cream. She's absolutely right, chocolate is serious! Favourite episodes, OT - Journey to Babel, TNG - The Measure of a Man, DS9 - The Wire.

• Nanaki Kaur - suffering from 'head in the clouds' syndrome - 585 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 4LS

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone at IDIC for contributing to my condition! (Yesterday my mum told me I never stop thinking about ST and that I'm always in a world of my own! Little does she know you're all in this world too!)

To Jean Perrin - Re your comment "I think he's (Picard) a bit of a wimp" - how can you say that?! Just because he doesn't run off with the away team doesn't mean that. He's had his fair share of away missions when he was a First Officer. He *has* led away missions when it was necessary for the Captain to be there. In Code of Honor he led the away team because no-one other than the Captain would be accepted. Gambit, Descent, Sins of the Father, Chain of Command (I), etc, are all episodes in which he was needed away from the ship.

To Lynne Banister - I don't like the idea of segregated Trek conventions. I'm a fan of ST in all its incarnations and I feel it's a shame to

start separating the Classic fans from NG ones or DS) fans from NG, etc. I understand that one series may take precedence over the others (due to being the current one in production) at a convention, but that's due to the organisers. I thought the idea of ST cons was to bring all the fans together; in the spirit of IDIC let's keep cons for everyone.

To Zander Bruce - I still prefer Riker/Troi. Does anyone have zines or stories focusing on their relationship and would be willing to lend or sell them to me? Or does anyone know of any Riker/Troi zines and where I could get them?

To Irena Hradecka - My favourite ST race is Betazoids. I believe that if a few highly placed politicians had some empathy, a few of the world's problems we have today might just get solved!

• Leslie Moyes - Glenrothes

What does everybody think of the Exhibition? All I will say is, it's brilliant, and leave the rest to you. You won't be disappointed!

I've been reading the TNG novel The Romulan Prize - what got me, is Simon Hawke a son of that great band Rush? Because the Romulan warbird is called Syrinx, which comes from a track called Temples of Syrinx, from one of the best albums ever made, Rush 2U2. Rush have made their own homage to Trek as well; on their classic 1984 album Grace Under Pressure, there was a track called Enemy Within. Could that possibly be a coincidence? Comments from anyone else who likes Rush would be welcome.

Anybody else think that Data looks like Gary Newman?

• Andy Piercy - Beverley, N Humberside

I've just seen DS9 - The Jem'Hadar . At last a DS9 episode worth re-watching! One question - in ST:VI, is the big alien Jim Kirk fights a Jem'Hadar? They sure do look similar! If so, Ben Sisko should make sure the Defiant is equipped with hi-tech knee-capping devices!

To Catherine Carter - Apparently the similarity between the names Khan Noonian Singh and Dr Noonian Soong is because Gene Roddenberry was trying to contact a wartime friend called Noonian Singh, with whom he had lost contact. Unfortunately his friend did not contact him despite Roddenberry's efforts.

I loved Generations, by the way, but it's a shame Chekov didn't have a better role.

• Peter Benei - Beaconsfield

I would like to say Hello to all IDIC members. I really enjoyed my first year with IDIC mostly because of your comments and articles. Thank you for all of it.

To Jason Wells - Riker replacing Sisko on DS9 (N/L 38)? Interesting idea, but I must disagree with you. As far as I know, Riker always wanted his own command, but he did not want to be in charge of a space station. He wanted a starship, probably one like the Enterprise-D. Worf as Chief of Security on DS9? Yes, this could also be another interesting choice, mainly because of the racial differences between the Klingons and the Ferengi, but he has not got as much experience in station security as Odo.

To Ken Mitchell - I would like to see a Romulan story in the next film, but not a peace treaty. How about a co-operation between the TNG crew and a Warbird crew, fighting together against a common enemy? This story might help to ease the tension between the UFP and the Romulan Star Empire and might also help Ambassador Spock's unification plan.

To Lt K'ehleir tai Kolothe (N/L 38) - Yes, the Terrans have forgotten the pleasure of catching the food before eating it, but we have learned a great deal of other things. Who do you think helped you at least twice in the past to survive as an Empire? First after the destruction of Praxis; after that, during the recent civil war. If the Federation (Terrans) had not helped Gowron, by now the Empire probably would be another province of the Romulans. No offence intended. Live long the Empire! Q'plah!

I have been thinking about the Vulcan security officer aboard the USS Voyager. I have read the pros and cons on this subject and I believe I have a 'solution'. What if he is not a Vulcan but a Romulan who is not proud of his people and decided to leave the Empire, perhaps as one of the few dissidents and defectors? Probably he was given a new personality to hide him from the Tal Shiar's agents hunting him. His secret personality (the Romulan heritage) and the 'new' one (the Vulcan) could be in a really serious conflicts. Any comments?

• Chris Tearne - Mirfield

To Rachel Carradine - Ha! Bet you thought you were the only member from our little town of Mirfield. And yes, it is the home town of Patrick Stewart. He does pop back now and again to see his family, but a couple of years ago he bought a cottage near Grassington, which he calls his home. I was up there a couple of months ago and I was astounded to see he only had one video of ST:TNG (someone with a collection as sparse as my own).

To Dave Styles - I agree with your views of the Public's view of Trekkers. Whilst queueing to watch Generations, a couple behind me were discussing Trekkers/Trekkies. One asked the other, "What do they prefer to be called?" The response was "Don't know, don't care."

To Jean Perrin - I like Wesley too. I think a lot of people dislike him through jealousy. It's the same gut reaction when you see a seventeen-year-old, just out of school, driving a Porsche. Downright envy. Unfortunately this envy manifests itself as hatred. I read somewhere, though, Wil Wheaton left to take advantage of other TV/film offers.

• Jean Perrin - Burton-upon-Trent, Staffs

Re David Raper's article on Thoughts on the Prime Directive. I agree with David that there are times when the Prime Directive should be shelved. The PD is rule number 1, but has the Federation of Planets never heard of the old axiom, "Rules are made for the obedience of fools and the guidance of wise men"?

Supposing that this planet were about to suffer some great catastrophe which we had no way of solving, wouldn't we want some alien friends to come and help, or would we rather they stood by and watched us all die as part of our natural development? After all, they need not stay in contact with us once they had put things right. The fact that we knew of their existence would not matter because many people, including myself, firmly believe they are there anyway; just based on the billions of stars, we cannot possibly be the only intelligent life to develop. There would be a better chance of winning the National Lottery three weeks in a row than being alone in the Universe!

• Gaile Wood - Tamworth

To Elizabeth Barrie - What a shame you don't like the characters in TNG or DS9. I agree that at first TNG was very difficult to relate to, and I certainly couldn't compare it favourably with the Classic Series; but it sort of grew on me (I think the actual episode that changed my opinion totally was Skin of Evil { "My God, wasn't the monster awful, so false!"} which I watched from my hospital bed) and I discovered a sad case of extreme lust, namely one Michael Dorn. DS9 I always felt happy with because it felt right. I'm also in lust with Dr Bashir, but there you go, hormones will out. So go on, give 'em another chance!

To Eddie Woo - Hiya, Mate! Howareya? The name of Roger Neal for the 3-D chess set rules? What's his address? The guy I'm going out with is also interested in making a set because I've turned him into an addict. So this is an appeal to anyone out there if they can help me in this quest to save my bloke from possible misery... Thanks!

To Marie I J Park - I've often wondered about Data's (never mind Worf's) lack of promotion. I came to the conclusion that it can only be because of his programming. In Thine Own Self, Deanna has to make a decision about sending a friend (ie Geordi) into certain death, and she does it. I don't think Data's programming would allow for this, and maybe that's why he isn't a captain. Having seen Generations, and All Good Things, the only way he could bypass this

would be with the emotion chip, so perhaps the storyline for future films will include a promotion.

To Nick Cook - OK, so maybe the science was a bit shaky, but I wasn't trying to write an academic dissertation. It was strictly done tongue (if you'll pardon the pun) in cheek. The reason I did it was because there had been a conversation regarding a couple of Diane Duane's books (in particular Spock's World) which put forward the transfer of info via tRNA. As those who know me (from the pages of IDIC and various cons) will attest, I'm a bugger for this sort of thing, but I'll agree my sources were somewhat ancient as they stemmed from the mid-seventies. Biochemistry has moved on a lot since then, but if you want the names of the books I'll send you a bibliography.

• Dave Smith - Northants

To Maggie and the rest of the Coventry Spaced Out Club. Thanks for inviting Mike and me to your club. We found the experience most interesting and it gave us some ideas for our own club, which, by the time this N/L is printed, we should have off the ground. Give us a short time to get things moving and we will send you an invite to come and see us here in the wilds of Northampton.

• Alan Callaby - Thetford, Norfolk

To Sarah Rooke - Nice to meet you at the Generations convention (you sat next us on Sunday). Keep watching DS9, it continues to get better.

To Elizabeth Barrie - Sorry to disagree, but what a statement - to say the characters in TNG and DS9 are wooden and the stories lack humour. I think that Brent Spiner, Patrick Stewart and Armin Shimerman are three of the finest character actors around, with Michael Dorn not far behind.

To Robbie Taylor - Favourite recurring characters are Ro Laren, Ensign Sito (please give her a full role in DS9) and Lursa and B'Etor (till their unfortunate end in Generations).

• Ian Forrester - Smethwick, W Mids

To Jenny Turner - Yes, Dave Letterman is crazy, mad, etc, and it does take a couple of shows to get used to him. However, Patrick Stewart was not on the show to promote Generations; he was in New York because of his run on Broadway, which gave him the opportunity to appear on the show. Since I started watching it about 6 months ago, he has appeared at least once before and he seems to have a great rapport with the host (as does Bill Shatner).

Why is Sulu masquerading as Judge Ho in the OJ Simpson trial?

• Alan Stephen - Bridge of Don, Aberdeen

To Dave Styles - Like you, I couldn't care less what people think of my likes, whether Star Trek, comics or American Civil War history; that's their problem, not mine. *But* I think we shouldn't give them ammunition to look at us in a derogatory fashion, whether by giving value to Pizza Hut cups or running up and down a train dressed as Klingons having a phaser fight. It only goes to indicate to the general public that Star Trek fans deserve the low opinion that some of them have of us.

I'm sure plenty of fans have been to the Star Trek Exhibition in Edinburgh. I've been, with my son Adam. On the day we went, by 10.30am 800 people had been admitted. What pleases me about this exhibit is the fact that it is in Edinburgh and not London, so it's easier and cheaper for fans this far north to attend, and with Maggie's exhibition in Elgin, North-East fans should be in some kind of ST heaven.

• Tracy Saunders - Westcliff on Sea, Essex

To Miri Rana - I do hope that your stroke hasn't affected you a great deal. You are in my thoughts.

• Tony McNally - Wirral

To Catherine Carter - Sorry, but I've got to disagree about Generations - the book. It was a good read and the colour pictures from the film make it worth having. I agree with you about Federation, though, as you say, "a good meaty read". Don't give up on DS9 yet - I think the Defiant certainly improves things

and the House of Quark was really funny; and no matter how bad it gets I think it will still be better than B5. During a conversation the other night, we reached the conclusion that "there's no such thing as bad Trek, just that some's better than others".

To Di Williams - I'd already taken your advice and joined a new local group in Chester. It's called The Federation and can be contacted c/o Rodney Milton, 64 Kynaston Dr, Saltney Ferry, Chester CH4 0AT. I've been to two meetings so far and there is to be a sci-fi event on April 29th. At the last meeting I saw the pilot episode of Voyager (Caretaker) - it's superb and I can't wait to see the next one. The new captain and her crew are very convincing and seem to be cast in the traditional Trek mould. The Federation is also running a Klingon language correspondence course via one of the committee members, Alex Greene, who can be contacted at Laburnum House, Quarry Rd, Brynateg, Wrexham, Clwyd LL11 6PB.

To Sheila Clark - Re Relics. Perhaps Scotty is still so distressed over Kirk's "death" on Enterprise B that he has blotted out the painful memories. Another explanation could be deterioration of certain functions, such as memory, whilst being held in the transporter for all that time.

I recently came across a copy of Entertainment Weekly - Special Star Trek Issue. This is full of interesting information - some old, some new (to me, anyway); not least, in an article about Q, that Gene Roddenberry wrote to a lady in Scotland to say he was naming a character after her "and her name's Janet Quarton". Apologies if this is ancient history to veteran IDIC members, can Janet please confirm this? *[Janet - Gene named the character for me, not after me - I least I hope he did. I don't think I behave like Q. Gene was a good friend and I miss him.]*

• Gul Melset - Cardassian Embassy

Even though, regrettably enough, TNG is over, I still would like to discuss two episodes which, however often I view them, never fail to annoy me for their very remarkable treatment of science.

In Pen Pals, the Enterprise terminated all signs of tectonic activity on Sarjenka's planet, thus saving her people for a rather unpleasant future. Most of the consequences of this well-meant interference will become obvious within a few generations. Vulcanism recycles and reintroduces water and gases into the atmosphere, thus replacing whatever is bled off into space; without this action the planet will soon become airless and waterless, incapable of sustaining life. Tectonics create new land, new mountain ranges which gradually erode into fertile soil. In addition, volcanoes, in erupting, lay the basis for the soil's fertility - how else would Indonesia have three harvests a year? Another aspects is the fact that active zones see the deposition of natural resources such as metals, or make the formation of gas, coal and oil deposits possible; even salt domes owe their existence to these forces.

As to Genesis - the less said about it the better! I can barely accept the de-evolution of a mature life form, but for a modern cat to regress into an equally modern iguana is a little too hard to believe - the only possible reptiloid Spot could have become would have been the common ancestor of both the orders of mammaliae and reptiliae.

As I do not have the last newsletter to hand at the moment, I would like to just mention that "only unprintable adjectives" for Cardassians may be a bit prejudices. While many of their actions may be despicable by any standards, it must be taken into consideration that they were a desperately poor people, always on the brink of starvation. As has happened often enough in Earth history, a people who had to cope with such conditions was always all too ready to follow any leader, military or otherwise, who offered them a vision of security, a modicum of prosperity.

Gul Ocett of The Chase wanted to find a source of unlimited power, ie energy, for her homeworld, something we are searching for even not as our resources gradually diminish - this search can easily lead to war, in the Trek universe as well as ours.

As to the aspect of racial and cultural

diversity on other planets, I may be prejudiced, but I greatly appreciate the diversity of races and cultures here on Earth and am pleased to see it reflected on other worlds in Trek - if fans can like and even love various aliens it may also be realizable on our planet. I hope it isn't a case of "They are far away and thus safe to love, but once they move into the neighbourhood imagine Klingon, Cardassian, Bajoran and Vulcan neighbours" - the Terrans move out before housing prices fall.

• Jay Stevensen - in swampy, rebellious Essex

Red letter day! At last I've seen an on-screen childbirth scene that didn't make me want to switch off/walk out/puke. Congratulations to Keiko and Worf in Disaster. Marvellous stuff, with Worf going by the book and Keiko getting crosser by the minute. Loved Worf's comment, "Keiko, this is not a good time."

To all who answered my question on 'filk' songs - thanks.

To Lt K'ehleir tai Koloth - A closet Klingon? No, no... I haven't got the cleavage for a start. Similarities to Terrans? I'm willing to concede that Humans (and a Vulcan) are physically "soft and squashy" (I said it in Classroom!) but in character surely we resemble you "I'll-headbutt-anyone-anywhere-anytime" Klingons? Maybe we don't eat gagh (alive) but we do chase and kill harmless, beautiful animals for fun. Doesn't that count in our favour?

To Taruka Q - How much worse do I have to get to receive a tribble?

To Vulcan Ambassador T'Yomin - Thanks for the off-world address. Why go to Gol... again? So you lust after Spock? Relax and enjoy it. Fellow Vulcans might not understand your lack of control but the very human Mr Nimoy, when asked in the 70s if he knew he was "a source of erotic dream material for thousands and thousands of ladies around the world" took it in good part and simply replied, "May all your dreams come true." So... dream on.

• Catherine Carter - Kate@carterce.demon.co.uk

To Jay Stevenson and Kayta Phillips - "The Shell Game" is what they used to call "Thimble rigging". The con where you take three small cups/thimbles/shells and put a pea or small ball under one, switch them round and defy the luckless punter to guess which cup it's under. The ball, of course, has been palmed.

Tell me folks, am I the only person who positively doesn't want to see the actors in real life? I prefer to keep my disbelief suspended and I don't think their private lives are any of my business. The only time I went to an actor's talk I found some of the questions asked deeply embarrassing, the number of people who can't tell the difference between the character and the actor was astounding.

Sheila, one comment of yours in the last n/1 made me yelp in agreement: why can't they make cheerful movies? I think that's why my favourite is STIV, not least because a goodly part of it takes place in sunshine and there are a few jokes. I agree life is often pretty dark but that's not all it is. In the same vein and continuing the discussion about "real Vulcans", one thing I've now noticed many people mention is the fact that in TOS both Spock and Sarek had a sense of humour. It was dry as a bone but it existed - too many of you young people seem to think that being logical means being grim (ah in my young day... mutter mutter)

By the way if anyone's interested Voyager is jolly good (evil grin).

• Neil J Barrett - Still waiting for that tribble, TQ...

To The Ambassador T'Yomin (n38/p20). Call me suspicious but your list of Vulcan languages have a definite Japanese flavour to them. Not to mention the neat way that the percentages add up to 100 - does this not imply that no significant number of Vulcans speak more than one tongue?

To Nigel Nixon (n38/p25) & Marie IJ Park (p43). The passing on of a male

surname to one's offspring is not a universal Human custom - Icelanders don't do it for a start. If the family followed Russian traditions then we would have Worf Sergeivich Rozhenko and Alexander Worfovich Rozhenko which is not that far from Worf, son of Mogh and Alexander, son of Worf anyway. The alternative (Klunk of the House of Krudd) is only a fancier way of using surnames.

The Enterprise-D needn't have a lot of empty cabin space. The cabins themselves are considerably larger for a start and many of them will be multi-room to cope with families. There will also be extra space taken up by creches, schools and the like. Remember that Enterprise-No Bloody A,B,C or D! was much closer to a military vessel and the junior crew probably had to rough it a bit. I agree with Marie that there couldn't possibly be that many people down on the planet - as I understand it, the 1000-odd breaks down into 450-odd operational crew, the same number of research and support staff (like Mr Mot) and 100+ family members. Even if you send the teachers out on search parties for extra manpower, I can't see more than 500 being planetside.

To Robbie Taylor (n38/p35) & Lesley Moyes (n37/p49). Have you tried "How Much for Just the Planet?" by John M Ford? That started out as a concept for a musical and it still has songs in it. I think it works quite well although I can't really imagine Sulu and Scotty singing Gilbert and Sullivan.

As many others have said, Bev in the centre seat is a case of dramatic needs overtaking realism. Ditto for Troi taking the helm in 'Generations'. I'll accept that she might have taken a crash course (pun not entirely unintentional) for situations like in "Disaster" but I can't believe that ALL the qualified and experienced helm officers were injured in the first attack. Maybe they're all hiding in the head...

To all the Pagans, Wiccans, Followers of the Old Religion/Craft etc. plus any Satanists, Moonies or Branch Davidians we may have out there. I'm sure it's all very interesting but it isn't Trek. Please conduct

this discussion somewhere else. The same goes for any more Politically Correct posturing about Aboriginal Americans (sic) spinning off from one mention of Chakotay.

[Janet - We had already come to the same conclusion. The problem is that a subject starts being discussed because of its link to ST but then diverges and it isn't always easy knowing when to call a halt. In this newsletter the decision has been made for us - we have 12 pages of the post bag to cut and it makes sense to cut the non-Trek references first. We will always forward mail if members want to continue discussions outside the newsletter but don't forget to provide postage.]

• Elizabeth Alderson - Warrington

Thank you for filling my life with such burning questions as - what should you feed a Tribble and will Generations be OT or NG?

Hello mum - at last you have your own IDIC after two years of fighting over MY copy!! If Simon got to it first - don't worry we'll get him his own membership too!

• Bill McClure - 1032 South Main St, Woodstock, VA 22664, USA

Hello, out there! I've just recently joined IDIC, thanks to a gift subscription from my two British penpals, Sylvia Paddock and Linda McGrath. I'm really glad they decided to let me in on this little 'secret' organisation; I had no idea I was missing out on so much fun!

In the last two issues of IDIC, I've noticed several references to computer networking, and I have a problem I was wondering if anyone out there could help me with... I've been wanting to try to get an advertisement for my ST fanzines out on the Internet, but unfortunately when it comes to computers I'm about as thick as the Ferengi that Riker tried to "instruct" in the episode Rascals! I know several people who have home computers, but unfortunately none of them have access to Internet. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to drop an ad on the Net for me? I would certainly be more than willing to pay for any long-distance phone calls, postage or any other fees that would be required. Any assistance, advice or

suggestions with this venture would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me at the address above. I just can't wait to get started "surfin' the Net"! [*Janet - send me the advert, preferably on a DOS disc to save typing, and I will do it for you. There would be no charge as a message only takes seconds to upload.*]

• Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

On the report of William Shatner's People interview, re his supposedly altering scripts to annex other people's lines and his view that he was 'improving' said scripts - I suppose one man's 'improvement' is another man's 'The (expletive deleted) has stolen my lines'.

To Gratiennne Vandekerkhove - You have listed the *only* four occasions when Spock initiated mental contact with Kirk. You may notice that in three of the four it was for practical reasons - to restore his memory (Paradise Syndrome), to protect him from a mental attack (Spectre of the Gun), and to prove his identity (Captain Kirk, Space Queen - I'm sorry, I prefer the crew's title to the official one) - and I am sure Spock would have done the same for anyone. Indeed, in Spectre he does it for McCoy and Scotty too, and in Whom Gods Destroy links with a complete stranger to restore him to sanity. Only in Requiem for Methuselah is he motivated by friendship, and then Kirk isn't conscious. How this has been turned by fans into a permanent telepathic bond beats me. Er, Sheila, I suspect Gratiennne wrote Flemish, not Flamish. [*Sheila - No, I double checked her letter. She did write Flamish, and I assumed it was how people in Belgium spell the word we pronounce as Flemish.*]

To Lesley Arrowsmith and all who object to there being a Vulcan security officer - Vulcans are *not* total pacifists. Spock, in Journey to Babel, says that Sarek is quite capable of killing if he sees a logical reason to do so. Sarek can hardly be an abnormal personality in this or they would not have let him go into the diplomatic service. Vulcans many not *like* to kill - and I would think that Starfleet would not want anyone who *did* like to kill in Security - but they would if they had a reason.

To Jean Perrin - Actually, I think the order banning Captains from beaming down to unknown planets was probably activated after Starfleet read the logs of the 5-year mission. Until then it hadn't occurred to them that any Captain would be so criminally irresponsible as to do such a thing and even worse, 9 times out of 10 take his second in command with him. (Of course the real reason Kirk behaved like this was that the TV mores of the day demanded that all heroes should be heroes, not thinkers.) And yes, an officer who craved excitement and personal glory over all else probably would be deterred from becoming a captain by the order - maybe that's another reason for it, to weed out candidates who are basically immature.

