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Newsletter 41

"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 Okuda, Ernie Over, Nichelle Nichols, Susan Sackett, Marina Sirtis, Patrick Stewart, Rick Sternbach, George Takei, Guy Vardaman, Rupert Evans, Lorraine Kelly, Anne Page, Rick Parfitt, Bjo Trimble.

Hi. Welcome to another newsletter.

A special 'hi' to Bob Justman who wrote us recently. Bob and Herb Solow have written a book for Pocket Books, presently entitled "Inside Star Trek". The book is scheduled for release in May 1996 to coincide with Star Trek's 30th Anniversary. To date, there is no word on a UK publication date.

Bob and Herb Solow possess all the behind-the-scenes knowledge of what, where, when, why and how the original series came into being, how it survived for three seasons and then was cancelled only to rise from the ashes twenty years later.

To quote Bob, "We were there then: we made the decisions and we knew and worked with all the principals involved: actors, writers, directors, staff and crew, studio and network executives. We think, and hope, the book will be an eye-opener - and, enjoyable."

We are really looking forward to this book and we will let you know when we have a definite release date for it.

According to Bjo Trimble the release of Star Trek Concordance has been delayed slightly. Again we will let you know when we have a date for it.

We have decided to drop the ST in the News section from this newsletter and to split its content between the Latest News and Merchandise. However 'Latest Star Trek News' is a bit bland as a title. If you have any ideas for a more imaginative title please tell Janet or Sheila.

LOCAL GROUPS

Janet is the UK Star Trek Welcommittee representative and so she sends out information on clubs and conventions to all ST fans who enquire. Janet wants to update the Local Group list and you may be able to help. If you attend a local group (i.e. any ST club or group which holds local meetings), please write to Janet with the following information:

Group name

Venue for meetings, times, dates etc.

Contact address where fans can write for

info.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is September 13th.

PLEASE put your full name on all submissions (including individual disc files) - 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 Pen Cramphorn, Barbara Ellams, George Haggarty, Valerie Herd, Fiona McDonald, Russell Murdoch, Nigel Nixon, Margaret Rainey, Gloria Rigg, Mary von Heide and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

We said last time that there wouldn't be any more Guide Dog news for a while because we weren't half-way to having the money to sponsor another dog. Well, circumstances have made liars of us!

For a start, selling donated books, zines etc at SOL III gave us £159, and 21 kilos of stamps that Sheila took to Forfar just before SOL III gave another £30 or so. This gave us a little over £1000 in the Guide Dog account.

However, the real boost to the Guide Dog Fund came from Brenda Kelsey. Ordered to lose weight before getting an operation to

help her bad back, she was sponsored by her workmates; and when money has been raised in this way by their staff, her employers match the amount collected. Brenda handed over two cheques to us at SOL III, each for £500 - and although she is now at her target weight, she plans to lose a few pounds more before she has her operation in the autumn.

Judith Taylor and Taruka rattled the collecting box at SOL III and collected £25.50, and this added to whatever Brenda's next cheque is worth will be giving us a nice start to our seventh dog. We're very grateful to Brenda and her workmates, to Judith & Taruka, and, of course, to everyone who contributes in any way to the Guide Dog fund.

Sheila and Valerie chose our new dog when they took the collecting box to Forfar after SOL III. We wanted another German Shepherd if possible (the three shepherds we've selected qualified, while the two labradors we chose both failed and had to be replaced) and Brodie was the only shepherd on the list, so we 'booked' him. We hope he'll maintain the run set by Aero, Sadie and Darcy. It seems probable that he will, however, for he's already well on with his training and should qualify around September.

Sheila went to Forfar on June 28th to meet him and got the opportunity to see him being put through his paces on a short practice walk. The dogs have several trainers according to how far on in their training they are; Brodie is now on advanced training and his current trainer (Adrian) said he is intelligent, willing and anxious to please, but has to be kept interested. Matching him to a blind owner will be particularly important in his case, because he is big and a naturally fast walker (although Sheila watched him being slowed down with a voice command), so he'll need to be partnered with someone tall and relatively athletic who leads an active life. Unfortunately it was a very hot day with tar bubbling out of the road and the dogs all had more sense than to stay out in the heat - indeed, Adrian checked the temperature of the pavement a couple of times to see if it was too hot for Brodie's paws; he worked

nically but it was quite clear that he would rather have been somewhere cool. Adrian didn't seem to have any doubts about Brodie qualifying, though. Ann Scroggie of the Appeals staff - it's Ann we normally deal with - said her guide dog Pax was also showing signs of wanting to stay somewhere cool.

We've also heard that the GDA has bought a nephew of Aero and Sadie's, born at the end of May/beginning of June. His dam is their sister Sky, and his sire is a half brother of a Grampian police dog, so his breeding in working and obedience is excellent. The kennel name applied for is Mo Dhachaidh's Kirk (or Kirok) and whether that's accepted or not, he's being called Kirk. He's being puppy-walked in Auchtermuchty, in Fife, and will probably go for training in about 15 - 18 months - shepherds don't mature as fast as some other breeds and tend to be puppy-walked a little longer than the labradors. Let's hope we have the money by then to make him our seventh dog! It would be marvellous if we could - three dogs from the one family, bred by a Trek fan, sponsored by Trek fans... We'll keep you up to date on his progress as we hear about it.

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 Liz Aris, Neil Barrett, Elizabeth Barrie, Annette Bohm, Helen Cakebread, Alan Callaby, Donald Campbell, Nanci Casad, Chris Coxon, Neil Christie, Miss E D Davies, Charlotte Davis, Veronica Duthie, Barbara Ellams, Karin Embacher, Fiona Fletcher, Anne-Marie Flowers, Mark French, Christian Gaeng,

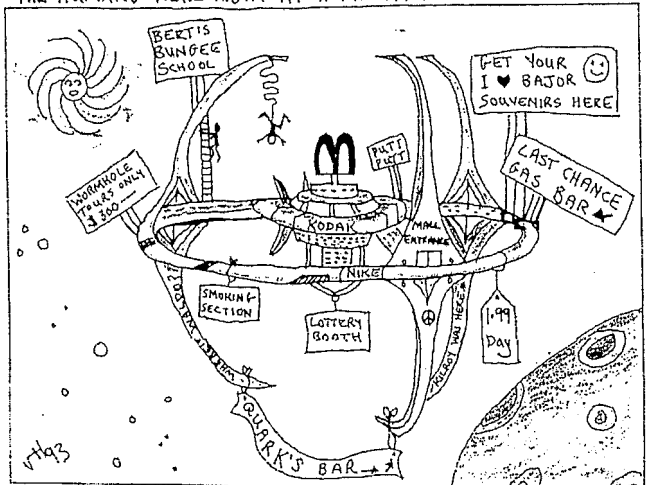
Vered Gilad, Kathleen Glancy, David Hall, Joe Healy, Caro Hedge, Martin Helsdon, Valerie Herd, Catherine Hill, Irena Hradecka, Christine Jones, Sue Jones, Carol Kean, Brenda Kelsey, Ruth Kurz, Tom Lalli, Jessica Lemmer, Rebecca Morris, Nigel Nixon, Maureen Norton, Lee Oatway (+ family and friends), Lorna Price, Carmela Pozzo, Provincial Insurance Kendal, Margaret Rainey, Gloria Rigg, Dave Rogers, Sara Rooke, Arwen Rosenbaum, Stephen Rothwell, Michael Sadler, Neil Safi, Fiona Schofield, Baerbel Schmidt, Margaret Sibbald, Jean Sloan, Kay Stagg, Carol Sterenberg, Alexis Stokes, Judith Taylor, Rachel Timms, Helen Thompson, Hazel Trenbith, Jenny Turner, Ann Verschuere, Andrew Walford, Celia Wenban-Smith, Mollie Weston, Teresa Whaley, Edward Woo, Maiké Zock and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving 1/4" of envelope around the stamp.

We plan to post the next newsletter out around October 4th.

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 9/7/95

THE HUMANS WERE RIGHT AT HOME ON D.S. 9





LATEST STAR TREK NEWS

compiled by Janet Quarton



TV & SATELLITE

BBC 2 showed four of the animated episodes recently:

30/5/95 More Tribbles, More Troubles.
31/5/95 Yesteryear.
01/6/95 Beyond The Farthest Star.
02/6/95 The Survivor.

•TNG made it into the BBC2/Channel 4 top ten with I Borg 24th May (no. 9, 3.65 million viewers) and the Next Phase on 31st May (no. 10, with 3.25 million viewers). DS9 also made the Satellite top 10 at no. 9 on 28th May with 0.39 million.

BBC - ST:TNG screening dates.

Ep.	Title	Date Shown
221	The Perfect Mate	10/5/95
222	Imaginary Friend	17/5/95
223	I Borg	24/5/95
224	The Next Phase	31/5/95
225	Inner Light	7/6/95
226	Times Arrow Pt 1	14/6/95
227	Times Arrow Pt 2	21/6/95

This was followed by a 4-week break.

This leaves the UK with only one Star Trek episode a week - Deep Space 9 is screening 3rd season episodes on Sky One on Sundays. The 3rd season episode Past Tense 2 (No 458) was shown on Sunday 9th July - this leaves 14 episodes to show.

• The Sci-Fi Channel in the US has acquired exclusive rights to Classic Trek for seven years. They will show the episodes uncut. On September 1st 1998, the channel will celebrate its acquisition of Trek with a non-stop marathon featuring all 79 episodes - plus the original pilot - shown in their original

order' (TV Guide 17/6/95)

- 1995 Hugo Award nominations:
"All Good Things" (ST:TNG)
Interview with the Vampire
The Mask
Stargate
Star Trek: Generations

[From the press release distributed by Intersection, the 53rd World Science Fiction Convention, dated 1st May 1995]

STAR TREK VOYAGER

• Voyager is the only survivor on the UPN Network, the other five shows have been cancelled. This includes Michael Pillar's and John de Lancie's Legend. PN will debut 3 new dramas in August.

• Rick Berman, Executive Producer of ST: Voyager and DS9 comments on Voyager's Second Season (Inside Trek Column)

"I'm delighted with 'Voyager'", he said. "We accomplished what one sets out to achieve in the first year of a series."

"We established the premise very cleanly in the two-hour premiere. We defined the characters and their relationships as well as possible in the 14 hours of episodes after the pilot."

Look for an increase in the action quotient next season, he said, adding more time and money will be devoted to the visual effects.

"I also think we need to define and create the characters and civilizations in this new quadrant of space," Berman said. "We need to take better advantage of the fact we are in a part of space that has never been in contact with humanity or anyone from the Federation before."

We should be meeting fascinating new races, both good guys and bad guys."

Star Trek: Voyager.
Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Title
15/5/95	115 Jetrel
22/5/95	116 Learning Curve

[Episodes Held for this fall]

28/8/95	117 Eloquin
4/9/95	118 Projections
11/9/95	119 Twisted
18/9/95	120 The 37ers

Spoilers

116 - Learning Curve - Directed by David Livingston; written by Ronald Wilkerson & Jean Louise Matthias and Jeri Taylor. Guest starring: Armand Schultz as Dalby, Derek McGrath as Chell, Kenny Morrison as Geron, Catherine MacNeal as Henley, Thomas Alexander Dekker as Henry, Lindsey Haun as Beatrice.

When several former Maquis crew members break Federation rules, it is up to Tuvok to train them in the finer points of Starfleet protocol and discipline in order to reestablish harmony among Voyager's crew.

Simultaneously, a strange virus invades the Ship's bio-neural circuitry, endangering the lives of all aboard. As B'Elanna Torres and The Doctor try to discover a cure, Tuvok and his unlikely "cadets" become trapped in an unstable part of the ship. As one of them lies near death, Starfleet tenets are put to the test.

117 Eloquin - Kes will be going into puberty and Neelix and Kes would bond then. Females of her race go into a 48 hour bonding period. This is the only time her race can have children. More will be revealed about her 8 year life span.

According to the writers, Kes is 1 year old. The Ocompas' sex drives really act up when they turn 5, kinda like the Betazoid "phase". When the ship passes through a

nebula, Kes "awakens" prematurely and really wants to have a baby with Neelix.

118 Projections - The Doctor will be infected by a computer virus. He begins hallucinating within his own computer mind that he can leave the holodeck and begins to believe that he might just be the holographic programmer after memory loss. The episode also guest stars Dwight Schultz as a holographic Reginald Barclay; he was one of the engineers who designed the emergency medical holographic program, and placed his likeness in the holodeck program to represent the "control entity" if intervention is necessary. Jonathan Frakes directs this episode.

119 Twisted - The Voyager will encounter a space disruption that traps the crew in the ship. The ship will become a maze in which space folds upon itself. Example: The bridge exit leads back to the bridge. The crew's choices become fewer as they journey through the ship. Each decision narrows their choices and further traps them.

A Brannon Braga episode that came out 5 minutes too short because they thought the FX would take up more time than it did. As a result we will learn some things about some minor characters.

"THE 37ers" - Voyager discovers and awakens eight Humans in cryogenic suspension. Among the humans is Amelia Earhart. The Voyager will land on a planet. The concept of Blue Alert will be introduced.

STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE

- Extract from Paramount Press Release

The Klingons Are Back!

Michael Dorn Joins the Cast of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" Bringing Worf Back to the Small Screen.

Michael Dorn will reprise his Klingon role as Lieutenant-Commander Worf on DS9 as a member of the ensemble cast. The two-

hour fourth season premiere of DS9 marks the introduction of Worf to the top-rated, first-run syndicated series. The show begins production on Tuesday, July 11, 1995.

The premiere episode entitled "Way of the Warrior" is scheduled to air the week of October 2, 1995. In this episode, as the Dominion threat to the Alpha Quadrant increases, the peace treaty between the Klingon Empire and the Federation is in jeopardy. Captain Sisko has requested that Lieutenant-Commander Worf come to "Deep Space Nine" to act as a diplomatic liaison with the Klingons.

"In an exciting, unparalleled step, Captain Sisko and Lieutenant Commander Worf will join forces to face the growing threat from the Klingons. The increased presence of the most beloved bad guys in the Star Trek universe will help create an action-packed fourth season," states Rick Berman, executive producer of "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine."

Michael Dorn says, "I'm very happy to be back on the Paramount Lot, which was my home-away-from-home for seven great years and where I'm planning to be for a good part of the next three. And now that I have a chance, I'd like to thank all the on-line fans who've always supported me and my work. Let me know how you think I'm doing on DS9."

Michael has also guest starred on several major series, most notably "Hotel," "Knots Landing," and "Falcon Crest." He has had recurring roles on "Days of Our Lives" and "Capitol." His feature film credits include "Demon Seed," the original "Rocky" and "Jagged Edge."

- In TV Guide (June 17-23) Rick Berman, Star Trek's Executive Producer, said the following events are in store for DS9's 4th season:

The season opener will be a two-hour MOVIE. Not a two-parter, but an actual two-hour movie

There will a slight change in the premise of the show .

The treaty between the Federation and the Klingon Empire is about to unravel.

- "DS9's New Captain" TV Guide 27/5/95.

Sisko is promoted to Captain in the 3rd season final. The change in rank, says Berman, has been in the works for some time.

"About two and a half years," he jokes. "While Deep Space Nine was running concurrently with Next Generation, we felt that it would be odd to have two captains in our 'universe', so we made Sisko a commander, which left room for a step up. Captains are very important to Star Trek - in the Trek movies, whenever a character makes admiral, for some reason he's always demoted to captain."

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

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Episode & Title
10/6/95	471 Facets
17/6/95	472 The Adversary (Season Finale)

EPISODE SPOILERS

471 Facets - Directed by Cliff Bole; Written by Rene Echevarria. Guest Stars - Jeffrey Alan Chandler as Guardian, Max Grodenchik as Rom, Aron Eisenberg as Nog, Chase Masterson as Leeta.

Jadzia Dax must come to terms with her feelings of inferiority when she meets her past hosts in an ancient Trill rite of closure. Dax's former self borrows Odo's body. There's just one problem - he won't give it back!

472 The Adversary - Directed by Alexander Singer; Written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe. Guest Stars - Lawrence Pressman as "Krajensky", Kenneth Marshall as Eddington, Jeff Austin as Bolian.

One of Odo's people tricks Sisko and the crew into actions that could start a war in the Alpha Quadrant.

STAR TREK 8

- Rick Berman, Ron Moore, and Brannon Braga already have written an outline for the next Generation film, which they now are discussing with several of the actors and the studio. If approved, Moore and Braga will

begin writing the script in coming weeks. They hope to be filming in early Spring/96 with a release date of either Thanksgiving or Christmas.

- In *Star Trek Communicator* 103 Rick Berman said that the new film will include the Borg.

- *Cinescape Magazine* (July Issue) Brannon Braga is writing the screenplay for the movie with Ronald Moore.

According to Braga, 'You can assume' that all of the TNG regulars will be returning for ST VIII, but the only major plot thread to be carried over from *Generations* will be Data's continuing exploration of his emotions.

...One of [the Borg's] nastiest deeds won't be touched upon in ST VIII. "I think Picard's feelings about that experience have been resolved," Braga says. "However, Picard does have a tremendous knowledge of the Borg, and he'll bring all of that knowledge into play.

"I think it's time to bring back the Borg," enthuses Braga. "They're powerful and scary villains, especially with that collective consciousness... The Borg are going to be the Borg, and the film will be about the new challenges that the [Enterprise] crew face in fighting them."

The article also positively indicates that the Borg will be presented in the pre-"Descent" manner.

MISC

- The *Star Trek* Exhibition at Edinburgh City Art Centre coined in profits of £180,000 to become Scotland's most successful exhibition

The Exhibition is now in Ireland and it may tour England afterwards.

- Stargazer Productions International postponed their June conventions in England and Ireland. Stargazer Productions cited the impending policy announcement from Viacom Consumer Products at the International Licensing conference in New York City and possible legal action by Viacom against the U.K. and Ireland events as the reason for the decision.

Stargazer Productions plans to reschedule

the events in Bristol, England, to August 26-27 and Dublin, Ireland, to September 2-3, 1995. Horizon Conventions, Inc. will no longer be a co-promoter of these U.K. events.

For more information or ticket refunds, please call Stargazer Productions directly at (011 44) 1905 613005. FAX: (011 44) 1905 613158.

- An article in the *Chicago Tribune* 30/4/95 says that most of the streamlined, body-conforming chairs in ST:Voyager come from Hag Inc who supply them for use in today's homes and offices.

- "This is the engine room, Capt. Kirk - I think there's a welder in the warp drive" *Edmonton Journal*, June 13th.

Gary McKinnon has spent nights and weekends for four months building a replica of a Federation starship that should win the approval of even the most hard-core *Star Trek* fan. The ship, nearly nine meters long and weighing about four tons, was unveiled Saturday during Spock Days in the southern Alberta town of Vulcan. Vulcan shares its name with the home planet of Mr. Spock. The community is trying to promote that coincidence into a tourist attraction. McKinnon built his version of the starship with a scaled-up design from a toy model of the NCC 1701A Enterprise.

- In *High Trek*, 5/5/95, Jennifer Lien who plays the Voyager character Kes talks about Kes and Kes's relationship with Neelix.

Back in January viewers only knew that Kes was in love with Neelix and that the character had a life-span of nine years. Since then fans have discovered the depth of the relationship. They've watched her develop her telepathic abilities and have seen her become a real part of the crew. "Most of what Kes sees and encounters in each episode is entirely new and fresh to her. She is just so open and alive and interested in everything that happens around her."

Lien saves her warmest words for Phillips, the genuinely likable actor who is Neelix to her Kes on-screen and a good friend off-camera.

"Ethan is a total professional, so giving, and he's a very funny man too," Lien says. "I love sharing so many of my scenes with

him."

- **"Dog Trek"** Today, The Sun & Daily Record 18/5/95

Star Trek fan Stephen Moon has made his own film, using an all-canine cast and his father's camcorder. Stephen built an 18ft set in the garden and made costumes for the dogs. The result is Dog Trek - The Next Generation, an epic adventure about missing dog biscuits in space.

The star is a pedigree Japanese Akita called Captain Kalsha. He is joined by Commander Bosley, a collie cross; Lt Tachi, a shiba; Lt Paddi, a collie cross; Ensign Pepsi, a border collie; and Buster, 17-year-old mongrel as the Admiral. Another collie, Bernie, plays the Dogulan villain.

Printer Stephen, 28, said, "The neighbours must think I'm mad. But I wanted to keep a record of the dogs and didn't want to make the normal gushy pet video."

- Science Fiction Audiences: Watching Doctor Who and Star Trek by John Tulloch and Henry Jenkins. Routledge £37.50; £12.99. A review of this book appeared in the Daily Telegraph on 20/5/95.

The book demonstrates in brilliant fashion that there is not one, but multiple fan communities, which are drawn to SF for different reasons. Sometimes they can be surprisingly creative - especially followers of Doctor Who and Star Trek.

The review mentions that women are more active in Star Trek fandom than in Doctor Who Fandom.

- **"Beam me up, Scotty... I think Spock Fancies Me"** The People 11/6/95.

Constance Penley in her book, Technoculture, says scores of underground magazines in the USA depict Kirk and Spock as lovers. And the features are often backed up with raunchy illustrations.

At a recent Star Trek convention, Leonard Nimoy, who plays Spock, was asked whether his feelings for Captain Kirk were a case of "Love Jim - but not as most people know it." He replied coyly, "I don't know, I wasn't there."

- UK members can't have missed all the Trek jokes in the press recently caused by the

Conservative Party Leader election. The challenger John Redwood is nicknamed 'Brother of Spock'. When asked about his Star Trek nickname, Redwood said he had taken some time to see the joke but that now "I shall be not be hiring a spaceship for this particular enterprise."

- STAR TREK: Federation Science
September 29, 1995 - January 1, 1996

Walk on the bridge of the Starship Enterprise, and explore Engineering, Sick Bay and the Transporter Room. In this vision of the future, positive advances in education, medical care, environment and human relations are all made possible through science and technology. Special effects techniques let you beam up, walk on the bridge of the Enterprise, and more. This exhibit is created and circulated by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

For more information contact The Science Place, Southwest Museum of Science and Technology, Fair Park, P.O. Box 151469, Dallas, TX 75315-1469, USA. Telephone: (214) 428-5555 Fax: (214) 428-2763

ON LINE

- Star Trek Reviews home page opened

The rec.arts.startrek.reviews anonymous FTP archive and World Wide Web home page are officially open for business. Set your Web browser to:

<http://www.mcs.net/~forbes/trek-reviews/>

The Web site contains an archive of recently posted reviews, a list of other interesting Trek-related Web pages, and more.

The archive is also available via anonymous FTP at ftp.mcs.com, in the directory /pub/trek-reviews. The archive is indexed by show, season, episode and reviewer.

- The Star Trek Story Archive (STSA) is now on-line. For more information, send a message with the subject HELP to: startrek@p46.rage.fido.de (Internet) or startrek@2-2452/307.46 (FIDO).

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



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 Meechan, AR-WAY Prod., 22647 Ventura Bl, #121, Woodland Hills, CA 91364, USA.

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

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

• Rene Auberjonois appeared in a cameo role in "Batman Forever". He portrayed "Dr. Burton", a psychiatrist at Arkham Asylum.

• LeVar Burton has begun a short run as a new character in *Christy*.

LeVar will be appearing in a new CD-ROM game called "BLUESTAR," schedule for release in the fourth quarter of 1995.

• Michael Dorn guests in an Outer Limits called "The Voyage Home." Matt Craven, Jay O. Sanders and Michael Dorn play astronauts who land on Mars and on their last day encounter an alien. The alien takes over their bodies one by one and tries to reach the Earth because it can proliferate there.

Michael appears in the sci-fi film "Time Master," co-starring Duncan Regehr and Pat Morita. Dorn portrays the enigmatic Chairman, creator of a powerful virtual reality game. The characters players control are actual real people. If a player dies, you do too. People bet on the games and instead of money, they bet a liquid Blue, an addictive

drink that lets you live forever.

Later this year, Dorn will also appear in Showtime's "Amanda and the Alien." Dorn plays a police detective who according to Dorn "has watched 'Pulp Fiction' way too often." The detective and his partner (Michael Bendetti) and their boss (Stacy Ketch) find themselves on the trail of an alien. The alien is on the planet to see if it's a suitable place to breed Humans for food. It looks like a troglodyte and it gets inside people. Nicole Eggert falls in love with it.

• Siddig El Fadil and Terry Farrell read stories for audiotape (two for Sid, one for Terry) on a new collection from Dove audio. One of Sid's stories is "Sentinel."

• Jonathan Frakes will be starring in a new series that is to air on ABC in the Autumn. It's entitled "Brothers of the Frontier" and is set in the late 1700's. It also stars real life brothers Joey Matthew and Andrew Lawrence as the brothers mentioned in the title, and Mark-Paul Gosselaar.

• DeForest Kelly and his wife, Carolyn, will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on September 7th, 1995. Send cards or letters (no gifts please) to: Mr & Mrs DeForest Kelley, c/o Sue Keenan, 5507 W. 98th Sr. Apt 2, Los Angeles CA90064, U.S.A. Please mark 50th on the envelope.

• John de Lancie - Unfortunately the series *Legend*, in which he co-starred, has not been renewed by UPN. Michael Piller, co-creator and co-executive producer said, "There is a slight chance that another network might be interested in picking us up and we will pursue every option."

• Colm Meaney co-stars in the Hugh Grant film, "The Englishman who Went Up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain."

• Nicholas Meyer will be directing a feature-

film version of "The Avengers" for Warner Brothers.

- **Richardo Montalban** (Khan) was honoured with an Imagan Award which cites positive portrayals of Hispanics. He received the Live Achievement Award.

- **Nichelle Nichols** - California State University at Northridge presented "An Evening of Music, Poetry, and Love" featuring Nichelle Nichols. The event was scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 1995 at the CSUN Performing Arts Center.

- **Leonard Nimoy** will be appearing the I Robot episode of "Outer Limits". His son Adam directs the episode. Adam next directs his fathers, Deadly Games.

It stars Christopher Lloyd as a video game character that comes to life, and will lead UPN's Tuesday line-up.

Leonard's new book, "I am Spock" is to be published by Hyperion and should be available in the USA in October, 1995.

- **Dwight Schultz** (Lt. Barclay) appears in the "Outer Limits" episode, "Symbiosis". Schultz plays a psychic debunker who must save the soul of a possessed child.

- **William Shatner** - Bill's TekWar series has been cancelled. Apparently its ratings were quite good for a cable series initially, but then they sank. [Info Reuter's]

William Shatner will be directing, producing, and cameoing in a film entitled "Police 2000."

William Shatner was Jay Leno's main guest on the Tonight Show, NBC 1/6/95. Bill was promoting his new Star Trek book "Ashes of Eden". Jay played a video of Bill's rendition of 'Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds', Bill took it in good humour.

Also on the show was a look alike of William Shatner; the resemblance was astonishing. This guy makes his living impersonating Bill/Captain Kirk at weddings, parties, Bar Mitzvahs. (Alan Stephen).

On June 21--William Shatner arrived in

Miami to film footage exclusively for Tekwar: The Game. "I like to think that the CD-ROM game is poised on the future of an extraordinary explosion," Shatner said. As in the TV series, Shatner plays Walter Bascom, the head of the elite Cosmos detective agency set 50 years in the future. Shatner's segments were shot against a "green screen" so his image later can be superimposed on whatever background the designer wishes. In these segments, he briefs players on their mission to capture the sinister Tek Lords, creators of the drug Tek, and he offers motivational support.

Tekwar is due out this September. It's a cross between Dark Forces and Doom, two other popular action-adventure computer games, with less violence.

After Tekwar, Shatner and Intercorp will create the Shatner Interactive Label to take advantage of the latest technology to produce children's and sci-fi games and other projects.

Ironically, while Shatner is a big player in the hot computer game, he couldn't tell a floppy disc from a hard drive before this project started. But "I'm learning," the star said.

- **Marina Sirtis** has a role in "The Bet," a film that begins shooting in July.

- **Patrick Stewart** - "Trek's Captain Whale Aficionado" Worcester, Massachusetts Patrick Stewart was the celebrity host of a benefit dinner Friday in Boston for the Whale Conservation Institute. He took some time, however, to talk about his career and to discuss why he chose to support the institute.

"What brings me here tonight and what first got me involved in this project, is friendship. It's not something I had to think of, because on friendship, you simply act."

Stewart is a longtime friend and colleague of actress Lisa Harrow, who is married to Roger S. Payne, founder of the Lincoln-based Whale Conservation Institute. Payne arranged for Stewart to go out on the institute's ship, the Odyssey, where he got to see whales and had a close encounter with a friendly sea lion. "The whole idea of respect for one's fellow creatures is also part of "Star Trek", so this is not in any way a stretch for me," he said.

Currently, Stewart's career is on two tracks, one "Trek" and one not. He attended a meeting Thursday on the next "Star Trek: The Next Generation" movie, although it hasn't been decided if it will be called "Star Trek VIII" or Star Trek: Generations II." Filming is expected to begin early next year. Stewart also has what he called a "standing invitation" to direct an episode of one of the ongoing "Trek" shows, "Deep Space Nine" and "Voyager."

As for his acting outside of "Star Trek," he hopes to film his one-man version of "A Christmas Carol," but "sadly, that's not progressing." Although he said in New York last year that he would not perform the show on stage again, he now says he's had second thoughts and is toying with the idea of a national tour, which would include a stop in Boston.

Stewart also has two movies coming out this year: "Jeffrey," in which he plays a gay man whose lover has AIDS, and "Let It Be Me," in which he plays a sleazy dance instructor. He also will play Prospero in a Central Park production of "The Tempest" this summer.

Two CDs that came out recently feature Patrick Stewart

Peter and the Wolf (Erato 4509-97418-2)

This CD features Patrick Stewart narrating Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf. Also included on this CD is Debussy's La Boite a Joujoux (The Toy Box).

The Complete Four Seasons (American gramophone AGCD801) Stewart reads English translations of the poems intended to go with Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

Patrick was named one of the 50 most beautiful people in the world by People Magazine in their May 8 issue.

Patrick Stewart was once again a guest on David Letterman's Late show on 22/6/95. He was promoting his performance at "Shakespeare in the Park" in "The Tempest" Central Park. Patrick had a police escort from Central Park to the Ed Sullivan TV Studios.

Patrick proved himself once again as quite a raconteur, with tales of his time as a journalist and as a furniture salesman. (Alan

Stephen)

Patrick was featured in the Radio Times (June 17 - 23). Page 11 is a full page white-hooded bathrobe shot (similar to People magazine recently), and page 88 is a TNG shot, 1st season uniform.

Patrick Stewart is to perform at the Swan Theatre, Stratford on Avon, Sunday August 6th 7.30pm, in a Benefit Performance for Homer Swander of ACTER, who is retiring.

"Uneasy lies the Head..." Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield Sat. 23rd September. Patrick will be performing two shows of "Uneasy...", a matinee at 2pm, and an evening show at 7.30pm. The box office number is 01484 430528. (Please note - if you go to any performance of Patrick's please do not wear Star Trek costumes or ask him to autograph Star Trek pictures.)

Variety noted that of 29 Broadway productions in the last year, only four had made money. One of them was Patrick Stewart's "Christmas Carol".

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

August 4th has been set as the release date for the film "Jeffrey" with Patrick Stewart.

- George Takei and Carel Struycken (TNG's Mr. Homm) will both co-star with Julie Newmar in a sci-fi comedy "Oblivion II."

- Garrett Wang - In an interview by Bob Frost published in the Sunday magazine of The San Jose Mercury News on 7th May 1995 Garrett was asked if he ever logged onto the Trekker bulletin boards on the Internet?

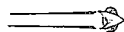
Garrett - Yes I do, I'm on America Online. I go into the Bridge a lot. During my first foray online, earlier this year, I was trying to think of a funny, distinctive screen name. My girlfriend was with me, and she said, "Why don't you type in 'Ensign Kim,' that's kind of funny." So I type it in, and I get this message "Name already being used." (Laughs.) So I try "Ensign Harry Kim." That's gone too. "Harry Kim." Gone. I tried

every combination of my character's name; my girlfriend finally said, "How about trying 'The Real Kim?'" And that works. So I jump in, I go "Hello." They didn't think I was the real Kim. Someone said, "So why 'The Real Kim?'" Are you Garrett or something?" I go, "As a matter of fact yes, I am." And the people were like "Naaaah." No one in the chat room believed me — it was like, "Nice try, fake boy." They were kind of being rude about it, and I was offended — I didn't know, at that point, that there have been a lot of imposters in the room. There's somebody out there right now pretending they're Kate Mulgrew. I can tell you, there's no other Trek actor who is online and who has admitted that they're on. I'm the only one. So I tried to prove I was the real Kim. They asked me all these questions. They got really technical; one guy said, "Tell me exactly how

many cc's of this drug were used by the doctor in the pilot episode. And how many varieties of tomato soup does Paris have to choose from?" I was like, "Ummmm . . ." And he wrote, "I'm WAITING. If you were Garrett, you would KNOW this." So I ran and checked my script and typed in the answers, and he says, "That was too easy." People didn't start believing it was me until I did a convention in Minneapolis when I met one of the women with whom I'd been chatting online.

Garrett's e-mail address is:
therealkim@aol.com

[Sources of information include P.S.A.S., High Trek, rec.arts.startrek, current/info/fandom, Compuserve SF Media Forum, Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet]



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES

July DS9 The Ferengi Rules of Acquisition by Ira Steven Behr
TNG 36 Into The Nebula by Gene DeWeese
VOY 3 Ragnarok by Nathan Archer
Aug The New Trek Programme Guide by Paul Cornell. Martin Day, Keith Topping.
TOS 1996 Calendar
TNG 1996 Calendar
DS9 1996 Calendar
VOY 1996 Calendar
TNG Q-Squared by Peter David pbk
TOS 75 First Frontier by Diane Carey
YA/DS9 6 Field Trip by John Peel
Sep TNG Make It So by Wess Roberts Hbk
DS9 12 The Laertian Gamble by Robert Sheckley
Voy 4 Violations by Susan Wright
Beyond Uhura by Nichelle Nichols pbk
Star Trek Creator, Authorised biography of Gene Roddenberry by David Alexander. pbk

Oct Star Trek Federation by Reeves-Stevens
TNG 37 The Last Stand by Brad Ferguson
YA/TNG 8 Starfall by Brad Strickland
Nov Art of Star Trek by Reeves-Stevens
TNG Crossover by Mike Friedman Hbk
VOY 5 Incident at Arbutus by John Betancourt
DS9 13 Station Rage by Diane Carey

TNG 37: The Last Stand by Brad Ferguson.
The U.S.S. Enterprise is all that stands between two warring races bent on annihilating each other. Captain Picard must use all his powers of persuasion to stave off a planetary Armageddon that could unleash a powerful new threat to the Federation.

The Art of Star Trek \$50.00 Hardcover 320 pages, Color photos, 9 x 12
This all-new, one-of-a-kind gallery of sketches, drawings, paintings, miniatures, props, graphics and backstage photographs, most never published before, explores every incarnation of Star Trek—the original series,

the cartoon series, the Next Generation, Voyager, Deep Space Nine and the movies. Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens provide the accompanying text, and Star Trek's very own production designer Herman Zimmerman, who designed the Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, and the three most recent features films furnishes the introduction.

I Am Spock \$24.95 Hardcover

Leonard Nimoy weighs in with his own personal view of Star Trek with this intelligent and insightful account of his career and the most celebrated and successful TV franchise of all time. Filled with rich behind-the-scenes Star Trek anecdotes. 320 pages, 16 page B & W photo insert, 6 x 9

VOY 5 Incident at Arbuk by John Gregory Betancourt. Tracking a shuttle's distress signal to the nearly deserted Arbuk system, the U.S.S. Voyager crew encounters an unusual weapon a thousand more times more powerful than anything on the starship. Soon Captain Janeway and the crew are attacked by a group of mysterious warships with an obvious interest in acquiring the powerful weapon.

DS9 13 Station Rage by Diane Carey. A tomb of Cardassian soldiers is discovered on Deep Space Nine creating a difficult diplomatic situation for Commander Sisko, which only worsens when the 'bodies' of the Cardassians begin to pulsate with life and the "dead" soldiers attempt to seek revenge on their enemies.

The Unauthorized Voyagers \$16.95 Trade Paperback by Pioneer Books.

James Van Hise explores Star Trek: Voyager, discussing the series' creation and the many forms it passed through before it arrived on the small screen. Complete bios of the cast. Comparisons with past series.

260 pages, color and B&W photos, 8 x 10.

- George Takei, Nichelle Nichols and Walter Koenig read chapters from The Nitpickers Guide to Star Trek which is put out by AudioScope. A young-adult version of George's Biography, To the Stars, will be released by Archway Books in December.

- Watch out for Classic and TNG pop-up greeting cards from Pop Shots. They are imported from America so you may find them in specialist SF shops.

• VIDEO UPDATE

CIC provisional release dates:

DS9

- Vol. 3.10 August 7th
- Through The Looking Glass/
Improbable Cause
- Vol. 3.11 August 28th
- The Die Cast/Explorers
- Vol. 3.12 September 11th
- Family Business/Shakaar
- Vol. 3.13 September 25th
- Facets/The Adversary

Voyager

- Vol. 1.3 August 7th
- Phage/The Cloud
- Vol. 1.4 August 28th
- Eye of the Needle/Ex Post Facto
- Vol. 1.5 September 11th
- Emanations/Prime Factors
- Vol. 1.6 September 25th
- State of Flux/Heroes & Demons
- Vol. 1.7 October 9th
- Cathexis/Faces
- Vol. 1.8 October 23rd
- Jetrel/Learning Curve
- Vol. 1.9 October 23rd
- Eloquin/Projections
- Vol. 1.10 November 6th
- Twisted/The 37ers
- Dec 4th - The Caretaker (collector's
edition)

Aug 11th - Star Trek Generations (rental release)

Dec 4th - Star Trek Movies 1-7 Box Set
- Star Trek Generations (sell-through release)

ST: Voyager volume 1.1 has been released on video with a rrp of \$12.99 but it can be found on sale for £10.99 at Virgin and HMV.

- **Star Trek Movies I-VI on Laser Disc.** Pioneer LDCE will be releasing a box set of the Star Trek movies 1- VI this November. The box will contain 8 laser discs and have a

rrp of £149.00. Star Trek Generations is to be released at an rrp of £24.99.

- **STTNG "A Final Unity"** for PC CD-ROM The game features all the voices of the television cast.

Players embark on missions for the Federation and find themselves caught up in an unfolding mystery with the crew of the Starship Enterprise. Within this intergalactic adventure, the player must manoeuvre the Starship Enterprise (designated NCC-1701-D) within a 3-D tactical space, beam down Away Teams to investigate alien planets and use the vast resources of the U.S.S. Enterprise to meet the challenges that await.

The CD-ROM features high-resolution graphics (some of them in 3-D) digitized sound and state-of-art movie-like footage that makes the images look almost as sharp as television visuals. There are 15,000 lines of dialogue, nearly thirty minutes of movie footage and 100 backgrounds-- plus all of the other parts of the game.

Final Unity will come with three difficulty levels, making the game accessible to even non-Trekkers. Each Trek actor recorded at least an hour of dialogue.

The game was due for release in the US in July.

- **The Star Trek and Star Trek: The Next Generation Annuals**, shipping in October, will feature a time-travel crossover story between Classic and Next Generation crews. Both Captains must find a way to stop the Devidians ("Time's Arrow, Parts I and II" [TNG]) from interfering in the time stream. The final showdown occurs on the planet Waco. Well, maybe not.

- **The ST:CCG 'Collector's Tin'** special edition of Star Trek CCG. The Collector's Tin basically is a complete full set of all 363 cards in the initial set of Star Trek: CCG. There is one of each card. It will also include some extras, like a special card list document.

The cards will have a special SILVER border. This is an expensive process, as it requires an extra run through the presses and special inks, etc. The cards will be just like the other cards (except for the border color). They will be theoretically playable, but since

they are valuable, it would be unwise to do so. They will not be allowed in tournaments.

The suggested retail is \$100. It is reasonable to assume that you can expect to pay more. We are hearing that some retailers are charging \$200 or more. Decipher cannot control retail prices but hope retailers will be reasonable in holding prices for consumers. They are limited edition. Only 30,000 tins were produced (approximately 20,000 for the U.S. market and 10,000 for international markets).

They are expected to ship in July, 1995.

- **Star Trek: Two Player Pack** \$25.00

Available end of September

This is the mass market version of the Star Trek Customizable Card Game. This package includes two 60 card decks, a booster pack, and 1 premium card of a famous character never before issued. The pack is designed to allow immediate play of a two player game, one player taking the Klingon deck and the other taking the Federation deck. Decks are made up of only common cards.

- Spectrum Holobyte is currently creating a CD-ROM version of "**Generations**," which is scheduled to include the voices of the "Next Generation" cast, as well as William Shatner, Malcolm McDowell, James Doohan, and Walter Koenig. If all goes as planned it should be out early next year.

- Pop Comics will releasing the first issue of "**Patrick Stewart: Star Legend**" this August. The comic will explore his Shakespeare background and his immortality in space. Pop Comics will tell you what he has done, why he has done it and where he is going. 32 pages. \$2.95

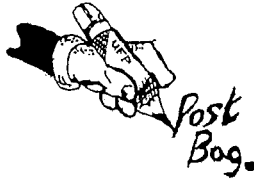
- Harlan Ellison's script and behind the scenes story of Star Trek's most famous episode "City on The Edge of Forever" is scheduled to be published in late Summer. Also features original treatment, plenty of photos, and afterwords by everyone in the cast (except Shatner), Gerrold, Snodgrass, Fontana, and David.Limited, trade hardcover, and trade paperback editions.

MAGAZINES

- **ST COMMUNICATOR 102** April/May 1995. This issue includes: News, Voyager and DS9 Update; Interviews with Garrett Wang (Harry Kim, ST Voyager), Siddig El Fadil, Marina Sirtis; articles on Ashes of Eden, the episode Tin Man, Artificial Gravity Generators; artist David Archer plus regular columns by Richard Arnold and Bjo Trimble.
- **ST COMMUNICATOR 103** June/July 1995. This issue includes: News, ST Update; Interviews with Robert Picardo (Holo Doc), Brent Spiner, Andrew Robinson (Garak) and DeForest Kelley; articles on Ashes of Eden, the episode Blood Oath, Building a Holodeck, Naval Traditions in the ST Universe plus regular column by Richard Arnold.
- **STARLOG 216** July 1995. Includes an article on Robert Picardo (Holographic Doc, Voyager).
- **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE No. 12** (Starlog) Contains articles on: Paul Dooley (Enabran Tain), Armin Shimerman, plus episode reports on Life Support, Heart of Stone, Destiny, Prophet Motive, Visionary.
- **TV ZONE 67** June 1995. Includes an article on Charles Cooper (Korrd, STV) and a ST Voyager season one episode guide 1-12.
- **TV ZONE 68** July 1995. Includes an article on Aron Eisenberg age 25 (Nog) and an interview with Roxann Biggs-Dawson (B'Elanna Torres ST Voyager).
- **TV ZONE SPECIAL #7** Lost Voyages Special. Includes interviews with ST Voyages co-creator, Jeri Taylor.
- **ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS**
Issue 86 - Article on the Wesley Crusher plus episode guides to Genesis and Journey's End.
Issue 87 - Article on Family & Friends plus episode guides to 1st
- **STARBURST 201** May 1995. Contains an article on the special effects in ST Generations and part 2 of an interview with Brannon Braga.
- **STARBURST 202** June 1995. Contains an article on Robert Picardo (Holographic Doc, Voyager) and part 3 of an interview with Brannon Braga.
- **STARBURST 203** July 1995. Contains part 1 on an interview with Marina Sirtis, an interview with Malcolm McDowell and a scathing review of Voyager by John Peel.
- **STAR TREK Monthly No. 3** Titan. This issue includes news, books, videos and merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, Brent Spiner, Robots and Androids in Star Trek, Data's Daughter, Jonathan del Arco; plus a 25 page TNG/DS9 Comic Strip.
- **STAR TREK Monthly No. 4** Titan. This issue includes news, books, videos and merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, Kate Mulgrew, The Maquis, Marc Alaimo, Jeri Taylor; plus a 25 page TNG/DS9 Comic Strip.
- **STAR TREK Monthly No. 5** Titan. This issue includes news, books, videos and merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, William Shatner, Captain Kirk, David Carson plus a 21 page Classic Trek Comic Strip.



STAR TREK MERCHANDISING # 259 -
"THE OFFICIAL STARFLEET BOOMERANG!"



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/1 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

• Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh

Anne Neilson's smile face idea is brilliant :-). I have sometimes been moved to wonder if you need to have your sense of humour surgically removed before the fan clubs of certain actors will admit you. Now I need not fear being misunderstood.

Mark Lenard's DS9 comic Blood and Honour is now out, featuring the son of his Balance of Terror character and one Ensign Jamie Kirk. Her ancestry isn't explained, but as her middle name is given as Samantha I'd

guess she's Peter Kirk's granddaughter, named for her illustrious great great uncle. Meanwhile, DC's Star Trek is doing a flashback story in which James T Kirk is about to get a big shock when he meets up with Carol Marcus again - she didn't tell him she was pregnant when they parted on her resignation from Starfleet.

To Pam Baddeley and all who pointed it out, I did indeed mean Dagger of the Mind, not Whom Gods Destroy, as the episode where Spock mind melds with a stranger. My momentary confusion was no doubt due to both episodes featuring Federation psychiatric facilities. And to Gratiene Vandekerkhove - what I was saying was that what appears on screen suggests that Spock uses his telepathy as a useful tool, one of his many skills, and not as a mask of intimacy. The one long-term bond that we do know of, imposed on him and T'Pol at an early age, clearly had little depth and may even have been unpleasant for them.

To Anne Peters - I agree with you totally that The Outcast was a cop-out rather than a brave attack on anti-gay prejudice. The only true 'mirror' would have been a society where same-sex relations were the norm, reproduction was by artificial insemination and heterosexual relations entered into voluntarily were a perversion. (Several SF stories have been written on this very theme, usually taking the depressing view that whichever sexual preference has the power by being in the majority will persecute the others. All, I am sure, were written to try to preach tolerance - I fear homophobes would only take out of it that 'they' would try to force 'us' to be gay if 'they' were ever allowed power over 'us'.) The story could just about have washed if the race had been asexual, reproducing by some other means (more highly evolved, humanoid bustling tribbles, perhaps, who would breed spontaneously by

eating certain foods) and seeing *all* sexual activity as perverted. (Only then the outcasts wouldn't have had the necessary organs to feel sexual pleasure - but they wouldn't have gone into that on TV anyway.)

I liked Jay Stevensen's article - but there seems to be a growing idea that William Shatner once shouted "Get a life!" to an actual group of fans. He was appearing in a *comedy sketch*, saying words written for him by *scriptwriters*, which is what *actors* do, to a bunch of *other actors*. The words reflect his own opinions only so far as he may have had script approval. However, the sketch goes on to show him suddenly taking the 'fans' questions dead seriously when the 'con committee' threatens him with the loss of his fee. So if you assume that the whole thing was meant to be taken seriously, you would need to assume that Mr Shatner despises Star Trek fans but is willing to pander to them for money. It seems more likely to have been a joke that went a bit wrong.