To Dave Styles - I was enjoying your account of your stint as a Klingon salesman until the end. Maybe my view was coloured by the fact that I read it sitting on a train - the 6 pm from King's Cross to Edinburgh, full of people who had had a day's work in London and were going home. A 10.30 pm train, I should think, would carry passengers who had just come off shift work. I have to tell you that had a pair of grown men started to run up and down the corridor pretending to have a phaser fight, I would not have been amused - and I would not, had I been a person who knew just enough about Star Trek to recognise the costumes, have formed a very good opinion of Trekkers.

• Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Jean Perrin - I'm afraid organisations don't work like that, as I've found in my job. If you do well in active, "hands on" work, you are expected to progress on to higher and higher levels of management. This trend strengthens the larger and more generally bureaucratic an organisation gets, which partly explains how Kirk was able to get away with putting himself on the line whereas Picard is more restrained.

To John Stublely - The profile of ST fans has definitely changed. Original fandom was about 98% female judging by cons in the 70s/80s, but when I went back after a 9 or 10 year gap, I was surprised by the large number of men. TNG definitely seems to have brought

them in though I would agree they're not adolescents, more 20s - 30s.

Re Vulcan, I didn't get any sense of there being priestesses in the classic series - that was introduced in ST:TMP. We only saw a political/matriarchal figure (T'Pol) and Spock's betrothed (T'Pol) plus male ceremonial guards who ensured the combatants followed the rules if a challenge was made, in Amok Time. I agree it's illogical that they still had such reticence about their mating customs and hadn't found scientific ways of controlling pon farr, but they had no apparent religion.

To Adrienne Brown - The books by Leslie Fish that I've seen carried that name - Leslie Fish - they they were cowritten with other people, like Mercedes Lackey.

To Clare Finkel - Re friendship being a 'problem'. Maybe if it's cliquey and shuts out others, but caring has to start somewhere. All we can do is combine friendship for small numbers of people with the realisation that name of the faceless millions out there could also have been our friends if circumstances had been different, and therefore have consideration for them.

I agree that the Spock of the series is exploring his Human heritage. I never believed in this TMP idea where he suddenly goes off thinking it's shameful and must be destroyed. We saw him appreciating Kirk's humanity in a true IDIC spirit so it never made sense to me; and bringing him back from the dead just trivialised his sacrifice.

To Liz Caldwell - Re the stealing of Jadzia's symbiont and 'his' attitude. Isn't it that the personality of the host strongly colours the symbiont's attitude and as he didn't care about her, that's what won out? Maybe the symbionts are pure intellect and rely on the host for emotion?

• Simon Robinson - Luton

I am very impressed with the start of DS9's third season. The 2-parter (The Search) was excellent, with better character interaction than previously seen. House of Quark continued the strong start, with Armin

Shirmerman's outstanding performance in a very humorous episode. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the season, especially Jonathan Frakes in the Defiant. Look out for Tom Riker and Ensign Sito to become semi-regular characters.

To David Pipgrass - I have never written to America for autographs and found your report very informative, but can you help me with a couple of things: 1) should I put English or American stamps on a self-addressed envelope, and how much would it be? 2) Is it best to provide your own photo or will one be provided by the actor or actress? *[Sheila - You would need American stamps. Anyone sending an SAE to another country needs to put on either the stamps of that country or enclose 1, preferably 2, International Reply Coupons, obtainable from major post offices. Send your own photo - only if you're prepared to lose it. If an actor picks up a couple of hundred requests for a signed photo there's no guarantee that an enclosed photo will not be separated from its envelope. And if it's just a request for a signed photo, often that will be handled by the mail department, who will have a selection pre-signed to send out; the actor may never see the letter.]*

Can anybody tell me where I can get a copy of Star Trek 25th Anniversary tape, also Brent Spiner's Old Yellow Eyes is Back?

What has Nana Visitor been in before? She seems very recognisable to me.

• Pen Cramphorn - Pudsey

To Maggie Symon, N/L 38 - Yes, I do think Bones would taunt Spock about Vulcan mysticism if he'd known about it. After all, his favourite Spock-jibe was "green-blooded, pointy-eared whatever (eg 'walking computer') - no way could Spock help the colour of his blood or the shape of his ears! I don't think Spock was ashamed of his Vulcan or Human sides, or of Vulcan rites, rituals, mysticism - I always see Spock as an intensely private person who simply doesn't talk about himself or Vulcan. In The Final Frontier, when Kirk asked him why he'd never mentioned he had a half brother - and this was his best friend speaking! - he replied

something along the lines of "I was not disposed to talk about my private life".

Yes, I know the bit you mean in The Making of Star Trek - I took the pages of 'suggestions' for Vulcan names to be another of "our Bahbs" jokes.

To Taruka Q - Did you get those books I sent for your library, way back in January? I never heard from you. If you don't want them sent them back, I can always find good homes for them!

Finally, did anyone see Alias Smith and Jones on 8th March? The episode was written by Gene Roddenberry!

• Brenda Allan - Dawson Creek, BC Canada

First of all, Thank You to Neil Barrett for your wonderful letter in response to my article from N/L 37! I'm still sifting through the contents but be assured, you *will* be receiving a rejoinder...

Talk about developments, maybe we *will* to see the day a Ferengi serves in Starfleet! In Heart of Stone Nog is determined to enter Starfleet, and Sisko finally gives him a recommendation! Just remember the scene from Future Imperfect with the Ferengi con operator! (Maybe that's really Nog!)

To Sheila Clark (P 20) - Re seeming overnight establishment of the Maquis. I would be tempted to say that the Maquis *were* formed years before, shortly after the Federation/Cardassian war. Surely there were some Federation citizens who would still carry a grudge against the "Cardis" and would seek vengeance the only way they knew how. Just because Starfleet says "The war is over" doesn't mean everyone will follow suit. So it makes sense that when the demilitarised zone was in the mapping stages, the Maquis would be preparing to retaliate if the outcome was unfavourable. Just one more excuse to attack the Cardis!

To Elizabeth Barrie (P21) - So you don't like TNG or DS9, eh? Well, I hope you don't let Voyager pass you by! In just the first 7 episodes I can already say I like this show far

more than I did DS9 at the same stage. The characters have much more depth than wood, and there have been many scenes so far that have set me laughing! Don't be too quick to judge.

• Kerry McGuire - Telford

Re Bajoran Earrings - Ro Laren wears hers in her left ear. Kira has hers in the right. Bajoran men, I'm told, have theirs in the right. What's going on? Does personal preference dictate which ear it's worn in, or is there a religious one?

Re personal communicators - How long does the channel stay open after a message has been received? Is it closed after the person has said "Out"? Or does a person have to tap the communicator to close a channel? Any ideas?

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone on the committee for doing such a fantastic job. I'd also like to say hello to my good friend Jessie - thanks for being a great penpal. Also hi to Stella, who had a massive response to her ad. I hope you've recovered now!

• Mr D E Evans - Crewe

I am writing to see if anyone can clarify some points.

In the new ST magazine by Titan, on P 60 someone asked what NCC stood for, as they had read in the Starfleet Technical Manual (Franz Joseph) it stood for Naval Construction Contract, yet had been told it stood for nothing. The magazine answered by quoting Gene Roddenberry as saying, "What you see on the screen is fact... the books are fiction!" and that both Gene and Matt Jeffries (who designed the ship) stated that NCC did not stand for anything, and that is that. If that is the case, what about all the other reference books about Star Trek?

I know from what I have read that they use the ST:TNG Technical Manual for reference in the series. Quite often I refer to other books when I want to check something, yet am I to take the mas theas ST fact, or are they to be rated the same as the novels and the animated series?

I also want to ask about the ST Encyclopedia. I believe I have the American first edition (Pocket Books on the spine, not Boxtree). Is this the one with the much-talked-about 40-odd typos, and if so what are they? Also in IDIC 36, P 46, Henry Gallagher congratulates Janet for being in the Encyclopedia - could you tell me where this occurs?

[Sheila - The ST Encyclopedia and ST:TNG Technical Manual can be regarded as 'fact' because they were compiled from the episodes by members of the production staff. The others, however, can only be called fan speculation - they were never studio-approved. NCC originally meant nothing; it was just a set of letters taken out of the air because they sounded good. The fact that Franz Joseph managed to come up with a meaning for them that sounded sensible just goes to prove how imaginative some writers can be. Re the Encyclopedia, although the Boxtree edition was supposed to be corrected, we think it wasn't; Janet has found one mistake in both editions (an omitted episode title) and I found a mistake in both editions under the heading 'Yareth'. We don't know what the others were, though. Janet is mentioned on P 265 of the Encyclopedia - a footnote to the entry for Q.]

• Marie I J Park - Hull

First, to Lorna Price - I'd describe Troi as many things, but *fragile*? I doubt it very much, not if the beating she gave Jev in Violations was anything to go by. I'm not sure that Worf's comment "Human females are too frail" would apply to Troi, *not* just because she's half Betazoid. I'd look upon her as a steel fist inside a velvet glove; soft on the outside, strong on the inside. As far as the Troi/Worf relationship is concerned, I can't see anything wrong with it; they make an unusual but well-suited couple and the partnership has been building up slowly and gradually over a period of time.

I thought Generations was excellent, far better than I expected. It's not often I enjoy a film enough to warrant a second viewing, but ST:Generations falls *firmly* into that category.

To Pam Baddeley - I agree with your

comments re Jenna D'Sora in the sense that she made little, if any, attempt to acquaint herself with Data *exactly the way he was*. I also don't think that she was being entirely fair with him when she said, "I don't matter to you". She wasn't expecting Data to respond to her as a female. When he did so, in spite of the fact that *she* made the first move, his efforts meant very little, if anything at all, to her.

Finally, how old is Brent Spiner supposed to be? According to the Satellite Times (N/L 38 P 13) he is 32, but I've read somewhere that he was born on 2nd February 1949, making him 46 - although he looks more like 36 than 46. Which is right? *[Janet - The TNG List of Lists, which I got off the Internet, gives it as 2nd February 1949.]*

• David Raper - Hull

Re Generations - I enjoyed it, but I suspect there will be a lot of opinions about it, some of which I will not agree with but then that is the whole point of IDIC. For better or for worse they made the film, it's a financial success, so they'll be making more films and hopefully yet another Enterprise will make its appearance (aside from 1701-B). (I did manage to avoid reading the book until after the film - though it took an effort to resist the temptation!)

To Di Williams - ST:VIII was just common sense - Paramount is a business run by unimaginative men who only see "the bottom line" - ie profit. If Generations makes a good profit, they'll be only too happy to put up the capital for more films

On the subject of Voyager, which I hope to see this week, I plan to keep an open mind and to those who say it will never replace TNG, I think that it's just as well. Starfleet's a big organisation, with lots of ships, and personally I see no reason why they can't build a series or two around some of those other ships. The current crop of misgivings do strike me as resembling those uttered in 1987 when TNG first appeared and there were the inevitable comparisons with the original.

To Roy Smith - My pet theory/excuse for

that error in continuity re Odan's reluctance to use the transporter while Dax beams here, there and everywhere, is that the Odan symbiont has a bad case of transporter phobia, like Reg Barclay had in *Realm of Fear*.

• Harminder Pal - Glasgow

I attended the *Generations* premier and got to shake hands, as well as speak a few words, with Gates and William Shatner himself. Gates was lovely and as for William - I stepped out of the aisle, put my hand out, he stopped, smiled, shook my hand, I mumbled a few words (I was in shock) like "You are brilliant", he said, "I hope you enjoy the film", smiled and walked to the exit.

He was so nice - after reading all these stories in the press about his ego - no way! He could have played the Big Star and walked past, but he didn't. No-one else did what I did so I was very lucky. As the person sitting next to me remarked, I was lucky not to be thrown out! It cost a lot of money, but it was worth it (apart from wearing a suit and tie!) especially meeting William.

At the reception afterwards I met Michael, LeVar and Brent, again saying a few words and shaking hands. The main problem was you had two choices - either you met them or took their photos. There was no time for posing.

• Vicky Roberts - Brentford, Middx

To Jay Stevensen - I'm presuming your comment on constructive criticism (N/L 38 P 24) is a response to my comment to Neil Barrett in the previous N/L. You are quite correct, a constructive critique is a useful tool, and if you can't take a little (constructive) criticism then hang up your pen/typewriter. If I implied that I couldn't take such critiques, then I failed to make my point. The point I was trying to make (unsuccessfully, as it seems) is that a review/critique that savages a piece of work is not constructive criticism but destructive and is of no use to anyone, least of all the writer.

To Neil Barrett - If I were going to be calm and logical about this critique business I would say you are quite right, a reviewer

does have the right to complain. What a reviewer does *not* have the right to do is be unpleasant and nasty. There was nothing constructive in your comments to either Carol Sternberg or myself.

To Rory Smith - A transporter might view the Trill symbiont as a parasite within the host and separate/remove it accordingly.

To Maggie Symon - Re *Bohemian Rhapsody* video. I think you'll have a hard time getting a copy of this tape, 'cause as far as I know only about 5 or so master copies were made and they were sold at Contagion 94 and Irecon 95. However, someone might lend you one of those rare masters.

Can You Help?

• Jenny Turner - I have tried the local library for Gene Roddenberry's autobiography, but they say that no library has bought it as they didn't think it was worth it. Is there any other way I can get it apart from buying it?

Valerie - Glasgow Libraries bought it. Ask your branch for a British Library Loan. It's a biography by David Alexander, not an autobiography.



Generations Convention, Royal Albert Hall

London 4 - 5 Feb 1995

Reported by Baerbel Schmidt

I went to Generations with my fiancé, Trevor, and our friend Philip. When we arrived by car Trevor went to door 1 to get our parking permit for the staff parking place. Unfortunately nobody could tell Trevor where the parking space is but at least we got the permit. Therefore we left the car at the disabled parking space intending to move it later.

When I wrote to Horizon I was told that there would be no problem because I am disabled. That was not true. I had to stand outside and wait like everybody else until the doors opened. Standing half an hour is really not easy for me. While waiting I met Martin Stahl and Marita Marschner from Germany. Martin gave me the latest newsletter of The Final Frontier (not to be confused with the English club).

Finally we could enter. The dealer's room was much too small for such a crowd and we could hardly move. Because I was told in a letter that the actors were asked to sign 1000 photos Philip went in order to find a Michael Dorn one for me while Trevor and me started our way to find our seats. Brilliant, the door opens and our seat is half down the stairs - stairs without any railing! It was scary. A fan in a wheelchair was already standing in front of the stairs. A nice fan offered his help and with much effort I reached my seat. When I sat down I discovered that the nice fan whose name I forgot also belongs to the Final Frontier.

Later we got new seats in a box. There we could meet a few other disabled fans. It was much better for me but Trevor and Philip had trouble to get good shots of the stars. Philip couldn't find any pre-signed photos for this event; but an American shop who offered them at higher prices than I am used to. Philip went again to park our car in the staff's parking space and came back just in time.

All stars were announced and

introduced by Eric Stillwell and Lolita Fatjo. Before they arrived fog was blown on the stage and the stars also appeared on a huge and a small screen behind and on top. During the breaks we were shown adverts from Sky TV showing Star Trek scenes or presenting other science fiction series. There was also one about Space Precinct I found very interesting. The first star was:

Michael Dorn

When Michael Dorn stepped through the fog on the stage he joked, half serious, "Now I can see the mark". He meant the mark at the end of the stage so that he doesn't fall down. When the fog settled a bit he was photographed from all sides. He thanked the fans also for their reception at the premiere of Generations on Friday and asked everybody to go to the cinema and watch the movie. There was still a bit of fog and he said that he hates smoke.

Michael thinks that Star Trek will be around all his lifetime but we will not see Worf when he is 65 years old. Michael can hardly speak any Klingon and said that the make up was the only problem. To spend 16 hours a day wearing make up is no fun and his skin suffered.

He said that Patrick was a very serious person when Next Generation started. Michael loves Excalibur in which Patrick plays a part but Patrick hates it. We learned that Michael knows a bit of German when he talked to a German fan in the audience.

Michael thinks that all three series deserve movies and says that he would like to play Worf in at least two more movies. He thinks if he would make six - as with Classic - he could be too old. He doesn't know yet what there will be after these three movies. When asked if he would like to be in a Star Trek series about Klingons he jokes, only with Klingon women. But he added that he doesn't know if he is up for all this make up again. It would be a bit much. He said he had

a nightmare once in which he couldn't get his make up off.

He asked if the audience also likes Deep Space Nine and the answer was applause. He said, at conventions he was always joking about Worf and Deanna coming together. Michael is glad that Worf could develop so much in the series. He has more relatives than anybody else.

When asked what his most embarrassing moment was he said in "The Dauphin" he demonstrated to Wesley how a Klingon attracts a mate. He opened his mouth and roared - and his artificial teeth jumped out! Embarrassing was also his part in "QPid". "I am not a Merry Man!"

He liked working with the original crew in Star Trek VI very much because he always liked Classic and knows it very well. His favourite original episode is "Journey to Babel". His favourite TNG one is "The Drumhead".

Michael has mixed feelings about the fact that there are Worf action figures. He remembered when he and his brother had the first action figures of GI Joe. "What we did to that doll!" he joked. Well, Riker said it once: "You look good in a dress!"

A fan observed that Worf's hair got longer and longer. Michael joked, he thinks a Klingon doesn't get his hair done every morning and the pony tail was his idea.

A fan asked why Worf was such an awful shot with the phaser. Michael's silence was also an answer. Michael said after a while at the beginning Worf was always beaten up. It became ridiculous.

Michael thinks that Babylon 5 is a good show. At the end he thanked the fans for the great reception at the premiere, the letters he got and the support for the series.

Gates McFadden

When Gates entered the stage she was amazed when she was photographed from all sides. Gates posed to all sides so that everybody could get a good shot of her. Gates

got a camera from an assistant and took photos herself of the hall and audience. She thinks the fans are fantastic and that Generations is the best put together convention she ever attended. Also the premiere was wonderful.

To everybody's delight she had a dance with Michael Dorn, causing a near explosion of flashlights all around them. Gates explained that she is in a new series called Marker which is produced on Hawaii. She was originally scheduled to appear on Sunday but she has to fly back that day. She is glad that the schedule could be changed so that she could be here today at least.

Now that the TNG series has finished, Gates misses her colleagues but the advantage is that she has more time for her son now. Gates loves "Genesis" and the experience of directing.

She gets compliments from many fans about her looks. One said she looks like an angel.

Gates loved the discussions with Picard, and the relationship between the Captain and his Chief Medical Officer, especially meaning the discussions about the Prime Directive. She enjoyed the wonderful breakfast scenes. Gates loves comedy and she regrets it a little that her character became more and more serious. Also many comedy and romance bits were cut. Gates regrets that the bet in which all men in the poker game would shave off their beards if she won was never carried out. It would have been fun.

She liked working with Wil Wheaton. She thinks it was amazing how he changed during the five years. He is now in a new science fiction series (but I didn't catch the name). Gates discovered that Beverly is a role model for many fans and she did her best to keep her character interesting.

Gates thinks that much more should be done to improve day care for children. She loves the letters fans send her. She learned a lot from these letters and the series itself.

She doesn't know what will happen

now with the relationship Picard/Beverly. She would like it to continue. She asked the fans to write to Paramount.

When asked about "QPid" she said, that she and Marina are trained to do fighting scenes but they had to smash clay pots on the heads of their adversaries instead.

Gates loves flea markets and junk shops. She said that she always buys lots of things there. Gates explained that she eats like a horse but doesn't gain any weight. She simply burns the food off very quickly.

Gates doesn't mind to be addressed as "Sir". For her it is not a title only for men. She would like to play an alien in Deep Space Nine or Voyager.

A German fan asked her about her experiences in Mannheim. He would like to know if she would like to come back to Germany in spite the convention had serious problems. Gates said she thinks that they learned from it. They had the best intentions but more people than expected wanted autographs. She is grateful that they tried and she would like to come back to Germany.

After Gates said good bye to the fans and left, there was a surprise. Nichelle Nichols entered the stage. She explained that she was in England for a signing session for her autobiography and that she was excited to be here. She announced that she would stay for an autograph session here as well.

After a break Eric Stillwell and Lolita Fatjo entered the stage and presented a slide show showing the DS9 characters, the station and scenes from the third season. Afterwards fans got the opportunity to ask questions:

Morn doesn't speak because if he did they would have to pay the actor more money; there will be a two part Garak episode; the relationship between Marta and Jake will continue.

The pictures from "Life Support" obviously did not only disturb me. When a concerned fan asked if Vedek Bareil is dead Lolita said, "I didn't say that he is dead". Well,

I will find out soon what is behind all this! The next episode is called "Heart of Stone". Lolita said, in this episode Odo and Kira will confess their love for each other - that resulted in a few groans in the audience. Hopefully they will not kill Bareil off so that Kira and Odo become a couple! We will see. The next episode "Destiny" will feature Sisko's role as the Emissary and in "Profit Motive" the Grand Nagus Zek will return, something I am already looking forward to.

Sito Jaxa will not return this season, perhaps in another season. There will definitely be a fourth season. At the moment they think all series should be at least about as long as TNG. Jennifer Sisko will be back in a sequel to "Crossover". The parasites in "Conspiracy" will not return.

Afterwards the finalists of the fancy dress competition entered the stage. Among them were a male Lwaxana Troi, a Borg and 2 different Picards (one in the historic costume in Generations). One of the Klingons won.

Then a quiz started. I must admit, I didn't follow it much because it was not very interesting to me. I was reading the new newsletter of the German club The Final Frontier Martin gave me when he met me. Trevor and Philip used this opportunity to go to the dealer's rooms.

Rick Berman

He entered the stage and commented on the fog. Rick explained how he got to know Gene and how they became friends. When a fan thanked him for everything he has done, there was thunderous applause.

Rick said that the second TNG movie is in its first stages of development. He just had discussions with Paramount. It is scheduled to premiere in December 96.

It is possible that characters from TNG and/or Classic could appear in DS9. He said that DS9 is doing better than ever. The ratings rose in the last few months and they haven't dropped yet.

Rick explained the differences between

TNG and DS9 and made clear why he is convinced that also DS9 is following Gene's vision.

One fan wondered why such an excellent series like TNG got so few awards. Rick explained that many people look down on science fiction and syndicated TV. For Rick it is important that Gene's vision will always be observed but he doesn't think that it has to be followed to the letter. Gene believed in change and therefore there is now more conflict but without breaking the basic rules.

Rick gave some information about Voyager and said that the writers and the actors are both forming the characters. Therefore much care was taken to find the right actors. At the moment there are plans for the 11th episode.

Then he announced a 10 minute teaser about Voyager. We could see the full teaser with the credits. At the end of the tape Kate Mulgrew appeared and said that she hopes to be on a convention soon and that she would like to be here as well. I was very impressed! The effects were breathtaking and during the teaser lots of fans were photographing the screen.

Rick hopes that there will be a longer version of Generations on laser disc one day. He said that in the initial stages DS9 was supposed to be a mining colony. Rick thinks that there are enough Star Trek series for the time being. Star Trek is not only produced for making money. Rick's favourite TNG episodes are Yesterday's Enterprise, Best of Both Worlds and Measure of a Man. But he adds, it is very difficult to make a decision which is the best episode.

Rick announced that some time in the future the story "Unification" may be continued. In the second TNG movie there will be a new Enterprise. It will not necessarily be a Galaxy Class starship but perhaps a smaller vessel like the Voyager.

He didn't answer the question if Kirk will be back.

Patrick Stewart

When Patrick entered the stage through the fog he got thunderous applause and was lit up by being photographed from all sides. Patrick thanked the fans for their reception at the premiere. He said he had seen the movie five times but never enjoyed it as much as he had yesterday. He thanked the fans for their support and jokingly he added, also for all the pirate videos.

Obviously Patrick likes football and told many stories about this sport. I didn't follow it too much because I am not a sports fan and don't know much about football and the clubs anyway.

He said playing Locutus was very uncomfortable. It was not so much the uniform, it was the part on board the Enterprise when he was "deborged" that was worse. He was half naked and all the bits were glued to him. Patrick thinks that Best of Both Worlds was an important episode for the development of Picard.

Patrick was glad that Rick also came. He said that Rick Berman normally doesn't go to conventions.

He doesn't feel too comfortable living in Los Angeles because he remembers the earthquake very well. It was scary. He would like to work in the UK. Patrick likes to be on stage and would like to do more directing in future.

Patrick likes the breakfast scenes with Beverly. He would like it if the relationship between Beverly and Picard continued. It seemed to me that Patrick thinks that they will marry as they did in All Good Things. Joking he gave the reason for their divorce: Beverly always squeezed the toothpaste from the middle. He loves Starship Mine, the scenes with the saddle and the action parts.

He said that he passionately misses his friends and was looking forward to see them later for a meal. Patrick thanked the fans for a memorable and quite unforgettable afternoon before he left.

Sunday February 5, 1995

This time we arrived later and waited in the car so that I didn't have to stand so long. Because we didn't get our seats in the box again we went back to our original seatings half way down the stairs. When we came back on Saturday evening one of our good friends told us on the answer machine where we could find him. Martin, Marita and other fans joined us and Marita gave me two beautiful drawings from our friend Gabi. I enjoyed meeting them all immensely and we discussed lots of things concerning Star Trek and clubs.

The first star was:

LeVar Burton

LeVar said that he has always been a Classic fan. He likes Gene's vision and hopes that it will become real one day. He asked the audience if they have seen Generations. Referring to Kirk's death he said "God bless his soul."

He confirmed that they all went to a dinner last night. LeVar said that the meal was very good, no "bubble and squeak". He likes tea too.

Data is his favourite character. When asked LeVar admitted that he usually has no idea what the technobabble means. He just tries to say it as fast and convincingly as possible. Now he misses his friends but he will not lose touch with them.

LeVar thinks that TV is the most powerful tool we possess for initiating social change because TV is everywhere. Star Trek is an example for TV at its best, also Roots.

He explained that he cannot see much with his VISOR. In fact, he sees 80 percent less and for the first two seasons he was always bumping into things.

Although LeVar likes Classic he thinks that it is TNG's turn now. When asked if it is true that he doesn't want to do another movie if he can't get rid of the VISOR, he said, after 7 years he would like to have his eyes back and they should give the actor a break. LeVar

likes directing. He announced that he just directed a Voyager episode. He admitted that he hasn't found an emotional connection to DS9 yet but he promised to watch some more episodes when he has the time and opportunity.

Coming back to TV and answering a question he said something about the O.J. Simpson trial. He said a lot about it. I was very impressed but could not write down everything. Basically he said that people must control their urge for stimulation. He certainly thinks that the coverage went too far. He said we should not only feel sorry for the victim but for O.J.'s children as well.

No, LeVar doesn't know Red Dwarf and he is curious. A fan told him about her problem that nobody really knows how to spell her name and asked him if he has the same problem. LeVar could tell her, that he indeed has the same problem but no answer how to solve it.

Concerning the character Geordi he regrets his lack of girlfriends. He likes the message that everybody has value in Star Trek, also the disabled. His favourite episodes are "Elementary dear Data", "I Borg" (he likes Hugh), The Pegasus and Second Chances.

Referring to comics he joked that he will never be as muscular as he is shown in them. LeVar likes himself with beard (he is also wearing a beard now).

Suddenly Brent Spiner appeared on the balcony and told him that Patrick Stewart said that Data is his favourite character. When LeVar said that he also thinks so, Brent said, "excellent choice".

A fan asked LeVar why all women in Star Trek are beautiful and slim. LeVar said he didn't know.

LeVar likes Voyager. In spite of the short time it has existed there is already a great chemistry early on. He thanked the fans and was given a red rose before he left.

Brent Spiner

When entering the stage he was awash with flashlights. Brent posed for photos and said, that he has been on stage often but this had never happened before. A fan called Dave got the opportunity to shake hands with him.

When asked Brent explained that he is not a good dancer. Gates McFadden is the dancer in "Data's Day". He learned a bit but he was doubled there. He laughed when he learned that Michael Dorn and Gates McFadden danced. He did a bit of tap dancing for the fans.

Brent thinks "All Good Things" hit it all on the nose. It was great. He enjoyed playing Lore. It allowed him to be himself on the screen. Dr. Soong was a different challenge. He panicked because he had no idea how to play him at first but when Michael Westmore began to put the make up on and Brent looked into the mirror it began to fall into place.

Brent hopes that Data will get to keep the emotion chip; he certainly thinks that he should keep it because it means growth to the character. Brent said that Lore is not really dead but in pieces and he would love it if Lore were reassembled. Brent joked that he had played all his relatives except his mother. He would have liked it to play her as well and reminded everybody of his performance as the saloon girl in "A Fistful of Datas"!

He explained that his hair was dyed black for seven years. When TNG finished he cut it short and let his natural colour grow back. He was surprised that his hair is now greyer than before.

When asked Brent explained that the first Spot died and is now in cat heaven. The existing Spot is twins. One is a nice, docile cat called "Brandy" and the other one is called "Monster" for obvious reasons. Brent said he adores cats. He joked, they are two of the finest actors. The problem when working with Spot was that it has sometimes easier said than done to get them to do what you want them to do. In a script it said "Data watches Spot sleep". How do you command a

cat to lie down and sleep? It took a long time until Spot was tired and lay down. Much easier was the bit "Data watches Spot eating tuna out of a bowl". That was no problem.

He said the most exciting moment in the series was working with Stephen Hawking. They are good friends now. He calls him the Hawk. One day he met him again. Stephen had already programmed his computer when he saw him coming and the computer said: "Where is my money?" He was referring to the poker scene.

Brent was touched when the audience sang Happy Birthday for him.

Brent always wanted to play Sherlock Holmes or in a western and he thought TNG gave him many great opportunities. The only problem with his character is that Data doesn't age but he does. He joked, I tried to stop it but it doesn't work. Brent thinks that there is a limited time he can play Data but he doesn't want to stop, "not yet but at some point".

One fan observed that Data used a contraction in "Descent" for the first time when he said "I'm fine". Brent explained, "this was no oversight but intentional."

Brent said so far he has only seen about 50 episodes. Brent is afraid of heights and doesn't like flying.

Producing his record was in a way an accident. Brent was actually joking but they thought he was serious and when all preparations had been made he had no choice but to go through with it. It was fun. He would like to make a new record one day "when I am in the mood for losing lots of money again".

Brent mentioned a report that was shown on American TV called "Star Trek and Technology". He is convinced that artificial intelligence will be a reality one day.

Brent doesn't play poker much but he practises shuffling and dealing a lot. At first he was interested in directing an episode but later he changed his mind. When so many

people got the opportunity he thought that he could not improve on them. Also playing Data is very exhausting. Brent said he would like to direct a comedy one day.

The make up was a big problem. He had to wear it all day. The make up also got into his eyes and under the contact lenses so that he couldn't see very well in the evenings. He also had make up on his hands and therefore couldn't touch anything without leaving a golden handprint behind. He joked, he couldn't do the Picard manoeuvre (adjusting his uniform top).

He explained that he gets three kinds of mail: the people who only watch the series now and again who tell him that they like the show, the dedicated fan who watches every episode and points out mistakes and - well, there are others. He promised that everybody who writes to him via Paramount will get a signed photo but it takes time. It can take 5 to 10 years but "it is worth waiting" he said.

"All Good Things" was very interesting because in this episode it became very clear how much Data changed during the years. He got closer and closer to become human without reaching his goal completely, something that he agreed with Gene from early on, giving his character and acting abilities a challenge.

Brent thanked the fans for their receptions at the Generations premiere then LeVar Burton entered the stage again. He was carrying a long window pole and he pulled Brent off the stage.

After a break Eric Stillwell and Lolita Fatjo were back and we saw the Voyager video clip again. We learned that Eric Stillwell just sold a Voyager script called "Prime Factor". Voyager will use the holodeck a lot. After "Caretaker" the next episodes will be "Parallax", "Time and Again", "Phage" and "Clouds" (I think). In total the first season will have 26 episodes.

Now fans could ask questions again. They think that Babylon 5 is a really good show and they wish it the best of luck. They encourage fans to watch BOTH shows. There

will be no more tribbles. Fan scripts are "The Bonding", "The Measure of a Man" and "Tin Man". Paramount pays \$ 9000 for a story and \$ 12000 for the screen play plus residuals. "I guess one day the Borg will be in Voyager." Q will not be in Voyager for a while because John de Lancie is doing a series and is very busy. They hope it will take a long time until Voyager finds its way home. Voyager will feature lots of humour and fun. The Dominion could possibly appear in Voyager. The Bible and technical manual are available from Majel's shop

Afterwards the charity auction started. There were definitely some people in the audience who are very rich: a signed script of Generations was sold for £180, someone paid £200 for a jacket, a signed poster for the Generations convention was sold for £360. The special edition of "All Good Things" was sold for £70. Trevor and I think, this was really a ridiculous price - but it was for charity. The most expensive and also most special item was a bottle that was signed by all the cast of Generations and the producers. It was one of the two Champagne bottles still in existence that were manufactured for the movie. It was sold for £1300!

Marina Sirtis

She entered the stage wearing a very short mini skirt showing her long legs. She got lots of applause and immediately there were flashlights everywhere. Marina was very touched and turned to all sides so that everybody could get a good shot of her. Marina said that she saw Generations the third time when she went to the premiere on Friday. She joked that now they will never allow her to drive the Enterprise again. She told a story about that. There were explosions around her when she had to take the helm seat but when she sat down there were still embers on the chair. They set her bottom on fire! She jumped around and extinguished them. Fortunately she wasn't hurt but the producers were not too happy because all the explosives had to be installed again. That took a long time. And this time when Marina ran to the chair, she stopped a moment and wiped the seat. That was the only bit of Marina's part that was cut.

When asked what she thinks of the female captain of the Voyager she said, half joking, half serious, "that should have been me." She welcomed this development very much and reminded everybody that the very first pilot movie got into trouble because the TV station thought that the audience would not accept a female first officer. Also Deanna Troi evolved a lot during the series. Marina loves "Face of the Enemy" because in this episode Deanna plays a very strong woman and she shouts for the first time. But Marina also liked "The Child" very much.

When asked how she felt when she learned for the first time that Majel Barrett would be playing her mother, she said she was dreading it. Marina explained that in the first season a director left because he thought that the cast was too undisciplined and crazy. And after this experience Marina's thoughts were: "Oh no, I have to play with the boss's wife!" But everybody was relieved when it became clear that Majel was even crazier than they were.

Marina said she always wanted to be the Captain for one day and when she got this opportunity in "Disaster" she didn't know what to do! Marina doesn't understand this herself. She wonders where Deanna was during technical teaching. She said that Michael Dorn joked: "She was getting her legs waxed!" In spite of Deanna being Lieutenant Commander at that time, ENSIGN Ro had the technical answers. Marina joked, if she becomes Admiral one day and CAPTAIN Picard gives her some advice she will ignore it because he ignored her advice in all the seven years.

Her second favourite outfit is the green dress and her favourite is the regular uniform. Marina thought it was strange; as soon as she got the uniform Deanna got brains. In "Time Scape" she was suddenly an expert on Romulan technology and even corrected Data and Geordi! She liked that very much.

Suddenly Jonathan Frakes appeared on the balcony, asking a question himself: "Why does Deanna go out with Worf instead of Riker?" Marina thought that the producers

had watched too much "Beauty and the Beast". She doesn't understand why this happened. Well, she knows that Michael has tried to get his lips on hers for the last seven years. She thinks that the Worf/Deanna relationship might continue but knows nothing for sure.

Marina said she never would have left the show and if she gets killed one day, she asks her fans to write many letters to Paramount. Denise Crosby came back twice and therefore anything is possible. Now she would like to go back on stage and hopes to find an assignment. Marina is convinced that the character Deanna would benefit more from TV episodes than movies.

The other embarrassing thing that happened during filming was the mud bath in "Cost of Living". This was nothing like the mud baths at health farms and Marina hated it. Strange bits were swimming in it and sitting next to a naked, grinning Klingon didn't help.

Marina also likes chocolate. She also said that the rumours about her arguments during the production of Generation was not true.

When asked the question, Marina wondered herself why she was in the poker game. Deanna is an empath! It was hard to imagine her saying, "I don't know if you are bluffing!" But Marina didn't say anything at Paramount because she likes these scenes so much.

If she had got the part of Tasha she would have been Dorn's boss for seven years, Marina joked. Marina likes action parts and the emotional aspects. That is the reason why that part of Deanna was very interesting to her as an actress.

Marina said that Data is her favourite character and she thinks that Jonathan Frakes is the best director at Paramount. He is even a more brilliant a director than an actor.

Marina also told some funny stories about her little dog, a Yorkshire terrier called Skilagi (or something like that, it is the Greek

word for little dog). When Marina knew that she would be in the studio for a long time she took her dog with her. Marina said, "Skilagi is normally well behaved and doesn't cause any trouble." An exception was when "Sub Rosa" was being produced. When Marina went to the set where the funeral was held Skilagi thought that he was outside and left something behind, just were Gates McFadden was supposed to stand! Well, she could not say to Gates, that is your mark! She also demonstrated in a very funny way how Patrick Stewart once talked to her Yorkshire terrier in a broad Yorkshire accent. He obviously thought Skilagi would understand every word. But the most hilarious thing happened when she asked Brent Spiner to look after her dog because she had to do a long scene. When she came back to get Skilagi, Brent was just putting Skilagi into the microwave! But of course he was only joking, or was he?

At the end she thanked the fans of Next Generation for their loyalty and support. Thanks to them she experienced the best seven years of her life and added, that she owes her fans everything she owns, like her house and her car.

Jonathan Frakes

When he entered he got lots of applause and was photographed from all sides. Jonathan thanked the fans and told a story about the episode "QPid". During an action scene Jonathan was cut over the eye and the director said, "I have the scene. Now we can get Jonathan to the hospital". Jonathan joked, "This showed how concerned for our well being they are."

Jonathan also joked about the Generations movie and said it featured the search of two bald captains for a good hairpiece.

When asked about a scene in "Conspiracy" Jonathan explained that everybody else had cut macaroni in the bowls instead of maggots but in his bowl were real maggots. And when he lifted a handful up, one fell into his mouth. Another unpleasant experience was a scene in "Skin of Evil". He hesitated when he was asked to emerge from

the black slime but he was told "It will be fine". Jonathan went in and when the lift under the slime puddle pushed him on the "beach" LeVar Burton came to him and said, "I would never have done that". Well, now when somebody says, "It will be fine" he gets suspicious.

Next month (March) Jonathan Frakes will direct a Voyager episode. Also Jonathan would like to be on stage again.

Jonathan is a big Brent Spiner and Data fan. He would have liked more conflict between Picard and Riker. He agrees that "The Pegasus" is an excellent episode. But he explained that Gene was avoiding conflict between the main characters.

He thinks that Patrick Stewart is the best actor on TV and that he would deserve an Emmy.

Jonathan Frakes wonders why the universe hates Will? Again and again it happens that somebody orders "Fire at Will". When asked what Riker he prefers, he answered that Marina prefers Thomas Riker.

He said, his first reaction when he learned about Next Generations cancellation was "What?". Jonathan couldn't believe it at first. He feels blessed that he could be a part of it and wishes that it had continued. His favourite episodes are "The Offspring", "11001001" and "The Best of Both Worlds". He would like to see Q again and he thinks it would have been better if the actor playing Soren in "The Outcast" had been a male actor.

Jonathan also referred to Marina's stories about Skilagi. He said, "The rat was wet and therefore Brent and me thought it would be better to dry it in the microwave." Joking he said the dog really looks like a rat.

Joking he also called Worf a turtlehead and he doesn't understand why he is not together with Deanna. Jonathan hopes that Riker and Deanna will be together again. He would like to be in a Betazoid wedding and would like to see how far down Worf's ridges really go. At the end, also he thanked the fans for their support.

I don't expect ramps or lifts all the time in an older building like the Royal Albert Hall but I think it could at least have railings where stairs are! It really doesn't cost much to install them and it would make life much easier for disabled and older people! But in spite of that, I enjoyed my first convention

immensely. It was a memorable event I will never forget and I hope I will have the opportunity to go to a convention again.

[Ed - Thanks to everyone who sent in comments on the convention. If there is room we'll print them in next newsletter]



THE AWAY TEAM COMES TO WALES

• **Jacqueline Y Comben** - The South Wales Evening Post reported that a one-day Star Trek convention was to be held in the Dylan Thomas Theatre, Swansea, on Sunday 19th February. Surprised at such initiative, I went along after church to find out who was responsible.

"Hello, Jackie, you don't remember me from Glasgow?" declared a cheerful Scottish voice as I crossed the threshold.

"Whatever are you doing in Swansea?" I asked, remembering Lynn from Contagion.

It transpired that she had married Andrew Spencer of Swansea and that the energy which set up the successful Away Team in Glasgow was now alive and well in my nearest city!

The Swansea gatherings are to be called "Boarding Party" - not inappropriate in view of Lynn's nationality and Andrew's Klingon connections. I thoroughly recommend them to anyone who is within reach. I met most of the local fans of whose existence I was aware. In the summer I hope to talk them into having a beach party convention on Rhossili Bay! (Will Klingsons insist on swimming in character? I would love to see the faces of the unsuspecting tourists!!)

Live long and prosper, Andrew and Lynn, and may you arrange many more successful Boarding Parties!

• **Keren Breen** - Ami, my computer, was definitely sick. What's more, it was quite beyond my limited powers as a computer

doctor (ie try the virus killer and/or the disc drive cleaner) to cure her, so a visit to the computer repair shop was inevitable. The nearest one to us that we could find was in Swansea, so David, bless him, volunteered to spend part of his day off taking her to be fixed.

It really is an ill wind that blows no good, because he returned clutching a brown paper bag on which he had jotted down details of the Boarding Party. Feverishly I rang the contact number given - surely this was too good to be true? It turned out it wasn't, so I made a couple more calls; one to arrange childminding for that day, and another to my good friend Sian, to tell her about it in time for her to arrange her days off to coincide (she's a midwife so works pretty strange hours).

The Dylan Thomas Theatre is located at one end of Swansea's Marina and is painted in trompe l'oeil style. Forewarned by David, who knows that part of town, we got there early and found parking spaces right outside. We figured we'd found the right place when we spotted a car with USS Enterprise bumper stickers - and the Klingon handling about in the foyer trying to look inconspicuous (!) was a dead giveaway.

Once inside we whiled away the time until the programme proper by visiting the dealers' tables, parting with some hard-earned cash and chatting to other early birds. Some people had come in uniform; others asked where could *they* get one too? (I predict that Forbidden Planet in Cardiff will be doing a roaring trade in uniform tops/pips/combadges) so maybe next time more people will dress up.

The programme of videos was well-balanced, with something for everyone. It kicked off with Encounter at Farpoint, and though I've seen it lots of times, there is definitely something to be said for sharing the experience with a crowd of other like-minded souls. However, the auditorium was none too warm so during the next video (Captive Pursuit) I went in search of the loo and a warm drink.

Ferengi cannot make tea.

While trying to decide whether it was better to drink the stuff or leave it and stay cold, and idly envying the crowd at the next table who'd had the sense to buy their drinks at the bar, I realised that one of them had a familiar voice. I plucked up my courage and asked - and was right, elements be praised. Jackie Comben, you have a distinctive voice! Let me tell you, Jackie is very gracious indeed. I phoned her out of the blue a while ago and had a couple of very long and interesting conversations. We'd never met, but she was willing to talk Trek to a total stranger who happened to be living nearby. My promises (threats?) to come and visit never materialised, so it was lovely to be able to put a face to her name and voice. Also at the table with Jackie were Sue Reynish, her mum Mary, Nigel and Carl, who also made me feel welcome. I envy Nigel his impressive collection of Discworld badges.

At this point the TV people turned up to film the loonies. The Klingons got the most attention - fair enough, they organised it - which upset a couple of Feds present. They therefore decided to 'arrest' the Klingons mid-interview (cigarette lighter on heavy stun). The Romulans were there incognito and kept out of it, although they did suggest that the Feds could use tribbles as an anti-Klingon device - this was deemed to be biological warfare and Not Sporting.

After lunch (Ferengi cannot make coffee either, but they do very good hot dogs) it was time for the auction (Welsh people are tight with their money, according to Klingons - although to be fair I don't think most of us knew what to expect!) and then - Voyager. I went in with an open mind, but a bit

doubtful - it sounded a bit Red Dwarf meets Lost in Space meets Star Trek with political correctness thrown in. In reality, it was terrific! I had been mourning the demise of TNG - I'm not much of a DS9 fan - but this gives me something to look forward to. It has potential; it may even combine some of what I liked about Classic Trek with what I liked about TNG.

It was followed by Miri, and I went in search of headache tablets; the combination of wall-to-wall videos and tea deprivation were making it difficult to see through the pain. Do not spend all day watching videos without bringing something that switches off pain with you! A blooper reel (disappointing), Relics, then DS9's The Search Parts I and II. I hadn't seen it before - the denouement caught me by surprise!

After that, we left. Sian's daughters had come with us and we'd expected them to want to leave early with their dad (who had paperwork that had to be done) but they were enjoying every minute and refused to leave. The little one fell asleep during Search, both had school next day (not me - it was half term for us!) my headache had returned with a vengeance and my system was demanding tea, Earl Grey, hot *right now* (yes, I'm addicted) so we called it a day. If anything else exciting happened during the rest of the evening, I missed it.

Summing up - I've never been able to get to a real con, so I can't compare it, but this was a good first-timer's event. From my point of view, it was the most fun I've had for ages. I had a wonderful time and I'll be there when the doors open for the next Boarding Party (April 9 and May 7, subject to confirmation) even if the price goes up. (Admission was a huge (!) £2.50 for adults, £1.50 for children.) The auditorium was pretty full during Voyager, so I hope that means the organisers will declare it a success and repeat the experience; also because the Dylan Thomas theatre is small (250 seats) if hundreds of people show up it will mean moving to a larger, and therefore more expensive, venue. My thanks to the organisers (see, I did write the report I promised!) and I'll see you next time.



GENERATIONS PREMIERE 3/2/95

by Barbara E. Ellams

On Wednesday 1st of February I called up a young friend of mine and said, "Are you doing anything on Friday evening?"

"Not particularly," he said.

"Well how would you feel about going to the premiere of Star Trek Generations? It means wearing a suit and all that stuff."