• D E Evans - 6 Smith Grove, Crewe, Cheshire CW1 3NB

I am interested in obtaining the Collectors' Edition of All Good Things... If anyone can help; me, please contact me at the above address. Also I would like to obtain any Star Trek bloopers/outtakes. I've seen clips on various ST documentaries and wondered if a collection of bloopers had ever been produced; and I'd like a copy of the TNG Bohemian Rhapsody I've heard so much about (if possible).

• Rory Smith - Glasbury, Hereford

To Nigel Nixon (N/L 39, P 34) - USS Tiho was Enterprise 1701-A's original name. She was built to test the transwarp drive (like Excelsior) but was renamed Enterprise when Kirk & Co. saved the planet in ST IV.

To Edward Woo (N/L 39 P38) - Re aliens on Tarchannen III. Now I think about it, this is quite a moral dilemma. If Picard doesn't put out a warning, he is putting Terrans at risk, but by putting a warning out, he is effectively starving them to death. The problem is, which is more important - the lives of the aliens on Tarchannen III or the personalities (and sometimes lives) of the

Terrans. If he warns Terrans he could also be interfering with the Prime Directive in some way. I feel he has a duty to warn others of the hazard. If evolution has chosen a path for the aliens - a way of life - that is not acceptable to others, then the effect of putting out a warning is merely a case of natural selection. They are one of the many species that have failed to survive throughout evolution.

On Generations - though it was enjoyable and had excellent SFX, I'm surprised so much was finished off in the first film - Enterprise destroyed, Data gets the emotions he's been searching for throughout the series (though I'm sure that's not the end of it), Kirk died and a little too easily for my liking - he's survived worse than that - and also it is possible that Guinan is still in the rift. Also there were many holes in the plot. Picard had very little difficulty leaving the rift despite what Guinan said (he was persuaded by a Christmas tree bauble!) and why didn't Dr Soran also go back in time to stop Kirk and Picard? Where was the rest of the crew while Kirk and Picard fought with Soran? And the ship could have been saved so easily by ejecting the core. But it wasn't all bad. The acting was good between Picard and Kirk and Data was excellent, and often hilarious.

To everyone who gave me information on jobs, etc, in space agencies, thanks a lot - especially Jay Stevensen for all the leaflets, etc, and help. I can honestly say that I have never before been in a club where others will spend money on stamps and make such an effort to help a complete stranger. Sorry I took so long to reply - I missed the last newsletter.

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Richard Hewitt and the others who are laughed at - You could try pointing out to your parents when they laugh the amount Trek fandom has given to charity over the years - IDIC has now sponsored 6 guide dogs, while the conventions over the years have given not just tens but into hundreds of thousands of pounds to various charities.

Re The Outcast - My biggest problem with it is, if "What we do is the same as what

you do" (Soren's defence), how did anyone ever *know* that some of the population were "male" or "female" inclined? It might have been made more credible if what we had was a hermaphrodite species that was just beginning to evolve into a bisexual species, instead of - presumably - the other way around. The hermaphrodites wouldn't have understood bisexuality and would have seen it, possibly justifiably, as a threat to "life as they know it" - for example, only half of the evolved population would be able to father offspring, while the other half would only be able to mother offspring, instead of *everyone* being able to father and mother young. The newly evolved bisexuals could have been identified by their very inability to do that. How they could have been 'cured', however, is beyond my imagination. Sterilised, perhaps, so that they could not pass on their 'perversion' to their children?

To Alan Stephen - 10-year-old malt? Good enough, yes, good enough... but if you were to say 45-year-old malt... Now there's a flavour, a richness, to savour, to capture the imagination, to dream about at night... and incidentally bankrupt you if you drank it regularly!

• David Flask - 24 Kingshill Ave, Romford, Essex RM5 2SD

Keep up the good work, still the best Star Trek club by far.

I have a moan. N/L 39, P 24; Stephen Shaw, thanks for the info about the CD ROM NOW magazine, March issue. I phoned and ordered the back issue - cost £6 - received it today (9th May) - *No Star Trek*. Read a letter inside thanking the magazine for the excellent February Star Trek CD Rom. I re-phoned the back issues department - horror of horrors, they have sold out of the February issue! I am not blaming Stephen, if it had not been for his letter I would not have known about it anyway. Printer's error, perhaps?

Has anybody got the CD Rom disc from the February issue of CD ROM NOW that they don't want? Remuneration very possible! [Sheila - Ah. This could be the result of picking up a copy in March and thinking it was the March issue.]

• Katrina Heintz - Bathgate

Has anyone received their post-con pack from Starfleet Academy Weekend?

• Chris Coxon - Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, nr Rye, E Sussex TN36 4EY

Has anyone ever read any fan TNG story about total scale mismatch in a first contact situation - by that I mean the alien life forms are the size of an ant and their ships about the size of a size 9 shoe - I think it'd be an interesting premise - imagine what an ill-timed sneeze could do for trade negotiations! [Sheila - Haven't come across one in TNG, but I have seen a Classic Trek one. The landing party went down, couldn't find the people who had contacted them although the co-ordinates were right, and if I remember correctly it ended up with Kirk moving forward one step and flattening the alien starship.]

Re Dave Styles' article on How to start a Star Trek club. I would be interested to know which club 'on the Sussex coast' he is referring to that is 'awfully organised and formal, with officers having ranks. You see, I belong to a club 'on the south coast' - about three years ago ranks were used and as part of 'Starfleet Command Quadrant 2' things were quite frankly terribly organised for a national club. Support from the centre was non-existent. I would like to know from Dave if this is the club he means. It is now called NCC 1711 Science Fiction Unlimited, with 40+ attendees at meetings which are held regularly in Brighton and Newhaven, a superb newsletter and lots of fun; by no means can it be called 'awfully organised' any more. If it is us Dave has in mind, I would ask him to get his facts straight before committing his opinions to print. And Dave - if there's someone selling hookie video tapes at the local boot fair, report them to the trading standards. Their numbers for your area are in the front of your telephone directory.

[Janet - In his article Dave wrote "There is another small ST club on the Sussex coast which seems to be rather formal, with a "Captain" and all the other Officers have "ranks". Seems awfully "organised" to me, but each to their own. However it always seems to me that any formal hierarchy is

rather off-putting to newcomers." This means that Dave feels that a club with ranks is too organised, not badly organised.]

In closing, I was fortunate enough to be in the front row at the Generations premiere, and also got some 38 good pics of Patrick Stewart at the Generations con on Sunday - anyone interested in copies send me an A5 SASE for proof photocopies of all pics - please return photocopies with order. When the copies are done I'll bill only my costs - is that not a good deal? (110 photos to choose from!)

• Teresa Whaley - 32 Moyne Rd, Sawtry, Huntingdon Cambs PE17 5TN

Re requesting books from the library. I live a short bus journey from 3 libraries and a short walk away from another one. Being an avid reader, I'm known by name by a couple of librarians. (The best one works at the Sawtry branch.) I have requested more Star Trek books in all four libraries; from Peterborough branch I got a nice letter and a printout of some of their ST titles. Huntingdon branch hasn't answered yet. Yaxley kindly explained that they didn't have the funds for any more ST books (they only have three on their shelves). The same reply from Sawtry - however, they do seem to have a small increase from no ST titles to 15 (this includes William Shatner's Movie Memories). So I recommend that you use the 'complaints and suggestions' slips. They do sometimes work!

Lastly, I would just like to say a big thank you to Catherine Carter. To Jean Sloan - I'll read anything, but I have to say I lean towards NG (sorry it's taken so long to get back to you). My address is above if anyone wants to drop me a line. I promise to answer all letters!

• Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford

To Sheila Clark - Yes, there's evidence that Antarctica getting stuck over the south pole was not a factor in the cooling of the Earth. Fossils indicate there were forests there even after the continent moved to that position well up to the time when India collided with Eurasia. It must have been quite a strange place, reasonably warm if

wet, in complete darkness for much of the year.

As for whether life began here or elsewhere - it's probably something we'll never know. I never intended to suggest that life was brought here by anything other than natural means, with complex molecules from interstellar gas clouds swept up and deposited by infall into the Earth's gravity well or crash landing on comets. The truth may be out there, but it doesn't need alien beings, just the grand mechanisms of stellar and planetary formation and evolution. (An article in The Guardian, June 1st, suggests that Earth life may have reached Mars - or vice versa - American scientists have succeeded in reviving bacteria thought to have lain dormant for millions of years.)

The Federation/Cardassian troubles are first mentioned in The Wounded, where the reference to the Cardassians ambushing the Stargazer indicates that conflict had been going on for a long time. The Cardassians were also mentioned in the earlier episode A Matter of Perspective.

Re Spot's kittens - Maybe Q appeared as a tomcat?

To Jason Nelmes - The marketing of Star Trek is really reaching overkill. It has reached the point where I'm now reassessing buying nearly everything simply because there is so much of it. If Paramount is starting to view fandom as making unlicensed use of their resource aren't they starting to bite the hand that feeds them - and also caused them to take a second look at what is now making them loads of money?

The discussion about Vulcans points out a major flaw in studio Trek - a general lack of background. It's a major weakness that the storyline is always going on to some new novelty without fleshing out at all some of the most important parts of the background. After hundreds of episodes what do we really know about even Human society in the 23/24th centuries? It's a pity that the story editors think we have such a short attention span that we need another 'alien of the week' without a little more insight to what's already

known. Sadly DS9 continues this - in close proximity to the ancient world of Bajor, a place of beauty and culture, and how much do we see? It is sad that the plot-arcs of a certain other space series draw this failure into sharp relief. You don't always have to travel far to meet a strange new world.

• Sarah Rooke - Southsea, Portsmouth

Hi, it's me again, 'the wicked witch of the south'.

To Nigel Nixon - Re 'the cloud' in Voyager. From what I understand of this episode, Janeway asks Chakotay about the morale of the crew, as they have no Counselor on board. He later helps her and her animal spirit guide in accordance with his native American Indian culture. To put this in psychoanalytical terms (gosh, that's a long word!) he merely gave Janeway the means of getting in touch *with an aspect of herself* to confide in and ask for guidance, same as a Counselor would; so what's the problem?

Whilst I'm thinking of it as well, the Syrinx is the instrument associated with the god Pan of Greece, who was the deity of nature, amongst other well-known naughty antics!

Re the katra debate; in 'the chapters of coming forth by day' (the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead), the Ka is the 'higher self' or immortal spirit/soul. The Egyptians believed that the spirit was allowed to pass into the Elysian fields after reciting the 'negative confession' to the 42 Assessors in the Hall of Judgement. I don't really think the Egyptians saw it as the Vulcans would have - besides, they also believed in reincarnation as well.

To Judith Hopkinson - Yes, I was aware of the legend of Vulcan, but did you know there is another of a planet called Persephone outside the orbit of Pluto? Legend states there are twelve planets in this system - though time will tell (or not, as the case may be).

To all those getting stick for being a Trekker - ignore them. You're part of a *big* vision inspired by Gene's own. They're the sad ones, not you, for not recognising and

knowing it as such. There are a lot of bigoted, narrow-minded (and should I say it?) also bloody-minded people about. Don't worry about what others think, it's what you think that counts.

To Maria Woodward - It was nice meeting you the other weekend. I wonder if there are any other fellow IDIC members in my area - it gets kinda lonely out here in the void!

To Peter Carmody - I think the Enterprise-D has her own theme tune; listen to the beginning bits and when the ship is travelling in space.

Loved the cartoons again, and Excerpts from a Klingon Publication (especially the last paragraph).

Re Earl Grey tea - Ridgeways do a rather nice one grown organically without the use of pesticides, etc, available in health food shops. Though a bit more expensive, the taste is worth it.

• Maureen Norton - Canvey Island

I've been wondering about Odo's combadge. Is it part of him, or is it a real one? If it's a real one, where does it go when he transforms? Does he put it in a mug beside his bucket when he turns in for the night?

Somebody told me we are getting a sci-fi channel over here. Does anyone know anything about it? Will it be satellite or cable?

I know it wouldn't be the same without an Enterprise (if there's another movie) but isn't it about time we had a USS Kirk, or a new Enterprise could be a Kirk class of vessel. It's quite possible that the TNG crew would all be assigned to different ships, and I find it hard to believe that Will Riker would pass up a captaincy yet again! I suppose he could always turn up in his own ship and between him and Picard they could blast the bad guys! (Hasn't something like this happened before?)

What have sci-fi writers got against teddy bears? First one gets left behind and gets blown up in Enterprise-D, and then another

gets blasted out of the airlock in Babylon 5!

To Edward Woo - Of course Odo is more flexible than Worf, after all he *is* a shapeshifter :-)

To all you teenage fans out there, when you're getting teased by those lower life forms at school, at my boy's school the language department watch it in German on satellite. The science department use Trek screen savers on their PCs and the CDT staff have been known to use the equipment to produce com badges!

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

To Bill McClure (p 20) - You and I must have been watching two different DS9 series, as I've not seen any hatred. Even Quark and Odo are buddies on the quiet. Yes, the crew do bicker a little and they don't agree on everything. Kira will always put Bajor first and O'Brien has problems at home. But they're all the more real for that. The TNG crew are fine, but all that sweetness and light can be a little cloying. Hmmm, the Klingons changed quite a lot. Does that mean that TNG and the films are not Trek? :-)

To Jackie Marshall - You can get a bookmark of gorgeous Julian from Forbidden Planet. You're right, though, there isn't anything like enough of him around! :-)

To Keren Breen - Sorry to hear about the Boarding Party's problems; but perhaps it's because of the lack of publicity. My husband is the design editor for Celtic Press, that publishes newspapers for the Valleys. They included a lot of stories about Generations and ST fans when the film was on, and that would have been a good time to publicise the Boarding Party. Also, holding the meetings on Sunday means that only people with access to cars can go. There are no buses in Merthyr until mid-afternoon on Sundays, and then we would have to go to Cardiff or Ponty to get to Swansea. Change to a Saturday and this is one family who would definitely go! If you want some publicity, let me know - I work for Celtic Press too (as a typist).

To Stephen Daniels - Data dreamed about

a crow, but he didn't turn into one. According to the dream dictionary I've got, to dream of a crow is an unhappy omen. It's a forerunner of sadness, though not necessarily grief. That had me puzzled at first, but then it occurred to me that it was the emotion that was important. Perhaps Data could have had emotions without the need of a special chip for him to dream of emotions. It's a thought, anyway.

• Olga Fernandez del Val. c/ Arroyo Medialegua, 33 9-92. 28030, Madrid, Spain

I am new to IDIC, N/L 39 was the first one I got. It was a great surprise because here in Spain we have only watched OT properly. TNG was cancelled in mid-season, we have watched about 3.5 episodes of DS9 and I don't think we will ever see Voyager. So this is a cry for help: I want to know what happens. I would like any of you to write and tell me what happened between Worf and Troi (I have seen an advance, but nothing more), if Wesley ever came out of the Academy or if he went there to get a proper education at last, if Sisko and his people ever went anywhere, what Voyager is going to be about, etc. I am not a big fan of TNG (I really prefer OT) but I would even welcome news about it.

About Generations, I agree with Jennifer Cobbing (N/L 39). It is difficult to feel anything about something you don't really believe; and, film or series, I tend to think that the TNG characters are a bit 'flat' and rigid. I would appreciate any opinion (perhaps the 'flatness' is part of the dubbing).

To Clare Finkel (N/L 39) - Sure, IDIC means everything and everyone. We can learn a lot from disgusting things and people, even if what we learn is what we should not do if we want to survive until the next century. Everything has its value, positive or negative; we only have to make it work for us. It is difficult to live by, though. And yes, I also prefer Vulcans. At least with them you know where you stand.

Finally, thank you for the good company.

• Maria Woodward - Emsworth, Hants

What I don't understand about CIC

videos is why we have to have a break just because the American TV did. I bet Sky won't - so come on, CIC, pull your act together and keep bringing DS9 out quicker, as you have many upset fans out here waiting for the next one!

• Michael Sadler - On board the Death Star was busy doing some top secret work for Nato.

To all KAC fans - at SOL III, Richard Arnold finally solved our legendary argument. He said that Kaferian apples definitely do have pips. I am proved correct and have defeated the fop Neil Safi. Mine is the superior intellect!

To Paul Taylor - As laid out in the CIA's top secret files, the correct domestic appliance to hide under is the washing machine. This is because by placing it on a spin cycle you are protected from any radioactive nuclear fallout. Go ahead and try it, it works (honest!).

To all concerned - If you do not like Classic Trek you are part of the rebel alliance and a traitor, and should be taken away and fed to spar eggs till you're sorry!

• Elizabeth Barrie - Dundee

To Matthew Christie - Thank you for the 'Trek day' I had with you. I enjoyed it very much. I am beginning to like TNG a bit better than I used to. As for DS9 - naa. Voyager has possibilities.

• Veronica Duthie - Dundee

This is my second year as a member of IDIC. I have always been fascinated by the Postbag, as well as the N/L as a whole. It makes me feel a part of the 'family' and I would like to say thanks to one and all.

Being totally housebound, I have not yet seen Generations but look forward to it immensely when it comes out on video. Having read everyone's comments about it, I feel I know a bit about what will happen, but it won't spoil my enjoyment when the time comes. It will be very interesting to see Data with emotions.

Does anyone know if there is a Trek

audio tape read by Brent Spiner?

To Julie Evans - Your cartoons are great. Can you do one of Brent for me?

To John Stevens (N/L 39 P 36) - Feathers were seen on the crow in the season 6 episode Birthright, when Data had his first dream. Dr Soong held a crow's wing, then a whole crow was there.

Can anyone tell me where I can obtain, or if I can obtain, a video of the convention at the Albert Hall?

Finally, DS9 is going from strength to strength. It would be a real shame if they cancelled it.

• Catharine Hill - 41 Westwoods Hollow, Burntwood, Staffs WS7 9AT

Anyone who wants to write to me is welcome.

To Matthew Christie - Re destroying the NCC-1701-D. I also saw no reason to destroy it. It's weird, but I think I was more upset and moved to see that ship destroyed than I was by seeing Kirk die! (Oops! Maybe I shouldn't have said that?)

To Glyn Holland - You are soooo right! I would do anything to meet Brent Spiner or Patrick Stewart or any members of any Trek cast! (Yep, even destroy planets... Well, maybe not.)

To Keren Breen - Re Wesley Crusher - I like him too! Just because he's clever everyone seems to hate him. So to all you people who are part of the Wesley Crusher hate club, just remember there are at least two fans out here who like him!

To Mike Hazlewood - Re OSTFCUK - No, you're not the only one who thinks of a naughty word when you see this!

• Donna Macey - 66 Albert Rd, Worcester, WR5 1EB, England

I have never written a LOC for the club before, and thought it was about time I did. I was very interested in reading the reviews on Generations. I've also heard many good and

critical reports on it, but personally my opinion is, it was a fabulous film. I hope the next one is even better.

I was also interested in the comments on the Generations con. My sister and I went and we too had very mixed feelings about it. There's no doubt we enjoyed ourselves; the guests were amazing and we had seats in the centre of the front row, so we had a marvellous view and took some excellent photos. However, the downfall was the venue itself. You couldn't really meet up with anyone and the spare time was limited. Still, it was lovely seeing the cast together and I love each and every one of them. It was an experience. Dawn and I also attended the premiere and the spectacular 'showbiz' party afterwards. Of course the cast were the 'guests of honour' but I was overawed by all the other celebrities we kept bumping into. But, as we are great fans of Brent Spiner, we were thrilled to grab him for a chat.

As we've met him several times before, he was very pleased to see us again. Very shortly, Dawn and I will be marketing his album 'Ol' Yellow Eyes is Back' and a selection of merchandise across the UK (see ad for details). Brent is delighted we are doing this. If anyone is interested in obtaining this beautiful album and wonderful goodies, please contact us for more information. The address is with the ad or above. Don't forget to send a SAE and for people around Europe and overseas, please enclose 2 IRCs. We hope to hear from you all.

To finish, I would just like to say a big hello to all of my friends.

• Andrew William Merritt - aged 16 now

To Lynne Baxter - Hope you had a great holiday in Florida. Did you go to Universal Studios and appear as Captain on the Enterprise? And did you check out NCC-1701 (the shop full of Star Trek stuff)? If so, isn't it great?

Did anyone out there enter all the competitions in The Sun newspaper? If so, did anyone win anything?

To Tim Goodchild - I agree with you. I

believe that Kirk's death was wasted. All right, so he died heroically, but his death and burial were over in the flash and the scene was so short that the first time I saw Generations it didn't give me time to cry. (Second time around, I was prepared and let go with the 'salty flow'.)

To A Dickie (please give your first name) & Aileen - As I was reading N/L 40 the same thought about the Nexus occurred to me, too. There must be a floor somewhere.

I am, like everyone else, very excited to see Voyager, but I truly hope that Voyager will be the last series for a while. I have said before that the Trek universe can only expand - I only wish they'd do it a little more slowly!

Finally - Ian Harrington, you have a job now - so get off your butt and join IDIC!

• T'Polin - Vulcan Embassy

Like so many teenagers I came into Trek after seeing Leonard Nimoy - beautiful face and lovely legs - but over the years discovered he is a beautiful person too. Trek has brought me many friends here and abroad, and I don't say that lightly.

Over the last months my life reached a crisis point, and who was there for me?

Family? Professional services? Help-lines?

No - my Trekker friends and my love of Trek. So I would like to say here, where so many will be able to read it. "I have been, and will be, your friend. Live long and prosper." Maggy.

• Jean Perrin - Burton-on-Trent

Many of us complain about the BBC not putting on much Star Trek, but has anybody any idea why ITV or Channel 4 don't show it? Is there anybody we could approach to remedy this? After all, Channel 4 takes Babylon 5.

To Raymond Spencer - I too have been taking the Official Star Trek Monthly which I think is pretty good on the whole. I can take

or leave the comic strip. My trouble is, I read so much Star Trek that I can't remember the plot until the next issue. I shall not be collecting the bookmark set. I keep all my Star Trek literature in pristine condition which doesn't include chopping chunks out of it just because they are called tokens to send off for bookmarks, so I shall have to make do with the one that came with the issue even if I did have to wrap the sellotape round it to stop it taking off the surface (those with one will know what I mean).

To the editor - Please, *please* can we lose the smilies? Every time I see one I have to go scratting about trying to find the list to see which one it is. In the past an exclamation mark (!) or even two (!!) has been enough to indicate that a remark should not be taken seriously, like David Gallagher's "Answers please on the back of a £10 note and sent to me care of IDIC!" At least I think he was joking - if not, can you forward the answers on to me, please, David?!! :-), :-), <:->, >:->, **□**

To Kerry McGuire - I think Ro Laren wears her ear ring in the left ear because she is Ro Laren and therefore bloody minded.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - Re your comment that the writer and not the actor should have been given the Earl Grey tea Service. It seems to me that it is always the actors 'up front' who get all the kudos and not the backroom boys, which is why I can never understand why actors are always so keen to direct episodes.

To Lesley Arrowsmith - Re your ex-landlord keeping your mail.. The minute anyone pops a letter into the postbag it immediately becomes the property of the person it is addressed to, after which if anyone tries to get control of it, including the sender, he or she is breaking the law - so why not try the Citizens Advice Bureau?

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass - Do you really think there is going to be a big market for the 1701-E merchandise? We lived with and loved the D week in and week out, but we shall only see the E once every two years when they bring a film out, so I don't think it

will be as popular.