"YES, PLEASE!" came the reply.

On the Friday evening, I collected Christopher and gave the tickets into his charge and off we went to Leicester Square. I did consider getting a hire car but, to be honest this weekend was going to be expensive enough, so we went on the bus. Usually these days premiere crowds are so small you can walk around them, even when Princess Di attends, so we happily got off at our usual stop and took the short cut down Bear Alley to meet a wall of people! I hissed at Christopher, "Look for a policeman and hang on to those tickets."

Fortunately Christopher is now 6' 1" and so easily spotted a policeman and we pushed our way to him. Once beside him, Christopher pulled out the magic tickets. "Let them through please. Straight down there ma'am." As if we didn't know where the Empire was. So we walked down the centre of the pathway provided, past giggling crowds until we came to the last 20 yards or so when some kind soul called out "Yer betta move on, you've a limo coming up your backsides." He was right, so with much laughter and more ticket waving we entered the cinema.

Various Klingons and Starfleet personnel were hanging around. It could have been like Ten Forward except that there wasn't a drink in sight. I went to the loo and met and chatted with Lorraine Kelly in the powder room!

We went to our seats and like every else in the cheaper seats proceeded to get a crick in the neck as we watched and waited to see anyone of interest. Well I suppose there may have been, but as I didn't have my

theatre glasses, I didn't see anyone. At least I might have done but later events may well have done a mind wipe.

By 8.10 the crowd was getting restless, after all it was supposed to start at 8pm. Then a chap came to the microphone and introduced "Britain's number 1 Star Trek fan, Mr Jim Davidson!"

"Don't say that to this lot, I'll be lynched." or something similar, said Jim. Anyway he did admit he was the most nervous Star Trek fan in Britain since he had just met some wonderful actors and he would like to introduce Mr Rick Berman.

And then LeVar Burton. He said how nice it was to be in England and everyone clapped and cheered. Then came Michael Dorn who just crooned "Hello" into the microphone and most of the women in the audience went weak at the knees. Much clapping and cheering and, of course, all the Klingons stood and saluted. Marina Sirtis was too overwhelmed to do more than say thank you and she too was cheered to the echo. Gates McFadden received her welcome also. Then came Brent Spiner, and as the cheers rose in volume so about half the audience stood, including Christopher. "In the words of my fellow American Sally Field, 'They like me, they really like me'," he said. More cheers. Then came Jonathan Frakes and more cheers and applause.

Jim Davidson had introduced each one beautifully, but it was with a catch in his voice he said, "And now for the two captains of the Enterprise, Mr William Shatner and Mr Patrick Stewart."

Patrick ushered Bill to the microphone, and amid cheering and clapping he said, "I'm suffering from jet-lag and I've lost my voice, I'm choking and to me it's still 12 o'clock....." The cheers became deafening and the house rose to its collective feet. Bill bowed and bowed and then went over and said something to Rick Berman and came back

and reiterated that he was jetlagged, had lost his voice and it was still 12.00 o'clock. The applause and the cheering went on and on. Patrick looked on like a benevolent uncle. Bill went back and had another word with Rick and then came back to the microphone.

With a huge smile and a laugh in his voice, "You may all sit," he said, with a cut-off gesture.

With much hilarity everyone did. Bill bowed to Patrick who came to the microphone. "I have two things to say," says he.

"Only two?" questioned some wit near the front.

"All right, 2 or 3 hundred but do you want to hear me or watch the movie!" Laughter covered the response.

Patrick "One, I love Data."

Brent went over and hugged him.

Patrick: "Two, Data is my favourite character."

Brent hugged him harder.

Much more applause, cheering and contented sighs. Now what were we here for. Oh yes, now we get to see the movie!!!!

Of course you all know the story backwards by now. So I'll just say that apart from Bill and Patrick walking away with the film there are some lovely moments besides. James Doohan is not my favourite person but his Scotty is truly lovely in his scenes, as is Walter Koenig's Chekov.

They prove once again that it is not the number of lines that give insights into characters, but that body language plays a great part. When Messrs. Doohan, Koenig and Ms. Nichols have complained in the past that their characters didn't have room to grow, they were wrong. They may not have had big scenes, but to those of us who do know our characters and love them, each gesture spoke volumes and our

understanding deepened.

Those who know me, will not be surprised that I thought Spot was great. Seriously though folks, Data has some super moments. But I have to protest the total waste of Whoopi Goldberg and Malcolm McDowell. One realises and understands about time restraints, but I will always regret that both captains and Soran did not have a really good verbal battle, as well as all the action bits. Whoopi's scenes were terrific but one felt somehow cheated that there weren't more of them.

I read recently that Leonard Nimoy was asked to direct VII but declined because there was no time allocated to spend making a really good tight story and so David Carson got his lucky break. I'm pleased for him and he did a good job with what he had, but I have to say Berman & Co. should have listened to Leonard.

And my Captain's death? Starship Captains never die - they just grow in legends and they shine more brightly.



Caricatures of your favourite stars as :

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contact David G Lucas Caricatures,
49 Cramphorn Walk, Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 2RE

STAR TREK GENERATIONS

YOUR COMMENTS

• Martin Stahl - The latest Star Trek movie is not as bad as expected, but I think the other movies (except perhaps ST:V) are better. To me it seemed like a TV episode on the big screen, not like something I waited three years for.

The only person who was in character was Picard. Most of the others didn't get enough time to develop. Data has one of his best scenes on the holodeck when he bunged Beverly into the water. The later scenes with his emotion chip were embarrassing (though I've heard from fans who liked those scenes) and the thing that made Data so interesting - his search for emotions and understanding of human behaviour - is destroyed now. Jim Kirk was also out of character, because he was William Shatner, not Kirk. I got the impression that his character only works properly when he's with Spock & McCoy; his best scenes were on the Enterprise-B, when he is obviously nervous seeing another Captain in his chair. (The Captain of the Enterprise-B is so uncertain I wonder how he ever made it to the position.)

While I almost cried when Spock died in ST:II, Kirk's death didn't move me at all. It was rather a cheap ending for him; it didn't seem fair to let him die so simply.

The SFX were superb; the crash landing of the saucer section was the best I have ever seen in Star Trek - but was it really necessary to destroy the Enterprise? The whole movie gave me the impression that the new producers tried to get away from as many of Gene's creations as possible.

The worst part of the movie was the beginning; during the entire credits this bottle was shown hurtling through space until it - thank God! - crashes into the hull of the Enterprise-B (after several minutes). But I liked the tribble a little girl carried during the evacuation of the secondary hull and the scene where Nurse Ogawa was assisting Beverly.

• Judith Taylor

I won't go over all the storyline as you will have either seen it or read enough of the other synopsis to know about it. Basically Dr Soran is rescued by the Enterprise B, Kirk is snatched by the Nexus, Soran wants to get back to the Nexus and doesn't give a damn about who he steps on. So Picard and crew have to stop him. There is also the subplot of Data coming to terms with his newly implanted emotions chip.

The sets were good, the music good, and the effects stunning. The storyline though could have been better. Berman, Moore and Braga didn't really work the plots together tightly enough. The film's beginning is extremely nostalgic, Kirk, Chekov and Scotty are on board the Enterprise B for its maiden flight. The Enterprise is as usual thrown into a desperate situation with its torpedoes, tractor beams and crew arriving on the Tuesday. The scene is well staged with you getting the impression that the ship's launch was Starfleet propaganda orientated and not really thought out. As Kirk states, who would allow a ship out of space dock without Tractor beams? This also features some very funny scenes with Kirk and the news reporters, and the first of the touching scenes, with the grief of Chekov and Scotty at thought of Kirk being killed by the nexus strike.

The best performances overall were definitely those of Patrick Stewart and Malcolm McDowell, Picard grieving for his lost brother and nephew giving the film its second touching moment, with him actually crying. McDowell's portrayal of the desperate Dr Soran is comparable to that of Ricardo Montalban's Khan Singh in the Wrath of Khan. In the end you can't help liking him despite the fact that he is willing to let billions die so that he can get what he wants. The second best performance is that of Brent Spiner, from happy and joyous to guilt ridden, his handling of Data's new mood swings were believable and extremely convincing.

The climax to the whole film is the saucer section crash landing and the death of Kirk. The crashing of the saucer section was so tension building, I found myself holding my breath as it crashed through mountain tops and trees sending the occupants flying in all directions and eventually grinding to a halt. The fight between Kirk, Picard and Soran is also dramatic, especially the final sequence in which Kirk plummets from a disintegrating bridge, and Soran is blown up with his missile. The third touching moment is the actual death of Kirk.

The fourth definite touching moment is the realisation of the Enterprise's death. As Riker said, "Gone before her time" but as I thought, what a way to go. The fifth and final touching moment is Data finding Spot alive, where he actually cries for the first time.

Over all a brilliant movie, despite some of it's flaws. You laugh with Data, cry with Picard and grieve for the loss of a valiant ship.

• Stephen Daniels

What a load of bilge! I was very disappointed with the script; no wonder Leonard Nimoy said he would have nothing to do with it. Here are my nit-pickings:

Why didn't Soran just take a ship into the nexus? OK, the script said that ships near the nexus were either severely damaged or destroyed, but Kirk managed to get from the Enterprise-B into it. Failing that why not use a shuttle or he could have just put on an EVA suit like Spock wore to go into Vger in ST:TMP. Either way, surely it would be easier than blowing up solar systems to alter its path till it goes right through a planet!

Guinan said that the nexus was so wonderful you never wanted to leave; well Kirk didn't take much persuading, and it only took a Christmas tree bauble to convince Picard to leave!

If they could leave the nexus at any point in time, why pick just when Soran was about to blow up the Veridian sun? Why not when Picard was chatting to him in Ten Forward, that way all he had to do was call

security and have him thrown in the brig - no suns destroyed, and perhaps no Enterprise destroyed.

The saucer section was about to crash on the planet, but nobody thought of escaping in one of the four hundred ejectable lifeboats on the Enterprise, all of which have the capability to join together and/or land on a class M planet.

I hope they get that chip out of Data for the next film, because he was just a pain in this one with all his stupid jokes, and I didn't appreciate the "Oh shit!" remark as the saucer section was about to crash - it was an emotion chip, not a vulgarity chip.

Soran had Geordi's VISOR for ages, and yet he didn't check to see if it had been interfered with when he got back to the Enterprise!

What was Guinan doing in the nexus - an "echo of her former self"; not good enough scriptwriters.

Finally, the most sickening part of the film - when the wee girl dropped the teddy as the ship was being evacuated. Whoever wrote that scene should be shot, it's the sort of thing I would expect to see in a cheap soap or B-movie.

The good points - The SFX, especially Stellar Cartography. The scenes with Lursa and B'Etor, and the Holodeck program.

I think I will pretend Generations didn't happen, and that "All Good Things" was Star Trek VII.

• Baerbel Schmidt - I think it is a good movie but not one of the best ones, although it is certainly worth watching. I especially liked Brent Spiner's performance as Data. He showed in a very impressive way how somebody must feel who has to deal with real emotions the first time in his life. For me, Brent Spiner has saved the movie.

Deanna's part, and even more, Beverly's, were really very small. Apart from Picard and Data, nobody had the opportunity

for character development. The authors crammed too many people into the storyline. It is nearly exclusively an action story (with very good SFX).

I like Kirk in the movie but I think he wasn't an essential part of the story. It would have been better if Kirk had been left alone and stayed alive, so that the authors could have used more time for good character scenes. The new ending is better than the previous one - it was thrilling and moving (certainly more so for Kirk fans, I would imagine). I am against his death, but at least he died well - as Klingons would say. Fistfights, breaking bridges and saving countless innocent people - an end in the best tradition of Kirk adventures!

At the end there is still one unanswered question - are the Duras sisters also dead, or not? If they are, I can only say what a waste! When the adult Alexander went back in time and met Worf (Firstborn) we learned that they were both alive in the future and that Lursa will have a son, with whom she is pregnant 'now'. I don't think that Alexander's visit could have altered the future of the Duras sisters!

• Damian Griffiths

Well, I'm writing this letter the day after seeing Star Trek: Generations, and what can I say, but... Brilliant. I especially thought the scene where the saucer-section crash-landed superb. But rather than simply lavishly praise on it, I'd like to make a few points on it. Firstly, Guinan warned Picard that once in the Nexus, he would be practically unable to resist staying, yet he showed little evidence of this, and neither did Kirk, who had of course stayed in there for 80 years!

Secondly, when Picard beamed down to the planet to stop Soran from destroying the second star, why didn't he communicate with the Enterprise and ask for help, (He didn't even try to call for help when Kirk was dying).

Finally, I thought Data's emotion chip was supposed to be broken (as seen in Descent II), which is why he had not previously used it.

• Anike Bissinger - I must admit that I had considerable doubts about Generations beforehand; the Nexus concept seemed not that appealing to me, and in my opinion Star Trek already had its share of crazed and obsessed scientists; and most important of all, I absolutely resented the idea of seeing Jim Kirk die. However I actually liked the movie (except for the ending).

First of all, I was delighted to see that Generations has as much humour as its predecessors (something I often missed in TNG), especially in the first ten minutes. Data's emotion chip also provides funny moments - his 'life form rap' as I like to call it, and it really does enhance Data's personality. Originally I didn't think giving Data emotions was such a good idea, but the learning experience he undergoes in the course of the movie creates very good, dramatic moments. In my opinion the scene in the research station is one of the best. There you actually feel the atmosphere turn from funny to chilling when one finally realises that there definitely is something wrong with Data - really beautifully performed by Brent Spiner and LeVar Burton. You practically see Data grow while he comes to terms with his emotions, something every one of us has to learn on his/her own, with the scene where he finds Spot being a wonderful conclusion for now.

The message of the movie, that death is a part of life which you have to accept (somewhat similar to ST:II, isn't it?) is a recurring theme throughout the whole picture, with Picard facing the deaths of his brother and nephew being dealt with very sensitively and convincingly.

But I still don't like the dying scene of Jim Kirk. O.K., he went out with a blast, in action, doing something worthwhile, the way he should go, but still he is my favourite character and I don't like to see him die! And I totally agree with Di Williams - the only place for Kirk to die should be in Spock's arms!

The scenes between Kirk and Jean-Luc, on the other hand, are the best in the whole movie. There really is some sort of spark

between the two of them and Bill Shatner and Patrick Stewart really did a wonderful job.

However, I was not satisfied with the movie's villains. I think that they were so shallow, especially the Klingon sisters; Soran hadn't nearly as much dimension as he could have had. I like to see villains in the category of Khan, Chang or Gul Madred, guys with depth. Soran was just another obsessed scientist whom I hated from the first moment. All the action and talk scenes involving Soran or the Klingon sisters could have been so much more gratifying if they had fleshed out those characters more, if they had made them formidable enemies and not just evil clichés.

What does everybody else think?

- Sarah Irons - I would like to say, as a fan of OT, how disappointed I was with the film *Generations*. It was billed as a hand-over between the two crews - it was more like a quick hand-off! Surely the writers could have come up with a storyline that would have involved all the original characters satisfactorily.

As to Kirk's death, I felt it was totally unnecessary. O.K., it was dramatic and it made us cry, but why do it, specially like that! If Paramount wants to kill off OT then they should have killed them all, not just Kirk. They lived as one, they should have died as one!

After seeing *Generations*, the following day we saw *ST:V* and although it's never been my favourite I suddenly realised its true value. Forget the crazy plot, remember always the closeness and the camaraderie between the characters, for it's something that *TNG* can never recreate no matter how hard they try. Also never forget those immortal words of Kirk's - "I've always known - I'll die alone." At least *Generations* got that right! Picard may have been there, but without his friends, Jim Kirk was totally alone!

I'll be interested to see what other OT fans thought of the film. I think after 28 years we deserve better, don't you?

- Steve Farmer - I have to admit I was not totally happy with *Generations*. They seem to have put more money and SFX into it, but somehow it's still not as good as anything done in the series. The 'feel' of it was wrong somehow, there was something (Gene?) definitely missing. Don't get me wrong, it is a good film, but did we really need Kirk & Co? I think a *TNG*-only film, with a more imaginative/complex storyline would have been better. But they did make one terrible mistake which shows a disturbing lack of judgement by Rick Berman... giving Data an emotion chip. Aaeggghhhh!!! It was all handled wrong, it made Data look stupid and it is ruining his character. The whole point of his character, the thing which makes us like him and respect him is his struggle to be more Human. It's what made him so interesting. But no... it was inserted as a cheap attempt to add some 'comedy' scenes into the film - scenes which I did not find particularly funny anyway, they just made me cringe with embarrassment for Data. I just kept hoping something would go wrong so that they would have to remove the chip. Gene would never have allowed this to happen to his character if he'd been alive. However, as I said, apart from this the film is good - at least as good, if not better than, any of the other films.

- Liz Caldwell - *Generations* left me feeling rather sad. On the whole it was a good film and the SFX were stunning - especially the Stellar Cartography room. I felt, however, that it had too many sad things in it and they overshadowed the rest of the film. I've never been a big Kirk fan - Spock has always been my favourite from *TOS*, but Kirk is a legend, an icon - a hero, and I discovered that it's really hard to watch your heroes die.

The bit about Picard's brother and nephew was upsetting too, but I suppose it provided Picard with the anchor to reality that he needed to snap him out of the Nexus. I found the part where he talked about there being no more Picards quite depressing. The film seemed to contain a lot of finalities.

As for the destruction of the Enterprise - I wasn't looking forward to it, but it was almost worth it just for the spectacular crash

sequence. That was pretty stunning! But there's no more Ten Forward, no more Captain's Ready Room with Picard's poor fish (at least they found Spot!) - the ship had so many happy memories associated with it, and now it's gone and I can't help thinking that a new ship will never feel the same - but perhaps I'll feel differently when we see it.

I don't feel entirely comfortable with the new Data either, but the poor fella's been seeking emotions for so long I feel that now he's finally got them I shouldn't complain! I suppose I'm concerned that he might lose that part of his charm that came from his naivety and incomprehension of human emotion. He did provide the film with some very funny moments, though!

• Janet Quarton - I have not seen this film and I don't intend to see it. I have four main reasons: Kirk is my favourite character, I like the Enterprise and Family is one of my favourite TNG episodes. I don't care how well made the film is, I watch films for enjoyment, not to see that which is important to me killed or destroyed. I also work on the principle that if I don't see it it hasn't happened - at least not in my Star Trek Universe.

Personally I don't think this film should ever have been made. Rick Berman has used it to get rid of everything of Gene's except the characters themselves and the Star Trek name. At the end of the Generations - unless they turn back the clock in the next film - TNG as we know it is dead. Sure they can build a new Enterprise but it would be pushing credibility to transfer all the crew to it.

I think it shows a lack of confidence on Berman's part in his own interpretation that a) he needed the attraction of Kirk and Picard on the screen together, plus some of the original characters, to persuade the public to go and see a TNG film; and b) he felt that he had to kill off Kirk, original Star Trek and Gene's Next Generation, before people would accept his version of Star Trek in the TNG movies, DS9 and Voyager.

• Jenny Turner - I was very surprised that I

didn't have to queue, although there were quite a lot of people there. The opening was quite clever with the champagne bottle smashing against the ship. Kirk and the others looked a bit apprehensive when they arrived but it was great to see them - pity Spock and McCoy were not there, though.

It was Data who stole the film. I don't expect a lot of Data fans would like him with emotions but I thought he was hilarious. The bit between Picard and Troi was very sad - you could have heard a pin drop in the cinema. I love horses, and the one Kirk was riding was lovely (I read somewhere that this horse is his favourite). The SFX were brilliant, especially when the saucer crash landed and the scene where Picard and Data were checking the route of the rift - a bit Star Wars, I thought. I enjoyed the film very much, but to be truthful (and I'm not a Shatner fan) I couldn't see the point in killing Kirk off; why couldn't he have returned and gone back into retirement? Perhaps I've missed something somewhere. I would give this film 10 out of 10.

• Edward Woo - My first impression is the movie has very impressive SFX but the story is disappointing (to say the least). I reserve judgement on the sound track till I have seen the film a second or third time.

The film opens well with the Enterprise-B and the arrival of Kirk, Chekov and Scotty. As the ship encounters the energy ribbon, nice touches with Kirk wanting to take command. His 'death' there is true to ST heroism, saving the ship. Next we jump 78 years to TNG. Picard's personal loss is well portrayed. The Stellar Cartography set is stunning, but why have the sets of TNG become darker compared to the brightly lit studio sets? Is the mix of DS9 and NG duty uniforms on the ship a slip-up, or what?

Malcolm McDowell played Dr Soran satisfactorily, but his 23rd century missile looked too 20th century for me. Even the Bird of Prey reminded me too much of ST:VI and its destruction.

Overall, the SFX of the Enterprise B & D are splendid. However, the story is a bit

disjointed. Only Bill, Brent, Patrick and Malcolm get any really significant lines, the rest are just bit players in a movie I believe was made too hastily; the script fails to be as imaginative as some of the TNG stories. My brother summed it up as a long TV episode, not a great film. Let's hope the next one is better.

• Michael Flett - I took plenty of hankies, expecting to cry all the way through; I cried for Spock in '82, for the Enterprise in '84, when they said goodbye in '92... but this? I just felt so empty and cheated. It was just so - nothing. I was expecting so much and the only thing it excelled in was being unfocused. Most annoying was the use of stock footage - 1701-B in warp (TUC), saucer separation (Farpoint - for crying out loud!), destruction of Bird of Prey (TUC), etc. And the shots of the 1701-D were, if not stock, simply recreations of stock situations. The Nexus was beautiful, the destruction of the Enterprise far too drawn out - especially with a repeat! and ultimately unnecessary.

Again: Gene is gone. Messrs Berman, Moore etc want to recreate the show their way. This was not a case of "Let's write a story and see where it takes us." This was "Let's find a way to do this, this and this... now write a story that allows us to do it."

And what was the story? 117 minutes and so little happened - and so many long pauses in the dialogue. Data's 'emotion' subplot was annoying rather than funny, as was David Carson's use of slow motion (ie the holodeck dunkings).

Okay, some of it was brilliant; most of the opening - when it was allowed to flow, and not be stilted. Supposedly this is where most cuts were made (director's cut - please!) Beverly in the water was funny, as was the lifeform song. The second shockwave passing through the Veridian system, shattering the saucer and then the whole planet was genuinely horrifying - the feeling of complete emptiness when we realise that everything we know, all our friends, are not only dead but wiped out of existence entirely.

But the rest? Picard's scrapbook - that

wasn't the Robert Picard I knew. Picard's 'family' - they were revolting ("Thank you for my dolly, daddy, it's sooo nice...") The destruction of the Enterprise - huh? The battle was over, there was no need for it, none at all. And the final cargo bay scene - when I flicked through the novel, I cried my eyes out at the image of Data finally coming to terms with his grief over the loss of his home and his ship when he finds his cat safe, but in the film it was so badly done - the whole scene felt as if it was slotted in afterwards, it had no place in the framework. And Deanna's accent - is Counselor Troi to be British in future films following this scene?

Perhaps I'll enjoy it more second time around when I'm not expecting so much. (Barry Norman wasn't too rude - a good sign! - and the Late Show was surprisingly kind.)

• Clare Finkel - It was a mighty movie, especially the SFX. Some day the Ferengi will be able to wiggle their ears and the Romulans will again be able to arch their brows. Future critics will look back and say things like "The aliens on middle *Trek* were wooden."

The secret is, we always knew it was papier mache and dead plants. Some of us even knew about McCoy's salt shakers. But I guess, not that Kirk is dead, so are we...

Not on your life! Good buy, Paramount. It was nice knowing you.

• Anne-Marie Flowers - Major praise for the opening sequence on the 1701-B right up to the time of Kirk's first death; the crash; Soran - Malcolm McDowell was terrific. Major cringe for Picard weeping. In the book he got really angry - much more appropriate; Data and his overactive (or should it be overacting?) emotions. Like the Borg, I feel he is now diminished; Picard's fantasy family. Five children seems a bit excessive for the 24th century - and why are they all dressed up like a box of Quality Street?; the fight scene at the end. Too obviously choreographed and far too slow and clumsy. Total bewilderment - how did Picard and Kirk get out of the Nexus?

Overall, I think I'd have to give it a B+

and hope they do better next time.

- Nanaki Kaur - I actually watched the film twice, once the day it came out in America and once the day it was released here. I remember that my first reaction after watching it was Wow! Absolutely brilliant! Just to see the NG crew on the big screen was incredible! Having come back down to earth, my opinion has changed. It was good but it could have been better. The plot needed more 'meat' to it and I still don't understand how Picard and Kirk got out of the Nexus.

Regarding the Nexus, if the Enterprise was on the planet when the ribbon hit it, all of the crew would have been transported to the Nexus, wouldn't they? I would love to know what everyone else's idea of 'joy' was. Thoughts, anyone? I can think of a few for Riker!!

The major difference in the audience reaction was that in America they laughed at everything! No matter how tiny the joke, it would produce riotous laughter, sometimes even in serious moments (I think some people were taking the mickey then) - which got a bit annoying especially when laughter drowned out the next line of dialogue. Here there was still the laughter but not so excessive.

- Leslie Moyes - I have just seen Generations twice. It was great, but it could have been so much better! I think it lacks a lot of the innovation that made TNG so special. Anyway, I thought the star of the movie was Data - his scenes were priceless! One wonders how he would be if the TNG cast got their own contemporary time travel movie, a la Voyage Home - it would be a classic! Personally, I think the best is yet to come.

The publicity the movie got seemed more extravagant than a circus show - all those pop and soap bimbos at the movie premier, who would not know the difference between a Romulan or Klingon if they were hit over the head by one!

- Gloria Rigg - Well, what can I say. First thought - Kirk is dead, it saddens me and I

cried, but please don't keep reviving him - let him rest in peace, he's done his bit. Unless, of course, it's a retrospective dream/flashback/prequel or similar. Kirk died a hero, he saved us all again, rest in peace!

Anyway, it's ST:TNG No 1 in the movie series (as far as I am concerned) and as a movie I have to say I enjoyed it. Most of the enjoyment was due to our two captains - seriously, they work well together as actors and characters.

It had everything for a good action-packed movie, lots of ace SFX, saucer separation, holodeck simulations, exploding ships, Data's antics, etc. Best scenes for me were Kirk's demise, Picard's bad news, Picard and Troi when he's crying, Kirk on horseback (Shatner obviously loves riding and showing off his beautiful horse) with Picard trying to enlist Kirk's help, Picard and family at Christmas; Data's scenes were all quite good; etc.

A couple of points - when has Troi ever taken the helm before? Didn't you think the bridge looked darker? How come when Picard went back to stop Dr Soran he didn't meet himself? No more nit-picking, finished.

To conclude - marks out of 10 - 10. It's well worth seeing.

- Dave Smith - I have now seen Generations twice, and I think it's the best Trek film yet. There are those who think Kirk's death was a big mistake but I think it was time he went to that great Starbase in the sky. I'm sure that most fans will mourn his passing but the Star Trek universe must go forward and the reins have been passed into the more than capable hands of Jean-Luc and his crew.

- Gaile Wood - I wish I could say something about this film that would leave you with the feeling that I enjoyed it, but I can't. The plot was so weak and thin that you could have used it for tissue paper (and I don't mean Andrex Quilted in soft tones) and it had more inconsistencies than any other thing I've watched in ST. What a disappointment.

Yes, the effects were stunning and

Kirk's death was handled nicely (not brilliantly, but not badly either), but oh, what crud! I can honestly say that for the first time I was bored by this film. It was over long and a good part of it should have ended up on the cutting room floor. In fact, I'm not going to bother with it again, and I can only hope that the next offering to come our way via Paramount has a good deal more thought put into it. I mean, I want what any fan wants, which is a decent plot, some good action and some feel good. Not some feel comatose. (M.M., you were right). Ah, well...

• Annette Bohm - Generations or Not? A drama in 4 acts.

Act 1 - going to the movies. A friend and I went to see a movie, and we really thought it was ST:Generations. It said ST:Generations on the tickets we bought and it said ST:Generations on the big screen about half an hour later. My friend - who is not a Trekkie - later said it was a great movie. I thought a lot like that too. Anyway, we left the cinema convinced that we had seen ST:Generations.

Act 2 - One day later I had a look at out local paper and discovered a comment referring to ST:Generations. It also gave a short summary of the plot. That was when I realised I had not seen ST:Generations; most of the plot was new to me! As I read it, Chekov, Scotty and Jim Kirk are having a party on board the Enterprise-B when suddenly they receive an emergency call. Scotty saves the day. Kirk vanishes into deep, dark space (why? maybe he just felt like it!) Later we learn he did not vanish totally, but travelled into the future to meet Jean-Luc Picard (who is, by the way, caught in his past celebrating Christmas with his family!) Together Kirk and Picard manage to keep some evil scientist from reaching the Nirwana... "A dull movie," said the writer of the comment.

Act 3 - I caught a glimpse of an article in that movie-magazine I got at the cinema. It also dealt with this mysterious movie ST:Generations. To my surprise, I discovered this one had a whole different version of the plot too - different from what I had seen,

different from what I read in the paper! At least the critics were better - "The movie is okay if you are into Star Trek or SFX." Did you know there is a barkeeper on the Enterprise-D called Guyman, a Counselor Troy and that this weird scientist is not only totally evil and absolutely mad - he is extremely immortal too!

Act 4 - the happy end. So there was I, a helplessly confused creature, looking for the truth. My friend, not being a Trekkie, did not quite understand why. "Well, it was a great movie, anyway. Remember that scene when -"

Luckily I had become a member of some club (called IDIC) a while ago and after reading all the Spoiler Alerts in the newsletter, I was happy to know I had really seen the "right" version of ST:Generations...

Seriously, I have to say I really liked Generations, especially Data - he was so funny. I think it was one of the best ST movies so far, but that's only my opinion. It is really sad that many articles are incorrect, confusing and misleading. Sometimes I wonder if the writer of such an article has seen the movie or episode (s)he is writing about! I am surprised about the many things that are just wrong - it is so simple to get correct information if you only try. (I don't mean to offend anyone, and I would appreciate comments.)

• Peter Benei - I believe most of you will have enjoyed ST:Generations as much as I did. In my opinion it was a marvellous film, probably the best so far (I mean the picture and SFX - the storyline is another thing). I watched it with my jaw on the floor, but there are some disturbing elements I would like to share.

For example, why was the film so dark? I mean, it looked as if the ship was on auxiliary power, with only emergency lights on. What happened? Did they not pay the electricity bill? I understand that this kind of lighting gave a special plus to the film, to the unusual storyline.

Secondly, why did they not eject the

warp core? It could have saved the whole ship. The TNG Technical Manual clearly tells us about this emergency procedure. Yes, I know the answer - it would not have looked as good on the big screen as it did with the explosion and really breathtaking landing scene. The next film has the opportunity to introduce the Enterprise-E.

Thirdly - until this film I thought there were 'starship' uniforms and 'space-station' uniforms. Do not get me wrong, please, I like the DS9 uniform, I just don't understand why they were wearing all kinds of uniforms, including even the command crew. It looked like a fashion show to me.

Fourthly, our new full-of-emotions Data. Perhaps I was not paying enough attention to the seven seasons of TNG, but as far as I know Data's positronic brain is the realisation of Isaac Asimov's dream. Does this mean that Data must obey the Laws of Robotics (and it probably does eg The Most Toys)? So if it does, why did he not help his best friend, Geordi? Because of an emotion, namely 'fear'. Could an emotion be stronger than the basic programming? I don't think so, but unfortunately I am not the one (or two) who produced this film.

I have bought the novelisation of the film and the ST:Gen Official Movie Souvenir Magazine. Both contain pictures of the scene where Scotty and Chekov are waiting for the skydiving Captain Kirk; the picture in the book even shows Kirk on the ground. Did I miss something in the cinema or maybe I saw a badly cut version? [Sheila - I understand the scene in question was one of the ones that was cut to trim the film to the required length.]

- Margot Sykes - I loved this film - it has action, it has humour, and by golly it really shows the contrast in styles of the two Captains! As usual, Captain Kirk steals the show - he will be sorely missed. (While on that subject, why are so many fans getting so uptight about the killing of Kirk? He will live on in the written word, but William Shatner is a 20th century Human who is ageing and cannot continue to portray Kirk indefinitely.)

I'm glad the ending of the film was altered so that it wasn't Soran who killed Kirk. No one person should be responsible for killing an icon and the death of Kirk is heroic and appropriate.

I took my husband with me to see the film - he is not a particular fan of Star Trek, but when we came out of the cinema he said (quite unprompted), "That was really good". 'Nuff said!

- Alan Stephen - The seventh movie of the Starship Enterprise got off to a promising start. As we peer into infinity, an object comes tumbling towards us in slow motion. Is it a piece of space hardware left over from a previous movie? The thing floats closer until we see it clearly: it's a champagne bottle, Dom Perignon, vintage 2265 (though I thought it would have been fun if it had been a bottle from the Picard vineyard). What a wonderful idea! In one image we have everything thrilling, grandiose, funny and clever about Star Trek. But wait - there is another message in this bottle, the future of the Star Trek franchise passes from the original cast to that of ST:TNG, and it is time for a commemorative toast.

What is disappointing is the story, which I found weak, and the *deux ex machina* that brings the captains together silly. If Picard and Kirk could rewind time, why couldn't Soran?

What saves this movie are the performances - Alan Ruck, the hapless Captain Harriman; Brent Spiner who as Data has emotions that oscillate from terror to comedy; looking like Sting's twin brother, Malcolm McDowell makes a good villain, if not as operatic as Wrath of Khan's Ricardo Montalban. Finally, the two leads, Patrick Stewart and William Shatner, give of their all and work very well together. The rest of the cast do very well with what little was left for them. I really wish the scenes that were cut had been left in - the original opening with Captain Kirk paragliding to Earth, Geordi's torture scene (which would have explained a couple of lines of dialogue) - though I'm sure these scenes will be reinstated for the laserdisc and video release.

I'm ready to drink champagne any time, but this film was just good sparkling white wine.

• Pen Cramphorn - All I can say is, I agree with Marina Sirtis when she said they've made better episodes than the film but they haven't made many worse! Let's hope the next one is better!

• Tony McNally - I've seen Generations 3 times so far, and although I don't think it's as good as ST:TUC it's still a great film. Data with emotions is just brilliant and the big screen certainly adds to it, as it did for all the others.

Like David Raper (N/L 38) I got the book but I couldn't wait and just had to read it. Mixed feelings now I've seen the film; some of the scenes in the book would have made the film even better - the farewell scene between Kirk, Spock & McCoy, and Captain Sulu being told of Kirk's "death". Most of all though, what a shame to miss old James T orbital sky-diving, not a Zimmer frame in sight - only joking!

One nit-pick already - what happened to Picard's communicator? When he was on the transporter pad he was wearing it but when he arrived on Veridian III it was gone - clever, those El Aurians! I'm also more than a bit puzzled as to why Picard buried Kirk where he died and that his body was not taken back to earth for a burial with full honours. Some may say that a hero should be buried on his last "battlefield" but surely Starfleet would have wanted to bury him on Earth. Maybe the next film could start with Kirk's memorial service, which allows for appearances by the crew of Original Trek. Kirk could also be in it (in scenes remembered by the others) - yes, I know "the baton" has passed from Kirk to Picard but surely that doesn't exclude the cast of Original Trek from future film(s) - or is that just wishful thinking on my part?

For me, though, the most spectacular scene was when the saucer section of the Enterprise crash landed, and coming a close second was Stellar Cartography. Above all, though, I think all the scenes where Data is

experiencing his new-found emotions are the best - particularly when the Klingon Warbird was destroyed. I, for one, am looking forward to many more Trek films.

• Kathleen Glancy - I liked it, but I found it flawed, not in Kirk's death - I think that's the way he'd want to go - but in his supposed death and his life since.

I don't believe Spock and McCoy would accept Kirk was dead unless they had seen his body and McCoy had done an autopsy to check it wasn't an android/transporter malfunction/shapeshifter/whatever. They would look for him.

I don't believe Kirk would just settle down and ride horses for 70 years. He'd be trying to get out, back home. He'd try to find a way to signal Spock and McCoy. He'd know they would be looking for him.

I was amused at the thought that those who claim a permanent telepathic link exists between Spock and Kirk (I don't) were going to have some time explaining why Spock didn't know Kirk wasn't dead. I suppose it could be said that Spock, on getting all these images of green fields and rural peace, thought his friend's katra was communicating from Human Heaven. In which case he must have got a nasty shock there on Romulus.

I have to say that for the sake of verisimilitude they should leave Kirk dead. If they bring yet another character back to life it is really going to get absurd. This doesn't mean Shatner can't appear again - a time travel story going back to the years when Kirk was still in command of the Enterprise would still be possible.

• Jean Sloan - I've just seen the Edinburgh exhibition, which is thoroughly enjoyable. I am afraid I cannot say the same for Generations. I hate what they did to JTK in it; and as for the "plot" - time anomaly has become a far too convenient plot device. And how can you soft land a starship on a planet? What happened to re-entry burn-up? The film has no emotion in it, except perhaps at the very beginning when Kirk is on the

bridge of the Enterprise-B. There is no awe, no wonder, nothing momentous, no sense of sacrifice even when Kirk dies... it is just a feast of SFX, and the plot seems to revolve around creating as many opportunities as possible for them.

• John Stubbley - I've just seen *Generations* (in the cinema!). Wow! If you haven't seen it yet, go see it. Wonderful Surround Sound (tm). You **MUST** sit in the centre of the Theatre for the best effect - it's bone-shaking! Very good special effects. The scene with a ship leaving space dock is notable for being the only scene in the films to give you a true idea of the **HUGE** size of a starship. The plot's not bad either. The only real let-down was **NO SPOCK!**

• Judith Taylor - *Generations* is fantastic, but I did in my inevitable style notice a few little nitpicks. Why didn't they just eject the warp coil and anti matter pods which is standard procedure during a warp core breach? I suppose a warp core explosion would not look as fantastic and they would not have had to land the saucer. Also when Kirk is buried he loses about two feet off his body length. (My mum commented that perhaps they buried him standing up.) Also why do Klingons stand in front of the viewscreen watching the torpedo as it is about to obliterate their ship, why don't they try to counter it? At least Lursa and B'Etor get their comeuppance.



STAR TREK EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH

For anyone who hasn't been yet, how to get to the City Art Centre (info Kathleen Glancy) [This arrived too late for inclusion last time.]

This is in Market Street, which runs parallel to Princes Street on the same side as the Castle.

If arriving by train, it's easy. Get off at the Waverley Station (not Haymarket), go out the back door into Market Street (Market Street is signposted but any member of the station staff can point you to it) and the City Art Centre is about 150 yards to your right on the opposite side of the road. It is hung with Star Trek banners, and the Paramount and UFP flags.

By bus, you get off either in the bus station or Princes Street. The bus station is within spitting distance of the Waverley and north of it. Turn right if you leave at the east end opposite the shopping centre, left if you leave by the west end opposite St Andrews Square gardens. Cross Princes Street, head for Waverley Station (down Waverley Steps), through to the opposite end then proceed out the back door as above. If you get off in Princes Street, face the Castle, turn left and keep going until you reach the Waverley Steps.

By car - poor you. There is no free parking to be had close to the City Arts Centre unless you have a disabled pass. There are car parks at the Waverley, the St James Shopping Centre beside the bus station and Greenside Place opposite the bus station. All are costly and often full, especially weekends and Thursday (late night shopping). You'd be advised to park on the outskirts and get a bus into town. Remember to bring lots of change; the City buses (dark red and white) are exact fare only and these vary. SMT buses (green and white) do give change. On arrival at the city centre, ask directions for Waverley Station.

Meals - The Art Centre has a decent and reasonably priced cafe but it gets very crowded - it has its own entrance so people not at an exhibition also go there. There are fast food outlets nearby (Burger King opposite Waverley Steps and Pizzaland and Pizza Hut on the North Bridge - go up the flight of steps opposite the station entrance and turn right). The High Street (at right angles to North Bridge) has any number of good pubs but its restaurants are pricey. There is also a food court in the Waverley Centre.

Good times to get in are first thing in the morning and around 5 pm on the late

nights - the afternoon visitors are away, the evening ones haven't arrived yet.

- Sheila Clark - Valerie and I went to the Exhibition on Sunday 19th February - a spur of the moment decision to go that day. We took the train from Dundee (parking in Edinburgh is horrendous in its scarcity) and arrived about quarter of an hour after the doors opened. The queue was about 200 - 250 yards long, moving steadily, and as far as we could see remained at about that for most of the day. Incidentally, if you go by rail and hand over your ticket, you get £1 off the entry charge.

The exhibition was busy, though not crowded - possibly because when the ground floor room filled up too much, the queue was stopped until a lot of people moved on to other floors. This kept things moving steadily.

There were five main types of exhibit; printed information (bios of the producers, actors and principal back-stage personnel from all four series), video presentations of the various series and movies, uniforms, props (including two sets, several chairs and a number of prosthetic heads) and models, as well as two shops selling memorabilia. Ground floor and level 1 were given over to Classic Trek; Level 2 was devoted to the movies, and the basement level carried TNG, DS9 and Voyager.

We skipped reading the bios and gave only passing attention to the videos, because we knew most of the info therein; as a result we went round the exhibition in two hours. Anyone stopping to read everything would have taken a minimum of 1 - 2 hours longer. (We would cheerfully have taken longer to examine things more closely, but for various reasons our time in Edinburgh was limited.) We were very impressed by the detail on the uniforms; some of these look deceptively simple on TV, but close up are incredibly ornately done, while others look very 'ornate' on TV and are actually quite simple! Many of the props, too, are remarkably elaborate, while others are very simple and you immediately appreciate the skill of the actors who make you think these blocks of painted

wood actually do work!

The shops were a disappointment; they carried little we haven't seen before, apart from mugs and T-shirts emblazoned "Star Trek - the Exhibition".

One little point - without even looking, we spotted three major and two bad mistakes in labelling and one in the composition of the movie video...

- Gloria Rigg - We waited for 35 minutes in the queue; it was cold, windy (though sunny) but I was so looking forward to it that I didn't care. We chatted with some other fans in the queue and the time flew by at warp speed.

I had been told by the TI office not to bring a camera or video - swines, almost everyone else had one or the other! Next time I'll take both and do a real job on it!

I enjoyed all the exhibits, costumes, props etc, especially the Classic Trek stuff - lovely. It's well worth a visit (or two or three or...) and I do honestly recommend that everyone with even the smallest interest visit at least once.

A workmate who visited the day after, however, said that he would have been happier if there had been more hands on/working/moving etc type of exhibits as he felt the static displays 'dated' the show.

- Stephen Daniels - I'm fortunate enough to spend 32 weeks out of the year in the beautiful city of Edinburgh where, as you probably know, the first Star Trek exhibit outside the US is being held. On the day of Feb. 4th, myself (Trekker), and a couple of friends (Trekkies) went to the first day of opening. We were there an hour before the doors opened but there was already quite a queue. It was very cold, and employees of the City Art Centre cafe were selling breakfast (filled rolls) to the people in the queue. At last the doors opened (at 10am), and we slowly trickled in. The student entry fee was a mere £2, but you had to cough up another £2 for the glossy 'programme'.

It was like being let loose in a sweet

shop, we scuttled from one display to another, looking at everything but taking nothing in! Once I had got a grip of myself, I started to read the text that accompanied each display. On the ground floor it was Classic Trek stuff. Tricorder, phasers and communicators were all there in their glass cabinets, as were uniforms worn by Kirk and Uhura among others. Pride of place went to the mock-up of the bridge of the original Enterprise. It even had the dedication plaque next to the turbolift door. We were not allowed onto the set.

On to the first floor, and dangling above the escalator almost out of sight was the model of the Enterprise-D used for filming in TNG. This floor was TNG stuff. It had pictures of all the TNG regulars with a brief summation of the part they played in Star Trek (Janet is mentioned in Q's one!). Again props were there including phasers, tricorders, and Bev's medical kit. There was a reconstruction (not an exact one I hasten to add) of the transporter pad, and two chairs - the Captain's from the bridge, and Q's from the court room in "All Good Things". Data's season-three-onwards uniform, and Deanna's greeny-blue outfit from several episodes were on show. I hopped on the transporter while nobody was looking for a quick photo (well, every news reporter got to do it, so why shouldn't I!?!). This is also the floor where you part with your cash. The shop is here. I was disappointed to find little exclusive or hard to get merchandise. I still haven't got the communicator from Generations - all the communicators were on display by the way, even the one from "Future Imperfect".

The next floor up was Movie domain. There were props from all the films, and costumes too. Spock's hippie robe from ST IV:TVH was there, and the outfit donned by Iman in ST VETUC. Soran's sun-destroying missile was plonked in the middle of the room.

On my way to the basement, where the DS9 and Voyager stuff was, I noticed that there was still a huge queue outside, and I had been in for a couple of hours already. This section was not as

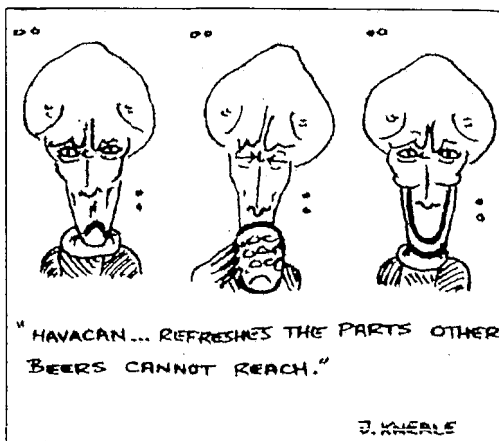
full with exhibits as the other floors, but I guess it was because these two shows are both relatively new, well at least Voyager is. All floors had video shows on, and there was one of Voyager in the basement (not an episode, but an intro.). For some reason, photographs were not allowed to be taken down there. There was another shop there too.

After lunch it was time to go to the front door because Marina Sirtis was about to arrive. People were STILL queuing outside, and when her car arrived, they all rushed forward and blocked the road outside the Art Centre! Everyone inside was very quiet and subdued when she came in, so I shrieked out her name, and got a little wave for my troubles! She then disappeared into a mass of people. Chris and I got into the queue for an autograph and Andy left to see the Scotland - Ireland rugby match. We queued for well over an hour, and hardly got to say hello to her, mind you there were a lot of people waiting for a signature.