To the editor - I thought some of the letters were extra long this time - that will teach me to rush to the letters pages first before reading the explanation on P 1 - if all else fails, read the instructions!!!!

• Raymond Spencer - South Benfleet, Essex

Over the last few months, some of us have shared with you all what our favourite episodes are. But what of the rich and famous? I found out the following from a bloke in the pub so it must be true... allegedly.

John Major - Shades of Grey. Pamela "Megababe" Anderson - Silicon Avatar. The artist formerly known as Prince - Identity Crisis. O J Simpson - Justice. Prince Charles - Rightful Heir. Imran Khan - The Offspring.

To Jay Stevensen - The macho leader in Power Play has proved a point. Not everyone likes Data.

Re Voyager. One minor criticism. Will someone tell the Captain to let her hair down, and leave it there, because at the moment she has the silliest Trek haircut. Yes, even worse than Chekov in Classic Trek!

• Adam J North - Norwich, Norfolk

Generations - Brilliant! Loved it all - Data, the crash, etc. Brilliant! Question - am I the only one who finds B'Etor Duras very attractive? Kirk's death was sad, but all heroes die, and he died a hero.

To all - it is just me, or are the pages of our newsletter becoming more and more depressing? I know that everyone has negative feelings, but IDIC is not the place to show them. Keep IDIC fun and happy, please!

So Bareil dies in DS9. Well, thanks a bunch! I did not want to know! Please stop telling things that most of us haven't seen yet. I prefer to watch the start of an episode without knowing the ending, thanks! Right, that's enough of my complaining. Sorry, everyone. [Sheila - *The Bareil revelation arose because fans of the actor involved*

wanted to keep the character, were trying a letter campaign and therefore were alerting as many fans as possible to the threat of his death. It's rather difficult to put a spoiler alert to this kind of request.]

My favourite episodes - CT, The Trouble With..., The City on the Edge..., The Immunity Syndrome. TNG, Redemption, Chain of Command, Parallels, All Good Things. DS9, Melora, Jem'Hadar, The Search, Civil Defence.

Finally, DS9 has hit the spot, it now feels like Trek. What is everyone's problem with Sisko? I think he's the right man for the job. The problem is, people are always comparing him with Kirk and Picard, which is wrong. He's his own man and he's doing just fine!

• John Stevenson - East Kilbride

To Mike Hazlewood - I might just be thick, but what does OSTFCUK stand for? [Ed -Official Star Trek Fan Club of the United Kingdom].

In the Original series, Scotty (bless his dilithium crystals) never got a chance to show how good an engineer he really was; Geordi seems to do this most weeks, but poor Scotty never got his chance. Which leads me nicely to the TNG episode in which Scotty makes his guest appearance. I haven't seen it yet (nor have I seen Generations) but I'll pitch in with my comment and hope that I don't get torn to shreds.

N/L 40 had a comment that when Scotty was 'retrieved' he said that he knew Kirk would save him. Yet Kirk was dead. If Kirk was there when Scotty was lost then he could logically expect him to be there when he was found, so no lack of continuity - or am I totally wrong? [Sheila - *In Generations, Scotty was there when Kirk 'died' on the 1701-B; therefore when he was landed in the situation from which the 1701-D rescued him, he knew Kirk had been lost, unless we're to assume he was suffering from selective amnesia.*]

Finally - I work in the post office, so I deliver a number of IDIC mags on my

delivery. How come I never see any letters from East Kilbride IDIC members? It would be nice to read a letter from some of you rather than just deliver them!

• Lesley Arrowsmith - Brecon, Powys

TO THEM, THE UNIVERSE WAS AN OPEN BOOK.

"Whatever your question, the Borg will answer it. They will teach you what you want to know."

Here was an opportunity the four spacefarers from Earth could not afford to pass up. Hadn't they just failed in their attempt to quell the Horta - a race of paranoid telepaths so destructive that they were a menace to other planets. Now, at last, they might know how the homicidal energy of the Horta could be harnessed.

Yet the Borg themselves might be dangerous - after all, they were an unknown race on an uncharted planet. Still, the two men and two women from earth would not have been exploring the stars if they had lacked courage. Besides, now they had to know *how* the Borg could answer *any* question, and *why* they bothered.

The above is the introduction to *I Want the Stars* by Tom Purdon, published in 1964!

Re 6 basic plots - I have a vague memory of a list of 4 - Man against man, Man against machine, Man against himself, Man against nature. However, if I see another 'crashed shuttlecraft' story, I think I'll scream.

To Jean Perrin - "In space, no-one can hear you Hoover" - but unfortunately, space is full of dust clouds. Re Spock - I think it was in character for Spock to go to Romulus - after all, he comes from a diplomatic family, and it's entirely possible that his early devotion to science was precisely so that he wouldn't follow in Dad's footsteps but would be able to decide his own future. His later reconciliation with Sarek, after Babel, and his unique experience as a Starfleet officer would have made him the only logical choice to go to Romulus - and his sense of duty is legendary.

Isn't the Star Trek family wonderful and

supportive? Thanks to the person from York for the card.

• Nigel Nixon - Reading, Berks
E-mail - 100666.2174@compuserve.com

After extensive research (I bought a book) it seems not (on Earth anyway) to be an invariable rule that there must be a class named ship. i.e. if there's a Wibble class there doesn't have to be a H.M.S. Wibble. So, carrying that into ST, there might not be a U.S.S. Galaxy, Constellation, Nebula or whatever.

Raymond Spencer (N/L40 p24) - Matt McCoy appeared in Deep Star Six, Police Academy V & VI and many TV series. I don't know anything about Beth Toussaint, but she looks awfully familiar.

Gul Melset (N/L40 p25) - If Birds are so twitchy, why don't they fall off the perch (to use an Earth term) in droves during thunderstorms?

David Hall (N/L40 p29) - Panavision: "Great confusion was caused in the seventies by the company insisting on the credit 'filmed with Panavision equipment' even on non-anamorphic films", Halliwell's Filmgoers Companion.

Tracy Saunders (N/L40 p34) - Darwin did not say Humans were descended from Apes, his detractors did. Darwin said that Humans and Apes shared a common ancestor, a rather different matter.

Maggie Symon (N/L40 p38) - The Devil in the Dark. I'm a little confused. Surely the reasoning behind the episode was to show both the Starfleet philosophy of respect for the lives of intelligent beings and the lengths to which Starfleet Captains would carry this philosophy, even to the risk of their lives. So while Spock urged Kirk to kill the Horta, Kirk was not willing to do so and thus discovered that the Horta was an intelligent lifeform.

David Styles (N/L39 p31) - Kirk and religions. It should be noted that Kirk is not against religion as such, just those that (in his opinion) adversely affect the development of

alien races. He only "explodes" 'false' religions, usually computers with a chip loose. Importantly, at the end of Bread and Circuses, Uhura says that the Children of the Sun are actually Children of the Son, not Sun worshippers but worshippers of the Son of God. i.e. Christians. The interesting thing is that not only did Uhura get the connection between Sun/Son/Christ but she also expected everyone else on the bridge to understand the connection as well, which, at the very least, implies that Christianity is alive and well in the 23rd Century.

From a footnote (by Paul Schlicke) to Charles Dickens' Hard Times. "In the Spectator [a British magazine], 94 (dated 18th June 1711), Joseph Addison recounts the tale of the Sultan of Egypt who, upon immersing his head in a tub of water, underwent a long series of adventures, and yet found himself back beside the tub at the very moment he lifted his head out of the water". Just like The Inner Light.

[Sheila - Nigel sent a magazine cutting about basic plots which I'll summarise.]

An old adage among playwrights declares there to be only 7 original storylines, though a school of thought has sprung up which adds an eighth, The Indomitable Hero. Many (stories are) a combination of these.

1. Cinderella - the protagonist's potential for happiness is at last realised after many ups and downs.
2. Achilles - the fatal flaw, put to good effect in plays like Hamlet.
3. Faust - the debt that must be paid when fate catches up with you.
4. Tristan - the eternal triangle.
5. Circe, or the spider and the fly - someone is being relentlessly pursued.
6. Romeo and Juliet - boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy finds girl again (or not, as the case may be).
7. Orpheus - the gift that is taken away; loss of life, loss of mobility, money, you name it.

• Tasha Yar - The Nexus, Somewhere over the Rainbow

To Neil Safi - Howdy, neighbour. Nice to meet up with you and Michael Sadler at SOL III. "Game on boys". Re tospar eggs - I like to get cosy with the chocolate variety. Close

my eyes, dream of Data and just nibble. Mmmmmmm.

To Julie Evans - Keep your hands/tongue off my leather jacket, you little minx. Just 'cos it still has a trace of BS's DNA on it. Oo'er missus. On the other hand, Jules, if you happen to know of any mad scientists working on clones, let me know. We could do a roaring trace on Dec 25th. I'm sure lots of girlies would love to unwrap a Spinerman on Christmas morning. Hubba, hubba.

To Taruka - Does the above qualify me for a tribble? I do hope so 'cos it gets very lonely in here, my pictures of Data won't stick to the padded walls!! They don't make blu-tack like they used to. ;-)

• David Gallagher - Fulham

To Janet - I didn't mean to imply that Gene Roddenberry was not capable of writing the novelisation of ST:TMP - but that I had heard the book had been ghost-written due to time restraints. Thank you for clearing up the fact that Gene Roddenberry did actually write the novel himself - and I am sorry for any offence I may have inadvertently caused. [*Janet - No offence taken - I didn't mean to sound abrupt.*]

Re Generations - how long after All Good Things is Generations set? A couple of things have prompted me to ask this - first of all, there must have been time for the bridge refit. Secondly, as the events of All Good Things didn't actually happen, I assume that Nurse Ogawa has had her baby, and taken any maternity leave she was entitled to - and is back on duty in time for the film!

And finally - more confusion on the book front. Peter David had been frequently billed as the author of the first original Voyager novel - The Escape, even though the novel is actually written by Dean Wesley Smith & Kristine Kathryn Rusch. Titan's new Star Trek Monthly Magazine even had a picture of the book's front cover, crediting its real authors - and still managed to bill it as a Peter David novel... and even in their next issue, after the book had been published, they advertised the book as a competition prize, but still credited it to Peter David. So - where

did the confusion come from; what happened to Peter David's novel; and how come nobody at Titan's Star Trek Monthly office noticed the discrepancy between their words and pictures?

• Chris Tearne - Mirfield

To Stephen Daniels - I won't say Patrick bought the video, but it is in his collection, and I'm glad to say it's a Wesley Crusher one - Journey's End.

And talking about Wesley I must defend his place in Star Trek. For the first few seasons Wesley is the character who reflects us, the viewers, and our craving to be a real part of it all. To begin with all he can do is stand back and watch, yet he wants to be part of it. His only tool is his genius, which we cannot hold against him. And let's be fair, he's only saved the ship a couple of times.

To everybody - Thank you for IDIC. As a psychiatric nurse I meet a lot of people with some quite florid illnesses - I've met Jesus twice, the Anti-Christ several times and Lord Bed-Berry once, yet I find it quite paradoxical when they inform me I must be mad to like Star Trek. But we know we're not!

To people in the locality of Mirfield - fancy a get-together?

And finally - *where is Nog???*

• Pam Baddeley - Farnborough

To Dave Styles - Re your computer problem; you would need to give more details. What have you upgraded to, exactly, and is the memory adequate? What are the errors? I don't know the package so don't know if there are any particular problems with it.

To Jackie Marshall - I don't know about mink and cats, but foxes don't kill for fun; they go into a 'killing frenzy' if faced with a lot of prey animals behaving like prey - in other words, if they get into a hen house, the closed area and panic of the chickens drives the fox to respond in a 'programmed' way - it can't help itself. If the chickens could get out, the frenzy would switch off.

To Edward Woo - As I've said before when people doubted the viability of pro cons here, there are plenty of ordinary members of the public who like Star Trek and would go along. The one and only BBC Dr Who event showed that - masses turned up that the Beeb had not catered for. They're not 'passing fans' or whatever - they're people who would not dream of entering fandom, who would view fans as peculiar but enjoy the programme and see an event like that as something to take the kids along to (the DW event was packed out with families).

To Tracey Saunders - We don't actually descend from apes, we have a *common ancestor*. We went down two different 'roads' if you like. Genetically we have a lot in common but they are not our ancestors. Re Sheila's comment - could the feline ancestor idea about Vulcans stem from the le matya in Yesteryear - as it's one of only two animals we saw on Vulcan, maybe people seized on it? I can't think where else it comes from. Maybe the le matya and Vulcans could have a common ancestor!

To Jean Perrin - Hate to disappoint you, but as most dust is human skin you won't escape it on a space station! I agree about Wesley - although he was too overused in series 1, I didn't mind the way he resisted the takeover in The Game. It seemed more credible. In that, he seemed to be enjoying the Academy. In his final episode he seems petulant and a real brat! I couldn't help wondering if he had one of the medical conditions that cause a total personality change!

To Maggie Symon - I agree that series Spock valued Kirk's friendship and seemed more at ease with his Human half because of it; I just couldn't understand why he went off to Gol. I think McCoy occasionally overstepped the mark, though, like in Bread and Circuses. He really puts the boot into Spock when they're in the cell.

To Sheila - Re your Trill article which I found interesting. The ideas Michel Horvat had - that the hosts were average people - is reversed in the DS9 episode where Jadzia has to have Dax removed at gunpoint. It's stated

that the guy who takes him didn't qualify as a host because he is *not* outstanding. I think it's said somewhere that Jadzia got umpteen qualifications before being selected, and it seems now that only above average individuals are selected. *[Sheila - The article was actually written about two years ago, on the basis of comparing the 'facts' as given in early DS9 with the TNG episode The Host, and was not updated to include later 'information' since I felt that the point about intelligence and education in the host had been made. The differences between Horvat's back story and the way the Trill have been depicted in DS9 just show how ideas get developed and altered in television, and not necessarily by the original writer. I wonder just how much input Horvat provided for Jadzia? I'd guess at none.]*

To Judith Hopkinson - Your research is to be applauded. I'm sure the existence of planets has been deduced in at least one star system though, through gravitational anomalies in the way the star moves, or whatever.

• Vered Gilad - 13 Churchill St, 42221, Netanya, Israel

To continue the subject of captains on landing parties; somehow there's always this creature, race, Q etc, that manages to grab only the senior crew off the ship. What do the junior officers do? They can't be that incompetent that they can't run the ship by themselves, at least for the short period till they reach a starbase. What would have happened to Voyager if all her senior officers were killed and there were no Maquis replacements?

To Sheila Clark - I liked your comments on the Trill. Thinking of the young inexperienced symbiote - maybe when the symbiote is young the host is more dominant, and maybe the host's gain during that period is more physical (something we're not told about) than knowledgeable. Maybe an inexperienced symbiote gets an older host with more experience, one that dies in a short space of time, during which the symbiote gets enough knowledge to satisfy its second host.

Do the Trill hosts have a family name before they are joined with the symbiote? Jadzia wasn't always Jadzia Dax, right?

To Jean Perrin (P37) - Wesley's commitment to Starfleet. When a person is young, he may choose a career and stick to it for a long time, only to find out later that what he thought suited him, didn't. This is quite normal. In Journey's End it was shown that Wesley, by choosing a Starfleet career, was unknowingly trying to follow in his father's footsteps, trying to please everyone who knew his father, and especially his mother. All this time he didn't do what he wanted, only what he thought others wanted of him. It's quite understandable that he becomes rebellious. He was fighting within himself towards awareness of the other mentioned facts.

To Sylvia Benson (P22) - Re not telling how great Voyager is. Although I sympathise with your feelings, I have to disagree. There are many things I read about in IDIC which we don't have here, so maybe I should ask everybody to stop telling us about DS9, Voyager, cons, various books and other ST merchandise. Of course not. It's unfair, but that's life. Don't worry. Soon you'll have Voyager on TV, which is more than I can say for what we'll have.

If I'm already discussing Voyager, well, I'm lucky for a change. There's this one lousy quality cassette of The Caretaker touring Israel these days and I was lucky to have it as my guest for a few days. I loved it, as I knew I would. I read the book before seeing the pilot and this helped my understanding of the Paris/Janeway situation. I also liked the Tuvok/Janeway relationship, a reminder of another Vulcan/Human relationship. Kes's voice surprised me. I didn't expect it to be so deep. Favourites - Paris, B'Elanna and the Doctor.

I'm repeating my plea from N/L 38; does anybody get Sky 1 outside UK? If so, please answer; I do.

Darcy the guide dog is just gorgeous. What a beautiful dog.

• Gul Melset - Cardassian Embassy

To Clare Finkel - Calling an entire race 'shallow and stupid' because of the actions of a few individuals is not justified. If you had contact with us, you would find many Cardassians enjoyable company, with emotions and reactions not totally unlike yours as to family, friendship, hopes and ideals. My Klingon friends here told me that, a few decades ago, they encountered the same preconceptions. To quote their former Chancellor - "We have a long way to go."

To Jennifer Blanchard - We are reptiloid in heritage and appearance, but we are not exotherms. Our level of activity is not reduced in cold weather, and while we may prefer heat, extra layers of clothing are protection enough. As to the idea that we are 'coldblooded in every way', it seems that our appearance counts against us. Why, in fact, are reptiles disliked? We are not inherently evil or treacherous. We are only different, and not so ready to share emotions as are Humans.

As to your contribution about Spock and Dr McCoy, I think teasing shows acceptance, provided it is not hurtful, and it can help in establishing contact. In their case, you can sense the underlying friendship and even concern. Among the members of our own staff - a very mixed one - no-one escapes a fair amount of teasing either. It relieves tension.

To Neil Barrett - Re Syrinx. It is also the highly complex avian equivalent of humanoid vocal cords. In this sense it has been derived from the flute's name because of the quality of bird's voices.

To Nanaki Kaur - Quark's explanation is not meant to offend anyone's intelligence; he was rightly irritated and only called Sisko's attention to the facts as they were. To mention a well-known fact at times makes people really become conscious of it and reconsider their attitude towards others.

To Sheila Clark - I am enclosing an article for you about the Himalayan Orogenesis which may answer your query. Continental collision shifted water and air currents and

chemical erosion drew CO₂ out of the air, this lowering temperatures. Enjoy the article!
[Sheila - Thanks.]

A general question - What is the implication of 'anorak'? I only know it as an article of clothing, not as a designation for people.

• Martin Stahl - Germany

To Jean Perrin (p 37) - I understood that Chief O'Brien changed to DS9 because it induced a promotion. His ensign pip is just a continuity error made in the production of DS9 and the usual 'no one will notice' attitude of the producers. I think it is about time to give him back his lieutenant pip!

To Bill McClure - You are right, ST is science fiction, but Genesis was one of the worst examples of techno (or science) babble I've ever heard in ST. Who are those scientific advisers writing explanations about T-cells and introns into the script but not even knowing that spiders were never our ancestors? It is, science fiction or not, impossible for a human to devolve into a spider because we haven't any spider genes in us. Several hundreds of millions of years ago we and spiders had common ancestors, but those were worm-like creatures, never, never, never spiders!

To David Hall (P 29) - The green thing at the back of Ferengi heads was invented only because the first Ferengi masks (The Last Outpost) didn't cover the whole back of the actors' heads and they had to invent something quickly to cover this. Armin Shimerman's make-up goes down to his neck, so no green flap is necessary.

To Ann Peters (P76) - I found your article about The Outcast very interesting and presenting a different perspective of an episode I consider one of the best.

• Susanne Charlesworth - Kenilworth

Can I answer Tracy Saunders in N/L 40, and her analyses of Spock and Dr McCoy.

To start with, Vulcan and Spock; I have always imagined the pre-logical Vulcan as being one of an almost mediaeval caste-based

society. Ruled by warlords, the religious caste would preach logic as the way to peace. The remnants of the warrior caste would eventually become the Romulans and would settle another world. Surak would be a charismatic preacher whose clear logic would convert those previously subjugated to the warlords. Religion in such a society would therefore be perfectly logical: they would have been delivered by it and so it would not have been 'invented' by Vulcans after the Logic Revolution. I don't really follow the apology to Gene Roddenberry - he was an avowed atheist so the fact that he imbued a race who embraced logic as a way of life with a spiritual philosophy is rather interesting.

As far as the reason for Spock joining Starfleet, it is implicit that it is due to his rejection by Sarek. I really cannot understand this; for Amanda and Sarek to have a child, it cannot have been easy, so they must have *wanted* the child in the first place. Sarek was *married* to a human being, so how could he reject a child with the attributes of the woman he wanted to spend the rest of her life with? It is also not logical for a father to want to control the destiny of his son and then reject him because he has pursued a successful and meaningful career. Mind you, if there wasn't this strand running through CT it wouldn't be half as interesting!

Dr McCoy is not my favourite character. I find it very hard to believe that someone who specialises in psychology would not put his brain in gear before his mouth. His main medication seems also to be the alcoholic variety which just doesn't gel for me. McCoy joined Starfleet to run away from Jocelyn, but he is also portrayed as wanting to be a good father, so again it doesn't make sense, since by running from his ex-wife he is also running from his daughter.

Tracy didn't analyse Kirk, so it made me think a little about him (my favourite character) and his reasons for joining Starfleet. He never had the opportunity to make his father proud of him and his older brother dies in Operation Annihilate. I get the feeling that he is always trying to prove himself. Funny that he always abandons any woman he gets close to (unless he's afraid

she'll die before Next Week!), such as Carol Marcus, and that his mother doesn't seem to be given any importance at all.

The way in which this trio of characters becomes believable is when they interact; the sparring between Spock and McCoy, Kirk's intuition and the caring of each for the others. I find it hard to separate the three. I guess the bottom line is that as far as I am concerned, it makes wonderful stories.

Whilst I am writing, I was amazed to find a photo of Bill Shatner on horseback in my Horse Exchange magazine for May 4 - 17, in an article on Saddlebreds, entitled "Go Gaited" (this refers to the way of going of Saddlebred horses). After seeing Generations, most people will be aware that BS breeds these rather lovely horses, and there is rather a short mention of this fact in my magazine.

• Clare Finkel 54 Stewart Place, Fanwood, NJ, 07023, USA

Thanks to all who responded to my IDIC and other dilemmas.. Perhaps you can instruct me on how to deal with Paramount as well. I've already written to Them and a few actors, and plan to write again upon my return to the States.

Oh, and to that fanzine writer who was threatened by suit, I want to buy a copy of your fanzine. I don't care the title or what it's about!

Special thanks to all of you. You make IDIC IDIC and keep Star Trek dreams alive.. You make me laugh, think, and dream..

• Carol Sterenberg- Hove

I've been watching from the sidelines the continuing debate on the value of reviews of new books and zines. I find reviews very useful in assessing technical books. They can help you avoid (fictional) genres you can't stand, and in deciding whether or not to risk shelling out for a 'professional' book, or indeed a zine; bearing in mind that the reviewer's personal taste in fiction may not coincide with yours.

I think fan fiction and professional fiction

should be treated differently by reviewers. I may not put my case very well (being a fiction writer by temperament, not a clever essayist) and I expect Neil will enjoy tearing it to shreds in the next N/L, but nonetheless I'll attempt to explain why. I'm not suggesting that the purchaser should make concessions for fan fiction, expecting (or tolerating) a lower standard than from professional writers. On the contrary (with a few honourable exceptions); fan fiction generally offers much better characterisation and more interesting stories. However, to my mind, a review is not the place for criticism of a fanwriter's fiction, no matter how objective or constructive it is intended to be. Feedback can be offered in private if the writer requests it. Although we are paying good money for both amateur and professional fiction, the zine publisher makes no profit at all, and the fanwriter's sole 'reward' is the appearance of his or her story in print. If I find fault with a fanwritten story I would rather make no comment than risk tarnishing the gilt on the gingerbread of someone who has put a lot of effort into their work (I often notice other reviewers completely ignoring tales in zines they are reviewing, presumably for this very reason). On the other hand, I think any comment on a professional novel is legitimate, since professional writers get paid whatever the reviews are like (and probably don't give a toss). I wonder if some of these writers have ever seen an episode of Trek, and am rapidly coming to the conclusion that their publishers cynically print their books because, 'It's Trek and the fans will buy anything'.