We left the exhibition at about 4pm, and there was STILL a huge queue to get in!

I will be going again, and recommend it to all.

Tickets - Adults: £3.50 - Children/Concessions/Super Leisure Access Card Holders: £2.00 - Family Ticket (2 kids & 2 adults): £9.00. Call (0131)558 1018 for more info (24hrs). City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh. Runs till May 7 1995.



WARP TWO - CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA

2nd - 6th May 1996

69, Merlin Crescent,
Edgware,
Middx,
HA8 6JB.

opened last year, so is completely modern. It also has an attached 4* hotel which has offered very reasonable rates. In addition, being in the centre of Cardiff there are a variety of other hotels nearby to meet all budgets (see the reg form for details).

Dear IDIC Club Member,

As you may have heard we have had some considerable problems with our site. We had originally planned to go back to Morecambe (where we held Warp One) and had agreed this with Pontins. However, without warning, they contacted us and told us Morecambe was unprofitable and they were tearing the site down.

Since then we have been looking for a suitable alternative. We are therefore delighted to report that we have found a marvellous, purpose built site in Cardiff. This site is an ideal convention centre and was

This means that the unfortunate delay in getting started will, in the end, work out for the best and we will be able to offer a better convention in a better, more comfortable venue.

For more information and a registration form send SASE to WARP TWO, David Simons, 69, Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middx, HA8 6JB.

Live Long and Prosper

David Simons



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



• STAR TREK: MOVIE MEMORIES by William Shatner with Chris Kreski Harper Collins. Reviewed by Jean Sloan

This is William Shatner's sequel to STAR TREK MEMORIES. It revisits each of the ST films and tells the story of their making. The viewpoint is William Shatner's but the views of those most closely connected with the films are incorporated into the text. The book gives fascinating insights into the process of film-making - the delights, the problems, the compromises, the politics - especially the politics. It is a wonder to me that films ever get made at all!

While I enjoyed ST Memories, I think that this is a much better book, partly because I knew less about the background to the films, partly because the style is better. I thought the prose in ST Memories was a little self-conscious; the narrative here seems more

natural. I think WS has tried to be frank in his views and objective in his analyses but no doubt he will be criticised for some of the opinions he expresses. He explains his decision to accept the killing of Kirk in Generations and his feelings as he prepared for the moment; though I wish that he'd told Paramount what to do with the script, I found the rationale interesting and it will make me watch the film in a new light.

I found this book compelling. If you like books about film making and details of how the 'suits' work, this is the one for you.

• BEYOND UHURA: STAR TREK AND OTHER MEMORIES by Nichelle Nichols.

Boxtree, £15.99, 320 pages.

Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini

The latest in the series of memoirs by those involved in Star Trek (Robert Justman's

book is due later this year, and we hear that Jimmy Doohan is working on his) Beyond Uhura is another piece in the fascinating jigsaw puzzle that makes up the history of this unique programme. It is also the story of a gifted and courageous woman.

Nichelle's career would make a film in itself, as she had established a flourishing musical career before she was twenty, appearing with some of the biggest names of the era, including Duke Ellington. After Star Trek she worked with NASA on the recruitment of women and minority groups to the space programme, and established Women in Motion, which had contracts with several government departments.

The book gives a vivid picture of the problems faced by women and Blacks in the 60's. This is a timely reminder of just how bad things could be, although we must not forget that such attitudes are still current in society. There are in contrast some delightful glimpses of Nichelle's family life. She deals warmly and affectionately with her relationship with Gene, and they remained friends for the rest of his life.

Of course, we are all particularly interested in the Star Trek involvement, and Nichelle gives some unique insights into the events and relationships of those years. She has some new stories to tell, and a new perspective on some of the things we already know. (I was interested in the account of how angry Whoopi Goldberg was when on the set of 'Generations' she discovered that Nichelle was not in the film; she knew just how much the fans would have loved to see Uhura and Guinan together.) It is especially valuable to see through her eyes just how much the 'men in suits' tampered with Gene's vision, and the damage done by those who thought they knew better than he did what Star Trek should be. (Sorry, down off the soapbox - this is supposed to be a review!)

For the serious fan, and those who are trying to understand the unique and enduring appeal of Star Trek, this book is a 'must'. It is also, however, a remarkable portrait of just how much a person restrained - as she then was - by being both a woman

and a Black woman can achieve given the spirit and determination, as well as the sheer talent, that are the characteristics of Nichelle Nichols. While not a conventionally 'feminist' book, it is a salutary lesson in just what is possible.

• CARETAKER by L A Graf Pocket Books Voyager 1 £4.70

Based on a script by Michael Piller & Jeri Taylor, story by Rick Berman, Michael Piller & Jeri Taylor. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is the novelisation of the first, 2-hour episode of ST:Voyager. A Maquis ship has disappeared during a plasma storm in an area known as Badlands; the Voyager, captained by Kathryn Janeway, is assigned to find it. Both ships are picked up by *something* and thrown right across the galaxy; a distance from which it will take 75 years to travel back. With one ship destroyed, the two crews join forces to make the journey.

I don't want to say too much about the actual story, but that much has been fairly widely publicised already. The book follows the episode very closely; and while expanding a little on events and adding a little, L A Graf has avoided the trap (that too many episode novelists have fallen into) of inserting too much that is not included in the episode; the expansion is mostly in the form of Janeway's thoughts. I love Janeway's thoughts on Paris on P 22! I enjoyed the episode, I enjoyed the book.

The book has a section of B&W stills from the episode and a colour cover featuring the nine regulars. I'd give it 9 out of 10.

• PROUD HELIOS Melissa Scott DS9 Pocket Books £4.70

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Helios, a pirate vessel, has been attacking vessels in Cardassian space near the mouth of the wormhole, though it has been carefully avoiding entering Federation space. When the Xawé ship Gift of Flight is attacked and destroyed with all hands, however, the Federation becomes involved, with DS9 sitting in the middle of what threatens to become a war zone.

This, for me, is the weakest DS9 novel so far. I didn't care for some of the theme of the last DS9 novel, Jon Vornholt's *Antimatter*, but his writing skills compensated for much; that, alas, is not the case here. I found the book dragged, and if I had not been reading it to review it, I would probably have given up on it before I was a third of the way through. Ms Scott was, quite frankly, unable to make me care what happened or who won, and it took me a week to read through the first 7 chapters. It does, however, perk up a bit from chapter 8 on, and I found myself wondering if the first two-thirds of the story had been subjected to so much rewriting and redevelopment that it had lost all spontaneity, because I then read the final third of the book at a sitting. Technically it's well written and I can't actually fault any of the development; apart from wondering, early on, how the names of a normally-cloaked ship and her commander could be known when the attacked ships were routinely destroyed with no survivors. It all just seemed so pedestrian. 5 out of 10.

• ANTIMATTER Jon Vornholt
Reviewed by James Keating

The Abhor shipyard is assigned to build a starship (not an engine as the back cover states) for the Federation. Naturally this starts conflict between pro-Federation and those who feel Bajor would be better off building their own ship. A band of Abhor 'freedom fighters' has the antimatter (needed for the ship) hijacked and delivered to them in the Gamma Quadrant. Dax, Sisko and Odo follow and decide to infiltrate the hijackers on an arachnid-run planet.

In my opinion, this is by far the best DS9 novel. The characterisation of Sisko and Dax's relationship is spot on. We see how Sisko is slightly embarrassed when Dax tries on a revealing dress. The inhabitants of the planet are intriguing and enough information about them is given without it becoming boring. The sections revolving around Kira and the Provisional Government were expertly handled, the author's comments on the difference between, thought-provoking. An immensely enjoyable book with a poignant ending. A well-deserved 9 out of 10.

(Is it just my book, or do all the books have someone's signature dated '94 on the cover behind the author's name?) *[Sheila - I think this is the name of the artist who drew the cover picture and the date it was drawn.]*

• RECOVERY by J M Dillard Pocket Books
73 £4.70 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Recovery is a newly developed rescue ship, capable of evacuating large populations from endangered areas or responding to distress calls, all totally automatically. A simulation exercise is set up, with McCoy as civilian observer on Recovery and Kirk, fretting at being left with a desk job when he accepted promotion on the promise of its being a 'trouble-shooting' job, on one of the observing starships. Of course things go wrong...

Although the Lost Years saga was originally supposed to be composed of three books, this, the fourth, is described as the final book in the Lost Years saga. References are made back to the events in The Lost Years, and right through this book I thought these were going to be relevant in some way to the denouement - even as late as P188 there's a comment that seemed to be linked, and there were a number of scenes throughout the book involving Spock at Gol being 'aware' of Kirk and McCoy which seemed to serve no purpose unless there was to be a link with the events of The Lost Years - but no. The initial references were background detail only.

J M Dillard's own characters are well developed, and it's just as well, since apart from the scenes at Gol involving Spock, Kirk, McCoy and Reilly are the only Trek characters who appear; McCoy and Reilly spend part of the time together, as do Kirk and Reilly, but each of them is mostly interacting only with Dillard's characters.

All in all, I was disappointed with this story. In many ways it seemed like a rehash of The Ultimate Computer with ideas added from various other episodes (TNG as well as OT) and one or two books. There didn't seem to be anything to excite the reader.

Part of it, I suppose, is that to many Trek fans the Enterprise herself is a character; we don't want to see her hurt (ie damaged) so danger to her is as real as danger to the characters. The ships in this story were strangers; danger to them was to be regretted, but along the same lines as nobody wants to see even a complete stranger hurt in an accident.

As an SF story it's fine, but as a Trek story I wouldn't give it more than 5 out of 10. And I still think the scenes involving Spock were totally unnecessary, there only to include Spock in the book.

• **BLAZE OF GLORY** Simon Hawke TNG
34 Pocket Books £4.70
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

K'Trall is a planet with a vulcanoid population where an enlightened leader has recently stepped down in favour of his son. However, shipping in the area is being raided by a pirate - Captain Blaze of the Glory; and there is a possibility of Romulan involvement.

At first sight this story has at least surface resemblances to Proud Helios, with the pirate ship there or thereabouts, but the resemblance ends there. Although the plot is hardly original, being the good old chestnut of the new planetary leader thinking he'll do better for himself under the Romulans, it is well handled, and is probably the best TNG novel to be published for some considerable time.

I can't help thinking that to call one of the characters Lt Dorn was something of a mistake - I was certainly aware of it as a distraction, even though Lt Dorn is female - but that's a very minor quibble. 9 out of 10.

• **WARPED** K W Jeter DS9 hardback
Pocket Books £9.99
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

There have been murders on DS9; Sisko has been attacked; a new government has taken over Bajor; an ex-partner of Quark's has appeared on the scene... and all these events are linked.

This book is well titled. If I had picked it off the shelf in my local bookshop and glanced through it, I would have put it straight back before even finishing scanning chapter 1. There is a horror element running through the entire book, and although everything is explained by the end, the explanation made little, if any, sense to me; and the characters, without exception, have a dark side that does not in any way fit Gene's vision of the 23rd/24th centuries. Everyone is to some degree warped and the whole left a nasty taste in my mouth, although lovers of horror stories will probably enjoy it.

Despite having some qualms about it, I gave Mr Jeter's last book (Bloodletter) 7 out of 10. I would give this one 3 at the very most, and am seriously debating asking the good folk at At The Sign of the Dragon not to send me anything else written by Mr Jeter.

I have found many of the hardbacked books to be a disappointment when compared to a lot of the paperbacks. Just what do the publishers use as a criterion when deciding which book to put out in hardback? This one certainly didn't warrant it. Come back, Proud Helios, all is forgiven!

• **VULCAN** Kathleen Sky Corgi Books
1978. Reissued Titan 1995 £4.50.
Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

This comes close to ousting The Price of the Phoenix from the top of my Worst of Trek book list.

Doctor Katalya Tremain is posted to the Enterprise. She has a "full bosom" and eyes as "dark and warm as forest pools struck by sunlight" (Ms Sky's description). She also has a mind that "more than equals" Spock's (his description. Yes, really). Spock has filled her cabin with miniature orange trees. (Yes, *really!*). Later she cries and "giggles soggly" all over McCoy's uniform shirt. And later still tells him that she "desires" him although she doesn't love him. She hates Vulcans so we know she's sure to respect/admire/lust after Spock eventually but there are 170 pages of slush to wade through first. Welcome to the USS Mills & Boon.

There is a sort of plot but it certainly isn't the "mind dazzling adventure" promised by the blurb. The Federation can't decide if the Arachnae system is inhabited by intelligent life. Spock and Tremain investigate and are trapped planetside when the Romulans start stalking the Enterprise. Cue for a series of far from mind dazzling incidents that result in lines like: "Mr Spock, I would thank you to keep your hands off my *gluteus maximus*" (from the massive brained Tremain) and "I admit I have only seen part of (your body). I'll reserve judgement until I have seen you completely nude" (from Spock. Yes, really, truly.)

In his effusive introduction David Gerrold suggests that Ms Sky's other sci-fi books might become collector's items in the future and suggests that you rush out and buy them.

They might. This won't. Don't buy.

• THE MAKING OF DEEP SPACE NINE

Judith & Garfield Reeves-Stevens Pocket Books £12.99

Reviewed by Leslie Moyes

This book has really heated up these very cold winter nights. There is loads of info, stunning photos and fascinating pre-production artwork. I cannot recommend it enough. It has so much for everyone, even TOS fans, as one of the main inspirations was Steve Whitfield's book on TOS from the last 60s.

Some of this book's highlights are a full-colour frame by frame look at Armin Shimerman undergoing his make-up process as Quark, the original script (which would have been called *The Ninth Orb*), which features Ro and a Dr Amaras as opposed to Kira and Bashir, the first designs for DS9. Odo (some of which make him look more like a Jem'Hadar than anything else), the runabouts (one of which looks similar to the shuttle Kira and Odo used in *The Search II*). There are also profiles of all the actors including my favourite Terry Farrell (Dax), though Bashir fans may note there are not many photos of him in it. There are also some stunning colour pics, including some

cracking wormhole views and Mike Westmore's 'alien factory' - fascinating! as a certain Vulcan would say. At the foot of each page there are also wee bits of trivia about all aspects of Trek squeezed in - essential!

If I were to take one Trek book to a desert island with me this would be the one. The only real disappointment is that there is no in-depth episode guide to seasons 1 & 2 and nothing on season 3. Still, the good points far outweigh the bad ones; Gar and Judith, well done! I can't wait for a revised edition with season 3. So - if anyone wants to buy a book on DS9 and is not sure about where to start, but this and you will not be disappointed! Highly recommended; 10 out of 10.

• The TREKMASTER: Trek Trivia Quiz

David McCandless Boxtree £4.99

Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is a book of 2000 trivia questions which, if you buy it soon, will also let you enter 'The Trekmaster 1995' competition (entries to be in by 1st May).

There are three grades of question - Ensign, Captain and Admiral. It's easy to say "These questions are all easy" when you know the answers, but I did find the Classic Trek section very easy in all three grades. On the other hand, I'm not so hot on the other series!

I did feel, though, that some of the questions are less than completely fair; no matter how well you know your Trek, you may not be enough of a TV/movie addict, or actor fan, to answer a question like "In what film was a naked Marina Sirtis flogged to death by Faye Dunaway?", "Terry Farrell appeared in which horror film?" or "Wallace Shawn played who in *The Princess Bride*?" In addition, I didn't feel that questions on *Generations* or *Voyager* are quite fair (yet).

I haven't actually checked my answers to two of the questions ("I'm a doctor, not a bricklayer" and "I'm a doctor, not an escalator") against the episodes, but I *think* I'm right and the answers given are wrong. Hmmmm. In that case, how many of the other

answers given are wrong? That apart, it seems pretty par for the course for a trivia quiz book. Because I feel some of the questions aren't fair, I'd give it 7 out of 10.

• THE NITPICKER'S GUIDE FOR CLASSIC TREKKERS Phil Farrand
Reviewed by James Keating

Christmas morning, and I open this present eagerly, delighted and excited to have received it. If it was any way as good as Mr Farrand's previous book, I would be in for a treat. It wasn't.

It's basically the same formula as the Next Gen version, yet somehow not as satisfying at all. Perhaps it's because TNG is my first love, but I found this book extremely boring - I actually found myself skipping whole sections. For nearly every episode the author criticises the special effects despite his promise that he understood the budget restraints. The only reason I can see him putting in those syndication cuts was to fill space. Who wants to know whether Charlie X pleads for 10 seconds instead of 5? To me, anyway, it's not enjoyable or particularly interesting. Some of the nits really scraped the bottom of the barrel. At least for the closing stills the author managed to include some of his wit.

On the whole there were bright spots, such as the tedious trivia questions and the short, informative and witty sections such as the hilarious top ten reasons for violating the Prime Directive and the interesting Is Starfleet Military? Not as good to me as the Next Gen version, but perhaps CT fans will relish it.

• STAR TREK - Where No One Has Gone Before: A History in Pictures. J M Dillard
Pocket Books 1994 £25 210 pages
Reviewed by Edward Woo

This is a large glossy A4 hardback book, coffee table type, which illustrates the history of ST in words and pictures. It's very expensive, to say the least, but there are some beautiful pictures. There are some classic ones and one or two unusual ones of De and Leonard. The text contains standard ST

information that most fans will know.

The book contains 6 chapters, including Voyager and the future. Interesting articles include redesigning the bridge in Relics, Okudagrams, Future Science, Klingons, etc, all adding to the book's interest. The most beautiful pictures are Spacedock, DS9 and Enterprise-D, though it's a pity it's spread over 2 pages and not a pull-out instead.

Unfortunately the book is sealed and so you can't peep into it before buying it, but it will be a collectors' item in years to come (like the hardbound version of the Trek Encyclopedia).

• GREAT BIRDS OF THE GALAXY (Gene Roddenberry and the Creators of Trek) Edward Gross & Mark Altman. Boxtree 1994. Large format paperback. Illustrated b/w. £9.99. Reviewed by Jay Stevensen

The original "Bird" gets the most space (about 40 pages) and the others (Gene Coon, Fred Freiberger, Harve Bennett, Nicholas Meyer, Leonard Nimoy, William Shatner, Rick Berman, Maurice Hurley, Michael Pillar and Jeri Taylor) have a chapter each with pictures (not all of them Trek related) quotes and career details.

The more up to date info may be new to some fans but to describe this as a "scholarly work intended to explore the history of Star Trek" (yes, that's what they say) is a bit of a con. It's really just another clever bit of marketing aimed at Trekkers with ever ready credit cards. Classic fans will find the same stories trivia and whinges they've read before, many of them in the author's own (far superior) Captain's Logs. I was less familiar with the ideas of the four Next Gen/DS9 "Birds" but suspect that probably the same criticism could be applied by those who've read more books and interviews than I have.

There's a nice variety of pictures for Nimoy and Shatner fans but Next Gen and DS9 afficiandos only get a few reproduced magazine covers and posters.

Rating: 5 out of 10 - and that's mainly for the photos.

• FOCUS Magazine of Discovery March 95.
Reviewed by Gary McClean

This contains a nine page colour dossier which provides a worthy introduction to the Star Trek universe, covering the origins of the series; the technology - how some of the items featured in the original series have now become reality, and how some Next Generation technology is slowly making its way to the real world; Trekkers - presented for once in a positive, informative manner; and a little about the future for Star Trek. All of the series are mentioned from The Original Series, through to Voyager, including the films and Generations, and there are coloured photographs and illustrations throughout. There's probably nothing new there that a dedicated Trekker doesn't already know, but the main value of the dossier is that it provides a rare, well intentioned introduction to the Star Trek universe, whereas other general publications mainly seem to poke fun at Star Trek and Trekkers.

Focus - The Magazine of Discovery is available while stocks last for £2.75 including UK p&p from Focus Subscriptions Department, Tower House, Sovereign Park, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 9EF. Cheques/POs made payable to 'Focus Subscriptions Department'.

• STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE: Emancipation and Beyond

Mike W Barr/ Gordon Purcell/Terry Pallot
Picture strip stories. Bantam 1994 £7.99
Reviewed by Jay Stevens

Five stories of varying lengths. Bantam neglected to fill in the title and credits on the first long story, but it deals with the slaves seeking asylum on DS9. Three shorts follow: Field Trip, Pickpocket and Programme 359, neat enough little cameos. Working Vacation (the final longer story) sends an angry Major Kira down to a planet where negotiations for power between the administrative class and the servant class are decided annually by ritual combat. The admin class always wins....until Kira takes an interest!

The graphics (by Rob Davis and Terry Pallot) are nice enough but apart from not filling in the lead story credits the page numbers are missing and the binding of the copy I read (from the library) was already falling apart although the book seemed new. If I'd actually paid money for this I wouldn't be over impressed.

• STAR TREK:THE NEXT GENERATION/STAR TREK:DEEP SPACE NINE Malibu & DC Comics

Reviewed by Alan Stephen

The crossover between the two shows is unfortunately a disappointment, but this is not entirely the fault of the creative team, because there are so many characters involved that to include them all in events that propel the plot is contrived. The dialogue also suffers from being stilted and unnatural. On the plus side, the art by Purcell is very good.

• STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE ANNUAL 1 Malibu Comics

Reviewed by Alan Stephen

The Looking Glass War Writer Mike W Barr, Penciller Leonard Kirk, Finishes Rob Davis

Malibu has done excellent work for the most part on their DS9 series, and they haven't let Star Trek fans down with their first annual. In this story we get to see what Curzon Dax may look like when a Curzon from a parallel dimension comes to enlist the help of our heroes, especially Odo, in peace negotiations with the Dominion..

• STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION; SHADOWHEART DC Comics Mini-series 1 - 4 Reviewed by Alan Stephen

Klingon stories seem to be the most popular in ST:TNG; Michael Jan Friedman has continued this tradition with this tale. Worf's Human brother Nikolai Rozhenko and the colony he was a member of have been massacred; at the same time that Worf, his family and the TNG crew gather to grieve, on the Klingon-colonised world of Nothra a character from Klingon mythology,

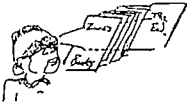
Shadowheart, is leading raids by the Nothrani against the Klingons. Could Shadowheart be Worf's brother? Michael Jan Friedman has written a tight enjoyable story supported by journeymanlike art from Steve Erwin and Charles Barnett, plus four beautiful covers. The collected edition should be out shortly.

• DS9 SPACE STATION (ERTL) £20

Reviewed by Rory Smith

The DS9 model is what I would call one of ERTL's average models. The detailing on the hull is to the normal good standard and its size, when assembled, is impressive at about 16". There aren't any decals (not stickers, as Nigel Nixon warns me!) as this is true to the programme's model. The only problems I found were with the antennae/

aerials at the top of the station, as they were very thin and delicate. They also needed a thicker glue than I used, as the holes they stood in were shallow, so they began leaning over as the thin glue I used dried. The worst problem was working out the colouring of the paints used on the model. The box told you to look at the pictures on it. One of the pictures was the big main one on the top - this was a grey colour, but the exact shade was difficult to find because the drawing was tinted with the orange light from a star. The other pictures were on the side, and were photographs of the model ready made up; but this had a khaki/sandy colour - not grey at all! If there hadn't been this problem, the model could have been given a very good review; as it is, it's still good. 7 out of 10.



ZINE REVIEWS

• MAKE IT SO 21

Reviewed by James Keating

Make It So 21 is a solid enjoyable read with the usual pot pourri. There are 4 short stories and 2 poems. The first short story (Q'oymi Pachakuti) has 3 of the show's favourite guest characters - Ro, Q and one other. At times I felt the characters were reading their lines from a teleprompter, so to speak. The twist made up for this (although I had already guessed it).

When Thou Hast by Brenda Kelsey is short and to the point. It concerned Guinan's indecision over whether or not to help Riker kill Picard in Best of Both Worlds. My only quibble is that it's hard to imagine Guinan being as troubled as she was.

The next story is called Personal Conflict, written by Richard Meade. It felt as if it was an episode, and a good one at that. Basically, Riker, Data and Picard are kidnapped by Romulans and Worf is forced to go on a solo rescue mission. It flowed smoothly and the tension was kept up

throughout. Only bad point, I felt it was a tad unoriginal.

The final and deservedly longest story is The Sleeper Shall Awaken by Nigel Turner. Once again it has an episode-like quality to it. The writing is descriptive and the characters acting as they do on the show. The story deals with the Enterprise going to salvage a peace conference between two warring factors (so what's new?). On the way a man in cryogenic sleep is picked up (sound familiar?). Despite the lack of originality, the plot and subplot fuse together seamlessly, providing a satisfactory story.

Overall, £2.50 well spent.

Make It So 21, £2.50, available from ScoTpress. See Zine ads.

• SLAWEORLD by Gloria Fry

Reviewed by Jenny Turner

Kirk is captured (yes, again!) and taken into slavery. Spock sets out to find him after an argument with McCoy, saying that he

must go alone. I really enjoyed this zine. It's h/c but a bit strong in parts, though it's not exactly a K/S zine. It's large print, which is great. Get it if you can.

Slaveworld, £5, available from Gloria Fry. See Zine ads.

• Sheila - I think the above reviews are very fair, but since both reviewers commented on 'lack of originality', I thought this a good place to remind everyone that there are supposed to be only about 6 basic plots in fiction, with around 40 variations on these. This gives very little scope for new, completely original ideas! Stories therefore have to depend on quality of development and writing, or an imaginative twist, to catch and hold the readers' attention. We don't, after all, criticise detective stories because they're always about theft or murder (kidnapping or rape are forms of theft, after all), or Westerns because they're usually about conflict with Indians, rustlers or stagecoach robbers, or cattle drives with their resultant problems.

I would expect a professional writer/editor to produce good imaginative development and twists. Unfortunately, it seems as if these people are sometimes quite cynical about what readers will expect or accept. Amateur writers are usually writing the sort of story that they want to read but can't find in the professional books, and frequently come up with more original development and better character inter-relationship than the professionals.

• **INVOLUTION 6** - Orion Press, Oct 1994, 170 A4 pages, \$14.50 + P&P
Reviewed by Anne-Marie Flowers

The zine contains 11 stories set after Chain of Command and before Generations.

Half a Life by J Rodrigues: Gul Madred's view of events. Chilling.

There but for the Grace of God by Marge Robles: two Humans from the universe of the DS9 episode Crossover are thrust into 'our' reality - Jean-Luc Picard & Beverly Crusher, who smuggle Human slaves to freedom. They are devoted to each

other and intense in their hatred of the Cardassians. This story highlights a point which I am sure has occurred to many fans - is Picard more than just sympathetic to the Maquis? First class.

Family Traits by D J Nicholson: Maurice Picard is dying. Jean-Luc fears that if he takes leave to visit his father, he will be blackmailed into leaving Starfleet.

Half Sick of Shadows by Gail Molnar: Picard returns to the Enterprise after being tortured. He needs friendship, comfort and love and Crusher is there to provide it.

Time to Reflect by Lynn Lorton: Picard and Riker are on leave shortly after Tapestry. The camping trip turns into a nightmare for Riker as Picard reverts to a child-like state, becoming suicidally irresponsible. Classic H/C. I found this story a bit disturbing and to be honest I was acutely embarrassed on the Captain's behalf. However, it did highlight the friendship and trust between the two officers.

An Imperfect Hero by P Ball: Beverly finds out that Picard has lied to her about Jack Crusher's death. Will their new relationship founder?

Isolation by J Rodrigues: Another H/C story. Picard is severely brain-damaged following a shuttle accident. Well, after saying I don't like to see the Captain regressed to infancy, I have to take it all back and announce that this story was a joy. Starfleet wants to remove Picard from the ship but his 'family' fights for the right to nurse him 'at home'. There are some lovely scenes as each of his officers realise how much they love Jean-Luc. Geordi and Riker are especially well portrayed. Ace.

Unfinished Business by Gail Molnar: At the end of Attached, Bev walks out. In this story, Jean-Luc follows her to her quarters!

Breakfast at Deneez by Anne Davenport: Deneez is a planet famous for humidity and sex. P & C indulge in the latter but are caught out when a Ferengi voyeur is found dead in their bathroom. The serious part of this tale about Ferengi corruption is fine but it is the description of P's acute embarrassment, B's nonchalance and Riker's unholy glee that makes it truly worth the read.

Venus' Eye by Robin Lyster: An explanation of the Picard divorce.

Expectations by Jo-Ann Lassiter. Another look at Picard's unhappy childhood.

The Involution series is a must for all Picard fans. These authors know and love the Captain and their stories let us see right into his heart. This is fan writing at its best. Don't miss it.

• **FIRST TIME 39**; ed by Robin Hood.

Reviewed by Valerie Piacentini.

Note: This is a K/S zine.

As usual, there is plenty of reading in this issue of the long-running series. A Soul in Chains by Malena Williams is set after The Search for Spock. Kirk is suffering from the Mah-lah, the Desolation caused by a broken bond, in such despair that he attempts suicide. Saved by McCoy, he then learns that the Klingons are hunting the Bird of Prey, so in order to lure them away from Vulcan he takes off alone in the ship, but is captured and subjected to the Mindsifter. Spock recovers his memory of the bond, and uses the link to seek his mate.

In T'Impara's Story, by Karla Kelly, a transporter malfunction creates a female duplicate of Spock, an image from the Vulcan's subconscious that he believes his Captain could love. The story is told by the duplicate, who knows herself created to love Kirk, but who is also aware that the two must be reunited.

Bright Promise, by Pandora H, also deals with the aftermath of Search for Spock. Because of the closeness he experienced

hosting Spock's katra, McCoy is determined to bond with Spock. Kirk convinces Spock that T'Pau arranged for his memories of their own bonding to be erased during the fal tor pan. T'Lar returns Spock's memories, and this in turn frees McCoy from the need to love Spock.

In Logic on Fire, by Ellen Thatcher, Spock uses the holodeck to exorcise painful memories, and reveal his love for Kirk.

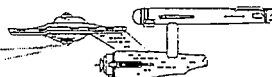
The Longest Night, by Kay Wells, has Spock off the Enterprise for six months as part of a scientific survey team. Kirk arranges to be part of the team, and the time together reveals some changes in their relationship.

This issue has a good mix of themes, and although there are some explicit scenes the stories are strong enough to be interesting in their own right. There is some rather nice artwork; I particularly liked the delicate Kirk and Spock portraits by Fiona Graves. The covers are by Shelley Butler, a waist-length nude Spock and a rather sultry Kirk wearing a leather jacket. There is a good selection of poetry, notably Alien Love, by Lee Owers Sansome, who has recently returned to writing after a too-long absence.

At 160 pages for \$20.00 US, \$26.00 foreign, this zine is recommended to any reader who does not object to the premise. Further issues are available, and we have always found Robin Hood reliable and speedy to deal with.



NEW ZINES



See zine ads for ordering details.

• **E-LOG ENTRIES 93** - Spock, Uhura & Sulu are all missing although the rest of the landing parties are all right; Sarek fights for Amanda's life; McCoy tells a story about Kirk - what is it that can embarrass the Captain?; a Klingon Assault Group is

invincible - or is it?; the people of three worlds are all insane; Spock goes to Vulcan to help transfer his aunt's katra - but something goes wrong. Available from ScoTpress.

• **ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 12 - THE LEGACY** by Rosemarie Heaton. A series of errors by Spock shakes Kirk's confidence in

his First Officer; but can Kirk trust his own judgement? Available from ScotPress.

• **NEW ENTERPRISE** - Issue 1 contains news items, fiction, articles, artwork and adverts on ST:TNG. Digitised images are used

to illustrate the magazine throughout. A5, 76 pages with colour card cover featuring gold foil inlay front and back. Limited edition of 100 numbered copies; there will be no reprints. See Zine Ads for ordering info.



You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. We reserve the right to edit for length. We will print these ads in two consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update. Each advert has the date of the newsletter it was last updated with.

IDIC/Scotpress (4/95) @ = new title
UK Price includes postage. Rest of Europe add £0.50 per zine.

IDIC LOG 16 - Kruge's family seeks revenge for his death on Genesis, and Kirk is their target. UK £2.50

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THE CRACK IN THE MIRROR by Sheila Clark - Set in the Mirror, Mirror universe, the story follows James Kirk's career from when he joins the Enterprise as First Officer to Captain Pike to a little after his return from 'our' universe. UK £2.50

ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 11 - Stories by Jay Stevensen. An alien entity takes control of the crew - but do they know it?; Kirk and Spock encounter a teacher... with a difference. A5 U.K. price, £2.50

SODDE'S GAMBIT - a novel by Brenda Kelsey. Sequel to Fifty Ways, but does stand on its own. T'Pring has changed her mind and now wants Spock after all... A5 U.K. price, £2.50

BLOW BACK by Nicole Comtet. A5. A sequel to Return to the Source. T'Pring's hatred of Spock continues. U.K. £2.50.

@ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 12 - story by Rosemarie Heaton. A series of errors by Spock shakes Kirk's confidence in his First Officer. U.K. £2.50, Europe £3 (inc P&P) Due

April.

@ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 93 - stories by Rosemarie Heaton, Alan Boag, Linda Carter, Alex Blakeney, Pen Cramphorn & Jean Sloan. U.K. £2.50, Europe £3 (inc P&P) Due April.

@ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 92, Kirk is charged with treason; Spock and McCoy are stranded; an Admiral comes aboard for an inspection; McCoy is very ill and there is no other doctor available. Due February, £2.50.

ENTERPRISE - LOG ENTRIES 91 McCoy decides to leave the Enterprise and join an emergency medical team; Kirk goes missing; Spock takes some cadets on a survival exercise; and other stories. U.K. £2.50.

@MAKE IT SO 23 - An old friend of Picard's thinks Jack Crusher is still alive and Wesley just a baby; four new crewmembers turn out to be more than the crew bargained for; an Admiral discovers that Data has routinely been assigned to working 24 hours out of 24 on all his previous ships; a new crew member has dreams; Deanna is kidnapped; two stories featuring Spot. £2.50

MAKE IT SO 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22 - A5 format. U.K. £2.50 each inc. p&p.

Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted. Foreign prices: Europe, add 50p per zine for A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC. We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

SALE

A4 zines all now sale price - £2.50 unless otherwise stated. Price includes UK postage; rest of Europe please add £1 per zine.

ATTUCLAC by David Gomm;
CAPRICCIO ITALIEN by Sue Jones;
CHOSEN BROTHER by Gloria Fry;
KINDRED SPIRIT by Gloria Fry;
LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey; ORCADIA by Joyce Devlin; RETURN TO THE SOURCE by Nicole Comtet; ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 81, 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89; IDIC LOG 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15. STAR TREK CREDITS - a listing of the Classic Trek credits by Janet Quarton £1.50; A CITY WITHOUT WALLS by Alinda Alain £2; GZAZARA by Alinda Alain £2; ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS by Marion van der Voort £3.00. This one is not Star Trek but there are many similarities
TNG - MAKE IT SO 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; IDIC LOG 14.

Send submissions of TNG & DS9 material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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For postage, add up the weight of the zines you want then check the postage below.

Postage rates - surface 0 - 2 lbs, \$7; \$2.35 for each additional pound; airmail (except France) 0 - 1lb \$9.50; 1.1lb - 5 lbs \$5.26 per pound; over 5lbs, \$4.25 per pound. Add insurance, up to \$50, \$1.60; \$51 - \$100, \$2.40; \$101 - \$200, \$3.50.

Prices quoted are for UK/European readers; US/Canada readers should SASE Peg and Bill for proper US pricing. Authorised US agent for ScoTpress/IDIC, Deep Dark Press, Gloria Fry, Kay Staggs, Janet Ellicott, Linda Wood, BSFR, PPS Press (all of their zines have been turned over solely to us for publishing), Airwaves Special Editions, Naked Now (South Africa). We are also US agent for Horizon, the B&B Appreciation Society and Judith Proctor.

CONTACT - authorised reprints of one of the original (and ultimate) Kirk-Spock hurt/comfort fanzines series are now available. Although not slash, many people feel it comes close at times, and some issues did originally require an age statement when they were first published. Most of the contents deal with a strong bond of friendship between Kirk and Spock. No 1 - \$15 + 7oz; 2 - 4 \$20 each + 12oz; 5/6 (incl Home is the Hunter) \$30 + 2 lbs; 7, 8, Christmas2, \$25 each + 1.25 lbs; a few originals of Christmas1 for \$16 each + 8oz, plus some Home is the Hunter without the rest of 5, \$16 + 8oz.

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(4/95)

NEW ENTERPRISE - a new amateur magazine based on ST:TNG is available from

the end of January 1995. UK £4, Europe £4.50, USA/Australia £5 (airmail), prices incl P&P. Because of the high cost of converting foreign cheques, etc, all cheques/POs should be in sterling and made payable to Miss A O'Neill; wherever possible cash should not be sent. Available from Miss Ann O'Neill, 38 Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire, England RG7 3UY. Contributions are always welcome, and contributors receive a free copy of New Enterprise. Any unused material will be returned.

Sue Embury (2/95)

OFF THE BEATEN TREK Classic Trek short stories, both serious and spoof with just a hint of TNG, plus a bonus of non-Trek tales, from Joan Cullen and Sue Embury. 112 pages in A5 format. UK price £2.95 inc p&p.

ALEXANDER - A time travel story in which Kirk and Spock find themselves trapped in Ancient Babylon during the last months of Alexander the Great's reign. UK price £4.00 inc p&p.

THE BETTER MAN now reprinted. An alternate version of Turnabout Intruder, in which Kirk finds himself trapped in the body of a woman while an imposter in the guise of James T. Kirk takes command of the Enterprise, UK price £5.00 including p&p. All available from Sue Embury, Lower Bailea, Tregare, Monmouth, Gwent NP5 4JL.

ZINES by Kay Stagg (4/95)

Genzines - Kirk/Spock orientated hurt/comfort. Please make cheques or postal orders payable to Kay Stagg and send orders to 33 Barrack Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 6RU. Postage and packing included in the price (second class). Please ask for price if ordering from Europe ... include an I.R.C.

NEW ZINE - LIFELINE; GATHERING STORMS; THE SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; THE SILENT CRY; A MAJOR CRISIS WITH THE URSUS MAJOR MINERS. 138 pages, U.K. £4.80 inc P & P.

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 (4/95)

Merry Men Press catalogue. This comprehensive catalogue contains complete information for all the publications from one of fandom's longest running and more reliable publishers. Beautifully designed by Shelley Butler and Kathy Stanis it includes excerpts from every story and novel published by Merry Men Press, thus making it an invaluable reference guide. Reproductions of artwork from many of the fine covers done by fandom's best artists grace its pages. This is a must for every serious zine collector as well as an enjoyment for those just browsing. To get your copy please send 4 stamps (US) or \$3.00 US currency (foreign). The format will allow continuous additions of future flyers to make this a continuing catalogue. NB - all zines put out by Merry Men Press contain either K/S stories, art and poetry or other "/". Age statement required.

Currently in new release: **FIRST TIME 41** - **SCATTERED STARS 7** - **WITHIN THE MIRROR 9** - **WHERE ANGELS FEAR** (K/S novel) - **PLAYFELLOWS 7** (multi-media ("/")) SASE for info. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Ed, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Orion Press (4/95)

BLINDSIDE by Caroline Kummer - Classic Trek novella, \$15; **OPERATION: MASADA** by Lynn Syck & Mary Rottler - Classic Trek novella, \$16.75; **FAMILY OF STARS** by Grant Maloy Smith - novella set around NCC 1071-C, \$15.50; **TANTALUS 8** - TNG short stories, accenting themes of pain, death and sorrow, \$20.50. Prices include P&P (Europe). Many other titles available. Randall Landers, 3211 Saddleleaf Avenue, Albany, Georgia

31707-2952, USA.

Gloria Fry (4/95)

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 + 3 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.

2/95

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, **KING GROPE** (1978) £2.

From: Ann Looker, 12 Russell St., Swansea W. Glamorgan SA1 4HR. (Not for under 18s. Age statement please when ordering)

2/95

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.

Zines by Pat Mitchell (2/95)

BROTHER'S KEEPER: A hurt/comfort genzine featuring Kirk and Spock. UK price £4.50.

MOMENTS IN TIME: An adult TNG zine of short stories set around the aired episodes. UK price £5.50.

The following zines are all 'slash' and require an age statement and confirmation that you understand and accept the "/" premise.

GEMINI - THE FLAME AND THE FIRE: The K/S sequel to Brother's Keeper. UK Price £6.00.

A TOUCH OF TISH: An anthology of new and reprinted K/S short stories, all by Tish. UK price £9.00.

PROMISES, PROMISES: A B/D short story zine based on The Professionals. UK price £10.00.

All prices include p&p. Foreign enquiries please send self addressed envelope plus IRC for price. All zines available from Bill Hupe in the USA. Make cheques payable to Pat Mitchell and send orders to: 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX1 4JU, England.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (4/95)

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 7H8 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.

2/95

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.

(2/95)

Is space your Final Frontier? Then why not spend some credits on: **LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE...** Issue 2 - A multi series zine. Picard's in trouble, Bashir has women trouble and McCoy has a long wait, plus many others. Orders taken by: K Heintz, 23 Birniehill Avenue, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR. Only bar of gold pressed latinum - current Ferengi rate. Or £4.95 (+ 2 IRCs ex-UK). Contributions of stories, poems, arts to: S Bell, Flat 1/2, 64 Thornwood Avenue, Glasgow G11 7PE.

TrekDistribution (2/95)

A TNG/DS9 Amiga disk-based zine with parodys, serious stories, poems, spec scripts as well as huge amounts of information.

Disks 1 + 2 include fan produced stories, poems and even detailed information on warp capabilities. **Disks 3 + 4** include information on every TNG/DS9 subject from when Odo morphs to season lists. Disks are £1.50 each or £5 for the 4, available from TrekDistribution, 57 Wentworth Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 2EH. Please make cheques payable to Matthew Deegan.

Dr Who Zines (2/95)

Children of Darkness 69 pages £1.50 incl. p&p. Write to: Fiona C Fletcher, 48 Nethershot Road, Prestonpans, East Lothian

EH32 9AW.


BLUE JAY PRESS (2/95)

ENIGMA - Multi-media genzines. No 7, Z Cars, Captain Scarlet, Incredible Hulk; No 8, Tales of the Unexpected, Dr Who, Knight Rider, Captain Scarlet, Incredible Hulk, Professionals; No 9, Sherlock Holmes, Emergency, The Quest, Star Trek, Battlestar Galactica, Captain Scarlet; No 11, Laramie, North and South, Buck Rogers, V, Blakes 7; No 12, Secret Army, Robin of Sherwood, Mad Max, V; No 13, Ace of Wands, Elfquest, The A Team, Battlestar Galactica, Professionals, Blakes 7, Knight Riker; No 14, Simon and Simon, Robin of Sherwood, Sherlock Holmes, Star Trek; No 15, Airwolf, Star Trek Next Gen, Moon and Son, Sapphire and Steel, Bladerunner. Nos 7, 8, 9, 11, £2.75 (UK), \$8 (US); 12 £3.25 (UK), \$9 (USA); 13, 14, 15 £3.75

(UK), \$10(USA). Single series zines; RED DUST 2 (V) £2.75 (UK), \$8 (USA); GROWING PAINS (V) single story £2 (UK), \$7 (USA); DISINFORMATION (Sandbaggers) single story £3.75 (UK) \$10 (USA). All prices include postage and packing. Please order from Pamela Dale, Hillcrest, St Mary's Rd, Riddlesden, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 5PA, England. Please make cheques or money orders payable to Pamela Dale.

(4/95)

J.T. Press

HEROES' PLIGHT 1 & 2 - Multi Media - Hurt & Comfort Zines. Both contain Star Trek stories. SAE for further information to: J.T. Press, T. Evans, 113 Rush Green Road, Romford, Essex, RM7 0PU. 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



FAN CONVENTION DIARY - a fan production funded by voluntary contribution. It is completely independent of any fan group or organisation, and exists to provide details of conventions and similar events throughout the year. The diary lists both Star Trek and other media conventions. Send an SAE for a copy to Anne Page, 30 Fellowes Way, Broadway, Stevenage, Herts SG2 8BW.

UNIFICATION 1 14th-17th April 1995.

Holiday Inn, Sheffield. A special Easter Event with guests: Max Grodénchik (Rom), Aron Eisenberg (Nog), Mark Shepherd (Morn) and Bjo Trimble. SAE for details to Unification 1, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN. A Midcon Event.

SOL III '95 - the 39th British Star Trek Convention. 26-29 May 1995. Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Confirmed Guest Speakers to date include: Dwight Schultz (Lt Barclay), Mike Tucker who works in the

BBC's Visual Effects Workshop. Alan Whibley (Special Effects Technician presently working at Pinewood Studios on Space Precinct), Richard Arnold and Chas Evans of UIP. Other programmed events include Theme Parties; Workshops - writers, model-making; Klingon language lessons; free competitions - Fancy Dress, Drama, Art, Fiction/Poetry; charity fund raising raffles/auctions; Discussion Panels, Auctions; Quizzes; Live Music; Karaoke; Discos; a sponsored swim with money raised going to Shelter. There will also be a large Dealer's Room, an Art Gallery, a Games Room, a Club Room and a special Children's Programme. Charities: Shelter, Redwings Horse Sanctuary. Registration Fee: Full Weekend or Saturday Sunday £30 Adult; £15 5-14 yrs, under 5s free; Friday/Saturday or Sunday/Monday half-price. 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 Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, Carel Struycken, Richard Arnold. Registration rates, adults £35,

children £18. Hotel rates available on request. For registration form send to Conundrum, PO Box 1598, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR.

NEXUS Star Trek & Science Fiction Convention. 11th - 15th August 1995. The Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Bristol. Organised by Bristol Starfleet Registry and the Bristol Astronomical Society.

Special Guest John de Lancie "Q". Other guests: Chas Evans (UIP), Tim Gaskill (UK Official ST club), Steve Parkinson (Bristol Astronomical Society).

Full registration £35, other rates available. Hotel rates: £40 single pppn, £30 Twin pppp. For further info send an SAE to Nexus 95, 26 Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PQ.

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.