To Jay Stevenson (p42) - You ask 'what does Carol think of all this, I wonder?' Well, naturally I am not indifferent to Neil's review of my story, but those of us who not only write, but dare to submit our work to the critical eyes of others, have to accept that you can't please all the people all the time, or just give up. One person's dissatisfaction with my story is not the end of my world, and hasn't dissuaded me from writing more stories. As you have kindly pointed out, it was not the quality of my writing that was criticised, but the originality of the plot. I am evidently not as well read in SF as Neil is, since the plot

idea seemed totally original to me; I wouldn't have bothered writing the story otherwise. At least the synopsis doesn't start, "Two warring factions..." As to the quality of the writing, the fact that IDIC published it reassures me on that point. Notwithstanding Neil's comments, I still think it's a good piece but then I'm biased!

• Dave Rogers - Preston

It still amazes me how some people still go around saying one series is better than another. I am myself a Classic fan, this does not mean I do not acknowledge TNG & DS9, I take each on its own merits. When I first heard that Paramount was planning to make TNG, my initial thoughts were, 'Oh no, this can only lead to disaster', but I was proved wrong on that count.

After the first season my opinion was that although it was not as good as Classic, it was watchable. Then in the second season they brought Diana Muldaur in to replace Gates McFadden, big mistake. Some good episodes did however come out of the second season, for example 'The Measure Of A Man'.

From the third season onward, success. The magic was there again. I will never, however, understand why Paramount in their infinite wisdom cancelled the series after the seventh season. Then came DS9

The less said about the first season the better. Sparks of improvement could be seen in the second season, but still missing that certain something. In the third season, though, it starts to get interesting; the appearance of the Defiant makes a welcome change. I have to admit that I now look forward to the next episode.

This brings us on to Voyager, definitely the best pilot episode yet, and from the other Voyager episodes I have seen it already knocks the spots of DS9 & TNG. In many respects, in my humble opinion, it has many similarities to Classic Trek. All this of course is only my opinion. I would like to know what everybody else out there thinks.

• Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent

To Sylvia Benson - You live in London. If you want to see Voyager, why not pop along to Page's?

Re "Smilies": (-) Me: a baldie smile!

Re Generations/Voyager - A lot of people in the last two NLs say they don't like Generations or Voyager (or DS9, come to that) because they are not in line with "Gene Roddenberry's vision". One lady at Sci-Con actively disliked Voyager for this reason, but when I asked what she meant by that, she was unable to explain, and got quite aggressive. Can anyone explain to me exactly why the newest Treks are not in line with what Mr Roddenberry wanted.

Finally to Jason Nelmes - I would respectfully point out that it is the "more enthusiastic and visible fans" who do much to keep Star Trek fandom active (through the running of fan clubs such as IDIC, organising conventions, charity events, social events, etc etc). Because so many fans are reticent, the media can only find the "more enthusiastic and visible" Trekkers, and newspapers like pictures of people dressed up. If you find this offensive, then I am truly sorry. When I see people dressed up in Star Trek Uniforms, they usually seem to be having fun. I see nothing embarrassing or distasteful about that, and personally find it good fun. Why not try joining in? (Get in touch; I'll lend you a uniform and we can go to Page's!)

• Gary Heron, 98 Mungahed Rd, Falkirk, Central Region FK2 7JG

I have only seen a few episodes of ST-VOY but so far I have liked it and I think it has a lot of potential. I do think that it has shown up one of the main faults of DS9. With the original series and with TNG we watched the characters while they carried out their mission to explore the Galaxy. In ST-VOY we see these new characters as they search for a way back home; this may not be such a noble objective as exploration but it does provide a driving force for the series.

With DS9 they are not going anywhere and with the Jem'hadar putting the Gamma quadrant out of bounds they don't really

have any purpose in being there. I do like the characters in DS9 and there have been some very good episodes but I think the series lacks an overall driving force to help give some direction to the episodes. The crew of DS9 seem doomed to spend their time reacting to things that other people do rather than going out and doing something themselves.

My overall feeling about Generations is a sense of a wasted opportunity. Visually the film was stunning with fabulous special effects. I thought overall the acting was very good with Patrick Stewart's performance excellent as ever.

Where the film was spoiled was in the script. In Star Trek VI we saw the original crew say goodbye but the writers decided to bring back three of them with the sole purpose of killing Kirk. So determined were they to kill him that they invented the nexus to drag him 80 years into the future so that he could sacrifice himself.

As a fan of the original series I objected to such a use of the original crew. As a fan of TNG I objected to the TNG crew not being given the chance to make their first film on their own; after seven years of the television series they had proved that they didn't need anyone else's help to make a success of it.

There have of course been characters from the original series who have managed to appear in TNG: Spock and Sarek by courtesy of their Vulcan lifespans, McCoy by his medical skill and stubbornness, Scotty by his engineering skill and ingenuity, but Kirk is dragged kicking and screaming into the 24th Century by a group of writers bent on his destruction.

Kirk's death is not the only one we see, in fact the whole film is little short of a massacre with the following characters being disposed of: Kirk (twice) Picard's brother, Picard's nephew, the Enterprise-D and the Duras sister. Could the writers not have found a way to deal with their theme of human mortality with a little less of the practical demonstration?

I do not want the Star Trek universe to become a fairy-tale land where no one ever dies and everybody lives happily ever after but in my opinion the writers went completely over the top. It seems that finding themselves free from the restraints and pressures of writing for the television series the writers were intoxicated by their freedom and pushed the limits further than was wise.

There were many plot problems and contradictions in the film (not the least Scotty being aware of Kirk's death) but it was the way characters were treated that I most objected to; for example I hated the view they presented of Guinan as a recovering Nexus addict.

I should point out that there were many things in the film I did like: Worf's promotion, Data's emotions, the launching of the Enterprise-B and the sheer beauty of some of the images.

Personally I am treating Generations like a novel; those parts that I like I will fit into my own view of the Star Trek universe, the others I will not. I was not moved by Kirk's death scene because I didn't believe it, it certainly didn't happen in my Star Trek universe. In short, Kirk Lives!

• John Stubley - Boston, Lincs
Greetings all!

To Maggie Symon (P39) - I seem to have got myself muddled up here. I assumed T'Pol was a priestess. Never mind. I'm afraid I'm going to have to disagree with you (still?). I don't see much problem with Vulcans having a 'religion'. The way Gene describes Spock's seventh sense of 'one' makes it seem as if those that follow the religious traditions don't worship a God as such. Since they had the 7th sense, they saw it as natural that the universe was some sort of whole entity. I think the Sybok bit is ridiculous however, and I'm not sure about Katra.

What I'm trying to say (and failing miserably!) is that we all pick and choose what we think Vulcans do or do not believe. Since Vulcans are inherently alien to us I

suppose there is no definitive answer, unless we start debating what is 'official Trek' - a subject I loathe. As to the Vulcan Postbag - no thanks! As much as I like Vulcans, I still like to read what other people are talking about.....

To Gratienné Vanderkhov (P81) - I agree entirely with the sentiments of your article. I wish there were more like-minded people. I have a problem with TNG conventions, or 'old timer' conventions and other such divisive events. Sure, we all have our own likes and dislikes, our favourites and 'least favourites' but that's what makes the world go round! What I say is have a damn good argument about it, agree to disagree and then talk about something else. Ain't IDIC great (in both senses)!!!

• Neil J Barrett - Caught in the Tholian Web (or M25 as some people call it...)

To David Gallagher (40/24). What happened with the 'Lost Years' saga? Good question. Apparently it started to founder from the first book; although Pocket Books were keen on the idea, Gene indicated that he didn't want this period of Trek history to be written and Richard Arnold put in his two cents worth as well. However, Jeanne Dillard went ahead and produced her opening novel. Brad Fergusson delivered 'A Flag Full of Stars' considerably later than planned and it was not acceptable to editor Kevin Ryan. It was rewritten a number of times by the author and then handed over to Dillard for another pass; the published version departed so much from the original (which had a rather downbeat ending) that Fergusson now disowns it. The series died there with 'The War Virus' by Irene Kress being cancelled even though it had already been written. I have no information on its resurrection and can only cynically presume that it was a cheap leap on the Trek bandwagon to keep the tills ringing.

To Waltraud Zucha-Glass (40/27). Sorry, but I don't know any more about John M Ford than is in the Titan editions of his 2 novels. I'd like to see more of his work sometime (and I'd love to see the stage version) but maybe he moved on to other things. Authors do sometimes do this; A C

Crispin declared at the end of 'Sarek' that she didn't plan to write any more Trek.

To Jean Perrin (40/37). If Spock's whole (emphasised) life was dedicated to science then surely he would have gone to the Vulcan Science Academy as his father planned. Even if he still joined Starfleet he would not have taken the command training necessary to be a First Officer and he would not have taken command of the Enterprise as a training vessel. Is it logical to devote one's whole life to one career? Sarek would disagree - he was a scientist before he became a diplomat and thus Spock is following his lead. I would be more inclined to suggest that Spock is devoting his energies to knowledge and exploration or possibly to the spirit of IDIC, which does not preclude his trip to Romulus or the possibility of bringing the two cultures together again.

To David Raper & Vicky Roberts (39/49) & Rory Smith (38/38). Maybe Odan's transporterphobia is caused by his belief that it will separate him from his host. Although I do recall some reference to the transporter being able to filter out harmful bacteria brought up from a planet or otherwise decontaminate the landing party it would be a bit extreme for the system to be programmed to extract other beings within the body. That would be very unpleasant for any pregnant transportees who were as yet unaware of their condition.

To Clare Finkel (40/22). My favourite is >|8-; the Gowron smiley.

• Penny Robinson
COMPUSERVE 100630,352

This is my first e-mail sending ever. (It's nice to be a virgin again.) If it were possible I would have OD'd on IDIC last month. Peter Carmody: your Enterprise piece was so true. John Stevens: loved the Klingon Guide to Starfleet. Vered Gilad: I hope you're right about the 'new' Data. He could be fascinating, but will they write him right? Matthew Deegan: your comments on DS9 were spot on. Third season is going very nicely indeed. Stellar moment from "Civil Defences": the swaggering Gul Dukat finding he is unable to beam off Terek Nor. I

shrieked with joy!

So, belatedly, I'll enter the lists on Generations with a few trivial comments. Major gripe: why was it so gloomy on the Enterprise? (Doesn't Starfleet have to follow any Health & Safety at Work regulations?) Prizewinning cinematographer notwithstanding, it does seem kinda silly, in a visual medium, to make it impossible to see what is happening half the time. Nomination for the funniest line in the film has to be "Brace for impact!" Brace for impact? IN A STARSHIP??? Surely - oh, never mind. Overall, I enjoyed Generations very much, but let's hope the next film is a "team show".

Maureen Norton: further to spellcheckers, have you tried a grammar checker? Mine objected strenuously to "The Measure of a Man", as being too gender specific. It suggested "person" ("The Measure of a Person" sounds like Garek's customer files) and "human being" (inaccurate) instead. My poor Macintosh - forced to be PC.

Question: why didn't Data have golden eyes all through Parallels?

• Annette Bohm - Germany

To Gillian Bent - Hi, how's life?

To Bill McClure - I don't think the conflicts between the characters in DS9 are so unnecessary. Isn't it a bit unrealistic to expect that some day there won't be any conflicts any more? And then, wouldn't it be "against Gene's vision", as well, to watch Trek to escape from the real world and its problems?

To Jean Perrin - That's just one of the miracles of our universe, but *dust gets everywhere!*

To Jackie Marshall - In fact, there are *two* Bashir postcards, but they look very much the same.

To Sylvia Benson - About Voyager - I know what you mean, I just wonder how long it will take until that series comes to my corner of the universe...

• Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent

I have been meaning to ask for some time - what advantages do the honorary members have of being a member in IDIC? For example, do they also get newsletters? If so, do you get any reaction from them? *[Sheila - The newsletters are sent to the honorary members - whether they all actually get them is another matter; some are sent via Paramount UK and we have no way of knowing if they are in fact forwarded - and of course the TNG actors are no longer working at Paramount every day though they may go in occasionally to collect mail. We've had one or two responses from some of them in the form of information, but we make it clear to them that we do not expect them to take an active role in the club.]*

Some of my friends were at a convention in Germany where Rene Auberjonois and Richard Arnold were guests. There, fans were told that it was decided to kill Vedek Bareil off because the "chemistry" between Kira and Bareil was not right, and therefore Philip Anglim was not even too sad that his character died. This is a very lame excuse! I personally think the "chemistry" between Kira and Bareil was wonderful. Even if Nana Visitor and Philip Anglim didn't like each other much, they hid it very well indeed! It was also said that the reason for Bareil's death is not to bring Kira and Odo together. Well, my friend in the USA heard rumours that Kira will have a new lover in the next season, a Bajoran freedom fighter. I suspect that the true reason for Bareil's death might be something completely different, a reason people don't like to talk about, like money or arguments with producers.

• Marcia Stanislawski - Israel

Hello, everyone! This is my first IDIC issue as a member, and already I can't seem to keep my pen from writing - it almost seems to have a life of its own. For some time now I've been dreaming of writing to the Postbag (I think it's the best part of the newsletter) and thanks to my friend Vered Gilad letting me share her membership, my dream's come true. You're a real fairy godmother, Vered - or better yet, you're a true friend. *Thanks!*

To whoever said there's no humour in TNG - how exactly do you define humour? There are all kinds of humour, and in TNG it is sometimes very subtle, but it's there nonetheless. I've always had great laughs with TNG!

To Matthew Deegan - What's so surprising about similar names in ST? In real life there are lots of people who have similar names, and they're not necessarily related.

To Tracy Saunders - Re gays - I find that many people, even though they're not prejudiced against other groups, are still homophobes. I have no idea why - I think that we are all the same, regardless of colour, gender or sexual preference, and that's what I am teaching my daughter, too.

Has anyone noticed that in all four ST series, all the pilots feature powerful entities? Is this a bad case of the hiccups, of what?

To Bill McClure - So you watch ST to escape from the real world? Well, I don't know, maybe the ST episodes I've watched are not the same you've watched (maybe I'm living in a parallel quantum universe and am not aware of it), but I've always been under the impression that ST (not only DS9) often deals with problems we have in the real world, making us, the fans, think about them and hopefully even act on them. ST is not there to make us forget the real world; on the contrary - it reminds us that we are far from being perfect and have to deal with all the mistakes we've made (and are still making), and *not* run away from them. If you want to escape, try watching The Bold and the Beautiful - it works for me! Every time it's on the air I feel like running - at least from the vicinity of the TV set.

To Alon Kirsch - A very big MOO for you.

Until next N/L, take care everyone!

• Damian Griffiths - Watford.

To Nigel Nixon (N/L 40) - According to one book I read, the Enterprise-D populace is made up of:

185 Officer Crew.

575 Enlisted Crew.

252 Civilians (Families).

Giving a Grand Total of 1012 people (with the capacity to hold up to 5000 extra in emergencies).

To Kerry McGuire (N/L 39 re. Communciators) - I've a related problem. All to often you hear Riker (or Kirk, etc) signalling to beam up X number of people. Fair enough when it's just the landing party returning, but often the people who beam down aren't the same people who beam up, and when they are all standing next to other people who are NOT beaming up, how is the Transporter operator supposed to know who to beam up!!

Finally, I think the notion that Data can't use contractions is a bit stupid. After all, he can speak thousands of languages, so why can't he just say 'CAN' followed by the sound 'TER' (for Can't), and so on?

• Stephen Shaw - Stockport

SOL3 - very much enjoyed despite the loss of Friday's video programs! Very relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere with the whole hotel full of Trekkers.

Additional to the main reports, some items that may have been missed by our main reporters...

Classic Trek video room was usually not very full, but The Trouble With Tribbles had the room quite full.... Memo to future organisers - popular classic Trek can still fill a room!

The video rooms were by no means full for much of the time with half of TNG video space generally locked out of use. Perhaps too much that has been screened by the BBC and not enough that is not so easily seen?

LOVED the guests. My son has a long haired tribble, who was VERY at home doubling as a hair piece for Eric Menyuk. During the course of the con Tribble senior was joined by a tribble companion, and one guest actually managed to video that rare event, Tribble mating. Yes we now have a baby tribble at home as well.... (Hi

Taruka..... always room for one more...)

Did anyone else think Eric was just a wee bit akin to Jasper Carrott? Quite an English sense of humour and a great stand up comic.

Dwight Schulz was a very warm and lovable person (so was Harry Harrison.)

IDIC- Eric did not know what IDIC was and one of the dealers, selling a card with the IDIC symbol on, also asked me what it was. Opportunity for education...

I also liked the IDIC element of all those OTHER appreciation societies being represented, whether it was the stall selling telephone wipes (spot the tv program there SF fans!) or the handbills for the Tony Hancock Appreciation Society. And did you see that beautiful friendly Dragon? His owner won the non Trek fancy dress as Kosh (which I didn't see as I missed the announcement for the photocall!)

Stewards - did you notice a musty smell in the stewards' room at SOL3 - now it can be told. Not only were the video rooms locked out of use on Friday - so was the stewards' room - with the water boiler switched on FULL. The room ended up as VERY VERY full of steam, and the carpet and curtains drenched.

Voyager was shown at unfriendly hours at Sol 3 so I only managed two eps, not too bad and very promising. From the publicity I thought I might dislike Kes, who looked like a '60s blonde bimbo (sorry gals, I know the 60's blondes included some very deep people, really... I was there...) but Kes comes over in the two eps I watched as a very serious very intelligent sort of character, so that looks interesting.

The character that did not convince me (difficult in two eps I know) was Kes's "boyfriend" with the odd haircut (if I don't remember names it is always a sign...). How much inter species coupling are we going to get, Mr Berman?

To Baerbel... This male disliked Vedek Bareil due to the character being a

manipulative ghost, all power and no humanity (Bajoranity???). I found the character unlikely, quite regardless of ANY interaction with the other characters! According to Space Time Continuum Phillip Anglim (you know, Vedek Bareil!) left the show at the actors request as he felt there was no chemistry with Kira OR the show. THAT could be why we males (not actually lusting after the actor) failed to appreciate his lacklustre performance?

To Bill McClure....DS9 may be in a border area right after a war, but all those hostile folk cooped up together would not last a week! They would learn to get along a LOT better than they seem to, or forget it. Unlike B5, DS9 isn't THAT big a place!

This old time Trekker now has at last a PC and is amazed at how much Trek computer material there is - humongous number of variants of the ancient game of Trek, lots of pics and sound files, text and databases (whole fan novels even) and even menu systems in the Trek style. Wow!!!

Voyager...Kate Mulgrew... with apologies to any members with Spirit guides, but what did you really think of the good Captain immediately visualising her Spirit Guide - just like that - I am afraid the good Captain may be just a trifle TOO open to suggestion to form a reliable leader? Chacotay may be just that little bit too spiritual (hmm... another reason Vedek Bareil was unlikely???) and I really do hope that Voyager moves away from the mysticism DS9 has been so capable of. And on Voyager - if energy is so low the Captain cannot replicate a cup of coffee, how come we have a fully operative holodeck going full blast? With crew members partaking of some strange holo-brew that they feel and presumably taste but disappears when they leave the holodeck! Ha.:)

To old time art lovers - Helen McCarthy is alive and well and married to a professional graphic designer. Helen drew a celebrated nude Spock (amongst other things), but is presently editor of a monthly magazine ANIME UK.

To Ann Peters- re The Outcast. THATS IT! That is why I disliked it so, you have the nail firmly by the horns there (???). Absolutely. A cop out. (As usual).

• Paul Taylor, Sat 50 feet in the air

Boy isn't it chilly on these cart wheels!

Nice to know that so many people enjoyed the alternative saucer landings; my elder sister had breathing problems after I started on them.

To Mike Hazlewood, re OSTFCUK, I see what you mean. Why can't they get a better name than that? It's very original, isn't it?

To A. Dickie, re Kirk is not dead, yes I know. Judith and I had this conversation as we left the cinema after seeing it.

To Terrorista Boliviana, re Tribbles. How worse do my jokes have to get for me to get one? How about the Avenger Penguins spoof:
Space, there's quite a lot of space.
These are the voyages of the starship Innertube,
Its 25 minute mission to explore a strange new space station,
To seek out lowlifes and uncivil mutations,
To boldly go where no penguin has gone before.

• Judith Taylor - live from the thirteenth floor of the Hitchhiker's guide (to anyone literary, it's from Mostly Harmless)

Well, yes I'm back again after surviving the con of a thousand boring nights. Yes, to anyone who went, I mean SOL 3, the convention that even my mother thought was a disaster and she was only there to pick me up. Talk about "Don't Panic", well at least I did it again, both Dwight and Eric gave generously to the Guide Dog collection box. And to the many members of the great Lift Notice Sabotage Team, whose faces I never saw, yes I confess, I was one of them, I got the lift maximum up to 711658, not bad for a mere mortal.

How about this for the ending to the Voyager series, Suddenly there's a flash and a figure appears on the bridge in front of

Janeway and Chakotay. He turns, to reveal Yes..... it's WESLEY!!!!!!?????!!!!. The Traveller has taught him how to cover great distances just by thinking, and he's here to save the Day. Agai.

To, Sheila and the gang. Why is it I only have half my letter published, even if I cut it to within the maximum words, when other people get two to three columns for their letter? I do realise you have to edit to get it all in but is everything I write really that bad? *[Ed: If space is tight purely personal messages tend to be the first to go. With long letters, we try to leave new and original points but sometimes even some of that has to go. Some letters start out several pages long.]*

To Gul Melset please don't encourage my younger bro., he gets so bad we can never hear the end of the film. You should hear his alternate Enterprise burning up as it enters the Genesis atmosphere.

To Neil Barrett, Great to see you at SOL 3, sorry about the rebuff at the beginning but I had a busy day; by the way Tribble Quadrotitcale is a bit upset about the nick name.

Well I'll end my letter with one of the clean jokes I learned at SOL 3.

How many Trekkers does it take to change a light bulb?

Ten, one to change the light bulb and the other nine to say they preferred the original.

• Neil Safi, Feeling Swiss-Cheesed, December 3, 1971

Can I first say a big hello to anyone I met at SOL III. You might have seen me dressed as the white rabbit from Shore Leave; Admiral Calaviccio from Quantum Leap (I was not from the Love Boat!); and the Klingon Musketeer.

Taruka the Terror(ist) - It was nice to meet you at Sol! Re the great apple pip debate. After asking Richard Arnold about Kaferian apples, he proposed that they are very similar to bananas. I find this theory lacking however - have you ever heard of

anyone slipping on a Kaferian apple skin? (Unless of course Richard is referring to the Bolian banana). I propose that the main form of reproduction is via a large underground tube system, eradicating the need for pips/seeds/pods/spuds etc. It is true that the Kaferians are insectoid; this does not mean however that ALL plants on the homeworld must produce pollen and nectar. The Kaferian planet surely has some other form of life (mammalian or reptilian possibly) who would feed off the apples - in fact the Kaferians might have bred them especially for pets/livestock. No doubt hungry Starship Captains would find the fruit just as refreshing.

Judith Taylor - Nice to meet you also! Thank you for asking about our battenburg (you did say "battenburg" didn't you?) The cake is afoot! It's probably decomposing somewhere in Leicester, de-evolving into a bread & butter pudding. I hope Mike doesn't lose the packet of Hob-Nobs we are saving for Wolf 359 later this year.

To Michael Sadler - You were pipped at the post. I will turnover a new leaf, and accept your apple-ogies. Here is another fruit question for you - if Nana Visitor has got/gains a Bachelor degree will she become BA Nana Visitor? I know how much you like experimenting with apples but whatever you do, do not mix pips and anti-pips - the result is a core breach. *[Ed: Apples - Kaferian and otherwise - are now now out of season.]*

• D Thorne - Cambridge

In answer to a few points in last issue.

To Sheila Clark - Re Federation/Cardassian war - It did just seem to appear out of nowhere - you don't just think for DS9/Voy, do you? As to its length, the only time this was referred to was in The Wounded, when Picard mentioned running from a Cardassian warship when he was Captain of the USS Stargazer. It also probably ended before TNG started, hence no flagship involvement.

To Jackie Marshall - Re Bashir - I do know of another Bashir fan (my mum), but neither of us has seen any Bashir merchandise. Keep

looking, you never know!

• Sara Hall - Warley

To Steve Farmer (P 34/5) - I would like to say thank you for giving an address for Lee Rogers, BBC Viewer and Listener Correspondence. I did write to Mr Rogers - I had a reason. I am deaf. Sky One could not produce subtitles on any programme. I had a letter from Mr Rogers - good news! DS9 will come on BBC2 at the end of the year, but no dates yet. Full details will appear in future issues of Radio Times. Two weeks ago, I noticed on teletext - Sky One will provide subtitles on July 3rd.

To anyone - Last May I wrote to Majel Barrett Roddenberry and LeVar Burton, making some suggestions. A month later I received a lovely letter from Majel -

"I couldn't agree with you more! Although Star Trek was innovative in its treatment of characters with disabilities and impairments, we still have a long way to go.

"Unfortunately, I have little say in what actually ends up on your television screen. Paramount produces the series, not I. However, I might suggest that if you and your friends write enough letters explaining your point of view to the studio, you might see results."

I really want your help, whether you have a disability or not! Please write to the studio. It's time for Star Trek to change!

Watch out for the price in WHS - I got a copy of Star Trek Creator for a fiver, not £15.99!

• Lindsay Wright - Southport

To Bill McClure - Re your negative comments re Data's emotion chip. Personally, I can't wait to see where Data will lead us now; for me the core of his personality was his search for humanity. Just because he now has the chip doesn't make him human After all, Brent himself wanted Data to keep it, and he *is* Data! :-)

To Alon Kirsch - Hi! Hope you get to make use of the letters.

And just before I go - *How do you get people to take to you at cons?* Perhaps I should walk up to as many people as possible and say, "Hi, I'm Lindsay, are you in the IDIC?"; "Hi, I'm Lindsay, are you in the BSC?"; offer to buy everyone a drink; wear a notice round my neck saying, "Talk to me!"; have flyers printed introducing myself to go in the welcome programme?

If anyone has any ideas will they please pass them on to this poor shy person wanting to join in.

• Edward Woo - my mind's blank!

To Sheila Clark - Does wearing the Bajoran ear-ring on either the left or right ear have a significance or could it be a matter of taste, comfort or belief depending on which part of Bajor you reside in?

To Baerbel Schmidt - Like you, I am sorry to see the death of Vedek Bareil, as he was an excellent character and foil for Kira. From Richard Arnold's talk at Sol III, it seems Philip Anglim felt the role was not significant enough to continue, and he decided to give up the role voluntarily, and so Vedek Bareil had to die (or something).

To Dave Styles - In Generations the dropping of the teddy bear by the girl as the saucer was ready to separate, to me is a cheap emotion shot.

To Bill McClure - Re the Tarchannen III story - I am not saying to hand over innocent people to be altered, just to leave the species to procreate as in the story itself, hence no warning buoys to warn off other ships, as we did not investigate the species of even try to communicate with them.

To Nigel Nixon - Don't be too quick to judge Kate Mulgrew's performance in Mrs Columbo as an example of it in Voyager. She is excellent as Kathryn Janeway.

To Raymond Spencer - Bad assumption that most of us have been buying the official Star Trek monthly magazine, as it is poor, with a rehash of a comic strip on ST. The news and info is dated and they can only print certain things due to their license. I buy

the US Starlogs, which I think are far superior.

To Jackie Marshall - I like Julian Bashir as a character, not because he is cute but because he is only just developing through his experience as a Starfleet doctor, and seeing life with the experience of O'Brien to keep him on course.

To Anne Larivere - I was talking to Veronique about the lack of ST in France. Perhaps you could tell us about it in an IDIC article so that British viewers can realise how much more fortunate they are.

• Rosalyn D Holland - Solihull

To anyone living in the Solihull area - I have found a good Star Trek T-shirt source - Unit 45 at the Indoor Market, off Solihull High Street. I bought a Classic Trek shirt for £8.99 from the stall to the left, about halfway back, as you go in. There was a good selection of Classic, TNG and DS9 from £8.99 to £12.

Further to the Generations Data comments made by several members. Sorry, but Data looks a complete fool in this film. I found him really embarrassing, especially since I had my second viewing with a non-Trek friend who thought this was Data's 'normal' behaviour. It was only Brent's fine acting that saved the day. Sorry to say the character of Data has been spoiled for me. Recent reports in the USA Official Fan Club Magazine say the next film will feature the Borg. I hope so - providing they are portrayed as 'mad, bad and dangerous', as in Best of Both Worlds, and not soft like Hugh.

Congratulations to the lady I heard about at Sol III who raised a huge sum of money for the IDIC Guide Dog Fund by a sponsored slim - so much that I understand 'we' now have enough for another dog. This lady is due to have an operation, hence the need to lose weight. May I wish her all the very best. *[Sheila - See Guide Dog info for details on the new dog - and we certainly second Rosalyn's best wishes.]*

I managed to see 6 episodes of Voyager at Sol III, and I like it. I was rather surprised to

read bad reports of it in a new magazine called Dreamwatch ('new' on news stands, but has been around on subscription for some years). The main complaint was "old storylines" (been there, seen it all before). However, I think Voyager has already shown more promise than DS9, which I have tried hard to like but have to say is a little boring. The recent episode on Sky (Fascination) goes down in history for me with Spock's Brain and Shades of Grey. My only gripe with Voyager is Kate M's 'habit' of walking toward the camera, and planting her hands on her hips with an air of firm determination. Her answer to the Picard Manoeuvre?

Has anyone out there sent money to a firm called Worldclass Entertainment at 4 Whitfield St, London? I sent them £8.64 early in May for a Star Trek 'History' (of) video, one of 8 on offer. As I write this, it's now June 26th and I am still waiting for the goods. I just got through writing to them so perhaps by the time you read this all will be well. However, if anyone has had any dealings with them, I would be glad to hear from you.

• **Brenda Allan - Canada**

Hello, all in IDIC land! After a long absence, I am back in these hallowed pages. I've been very busy of late because... I bought a house! I've become domesticated! I can now watch reruns of Star Trek without fighting for the TV!

To Baerbel Schmidt (P16) - Re Heart of Stone. Odo and Kira *do* confess their love for each other, but the circumstances of the episode are such that Kira has no memory of this. To say more would give away the ending.

To Sylvia Benson - I must apologise for my next comment. How do I like Voyager? I *love* it! Already the characters are endearing themselves to me. Janeway, Tuvok, Kes, Kim, even Neelix and Chakotay. (What is his first name? I haven't heard it yet.) I *do not* like Tom Paris. He just rubs me the wrong way. Maybe his character will change, but for now...

The holographic doctor still has no name. He only mentioned Dr Zimmerman as one

who programmed him. He did choose a name before his mission in Heroes and Demons, but the name conjured up too many painful memories, so he is still without a name.

Also I read in a magazine that Janeway left behind a husband - I would be more tempted to say she left her lover behind as revealed in her last communication asking him to go to *her* house and pick up her dog.

Hey - I thought of a way for our Voyager crew to get home: after many years of travelling, they come across that Barzan wormhole (remember, the unstable one from The Price?) What do you all think?

To Nigel Nixon - P 21 - I'm sure that the 1000 people on board the Enterprise would include crew and family. In Remember Me, when Beverly asked how many people were on board, the answer was 1011 including her friend Dr Quaiac.

To Claire Finkel - P 23 - Re computer smilies - I would say that :8-O looks like someone with glasses yawning! This - :-P - is sticking your tongue out. Can you guess this one? :-PPPP x(= tired and cross-eyed. :+) = clown.

To Raymond Spencer - P 24 - Re actors/actresses from other shows - I spotted Teri Hatcher (Lois of Lois and Clark) playing a transporter operator who 'socialised' with Okona in The Outrageous Okona; also Rosalind Allen (listed as Rosalind Ingledew in the ST. Encyclopedia, who plays the telepathic doctor on seaQuest) played Yanar, the daughter of Debin from Altac in the same episode. Tricia O'Neil who played Captain Rachel Garrett of the Enterprise-C also played the Klingon scientist Kurak in Suspicion. Incidentally, William O Campbell who played Okona was also the star of The Rocketeer! Any others?

To Edward Woo - P 32 - Here's a possible reason why Scotty didn't know JTK was dead:

Scotty was headed to the retirement colony after ST:VI but *before* the events in Generations. Kirk was still alive and with the

Enterprise. Scotty had been stuck in the transporter buffer for 75 years when our D crew found him, but he couldn't know how much time had actually passed. When our D crew sent Scotty off in a shuttlecraft he had many adventures before getting caught in a temporal distortion of some kind which sent him back 75 years, maybe not precisely to the moment he left but close enough. He realised that he was not finished with Starfleet and joins Kirk & Co for a few more adventures. Then we have the launching of the Enterprise-B. Whew! What do you think? Hey, maybe this is the stuff zines are made of!

• Jay Stevensen - Essex

To Libby Williams (P46) - Mr Nimoy *not* a graceful mover? *Not a graceful mover?* How could you pen/type/word process such a comment!? Shields up, indeed! But your power won't last forever. Practise looking over your shoulder, especially on dark lonely nights!

To Lt Cdr K'ehleir tai Koloth (P 27) - I can accept the idea behind the ritual hunt (just) but your comments on cats leads me to suspect there is a Human ancestor improving your Klingon bloodline somewhere. You show a strong tendency to indulge in one of our failings - anthropomorphism. Earth animals - unlike Humans - can't be 'cruel' or 'proud'. Moggies 'playing' (with their prey, or just with a bit of string) are really practising, in case The Great Tin Opener in the Sky one day fails to work. But never mind, if Klingons in general can appreciate that cats are 'noble and magnificent' (even for all the wrong reasons) maybe one day you'll all end up as nice as Worf!

To Irena Hradecka (P26) and Anne Larivire (P 30) - I'm getting severe guilt feelings over having written That Article! I should have put a whopping great :-> in front of the title. I love the Vulcans. Honest! I do, I do!

To Mike Hazlewood (P41) - I didn't translate those initials into a naughty word before, but I sure will now! :-)

means 'My glasses have slipped because you have just kicked me in a painful place'.

To Neil J Barrett (P19) - Yes, write that (fan fiction) article.

To anyone - what is this fascinating Bohemian Rhapsody video all about? *[Sheila - The compiler took scenes from TNG that fitted the words of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody perfectly and made a music video out of them. Over the years I've seen a number of these videos compiled by fans, some of them very good, but in my opinion this is far and away the best, both for quality of 'splicing' the shots together and for the selection of these shots.]*

• Jenny Turner - Birmingham

Well, it's finally happened. I *never* thought that I would ever say it, but I'm losing interest in Star Trek!

I remember my first con in 1983 at the Grand. I couldn't believe the sales room! I bought lots of things, even paid £50 for a zine in the auction. My family thought I was a nutter, but on I went, going to many cons and meeting the stars of the show, having fun dressing up and having Klingon hunts, etc, going to watch videos (the bloopers were hilarious).

Suddenly I realised I wasn't reading my zines so much any more, and only having a small room, most of my Star Trek stuff was packed away. I thought for some time (a whole week) then decided I would sell my Trek stuff apart from my ordinary zines (all 30 of them!) and 4 films plus some books.

Next Gen was and is okay - I still watch it on TV occasionally, but to me it's not the same as the original. I have no interest in DS9 whatsoever, and I haven't seen Voyager yet but I'm not that interested. I will still have the IDIC newsletter as it is full of information, and will still write in to the newsletter occasionally, also keep in touch with pen friends, but that's about it. I've always been lucky going to cons, club meetings and outings over the years.

To Clare Finkel (P22/23) - Clearly :8-0

Anyway, I do hope Star Trek carries on

for many years and that the newcomers enjoy it as much as I have for over 25 years.

• **Ruth Durie - Stirling**

Re professional conventions. I found the Generations con to be more a series of guest talks than a convention. Certainly the dealers' rooms were hopelessly small and overpriced, probably due to the high prices Stargazer was charging for a table.

I also noticed the audience seemed to have a large number of first time con-goers. Perhaps this explains the inconsiderate behaviour in some quarters (taking photos on after actors' requests to stop, silly questions, requests for autographs or 'say hello to...') Generally, Stargazer got away with it because they had enough people to fill both days. I heard that at the recent B5 con with 3 guests there were large gaps in the programme.

Re Voyager. So far I've seen up to Faces and it seems to be getting rather formula, by the main title sequence, somebody has been kidnapped/gone missing and has to be rescued. I've heard of the 'only 6 original plots' theory, but this is absurd.

What is it with all the 'aging' stories? We've had the NG ones (Inner Light, Man of the People, Unnatural Selection) a DS9 one (Distant Voices) and there's supposed to be a season 2 X-files one with both Scully and Mulder aging past 100. Perhaps they're passing the latex masks around...

Re DS9 season 3. This does seem to have been an uneven season, doesn't it? There have been some complete clunkers (Equilibrium, etc) and some excellent episodes - particularly the 2-parter which must have used up their SFX budget for this season. I wonder what changes the new pilot they're making for season 4 will incorporate? Suggestions, anyone?

• **Lee Oatway - Swinton**

IDIC is a great fan club; the 100-page magazine is excellent and the wealth of information available from each issue is fantastic. I feel the membership fee is well worth the money and would even be happy

to pay a little more. I'm very happy being a member of your club.

Now that TNG has finished its run in syndication, I am already deeply missing it. Thank goodness for video releases and TV transmission. While I'm a fan of DS9, it somehow just doesn't feel the same. It's very good and great Star Trek, but I do miss the element of seeking new worlds, new civilisations. While DS9 does have some of this, it doesn't reach out as much as TNG did. I will continue to buy DS9 as I collect all Star Trek, but I eagerly await the release of Voyager, which will certainly fill (if not more) the gaps TNG left behind.

I also look forward to seeing the run of TNG movies but feel that they will need to think of some real good stories to beat the ones seen so far. I wouldn't mind seeing ones including either the Borg (which breed?), Cardassians, Romulans, Ferengi, but not Vulcans as they have been seen a little too much. So have Bajor and Betezed - well, Lwaxana has certainly given us a real insight into their race!

Hello to everyone in IDIC, and let me know what you think of my comments.

• **Karen-Jayne Devan - Hornchurch**

I have thoroughly enjoyed this year's newsletters. I have been a fan of science fiction, primarily Star Trek, for many years but ever since TNG started I have found my appreciation turning into an almost fanatical obsession! Thank you, IDIC, for encouraging and allowing me and my fellow 'cell-mates' this wonderful outlet to share our thoughts and feelings about this fascinating programme and all that it invokes. Long may you continue.

Thank you also for the articles that have recently been printed, along the lines of "we are *not* anoraks"! As I am a mother of three young children, many of my friends simply gasp in horror that a 'sensible' person could actually enjoy, let alone regularly watch, 'that programme'; this has always upset/surprised/isolated me. I can now share these views, of how great ST really is and the meaning behind it (expressed so elegantly by

the authors of the above-mentioned articles) through IDIC.

I would love to 'convert' my sister, who loves Quantum Leap but has not as yet clicked on to ST in any form. Could you, or other members, suggest three episodes, across all forms of ST, that they would hook a novice with. *[Sheila - My suggestions would be - CT, Balance of Terror (it hooked me); TNG, Measure of a Man; DS9, Captive Pursuit; Voyager - I'm not sure. Although I like it, no episode has yet jumped out for me. But ask fifty fans that question and you'll probably get fifty different answers...]*

• Taruka Q - Sweeping up for the Caretaker

Sheila - re Spot's kittens. Besides the tomcat problem, I feel pretty sure Data would have noticed Spot coming into call - they can be pretty noisy! My poor little Jadzia Minbari had to be neutered at a very early age because she's so small and if she came into call Geordi would have squashed her!!! (Neutering doesn't always stop a tomcat.)

Jackie Comben - Nice to see you again. I'd forgotten that dry sense of humour, what a pleasant change.

Edward Woo, collect your tribble at Conundrum. Julie Evans, you got one for the alternative Descent and Neil Barrett was awarded one for the terrible mis-spelling of my name but refused to accept it graciously so I've awarded it to Dave "Buck" Rogers.

Tracy Saunders - Please get in touch. I've another little thingy for you. I'm pleased you liked the talking feather.

Re Katra. Now this I think depends on your view of life, the universe and everything. If, as I believe, the soul is somewhat independent from the body, a life force if you will, then by extension perhaps that is a better definition of Katra. Take that logically (oops!) a bit further with help from STIII and you will see that it is perfectly possible, at least for a Vulcan, for the two to live independently. Didn't Spock "drop off" his Katra into McCoy's mind just before he

fixed the Enterprise's engines?

OK the result was that Bones was driven slightly loopy for a while, but neither of them suffered lasting effects. This would not be possible if the Katra was simply a telepathic extension. I suspect that yes, it would be possible for a Katra to go mad - is the Hall of Ancient Thought claustrophobic??? - but that some way will have been devised to deal with this. After all, the poor Vulcan labourer will be sharing the same space as the greatest thinkers the planet has ever had!

• Henry Gallagher - Newcastle Upon Tyne

SPOILER ALERT. There, that's got everyone's attention, or am I the only one who finds those two words act as a magnet attracting my attention to things I don't want to know, months before I don't really want to know them?:)

To Terry Shuttleworth - pass on my thanks to your colleagues for promptly replacing my faulty copy of the "All Good Things Special Edition."

RE Generations I can understand people being upset by the death of Kirk. I too grew up with Classic Trek. However in Scifi in general and ST in particular death isn't so much an ending, it's more a career move, so if the film STVIII is a failure we all know what the plot of STIX will be! Generations itself was OK but the logical time to leave the Nexus would have been before Dr Soran had killed hundreds of millions of people ie the time of the Enterprise B, but I suppose that wasn't the point of the film. I think if I had children like Picard's in the Nexus I would have preferred to fight a crazed mass murderer too.

Re B5 vs DS9 Does anyone else think the recent episode subplot where they were selling B5 merchandise was a dig at ST. Captain Sheridan even used the phrase "we are not some deep space franchise". DS9 is now so much better in the third series, the Dominion et al should really spice things up.

To Mike Sadler and Neil Safi RE the Kaferian apples debate. Please stop. You

PEAR are making this MANGO mad. You are always RAISON this subject even in the CURRANT N/L. You seem to have such an LEMON entry disagreement I think you should BERRY the hatchet and sign a PEACH treaty, I'm sure we will all be very GRAPE full. Do I really have to put :) ?

• Steve Farmer - 27 Swift, Lakeside, Tamworth, Staffs, B77 2RP

Thanks for printing my letter (in 2 halves) in NL 39. [Ed - Whoops!]

In response to Sheila's comment about you not being able to afford to get photos and illustrations screened for publication. I use a PowerMac computer with a scanner every day, and can format scans to be compatible with PC's, and I'd be glad to do these for free. If you are interested, let me know which formats you can accept scans saved as, and I'll see what I can do. [Janet - Thanks for the offer. We do have a 4" scanner which is how I do the cartoons but I find that colour pictures do not print well unless they are screened. If we feel that we really need to include a photo, like Darcy in the last issue, we get Frank to photocopy it. This is okay for full pages but not for inserts.]

Many people have criticised Generations for seeming like an over-long TV episode. I would have liked it more if it had been, but I don't think it was. The TV series is what we all like, so why change it for the film? After all wasn't The Best of Both Worlds an over long TV episode? And wouldn't that have made a better film? To Richard Hewitt - I agree with you that Jonathon Frakes would be a good choice as director for the next film. He seems to love and respect the series for what it is, and I think he would capture the feel of the show much more successfully than David Carson did. But no one can work miracles without a good plot and script - that's what they really need to concentrate on.

Before I finish can anyone help me with a problem? I have a home PC and recently tried to run the demo of Star Trek-The Next Generation-A Final Unity (snappy title) from a CD coverdisc. All I get is the following

message: Graphics Error: No VESA Driver available (OOOOFFFF) Does this mean I just need a piece of software or a whole new video card? My video card is made by Quadtel and the drivers supplied with it are Trident, but no mention of VESA. :-(Help!

• Stephen Daniels - Edinburgh

I have only seen the pilot of Voyager, but I quite liked what I saw. It was perhaps a little corny at points, but this reminded me of the original series and that can only be a good thing.

Is the sickbay a holodeck? Another thing - if they get home does the series end? If the series ends with them getting home, what will the inevitable movies be about?

To Sylvia Benson (n40 p22) - Cough... splutter... Excuse me Sylvia, but I am still choking on the words you put in my mouth in the last newsletter! You said I had no room for NG at all and that I was determined to hate Generations - what a cheek! My ninety TNG videos are the pride of my flat. and as I was a humble student when I bought them, it was quite a financial commitment to something I supposedly have no time for.

I love TNG and was really looking forward to seeing Generations as everyone around me knew. When I saw the film I felt really let down. I was not the only one, a friend who also loves TNG (and, incidentally, has little time for CT - unlike me) also thought the film "sucked". As for Kirk's death - yawn.

And, finally, to answer your question - if I were heading for a planet in a ship with "no brakes", my reaction would be to head for an escape pod. Funny no-one else thought of this >:-> .

To Richard Hewitt (n40 p31) - I have enjoyed most of the episodes Jonathan Frakes directed, but when it comes to the films I think Leonard Nimoy is great at direction and especially writing.

Spleen vented - see you next time.

• Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow

Has everyone seen the comic strip Star Trek: The Peanuts Gang? It appeared in the March issue of Starlog Magazine. Steve Wilson likened the TNG crew to Greek gods, but I thought the analogy to Snoopy & Co was even better. This was the line-up: Picard - Charlie Brown, Riker - Schroeder, Data - Linus, Worf - Pigpen, Geordi - Franklin, Troi - Lucy (an Analyst mode), Beverly - Peppermint Patty, Guinan - Marcie; and who was Snoopy? - Q, of course!

I loved the story After by Ruth King, which appeared in Make It So 24. It is set after the episode Parallels and we learn how Captain Riker feels after seeing his old friend Picard alive and well in a different reality. Well done, Ruth!

I think Terry Wogan is a closet Trekker. The other day he was talking about parallel universes and I have also heard him saying "Make it so!"

Does anyone know where I can get a copy of the zine Private Dix?

• Mathias Lindholm - Sweden (Alternate Universe, Ensign Swede, Intelligence Officer, USS Excalibur NCC 2005)

Hejsan, and greetings to all you Trekkers out there. I'd like to start the usual way for a newcomer. This newsletter/zine is truly a new experience for me as a Swede. I mean, I've never before seen a zine where members get up to 40 pages and even more to air their thoughts about this wonderful Star Trek universe. So I say this to you - your zine is fabulous. Great.