WOLF 359 - The Gathering in association with Babylon 5 UK. 15th - 18th September 1995, Sachas, Manchester. Confirmed Guests: Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, Michael O'Hare, J. Michael Straczynski, Sonni Cooper, George Marshall. Registration: Full £35, Two day £25, Any One Day £15.00. Room rates pppn: Single £40, Twin/Double £35, Triple £23.50. Charities: NSPCC/Great Ormond Street Hospital. SAE for details to Margo White, 37 Branksome Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS2 4HG.

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.

ASSIMILATION 18th-19th November 1995 Friendly Hotel, Milton Keynes. Registration £17.50 until 1/7/95 then £20.00. Send large SAE to Stuart Banks, 77 Holyrood Avenue, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 8UD.

STARBASE 96, February 2nd-4th 1996, Hilton National Hotel in Leeds. Come join us for your winter shore-leave. Guests to be announced. Video rooms showing Original Trek, TNG, DS9 and Voyager. An alternative non-Trek programme will be screened. Other activities will include; disco, fancy dress, dealers room, auction and many competitions. More activities still to be announced. Registration is £40 for full weekend. Other registration rates available upon request. Hotel rates pppn. including full English breakfast and VAT are; £29 twin/double and £35 single. There are a limited amount of single rooms - we can arrange room shares. Send SAE for further info. & registration forms to; Carol Looby, 162 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX.

WARP TWO The 41st British Star Trek Convention. 2nd to 6th May 1996, Cardiff International Arena. Videos, discos, auctions, games, competitions, dealers etc. Guests TBA. Registration £30 to end of May 1995, £35 thereafter. For details send SASE to WARP TWO, David Simons, 69, Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middx, HA8 6JB.

OTHER EVENTS

STAR TREK EXHIBITION City Arts Centre, Edinburgh. February - May 1995. Adults £3.50, children and pensioners £2, family tickets £9.

BABCOM - Professional Babylon 5 Convention. 29th & 30th April, 1995 at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Confirmed guests, subject to work

commitments - Caludia Christian, Peter Jurasik & J Michael Straczynski. Tickets £8.50 - £25.00 a day. Stargazer Productions International, 22 Reindeer Court, City Centre, Worcester WR1 2DS. Credit Card Hotline 01905 613005.

THE WORLD'S FIRST OFFICIAL STAR TREK FESTIVAL, MALTA '95. 1-8 May 1995. This event has now been cancelled.

STARSHIP VOYAGES presents a 7 night Star Trek cruise to Venice and the Greek Islands from 3rd -11th June 1995. Starship Voyages (41), 5 Plough Rise, Cranham, Upminster, Essex RM14 1XR, England. This event has now been cancelled.

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.)

Hove Travel are organising a tour on 14th March, 1996 to the Star Trek Convention in Pasadena, combined with the Academy Awards. For details write to Hove Travel, 89A Church Road, Hove BN3 2BA. Tel: 01273 730281. Fax: (01273) 205493.

ACCELERATE 96 - The 3rd British *Quantum Leap* Convention: 12-14 April 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow. Full three-day programme of events, including guest speakers. Registration £35 for full weekend, other rates available. For information sheet and registration form, send SAE to: Accelerate 96, 78 Sterry Road, Dagenham, Essex RM10 8NT or telephone 01827 64911 for details.

CULT TV 27th - 30th October, 1995. Haven All-Action Centre, Ormesby Road, Caister-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth. Main Arena, Alternative Arena, 4 video rooms, Dealers' Hall, Self-Service Restaurant, Swimming Pool, Round the clock entertainment. Registration: before 30/4/95 £34, then £39. SAE for more info to Cult TV Productions, P.O. Box 1701, Peterborough, Cambs PE1 1EX.

THE FIFTEENTH LEONARD NIMOY CONVENTION: November 17th-19th, 1995, at the Stakis Victoria Hotel, Nottingham. A programme of films spanning the career of Leonard Nimoy and including many rarely, if ever, seen in Britain. Registration fee: £20. For form and full details, please send SAE to Carol Davies, 43 Lawrence Road, Hayes, Middlesex UB4 8QB.

OVERSEAS CONVENTIONS

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 29 years old, I like Star Trek, Quantum Leap, X-Files. I will answer all replies. I would like penpals from overseas or anywhere to contact me. Nancy Wilson, 97 Stamfordham Drive, Springwood, Liverpool L19 4XD.

I am 17 years old and I am looking for a penpal. I am a big Star Trek fan. I would like a penpal of any age, m/f; from overseas if possible. Contact Paul Tilling, 39 Beach Road Fleetwood, Lancs. FY7 8PS.

Deaf female fan wishes to write to other fans for friendship. All letters will be answered. Sara. Hall, 48 Pottery Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 9EZ.

Hi! My name is Heather Monk and I am looking for penfriends (male or female) who love all forms of Star Trek but are especially fond of Data/Brent Spiner. I am also interested in good science fiction films such as Bladerunner. Other shows I enjoy are Lois and Clark - The New Adventures of Superman, Dr Who (the first three Doctors), some of Gerry Anderson's series and lots more. Write to me at 18 Westfield Court, Westfield Road, Leeds LS3 1DL.

Penpals wanted anywhere for a learner Trekker. I enjoy all aspects of Trek, the classic being my favourite with TNG close behind. I loved the Generation's film. I already have a couple of brilliant penpals but would like more so if anyone out there is interested please write to me. Sarah L. Grist, 14 Barnes Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire PE25 2PR.

Can anyone tell me if there is a Man From Uncle fan club anywhere, or give me any information on Uncle fandom? Muriel Jarrett, 111 Winchester Rd, Brislington, Bristol BS4 3NH.

Mary Webb wants to thank Keith Brockley and Alon Kirsh for being such terrific penfriends.



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 - over 30 Star Trek Generations pictures on disk, for the PC. They are 256 colours, and quite small. Plus I can get any other pictures on disk for anyone. For more details, call me on 0121-515-2539, and ask for Raj.

FOR SALE OR SWAP - Skybox Generation T/C and Customizable Cards (Limited Edition). Send a SAE with lists to: Nancy Wilson, 97 Stamfordham Drive, Springwood, Liverpool L19 4XD.

FOR SALE - Star Trek fanzines, no K/S included. Please send SAE for list. K Heintz, 23 Birniehill Avenue, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2RR.

FOR SALE - Complete sets of Trading cards for only £6 each - 25th Anniversary Series I, Series II, Inaugural Next Gen and DS9. Postage £1 first set ordered, each additional set add 50p. Also available bonus, spectra and hologram cards plus limited edition black border Next Gen game cards. Send SAE to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE - Franklin Mint pewter replica of Enterprise NCC 1701. Cost new £195. Offers around £150. Mike Hazlewood, 1 Twyn-Bedw, Cymmer, Porth, Rhondda, CF39 9HR.

FOR SALE - Cuttings, books and zines. Original and TNG. Would swap for anything

on Picard. SAE for list Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ

FOR SALE - For lists of Star Trek, Star Wars and Indiana Jones Memorabilia send a business size envelope plus an IRC to Lisa Cowan, On the Mark, P.O. Box 5276, Orange, CA 926-3-5276, U.S.A.

FOR SALE - Zines, books, tapes, badges - SAE for list. Also, Star Trek Blooper LP 3rd season £12; William Shatner's biography 'Where No Man...' and set of 25 greeting cards in mint condition - offers or swap for Leonard Nimoy items. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

FOR SALE - Mint condition 'Generation' Convention programme - £8; set of Pizza Hut cups with toys - £4.50. Price includes p&p. Phone 0151 356 4738.

FOR SALE - ZINES: K/S (Alien Brothers, Out of Bounds, Sojourns, Naked Times and lots more), some ST Gen, Next Gen and Multimedia. SAE with IRC or \$1 for list. Age statement please. A. Maether, Parkstr. 15, 32105 Bad Salzuffen, Germany

FOR SALE - Genzines and K/S zines (age statement please). SAE for list. Angela Brockett, 18 Hertford Avenue, East Sheen, London SW14 8EE.

FOR SALE - Bajoran earrings, badges, door plaques, keyrings, writing paper, comics, trading cards and holograms. Please send a large SAE to: Ferengi Bazaar, 24 Holly Court, Chester Road, Helsby, Cheshire WA6 0PH.

FOR SALE - Trading card singles of the following sets: Star Trek Generations, TNG Inaugural, TNG episode collection, 25th Anniversary series 1 + 2, DS9, Masterpieces and Masterseries. I also have ST:TNG Customable cards, Panini stickers as well as some sets. Will sell or swap. Please send SAE to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts, Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE - Star Trek Tridimensional Chess Set, Top Grade, never used, boxed with full instructions. Only £85 + £5 for recorded

postage. Also Star Trek silver earrings (1970) unworn, boxed, £40; TNG pin, made by Paramount but rejected for being too heavy, £20; 2 x ST:TMP pins used by stand-ins, hand painted, very rare, £20 each or £30 both; 2x Star Trek dolls in 1960s uniform, collectors dolls, Mr Spock and security man, £30 for both. Peter John, 29 Kessock Road, Inverness IV3 6AH.

FOR SALE - a selection of books and zines from Classic Trek, TNG and Blakes Seven. All in excellent condition. For list please send SAE to Lindsay Shelton, 94 Parkes Street, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 6BH.

FOR SALE - Are you interested in something different from the well known photos? We sell brilliant colour copies of our Star Trek drawings, mainly TNG and DS9. Give it a try, perhaps we can surprise you. Please send an IRC for more information. Gabi Stiene, Schwarzwaldstr. 6, 79261 Gutach, Germany.

FOR SALE/WANTED - I would like to sell or swap photos of Gates McFadden. I can offer some from a convention in Ireland and would like to hear from other Gates McFadden fans. Please write to Marita Marschner, Rigaer Str. 26, 10247 Berlin, Germany.

LOST - Battenberg Lost. Help, we lost our Battenberg at the convention in Leicester. If anyone found it (3x3x5 inches, yellow and pink sponge with white marzipan) please contact myself or its owner, Mike Sadler. We'd very much like it back unharmed. Reward for any information leading to its safe capture. N Safi.

WANTED - Would love to read some good quality H/C or K/S stories but budget's a bit short at the moment due to a new baby! If anyone would be willing to lend me some I would be more than willing to pay postage and packing costs. Please contact Lindsay Shelton, 94 Parkes Street, Smethwick, Warley, West Midlands B67 6BH.

WANTED - Any Star Trek software for PC. E.g. Fonts, clip art, games, screen savers, etc. etc. Please send list and prices. Also if anyone has information, pictures etc. about

the actress Shannon Fill (Ensign Sito) I'd love to hear from you. Write to Adam J North, 88 Aylsham Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 2HN.

WANTED - Is there anyone who has on video the first episode of Tomorrow's End (part two of The Girl From Tomorrow) and/or the This Is Your Life featuring Arthur C Clark? Please contact: Marise Morland-Chapman, 12 Marsh Court, London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP11 1EW.

WANTED - Who recorded the "Gottschalk" late night show on RTL+ at 23.25, 8/2/95, and is willing to send me a VHS copy of it? Of course, I will pay for the expenses. I am also looking for interviews/articles concerning Brent Spiner/Data. Any copy would be great! You can also fax them to me. Thank you in advance, fellow fans! Greetings. Yolanda Bergers, Van Ostadestraat 7, 3331 CS Zwynrecht (S-H), The Netherlands. Fax No: +31 (0) 78 - 196462.

WANTED - Help. Did anyone take any close-up photos of the cast at the Albert Hall? Especially of Jonathan, Brent and Patrick. Our seats were too far back with our view partially blocked. My husband did take some photos from the front of the stage which I'll gladly trade, or I will pay the cost of anyone's reprints. Lynettia Attwood, 63 Warren Close, Tipton, West Midlands DY4 9PQ.

WANTED - Please, please, had anyone out there got the following zines - T'Za'Du (K/S) and The Bloodstone? I will pay any reasonable price.

Also I have tried the local library for Gene Roddenberry's autobiography, but they say that no library has bought it as they didn't think it was worth it. Is there any other way I can get it apart from buying it? Is there anyone out there who would be willing to lend it to me? I will pay postage costs. Contact Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX, or phone 021 443 2995 after 6 pm please.

WANTED - I would like to borrow all episodes from DS9 season 3 that are available, and am willing to pay £2.50 for each episode of The Search and The Defiant,

as well as £2 for the other episodes. I promise to look after your tapes and return them inside the appropriate soft packaging. I agree to pay for tapes and P&P in advance. Please contact Mr R Downes-Duguid, 62 Manor Forstal, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8JQ.

WANTED - Owing to a technical hitch, only a few of my photos from the Generations Convention came out. *Please help!* I am prepared to pay for any decent copies of pictures of the cast members - in particular Patrick, Michael, Brent, Jonathan and LeVar. Will pay P & P too! Please contact Caroline Lewis, 24 East Cliff Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9AE.

WANTED - VHS/NTSC copy of the 1970's ITV drama series The Hanged Man starring Colin Blakely and (I think) Nick Tate. Please write to me at my new address; Ann Neilson, 53 Howth Terrace, Parkview Estate, Anniesland, Glasgow G13 1SS.

WANTED - Audio tape of Patrick Stewart at 'recent' conventions. I will pay a reasonable price. Also anyone with a copy of 'Flight of the Dragons' and any TNG blooper videos please contact me. Maria Joannou, 4 Minter Avenue, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8RP.

WANTED - Photos of all the cast at the Royal Albert Hall. Andrea Sudworth, 24 Crescent Avenue, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, Greater Manchester, WN4 9SG.

WANTED - On February 3rd, Patrick Stewart and Marina Sirtis were on Radio 1 in "Steve Wright in the Morning". Did anyone tape this and would be willing to send me a copy of it. Will pay for tape and stamps. Annette Bohm, Kuhstrasse 35, 42555 Velbert, Germany.

WANTED - Did anyone get good close up photos of all/any of the guests at the Generations Convention and at the premiere at Leicester Square? Also - could anyone lend me a copy of the interview with Patrick and Marina on Steve Wright, Radio 1, Friday 3/2/95. Harry, Harminder S. Pal, 18 East Greenlees Cres., Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX .

WANTED - Zines: Trust is a Two Way Thing and Addiction. Any condition. Will pay to buy or borrow. Julie Woolaston, 19 Stonebridge Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, Gwent NP3 5SL.

WANTED - Does anyone have for sale or loan (I pay all postage and you will get them back) copies of the following zines: Interphase (all issues), Nexus 1-4, Variations on a Theme (5, 7 & 8)? Please contact Ruth Borgars, 130 High Oak Road, Ware, Herts SG12 7NY or phone 01920 464783 any time (answer phone).

WANTED - I am looking for the following book: "Leonard Nimoy: A Star's Trek" by John Micklos, MacMillan Children's Books (Taking Part Series), 1988. (or Dillon Press, 1988) Any reasonable price plus costs for an original issue - no xerox, please. If you don't need money, perhaps you like a K/S zine? I'm looking forward to your letter: Antje Rubenach, Domplatz 5, D-93047 Regensburg, Germany.

WANTED - Video cassette of "All Good Things ... Special Edition/Journey's End (Documentary)". Please write to J.R. Thursfield, c/o FCO (Hong Kong), 1 King Charles Street, London SW1A 2AH.

WANTED - photos of the 'Horizon' convention, especially of the TNG cast members (mine didn't come out). Will pay for any reprints and postage. Also do any Trekkers want a penfriend, I'm into all of it! Please contact Sarah Rooke, Flat 3, 20 St Davids Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO5 1QN.

WANTED - Any episodes of Voyager (Parallax and onwards) PAL, but NTSC is fine. To buy/borrow. Will pay for postage/tapes etc. Please get in touch soon! A. Ali, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

BUSINESS SMALL ADS

THE OFFICIAL STAR TREK FAN CLUB OF THE UK, PO Box 355, Bushey, Watford WD2 2NA. £14.99 for 4 magazines. Tel No. 01923-818495. Fax for membership

information is: 01923-225885.

People can write to Tim Gaskill direct via e-mail TGASKILL@delphi.com or post: PO BOX 6463, London, N22 4JU or fax 0181-888-8008.

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. For a catalogue phone Talgarth Telecentre: 01874 712020.

TV/Sci-Fi Collector - the publication for collectors of memorabilia relating to TV series, science fiction & fantasy, films and pop/rock music. Issue 1 available now: 34 information packed pages. Issue 2 published end of March. To order send cheque or PO for £2.50 payable to Time Shift to: Time Shift, Elland House, 39 Nalders Road, Chesham, Bucks HP5 3DQ.

MISC

I am a degree student in Performing Arts and I would like to offer to make any prosthetic from Star Trek: The Next Generation. All I require is that you give me the character name, episode and if possible, the video cassette number - I will do the rest. I cannot offer this service free but I will keep it as cheap as possible - as a rough example I could offer a set of two Bajoran noses plus 1st class postage for £0.85.

I am trying to build up a portfolio of my work and by doing this, I don't have to pay for materials and you don't have to pay for my time.

John Pakulski, 61 Halsey Slive, Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9PZ.

PENPAL LIST Open to all. Send your ad to: S'Talisha (SD), 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2RP, England. For a copy of the list (continuously updated) send: UK: 2 second-class stamps; elsewhere 2 IRCs (buy from post office). List currently (March 95) has 74 listings, male/female age 10-52 from 21 countries worldwide. Includes 25 SF fans. Any queries? UK - send SAE; elsewhere - send 1 IRC.

CLUBS & GROUPS

UPDATE

We have available a set of information sheets giving the addresses and brief details of all the British Star Trek clubs and local groups we know about, plus Star Trek related actor clubs in the UK and abroad. If you would like a copy write and ask Janet; enclose at least a 9" x 6" SAE plus an extra loose 25p stamp. (Note: new members receive a copy of this when they join IDIC, although we update it with the following info from each newsletter.)

Please enclose a SASE when writing to clubs for information.

THE PATRICK STEWART APPRECIATION SOCIETY The PSAS is the new UK-based fanclub for Patrick Stewart, taking up the reins following the closure of IAAPS in the USA. Now accepting memberships, the PSAS aims to inform and educate about Patrick Stewart's past career, and encourage interest in his future activities. The official PSAS Launch Party will take place at Sol III convention in May. Send SAE (or IRC from Europe) for flyer / application form, detailing rates of individual and family membership. PSAS c/o 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 4JU. E-mail enquiries may be made to 100027.151@compuserve.com

SIDDIG EL FADIL has a sanctioned fan club, *The Doctor's Exchange*. Membership includes a membership package, including an autographed photo, plus a regularly published newsletter, *Multi-Species Medicine*. Dues are \$20 (U.S. funds) for North America, and should be sent to Stephanie Armato, P.O. Box 12254, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0954, U.S.A. Dues are £20 in the UK and should be sent (UK funds only) to Karen Colohan, 3 Whites Close, Greenhithe, Kent DA9 9JL.

JONATHAN FRAKES APPRECIATION SOCIETY - Monthly newsletter, Details of

Jonathan's career post-TNG, Star Trek news with a focus on Jonathan, pen-pals, photos, reviews, T-shirts. For details please send SASE or 2 IRC to Anna C Bowling, Cat Toy Publications, PO Box 632, Enfield, CT 06083-0632, USA.

THE OFFICIAL ANDY ROBINSON FAN CLUB P. O. Box 5808, Petaluma, CA 94955. Membership is \$20 in the US, \$25 outside the US, for one year and includes: personalized, autographed 8x10 color photo of Andy as Garak, two black and white photos (one of Andy, one of Andy as Garak) personalized membership certificate and membership card minimum of four issues of the newsletter, (name pending) a biography of Andy including all his work, an interview I'm conducting with him in March.

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 USA or Canada - US \$20.00, Great Britain - £12.00, All Other Countries - US \$25.00 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, USA. Please allow 4-8 weeks for membership packages to arrive. Please retain a copy of your canceled check or MO receipt for your records.

The above address is for membership applications from all countries except Great Britain. All UK applications (UK pounds only) write to: Wendy Thorley, 9 St Edmund's Close, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1NA.

WARP 10 is a weekly e-mailing totally devoted to ONLY to Trek news. The newsletter is an attempt to centralize all the various Trek news from various print and electronic media, interviews, conventions, newsgroups and computer networks (Fido, Internet, AOL, Dephi, etc). To make Trek news, via e-mail, available to individuals restricted to only one computer service.

Please note that the mailing list distributes EXCLUSIVELY via E-mail. If you are interested in being added to the "Warp 10" Mailing List, E-mail: endless@kaiwan.com

THE GUILD OF FANS AND DISCIPLES is an unofficial fan club of Terry Pratchett and Josh Kirby. Bi-monthly newsletter. SAE for details to: The Guild of Fans and Disciples, 56 Appleforth Drive, Lostock Hall, Preston, Lancs. PR5 5TE.

QUARK'S BAR Friends! I have a great opportunity for you. Become an exclusive member of Quark's Bar. For the meagre sum of 2 bars of gold pressed latinum (translated into your currency as £7) you will receive 4 newsletters a year. Please write to my assistant, enclosing a SAE (or 2 IRCs if outside U.K.) for more details. Miss M Woodward, Ashcroft, East Street, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH, England. The new look Quark's Bar.

TREXPERTS is a 32-page monthly letterzine for fans of all Treks, with fan fiction, news, art etc. Three issues: \$6 Canada, \$5 US, \$7 Overseas. Please make cheques/money orders payable to Valerie Herd. Write to: Valerie Herd, 7459 Nasrullah Crescent, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2H 2M4.

X-FILES. Are you a fan of "Spooky" Fox Mulder and Special Agent Dana Scully? Do you want to find out what "The truth is out there" is all about? Then subscribe to The X-Files Newsletter. A bi-monthly publication with all the latest news on this cult TV series. Write (with SAE) for sample edition to: Mike Mullen, 19 Manor Avenue, Headingley, Leeds LS6 1BY or e-mail: mike@mikemul.demon.co.uk.

DAILY PLANET - the club for fans of Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman. Quarterly newzine features Cast Bios/Interviews, Season 2 ep guide/reviews, Mailroom and more. For more details, send SAE to: Daily Planet, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

The Tencton Planet: The Alien Nation Appreciation Society - UK £6 for 6 N/Ls, USA \$15 in paper money or £10 sterling

cheque or money order. Cheques/POs made payable to The Tencton Planet. For further information send SAE to The Tencton Planet, 110 Richmond St, Coventry, CV2 4HY, England or Tel/fax 0203 459526.

LOCAL GROUPS UPDATE

For a full list of groups send Janet an SAE.

Chester and surrounding areas - The Federation. Meetings the first Thursday of each month at the British Legion in Saltney at 7.30pm. SAE for info to The Federation, c/o Middle Earth, 71 Watergate Row, Chester CH1 2LE.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Hospitality Inn 10.00am to 10.00pm, £6, (£4 under 14s). Next meetings: 7th May, 18th June.

Norwich Star Trek Fans - Are you interested in forming a local group? If so, then please contact Jackie or Val on 01603 660335.

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc; all news, cuttings, adverts, merchandise info etc. for the newsletter; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; postbag, articles & reviews for the newsletter; TNG submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps.

Valerie - Classic Trek submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork).

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Dues UK £8.00, USA/Middle East Air \$24.00
(£14.00), Australia £15.00, Europe £10.00.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be

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