I've been wondering about the submission Peter Carmody did in N/L 40 called Enterprise. Now I'm a NG fan and when Peter began airing his thoughts that NG characters don't handle the Enterprise-D as much as the 'old' ones did theirs, this did really make the blood rush in my veins (you know, the Klingon way!) I mean, they do care about their vessel... don't they? (Well, yes, La Forge didn't run around yelling "The ship can't take no more!" like Scotty did.) So I began thinking too, and in a way you're right, Peter. She isn't mentioned much as a

she, and La Forge isn't as protective of her as Scotty was/is... but still, when you hear the warm humming of her engine and the chirping sound of her computer and her softly delicate voice, you can't feel more than just *hane*.

To Vered Gilad - You're lucky! You've seen THE movie, Generation. What can I say... We Swedes believe we must wait the whole long way to Christmas to get to see it. So I would really like that you feel sorry for me :-). But of course, all the spoilers we've seen soon make a complete movie.

I've got some faves from 7th season, Lower Deck and Pegasus. The All Good Things episode was good, but hey, was it Q who did the phenomena in the Neutral Zone or did it 'really' happen?

To you all, a happy summer.

• Mervyn Leeder - Market Harborough

Have you seen the film The Man With the Power - it was on TV late (00.30am) the other night. It starred Persis Khambatta and a young John de Lancie, who was on screen twice. Also William Shatner starred in seaQuest DSV as an exiled dictator who along with some of the crew were having the same dreams about Darwin.

I have now seen the Next Gen movie and allow the Next Gen section would have made a good movie length episode but it did not work as a big screen movie because it attempted to please too many sections of the fans, and should have stayed as just a Next Gen movie.

To Jay Stevensen - Were you sitting on the same table when I had the same conversation or a case of 'days-jar-view'? :-)

• James O'Donovan - Cork

To Anne Larivire (and Damian Griffiths) - P 30 - The reason Tim Russ (Tuvok) looks like the navigator in Generations is because it is him. He has also appeared in DS9 (Invasive Procedures) and TNG's Starship Mine. He can also be seen in an episode of seaQuest DSV.

To Anne-Marie Flowers - P 53 - re Wil Wheaton. I read recently that he was working on the computer graphics for Babylon 5 and intended to go to college in the autumn.

To Sheila Clark - P 14 - Re your comment about Scotty forgetting Kirk was dead. I don't think Scotty forgot Kirk was dead, I think the Generations writers forgot Scotty was alive.

To Tracy Saunders - P 34 - Re the origins of Vulcans. I think that it is possible that they evolved from some form of ape/monkey. My evidence? They look very similar to Humans (ie no weird exo-skeleton like Klingons or Cardassians). Not a great reason, but a reason none-the-less. They were once an aggressive race, just like Humans. Take the Romulans, an aggressive offshoot of the Vulcans who rejected logic. In essence, Romulans are Vulcans before their switch to a logical life. It would seem logical to assume that because the Vulcans have/had similar characteristics to Humans, then they probably developed from similar origins (ie apes/monkeys).

• Marie I J Park - Hull

Greetings to all fellow Trekkers!

I've noticed that Kirsty Alley's Saavik and Kim Cattrall's Valeris both have a ruby earring in their left ear. Does it have any particular significance? I don't think it's indicative of a dual nature as Valeris is a full-blooded Vulcan. Any ideas?

To Edward Woo (again) - Re Generations. Sorry, but I was expressing my own *personal* opinion of the film in question. I didn't automatically assume that everyone else would feel the same way. If you didn't enjoy Generations, then fine, I don't have a problem with that, but *I did enjoy Generations enough to see it more than once*. Am I not entitled to my own opinion?

Whilst on the same vein, I'd like to shout a loud *hear, hear!* to Sylvia Benson's comments on Data's "Oh, shit..." remark. I certainly would have used a few choice phrases where I faced with a planet coming right at me with no brakes. All of them would make Data's "Oh, shit..." remark sound

positively genteel :-)

I certainly do agree with Taruka Quauhtezcatl about the mystery surrounding Commander Chakotay. In Caretaker, though, Tom Paris mentioned that he'd resigned his commission to fight for his home colony - Dorvan Five, maybe? Personally, I'm not sure that he is from that particular colony, because of the tattoo/symbol on his left temple. That in itself might not mean anything at all, but Chakotay is the only Native American in Trek to sport such a symbol.

To Raymond Spencer - Whilst on the subject of recognising actors/actresses in Trek, did you know that Beth Toussaint (Ishara Yar) played Captain Sheridan's wife Anna in the Babylon 5 episode Revelations?

Finally, to Bill McClure - It is worth remembering that Data himself stated that "my growth as an artificial life form has reached an impasse. For 34 years I have endeavoured to become more 'Human'..." I believe there was an inevitability of Data gaining emotions, he felt that he was now ready for them and that the time was right. I really felt for Data having to cope with all those new emotions for the first time, and his tears of joy over finding Spot was a lovely little moment. I will concede that we'll see a totally different data in the future, but the core of his character has not been stripped away, merely changed.

• Maria Nausch - Vienna

Hi, everybody. I finally discovered Voyager! I had been sceptical about it and really did not want to see it. I thought of it as another source for Paramount to get our money. Why else would they produce another show? There was already one ST show on the air!

First week of June I went to the States on holiday. There I watched the episode Ex Post Facto - and still did not like Voyager. It was dull; Paris was accused of murder and proven innocent. We've had enough stories of that kind in the other ST series, like Court Martial or Dax. Therefore, no reason to revise my position. And although I bought lots of ST

books, I resisted the urge to buy the novelisation of *Caretaker* - and was proud of it!

The week after that I went on the *Seatrek* cruise - and met Tim Russ, better known as Tuvok. He made me change my mind. From all he said and did it was so obvious that he was a fan of TOS (Vulcans and Spock) that I had to love him. Wasn't this the logical thing for a female Vulcan like myself? As soon as I came home I borrowed my friends' *Voyager* tapes and bought the novels. Now that I've seen a bit more of Tuvok I am even more impressed, for he really has all the details right, body language, intonation... and I trust Tim Russ to keep the Vulcan race the same as it was in *Classic* (after the strange Vulcan guests we had on TNG and DS9 it was really time to go back to the source and have a Vulcan more in the tradition of Spock!) I recommend watching Tuvok to all fans of the Vulcan race!

Tim Russ is also one of the nicest persons I have *ever* met. He even apologised publicly that he could not speak to all the fans personally! He really tried hard to talk to everybody (he came to our table and started a conversation and when one girl asked him to dance he danced with her!), he posed for pictures with everybody who asked him to, he signed autographs although this is quite unusual on the cruises and he was around the ship almost 24 hours a day!

You probably know that he has worked with all four ST casts. Wouldn't you agree that all this makes him the ideal guest for a convention? And he is a musician too, he sings and plays the guitar! Everybody out there planning a convention for next year and looking for a suitable guest star, could you *please* consider inviting Tim Russ?

• David J Raper - Hull

As someone who missed the first four Trek films on the big screen first time around, I recently had the opportunity to make up for that deficiency courtesy of my local fan club and Odeon. It was certainly worth it. There is a lot to be said for the sight of the refitted 1701 and its successor on the big screen and I advise anyone who has the opportunity to

take advantage of it. Video has its undeniable advantages, not least the ability to watch your favourites again and again as and when you like, but there is still a lot to be said for the big screen and surround sound.

On the subject of *Voyager*, the series seems to be shaping up pretty well and Kate Mulgrew makes a convincing ship's captain, though more in the style of James T Kirk than Jean-Luc Picard, just as the holographic doctor makes a worthy successor to McCoy, though what the good Doctor would make of him is anybody's guess; and I would be interested to learn if Beverly Crusher had any input in the matter - she was Head of Starfleet Medical for a year, after all. It certainly compares well with the first season of TNG, though a lot may have to do with the writers, most of whom seem to have simply transferred over from TNG if the credits are to be believed.

Meanwhile, DS9 seems to be getting better. Having recently seen *Through the Looking Glass*, where Sisko is 'borrowed' by Smiley O'Brien from the Mirror Mirror universe, I am looking forward to another return visit to that reality, if only for the alternative Bashir, 'Dax, Tuvok and of course the Intendant and their Garak. The obvious next twist is for some of them to cross over into our reality instead and if Smiley could do it with little more than a second-rate transporter and ingenuity, whyever not? Not that this makes the book *Dark Mirror* any the less enjoyable, I should add, I prefer to view it as another dimension where the Empire did not fall after all - that is what parallel universes are for anyway.

To Sheila Clark - On the subject of the Cardassian war, the implication of *The Wounded* is that the war has been over for years, long before the 1701-D was completed. If it had been completed, it certainly would have been involved in the war.

And finally, just a word on *The Alternative Descent*. I loved it, my compliments to the cartoonist.

• Leslie Moyes - Glenrothes

I have just seen 5 episodes of ST-Vger (sic

:-)) and I think it's great. I have to admit that Caretaker is the best Trek pilot ever! No padding whatsoever, a straight ahead adventure yarn, and the chemistry is just right. I know I said last time that Trek's bubble had burst - with this show I am now eating my words! :-) Sorry, Sisko fans, but Janeway has more presence than he does and looks like being the best captain on Trek ever (and not because of being a woman either). Prime Factors and Emanations are also 2 of Trek's finest episodes, the latter even having as a bonus the excellent Jerry Hardin as a guest star. I also saw Ex Post Facto - is that a tribute to Ren and Stimpy? One of the characters is called Ren and that's what his pet dog looks like! Comments, please.

DS9 is also getting better - can't wait for season 3 finale The Adversary. Surprises and shocks in store?

• Vicky Roberts - 271 Boston Manor Rd, Brentford, Middx TW8 9LG

To Sheila Clark - Re Spot's kittens - Whilst I'd agree with you that any pet (tom) cat *would* be castrated fairly sharpish, it can't be done until 6 months, and cats can reach sexual maturity at 5 - 5.5 months. As they say, it only takes one mistake (ie cat gets out - and we all know what budding Houdinis cats are!) and hey presto, 9 weeks later you have kittens! As for having to explain writers' mistakes (P 14) - I'm with you - why should we?

To Matthew Christie - Re trashing the Enterprise-D. Hear, hear! Why destroy a gallant lady? A refit is a lot more practical, not to mention cheaper! As for Livingstone's coral and his boredom - with a memory retention of 15 seconds, it looks new to him every time he turns around!

To Dave Styles - I understand exactly what you mean about humour. My family is convinced I'm devoid of a sense of humour! I would agree with you, though, about the many 'disagreements' that have raged through IDIC's pages - at least we disagree with politeness. It's a very sad day when

someone is killed simply for the sake of what team they *don't* support. As for Bohemian Rhapsody, no-one will copy one of the masters as I think the idea was to let them appreciate in value then sell them for charity at auction.

To Jackie Marshall - A Bashir bookmark, you say? I know exactly where to get one! You can reach me at the address above. Drop me a line and we can arrange something

To Anne Marie Flowers - Wesley the next evolutionary step? Dear me, I hope not!

Question

Peter Rose - In a programme on the Making of Star Trek Voyager they mentioned that every star ship has a dedication plaque. Does anyone know the words on the Voyager plaque.

Ian Webber - What do I call IDIC - is it I.D.I.C. or as a word - Idic.

[Ed - It is a single word - Idic.]

Can You Help

Peter Rose - At a convention last year the main guest speaker wore a funny Data tee shirt with the wording "The good, the bad, and the logical" on the back and a drawing of Data on a horse on the front. He told the audience that the shirt had generated a lot of interest and that it was produced for a 1994 Texas Convention he'd attended. Does anyone know if/where this design of tee shirt is available?



THE KLINGONS DISCOVER EARTH T.V.

CON-COURSE 4

Hamburg, Germany, 14 May 1995

Reported by Martin Stahl

Due to the bad weather, I arrived late in Hamburg and came just in time for the opening ceremony. While I checked in at registration, the organisers introduced the guests to the audience - Rene Auberjonois, Bjo Trimble and Richard Arnold.

This convention was arranged in the Rieckhof, a cultural centre with a large auditorium where all main events took place, and several smaller rooms for videos, the model exhibition, trivia game, discussion rounds, dealers' room and more. I read Bjo Trimble's *Space-time Continuum*, and we also have written each other, therefore I was very excited to meet her in person, and soon we were involved in a discussion about the episode titles in other countries, when it suddenly occurred to me that I promised to be in the dealers' room at our club table: The dealers' room is the excellent place to meet people, as most of them come into this room at a convention, and I became acquainted personally with many people I knew from fanzines or other clubs. When the room closed at 11 pm we joined a discussion group outside with Bjo and John and had a lot of fun until late in the night.

As usual at conventions the night was too short, but nevertheless I came out of bed on Saturday morning alive, and we arrived at the Rieckhof in time to hear Richard's talk. He presented slides from the new DS9 and Voyager episodes. SPOILER ALERT In the last episode of the 3rd season Sisko is promoted to Captain and Odo meets another shapeshifter who takes his form and brings the Defiant to a condition of war. Another slide presented the mother of Quark and Rom, and she wears a dress. Richard - "Or do you want to see *her* naked?" END SPOILER ALERT.

Unfortunately this year there was no world premiere of a new episode, but we had the chance to see some that were shown in the States just this, or last, weekend. I saw no

episodes at all at the convention, and preferred to chat to the other fans. There are so rare opportunities to talk to them!

The next talk was by Bjo Trimble, and most of it was about the original series, which I enjoyed very much. She told many anecdotes from behind the scenes which I - Making of Star Trek and several other behind-the-scenes books notwithstanding - didn't know yet. She told us that much of the scenery and props of the original series may look cheap now, especially when compared to TNG, but most of the materials used for *them* just hadn't been invented in the 60s. Bjo also presented a slide of the scene from ST:TMP where she was seen as a crew member and showed us where she was standing, when suddenly Richard Arnold appeared on stage and pointed out the place where he was standing in that scene. Bjo's talk was very lively and warm; she is one of the nicest fans I ever met.

In the afternoon Rene Auberjonois had his first talk. I regret deeply that his face is hidden behind the mask of Odo, because his miming was unique. It was very difficult to shoot a good photo of him - Rene changed his position almost every second, and most of them were so funny that I wanted to take a picture. At the beginning of his appearance he presented a signed bucket and explained that the real Odo is in it. During the autograph sessions everyone could give a donation for the charity together with his/her name and at the end of the convention one name was pulled from the bucket and one happy fan received it. Rene had donated some signed scripts and plans for the DS9 episodes he directed for the charity auction and to our surprised he even auctioned them himself. Richard Arnold auctioned autographs of the actors, and the highest bid was for a signed photo of DeForest Kelley which was sold for 260 Dm. I got the signed trading card of Colm Meaney which I wanted so much. Bjo also had some items she

auctioned, and finally there was over 7000 Dm which went to Amnesty International.

The fancy dress competition had some very nice costumes: Picard and Bev in the 19th century costumes from Generations, Jean-Luc Picard as child with his mother, the transporter, the last Klingon from Rura Penthe with his collecting box and the usual alien ambassadors. While Kerstin, Kirstin and Ju presented some filk songs in the main room, I prepared one of the smaller rooms for the trivia game, Most of the trivia questions I had prepared were unnecessary because the players realised very soon that they had to sing the Alamaraine song to get to the next level. As I wasn't interested in the disco I spent the rest of the evening chatting with other fans - there was so much to tell!

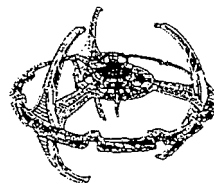
On Sunday morning I felt even worse than the day before, and I didn't feel better when I realised that it was already the last day of the convention. Sniff! The programme began with some videos I didn't watch, and as Richard's talk was delayed they spanned the time with a private video taken at the Star Trek exhibition at the Smithsonian. Unfortunately it was not filmed very well and we were grateful when it was over.

Richard presented some slides of Generations and a tribute to the 30 years of Star Trek. Originally all of the Classic characters were supposed to appear in the movie, but soon they decided to use only Kirk, Spock and McCoy. William Shatner signed his contract immediately, but Nimoy and Kelley were not interested in being in this movie. They asked Jim Doohan, who signed at once, and Walter Koenig. Nichelle Nichols and George Takei were never asked to appear in Generations, and when Whoopi Goldberg heard this she was very upset, because she wanted to work with all of the original cast, especially with Nichelle. Richard also told us that Gene Roddenberry never approved DS9 because he did not want two series to run simultaneously. Therefore Paramount waited until Gene died before they announced DS9, and in order to promote the series they told that he did approve.

and he heard what Richard said about DS9. He told us that Majel personally told him that Gene had approved the new show. Majel slept with Gene but Richard did not! Then he gave us a demonstration of the new role he plays in a London theatre where he plays the devil. He also demonstrated his role in the last episode of the 3rd season, when he has to play two Odos fighting each other. I gave him a cup of jelly, explaining that he is just the actor and I had the real Odo with me. We enjoyed the talks of all three guests very much.

Rene also gave the awards to the winners of the model exhibition and the story contest, and he couldn't give away a prize without making a little play with each of them. Then the guests sat down for their second autograph session and I forgot time while talking to other fans and almost came too late to receive an autograph of Rene. Fortunately the stewards were kind and let me in. Rene also had time for everybody to take a picture. There was just time to say goodbye to Bjo and the others, then I had to leave to get my plane. Unfortunately I missed Bjo's second talk and the closing ceremony. I only saw some photos later, which looked great.

Con-Course 4 was one of the best and genial conventions I ever attended. You could always go to Bjo and Richard and talk to them, and some fans living in the hotel nearby even met Rene at the breakfast buffet. I could have spent hours chatting with Bjo, and Rene was one of the most wonderful guests I ever met at a convention. (I also liked Jonathan Frakes at the Generations convention but sometimes I got the impression that they presented a stage performance there.) Rene was very funny, but most of it came spontaneously and I wonder how he could play such a stern character as Odo. The atmosphere was very friendly and familiar, and if there is a Con-Course 5 in two years, I'm sure I'll be back again.



Right after that Rene had his second talk

GUEST TALKS AT SOL III

reported by Jean Sloan

DWIGHT SCHULTZ

"I know a lot of actors want to play Hamlet, but I wanted to be Sigourney Weaver. What can I say?"

Dwight Schultz, Barclay, is and always has been a fan of science fiction and science fact. He admits to being a Trekker. He landed the job as Barclay through Whoopi Goldberg, with whom he made the film *The Long Walk Home*. He was thrilled at the prospect of appearing on *Star Trek*, but when he opened his first script, there was a nerd, the only officer in *Star Trek* who does not belong on the *Enterprise*. He is attracted to sci-fi by 'the limitlessness of thought', and admires writers like HG Wells who predicted the future. His favourite film is the original *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*.

An avid interest in sci-fi became an interest in physics, so Dwight started reading. He recommends a book about particle physics as a 'must' for ST fans - *The Cosmic Code* by Heinz Pagels; also *Hyperspace* by Michu Kaku. [Warning - the spelling of those surnames is phonetic - they may not be quite right.] Dwight believes firmly that there are more scientists because of *Trek*, and that ST was a first in science fiction in introducing a social aspect into the genre. He loves *Babylon 5*, which is done very differently from ST - in a tiny studio, with minimal props, rendered on an Omega and with 5/6 years of story plotted out.

"*Star Trek* is the ideal; *Babylon 5* is the generalisation of how it will turn out."

Dwight is very interested in UFO phenomena - a great fan of the *X-files* - and has co-hosted a show on radio dealing with UFO experiences. He is convinced that the US and GB governments are hiding something, and that time has been spent researching UFO sightings. Brookings Institute was commissioned by the US government to research potential reaction to alien intelligence; based on that research, a

protocol was designed for astronauts. He believes that experiences of alien abduction are the result of mass psychosis; but he is suspicious of the possible origins of that psychosis. He cited the following instance as evidence of likely government involvement.

There have been many CIA and NSA programmes on mind control. The CIA and a Canadian psychiatrist experimented on 2 unsuspecting citizens who went for therapy. The pair were taken away and given hallucinogens, then told that they were not who they thought they were. When they admitted to new identities, they were told that that was wrong as well. They were set free miles from nowhere. When they wandered back, they recalled the experience as alien abduction.

"*Star Trek* is a perfect record of my hair transplants: watch the episodes in order - Barclay's hair grows."

Before he went to work on ST, Dwight had met Jonathan Frakes and Brent Spiner at other auditions. He arrived on the set the first day expecting seriousness and control - it was madness. There was a great sense of camaraderie, "Which makes ST what it is", and never a single temper tantrum by anyone, despite the 14-hour days - "amazing in Hollywood". Of course there were the practical jokes, usually during close-ups, when Jonathan could "crawl around you, and - well - touch..." Dwight characterised the cast of regulars as follows:

Patrick - dignified; Brent - cerebral; LeVar - industrious; Gates - warm, but 'totally bonkers'; Marina - could have been a psychologist.

Of the Barclay episodes, he likes the Nth Degree best - he could play the actors' nightmare of not knowing his lines and knowing he's not worthy of getting the girl! He thought the idea of becoming part of the computer was fascinating; with developments in IT, the question of where

life begins and ends will become a real first time. concern.

He has been asked how, as Barclay was so shy, did he get through Starfleet Academy. "The answer, of course, is that Barclay simply stayed in his room, communed with his computer, and got good grades." He enjoyed the sword fight in *Hollow Pursuits*, but it was mayhem. He had been involved before in stage fights that were well choreographed; on ST they had twenty minutes to rehearse, then they filmed.

"It is amazing that a writer will pen something that brings your childhood right back to you..."

The one thing that particularly struck me about Dwight Schultz as I listened to him speak was his seriousness. I expected him to be manic - he wasn't. He was thoughtful and analytical. He talked at length about his own background and character in a very honest and open way.

He identified with Barclay as soon as he made the acquaintance of the character. Barclay always wanted to be someone else. Dwight Schultz always wanted to be someone else. As a boy, he had a pair of headphones and a set of records of well-known British actors - O'Toole, Gielgud, Burton, Mason. He listened and spoke along with these actors, spent months wondering how to make "their sounds", developed an interest in accent, lost himself in fantasy worlds. Barclay is Dwight as a boy. When he landed the role he had been acting for 28 years - 16 of them on stage. Barclay was his life "compressed in to a script".

When Dwight was working on stage in NY, he always wanted "to cover himself up" - he was never himself in a role. He believes that playing Barclay changed the way he looked at himself in show business. "In Hollywood there is someone for every role written. The person is taken on, not their talent. Hollywood is not interested in someone who can play a variety of roles". Barclay is more or less Dwight Schultz when he meets people for the first time. In playing Barclay Dwight was himself in a role for the

During his search for acting roles, Dwight worked installing audio equipment, and for the bureau of pest control. When he was 35, he was sleeping on a couch in New York and playing Byron on stage. Then he got The "A" Team, which changed his life because he was able to marry and have a family.

The set of the "A" Team was very different from the ST set. George Peppard did everything by the book, was very proper, wrote notes to everyone. In the last year of the show, George P and T did not see eye to eye. The show was misunderstood in the US - it was seen as overly violent when it was meant to be funny, fantasy, whimsical.

Dwight bases his characters on real people. Barclay stutters, and was based on someone who played for the NY Symphony Orchestra. Dwight was looking for an apartment, and this bloke had some information on one which he conveyed to Dwight's answerphone; because the bloke stuttered, he left four messages - each one to clarify the message before.

Murdock was based on a gas station attendant in Beaumont, Texas, whom Dwight encountered at 3 in the morning during a storm. The attendant told Dwight his life story, a long tale about being in the military. At the end, when Dwight was leaving, the blue hat asked, "Did you believe anything I told you..." Dwight remembered the man when he read for Murdock.

Dwight Schultz does not watch his work on TV - he can't - he would become obsessed with what he could have done better, then he would have "negative thoughts about facing a new scene". He watches very little TV - sometimes the cable coverage of the House of Representatives: "great comedy and a good place to hear accents". He is a student of accents - one of his strengths. His other self-admitted strengths are his versatility and his "ability to drink water". He admits to more weaknesses: -

"I have a great top, terrific bottom, no

middle - I'm always too much or not enough - I tend to underplay or overplay." He lists his other weaknesses as self-absorption, self-observation and worrying about meeting new people. He couldn't believe that *we* would want to meet him when he had only done a few episodes. He is in fact a genuinely nice man, a thoughtful, cerebral person.

Postscript. "Theatre has been transformed into stand-up comedy."

I found Dwight's reflections on theatre interesting, so I include them in the report. He regrets the 'death' of the New York theatre. It is now impossible to make a living as a stage actor - you are dependent on the media. Now all New York is about is Lloyd Weber. Even sit-coms tend to have a stand up comedian as the star. The 1960/70s playwrights are now writing for series. New plays for the stage are not happening. Great plays look at social conditions - present and future; now all is looking back in revivals. The death of the theatre means the death of the training ground for actors; new 'entrants' to the profession are unable to get a classical background.

ERIC MENYUK

Eric Menyuk was not as I expected - teach me to stereotype people from their TV performances. I expected him - quite illogically - to be quiet and restrained. Nothing could be further from the truth. He is energetic, gregarious and enjoys a live audience. In his delivery he flipped from subject to subject and back again via digression and red herring, entertainment, but difficult to take notes from... but here goes.

He started his first con talk by setting up a tape recorder and switching it on. Then he took photographs of the audience. Photos and tape to prove to his wife that he really was here! Eric Menyuk is a proud father and family man, first and foremost; family is more important than acting. He has returned to study, and has just completed his first year of law studies. His urge to "do something responsible" followed the birth of his son,

Max, which changed his perspectives. When asked how his studies were going, he simulated tears. He found the hardest thing was getting back into the study mode - "Our professor is John Houseman in the Paper Chase" - but he has done well so far.

His association with ST started as a fan of CT. He has seen every episode 3 or 4 times. He has not watched as much TNG et al - 12 TNG episodes, 6 DS9 and part of the Voy pilot. Shortly after he moved to LA casting started for TNG. He read for the part of Data, and met Gene, which gave him a big thrill. A few weeks later he was called to read for the Traveller.

"Beaming on to the Enterprise was bitter-sweet. I didn't get Data, but on the other hand I wouldn't have met my wife if I hadn't auditioned for TNG"

He really enjoys doing cons because "they are a great opportunity for a live audience." His enjoyment of cons was plain throughout the weekend - he seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of energy and spent a lot of time in the bar chatting to people. When asked about the difference between cons here and in the States, he said that he goes to bed earlier at American cons, and at British cons the autograph queue is more polite.

Playing the Traveller required 3 - 3.5 hours in make-up. William Theiss/Michael Westmore discussed the concept of the character with him. Eric had an image of long fingers for the character, but someone made the decision to have three stubby fingers. Gloves which slipped on and off for the shots (they were very hot) formed the hand. The face and head were difficult; it is a prosthetic, but as there is no hairline blending and hiding the seams took a long time. When MW first did the make-up it took 4 - 4.5 hours, but they got it down to 3.5. Eric had to be on set at 4 am but he didn't really mind "because Michael Westmore is a terrific guy."

Eric played the Traveller in 3 episodes - The Traveller, Remember Me, and Journey's End. His screen time diminished with each episode. He enjoyed the quality of the script

in the first, but in the second the scene didn't click for him. In rehearsal he played the character as he had in Traveller, but he was told that he was being "too human - don't smile". The whole business of pitching his character became a bone of contention, and when he watches the episode now he sees himself as almost afraid to move. Ultimately, though, it was a great joy to be back and he got to work with LeVar whom he describes as "Very nice - does a lot for people - really pleasant - not a big jokester."

"Working on Star Trek is like a playground for adults". Eric's enjoyment in making his three episodes was evident. He spoke warmly of the relationships on set, of the cast's sense of fun, of Patrick Stewart's dry sense of humour. He attended the wrap party for the first season, and found himself in conversation with Dwight Schultz, Brent Spiner and Rick Berman. They discussed Riker as a Kirk character, and Data's likeness to Spock. Eric commented that if he had been cast as Data, years from now he would have had to write a book entitled, "I am not Data". Brent Spiner replied, "You still can!"

Everyone talks about the practical jokes on set. Eric described the "clothes pin" game. Gels are held on lights by items resembling clothes pins, and these are readily available on set. Wil Wheaton started a craze of 'pinning' people - seeing how many pins you could attach to a person's garments before being discovered. Wil caused the Traveller many painful moments; he even managed to get one on the neck of Eric's costume, which wasn't discovered until the camera caught it on film.

The Traveller's costume was stirrured - he couldn't sit with the stirrups on; notice that in the episodes he never moves from a sitting to standing position. In one scene he was on one knee, stirrupless. When he stood up, his costume shot up. Patrick reached over and executed the Picard manoeuvre on Eric.

Someone asked Eric about hair - Dwight Schultz had brought the subject up. Eric has an expensive toupee, more or less a must for commercials. His agent says, "Your hair has got an audition today", meaning he's reading

for a commercial.

And a joke - How does a polar bear feel about igloos? "I love these things - crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside."

And a comment from Jean - I loved the Traveller - a most imaginative addition to the ST universe. A pity that the character wasn't developed. Which reminds me about Wesley. Wesley-bashing notwithstanding, Wil Wheaton is a fine actor. He wasn't really permitted to use his talent in TNG except for the odd instance; but I watched Stand By Me yesterday. That was a fine performance by the young Wil.

RICHARD ARNOLD

I really enjoy Richard Arnold's talks and slide shows, so I was very disappointed to find that at Sol III he only had one slot, and at 9 am on Saturday morning. Added to which I couldn't see to take notes during the slide show - the illumination of the main hall was one of the low-lights (sorry) of the weekend. I hasten to add that it wasn't the con committee's fault; let's just say that although the Norbreck has renovated most of the bedrooms, it ain't got round to the electrics in the hangar yet. Anyway, some trivia from Richard's question and answer session, with any bits from my slide show 'notes' that I can read.

- The Defiant was introduced to DS9 to "beef up the show" (Jean's comment, they haven't used it much!)

- Cirroc Lofton is now the tallest cast member

- Morn is played by an extra without a guild card; if he is given a line, he'd have to be played by a stand-in actor.

- DS9 is not doing well in ratings; there are rumours about it being cancelled, but it will definitely run to a fourth season.

- \$22 million were spent on the Voyager premier. Voyager is shown on the UPN network - on fewer stations than DS9.

- Only the first 16 episodes of Voyager 1st season will be shown consecutively; the last 4 of the run will be held over until autumn to avoid dropping audiences during summer.

- Why did O'Brien get demoted when he went over to DS9 - a mistake, but no-one cares: Colm is not happy, but they won't fix it.

- It is planned to start filming Generations II around January 1996. The script is not written. 5 of the cast have signed. The ship will be Enterprise-E - not yet designed. Enterprise-D was crashed because sets had been redressed for Voyager (a bit prosaic, what?)

- Generations on video: the film ran 101 minutes in cinemas (it was cut to get an extra screening in per day). The video release runs 117 minutes - Richard thinks this might be the extra footage that was shot but cut from cinema release.

- There is a rumour that Will Decker will appear in Voyager - not this season, but it might be something for the future.

- Voyager format - the "bible" wants "no characters or storylines from OT or TNG" -

they have already contravened that by using Barclay, *but* he was a hologram. If the bible is adhered to, there will be no Q episodes.

- Avery B and Rene A are directing. Armin S has expressed some interest, but isn't taking "Paramount University". (I hadn't heard this phrase before. It really means a crash course in directing - following the making of other shows, right through the process.)

Directors like actors directing, because it increases their respect for directors.

- Dr Soran in Generations doesn't conform to Gene's bible for Guinan's people in TNG. Her race is more powerful than Q and more concerned with their own prime directive than with other races: they are about as advanced as you can get. Soran doesn't fit.

- David Hasselhof is a singing star in Germany.

- Wil Wheaton's sister was in Baywatch in an episode in which Richard Branson guested, and which incorporated a Virgin Cola advert. Baywatch is the number one soap? Series? comic strip? in the world. OK, so I've got off Trek. I'll stop!



A NEAR VIRGIN'S EYE VIEW OF SOL III

reported by Elaine Edmonds

Yes, folks, the headline might be a bit of an eyecatcher, but it's all true. I may be a Trek fan of more years than I care to admit (in all its aspects) but I'm also a brand new IDIC member and I've only been to one convention before SOL III (UFP) so I thought you kind people might be interested in what I thought was a great weekend.

First of all, the hotel was great for socialising. Loads of space (even the dealers' room was large), friendly staff and affordable food. The beer was good too!!

I had a few little quibbles about the video programme, though. I would have liked to have seen Generations shown at the weekend

as we arrived too late on the Friday to see it and I had to leave too early on the Monday morning. Aside from that, what I did see was excellent. Thanks are particularly due for the large screens in the video rooms. No craning of necks necessary! A particular stand out for me was the DS9 episode Civil Defence and it was great to hear from Richard Arnold that Colm Meaney intends staying in the series. I'm a big O'Brien fan!!

I'd seen some Voyager episodes (don't ask how) and I was a bit annoyed that State of Flux wasn't on, but the new ones I did see were good on the whole, and I believe it bodes well for the future.


The dealers' room offered its usual varied selection, most of which was beyond me pocket-wise. Thank goodness for Sheffield Space Centre and their excellent T-shirts.

It was great to have so many people milling around, and to meet such friendliness everywhere I went. A special hi to Maxine and Julie, Susan, Julie Evans, Glyn & Dave and of course Linda, all of whom I had met before or was meeting for the first time through my good buddy Sylvia.

Last but not least, the special guests were all wonderful. We only had time to see Dwight Schultz and Eric Menyuk 'perform', but both were funny, informative and just such obviously nice guys. Dwight (long a favourite of mine, both in and out of Trek) was just as I had imagined and perhaps more so. He was just so very down to earth. I'd

come relatively fresh to Eric Menyuk (pardon the expression!) but now I'm a big fan, and the same applies to him as it does to Dwight.

One memory of Eric Menyuk will stay with me for a very long time. Picture an enormously lengthy autograph line stretching down an equally long corridor, with the sun beating in (the only time it shone the whole weekend!) waiting patiently for Dwight Schultz to appear. Mr Menyuk suddenly ambles down the corridor out of nowhere offering Maltesers to all and sundry. What a guy!

The committee all deserve a huge vote of thanks for keeping everything running so smoothly and as near to time as possible. Thanks for a hugely enjoyable weekends, folks. All I want to know is, "Will there be a video?" 

OH MY GOD, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THE STEWARDS!

(Anonymous con. attendee to Eric Menyuk)

Yes, a con report from the Bolivian Terrorist.

I wasn't quite supposed to be going to Sol III because of lack of funds, but as things turned out I did. In a way I wished I hadn't bothered.

Friday afternoon was one rather quiet section in general, except that I made the classic blunder and called Sheila Mrs Clark! I volunteered for tin-rattling for my sins.

My main reason for going was to deliver a Klingon uniform to a friend...and it was well into the afternoon before I found him. In the interim I had the pleasure of seeing Judith extract £1 from Dwight Schultz and use that as a lever to persuade more attendees to part with their cash. (She got the other GoH later!).

It appears that my reputation, or is it just my name, precedes me. Everyone whose name I recognised from these hallowed pages (and quite a few others!) either tapped me on the shoulder or said quietly, "Excuse me, but are you...?" I didn't even wear the long streamers this time! Janet Ellicott's comment was undoubtedly the best. Apparently she

had been asked for a reference of some kind by a customer...who went away happy after discovering that both she and Janet knew me! (At least that's what I think she said).

I can't say I saw much of the con because as anyone will tell you I spent most of it in the bar, cafe or Dealers' Room trying to part attendees from their small change. Or if not that then looking menacing as a female Klingon warrior complete with bodyguard. Or for those who remember, the underdressed lady at the disco. (And yes I did get asked if I was wearing anything under that dress. Only Jude Taylor and I know the answer!)

The disco was interesting. It was billed as "a trial by quiz and karaoke." Well I missed most of the Starfleet Academy Challenge because I was socialising with Edward Woo and Bea the Borg at the back of the bar. But the karaoke!!!! It was supposed to last two hours, over-ran by two hours and by 2 am we were throwing the beer cans on stage, and demanding a disco. In the end the manager came and said, OK we can put a long-

running tape loop on...Three hours later they were still dancing.

We ended up in the opposite corner of the bar talking to Mike Sadler and Neil Safi, who were bemoaning the theft of one of the Kaferian apples from their club's display. I made a point of purloining the other one and spent the rest of the night with it hidden under my costume/down my cleavage (delete as necessary, ed!). Poor Neil ended up fast asleep in the bar at 4 pm. Meanwhile, Eric Menyuk was still partying. I last saw him at 6 am, then back two hours later. What does that guy run on?

My over-riding impression of this con was rather like a roller-coaster out of control. It started OK, BUT... (some of this carried over into the business meeting - many fans don't want a repeat.)

Where were the stewards? There were a large number of non-attendees wandering about the Norbreck Castle, some no doubt visiting the public bar, but it was quite simple for a non-attendee to get into the con. (This was done twice by Judith's mother - without challenge - when she came to pick us up). Also there were no stewards on the considerable number of external doors. Security? What was that? Even after the "Private Function" sign went up on the Saturday there were quite a few who ignored it. I think I was asked twice for my badge over the four days.

One of the tech. crew (who for reasons of my personal security shall remain anonymous) asked me where he could get alcohol to clean the heads of the video recorders...on the Friday of the con. Surely this should have been thought of well in advance? OK I know it's "One of those things" but it signalled the beginning of the roller-coaster ride.

The Saturday autograph session. The timing got changed...then changed back and nobody knew because the only noticeboard was outside the Hangar and subject to much misuse. A noticeboard in the foyer by the Dealers' Room might have been better, as most of us were in the bar or cafe. The result

was that the Sunday session was a debacle. Those who had tickets for Saturday and who hadn't known about the change of time were given priority...and guess who got the first place in the queue? You're right. ME! Hence the wonderful comment. Well, after half an hour standing about, and while Eric was entertaining the queues and handing out maltesers as if they were going out of fashion, plus joking with one girl with a camera (I wonder if Eric's nose was in focus??), with no sign of Dwight's second talk ending, I was about dead on my feet. I'd already been told that I couldn't sit in the corridor as I constituted a fire hazard but this was getting beyond a joke, so in some pain I asked the Steward (yes there was one) for a chair. I ended up on the carpet in the middle of a connecting corridor. Highly undignified. And to finish it we were told that we could only have one item signed due to time. Fine. I'd already got my autographs by carefully asking in the bar on Saturday but I'd promised to get a video cover autographed for someone else.

The same disorganisation was self-evident in the Fancy Dress. OK we decided to enter late but there appeared to be no contingency plans for this. We missed the rehearsal (on the Friday night!) so of course had to "wing it." I know I stood for over an hour backstage in the Hangar because by the end of it Bob Lydford, my Klingon bodyguard, was having to hold me up. Still we weren't given any idea whether we'd be on or not, so in the end we just walked out, in disgust. There were no seats for those who might have problems standing (I have sciatica which affects my right hip if I stand for too long) and the Hangar, as usual, bore a resemblance to a walk-in refrigerator.

Not the Committee's fault but the lift ate me on the Monday morning - it ate Bob as well - he got his finger crushed. This lift was the subject of many jokes by attendees. The sign said Max. capacity 8 (or 4 Trekkies). By the end of the con the figure had risen considerably!

As for the catering, Jackie Comben summed it up at the Business Meeting - "I'm a bit concerned at your lack of an alternative

menu....and will you please correct your chef who appears to believe that pork tikka is a vegetarian dish!?" (Sorry Jackie if I've misquoted you but it was a while ago) We were treated to the sight of a chef dashing about but we were never sure if he was genuine or just another con attendee.

The main concern I think was that the committee had not put enough effort into contingency plans.

That aside, it wasn't the programmes that made Sol III enjoyable. This was a socialiser's con - the people there were what made it fun. I got dragged into a photo with two attendees

dressed as Scully and Mulder from the X-Files...then realised that "Fox Mulder" was the man of a thousand faces, all of them his own, Jonathan Hird with his wife Louise as Scully. They spent a whole evening with a group of FBI men from USS Pegasus denying the existence of grass. (I mean the green stuff that grows on lawns, in case you're wondering, though there were rumours that another type was in circulation).

To all those reading this who took time to make the idiot with the feathers in her hair feel nice, thank you. Your good humour, and complete lunacy, will be my memories of Sol III.



STAR TREK EXHIBITION

by Gary Heron

The Glasgow Away team arranged a night at the Edinburgh exhibition where the attendees could not only see the exhibits but also sit on the seats and walk around the bridge and transporter sets. It was a great night and there was a very good atmosphere with a large portion of the people wearing uniform.

Despite the obvious desire by people to have their photographs taken in the various seats and on the sets everybody was very polite and by the end of the evening I am sure that everybody got all the photographs they wanted. In fact judging by the number of cameras and the number of photographs taken I think the exhibition should have been sponsored by Boots the chemists. On the subject of photography a few people gave me their cameras to take photographs of them at the exhibition and I hope that they turned out okay.

The evening was not without some element of danger however as George Haggarty (one of the Away Team organisers) was going around the exhibition with a large video camera on one shoulder with the declared intention of filming people embarrassing themselves. I believe that the fruits of his labour are due to be shown at the next Away Team meeting.

I don't think George was around when I took the opportunity to photograph a group of tribbles while they sat on the throne from the Klingon High Council or when I photographed a small Star Trek teddy bear sitting on the command seat of the bridge (well it was a once only opportunity).

It was interesting to note how popular the bridge from the original series was. At most times during the night it was fully crewed often by people in Next Generation uniform.

As part of the Edinburgh Science festival there were a series of five nightly one hour talks which took place at the Star Trek exhibition and also a live satellite link with Walter Koenig and Richard Arnold. I was able to get tickets for four of these talks and the satellite link-up. The talk about starship design by Professor Heinz Wolff was sold out; I hope that if any IDIC members did attend this talk they will send in details about it.

The first talk 'Surfing with the Enterprise' was given by Mr Bruce Durie and concerned the Star Trek material available on the Internet. The first half of the talk was about the internet, what it is, how it got started and how it can be used. Then the lecturer logged onto the internet and showed a selection of

the wide range of articles, letters and photographs available on it. He finished off by down-loading a large database full of pictures and information about Star Trek: Voyager.

People attending the exhibition will have seen a selection of the internet information available on the computer terminals set up in the basement level of the exhibition.

The second talk was 'The Fermi Paradox' presented by Duncan Lunan. Simply put the Fermi Paradox asks the question, if there are advanced alien civilizations capable of interstellar travel why haven't they reached us yet? The first part of the lecture concerned the various ways humans could explore the Galaxy, the type of ships we could construct and the problems associated with interstellar travel. It was rather depressing to see how much we could do if only the governments of the world would make the money available.

The second part of the lecture concerned the possible reasons that other civilizations have not yet reached us. Of the many theories which have been proposed there were two main theories that Mr Lunan considered in the lecture:

1. That cosmic rays may be a localised and short term phenomenon (in the range of a few hundred years) caused by certain conditions in binary star systems. Mr Lunan pointed out that a civilization starting up in a region free of cosmic rays may suffer catastrophic damage to their space travelling capability if local conditions altered and they found themselves subject to dangerous cosmic rays with no warning and no experience on how to deal with them.

2. That we have been visited by alien races and have been placed on a 'protected species list' rather like the Federation policy of non interference with species which have not developed warp drive.

The talk 'Beaming Up' was given by Mr Graham Whitehead from B.T. laboratories. Despite the title of the talk only a few minutes were spent discussing the possibility of beaming and this was only to

say that it is impossible. The rest of the time was spent discussing the future of telecommunications and the developments we can expect to see and the direction of current research. I did find the talk interesting from the technological point of view but it simply was not what had been advertised and had very little to do with Star Trek.

The lecture 'Can you cross Humans with Vulcans?' was given by Dr John Morton from the University of Buckingham and of the four talks I attended in my opinion this was the best. I was impressed even before the lecture started because as people were arriving and getting seated the first slide of the lecture was already on the screen and it was a picture of Gene Roddenberry. When Dr Morton started the lecture he said that the lecture should be dedicated to Gene Roddenberry as he was the reason we were all there that evening.

During the lecture Dr Morton examined the differences and similarities between Vulcans and Human physiology and Psychology and he also examined a number of other examples of cross species mating in Star Trek (Troi, K'eyhlar etc). His final verdict on whether a Vulcan and Human could produce an offspring ie could Sarek and Amanda have produced Spock was yes, but only with careful manipulation of their DNA by advanced technological means.

He also expanded on the episode 'The Chase' and gave the startling revelation that there is some evidence that there is a message hidden in Human DNA.

What researchers have discovered is that if you take a large piece of text, for example a novel, and count the number of times each word appears (ie the frequency) you can then assign a rank to each word, ie the word which appears most often has a rank = 1, the next most used word has a rank = 2 etc. If you plot the logarithm of rank against the logarithm of frequency the result is a straight line. This is found to be true for all known languages.

Some researchers applied this test to human DNA. First they tried the DNA

sequences which are used by cells for the production of proteins. The resulting graph was not a straight line. They then repeated the test with the large portion of human DNA which does not appear to have any purpose and they got the straight line they would have expected from a piece of text, which is a rather remarkable result.

Apart from the very interesting content, Dr Morton's lecture was also enjoyable because of the fact that he is obviously a Star Trek fan and in the course of his talk he made several references to various episodes and characters. His enthusiasm for his subject and for Star Trek was obvious. He said that he enjoys finding plausible explanations for apparent contradictions in episodes and the films and mentioned on more than one occasion that he could not understand people not liking Star Trek.

I would like to suggest that a future convention committee may wish to extend an invitation to Dr Morton to be a guest at a con. I am sure that he would make a very popular and interesting speaker.

On the evening of the Satellite link-up there was a large crowd waiting for the first sight of the two guests to appear on the large screen at the front of the room. The evening had been arranged with B.T. in association with the art centre. A radio Forth DJ was the compere for the night and there was a contingent of Klingons to keep order.

After a slight delay it was explained that the link was only half working and that they intended to begin with sound only in the hope that they would be able to get the visual connection. The guests, Walter Koenig and Richard Arnold, were in a small studio a few hours drive north of Los Angeles where it was 11.00am as compared to the 7.00pm Edinburgh time.

The DJ introduced the guests and had a quick chat with them before opening up the questioning to the audience. To ask a question people had to make their way to the front of the hall and use the microphone to talk to the guests in the USA. After about half an hour the technicians announced that they

were going to stop the link while they tried to get the visual side of it working. At this point Walter announced "I'll go and put my clothes back on then."

After 5 minutes they re-established the link and to much cheering and applause the link was now fully restored and we could see Walter and Richard in their small studio. The rest of the session went without any problems and at the end a very relieved B.T. spokesman said how happy he was that it had worked and that he hoped people had enjoyed it.

During the talk itself Walter mentioned how much he was enjoying his part on Babylon 5 and is hoping to get more episodes; he is currently having trouble getting a publisher for his autobiography as the market is rather flooded at the moment. He also made some very diplomatic answers when some questioners tried to find out if there were any members of the cast of the original series. He also mentioned that he would like to be a guest at a British convention and hopes that some one will invite him.

Richard answered questions on various aspects of the series and films, giving the 'City on The edge of Forever' as his favourite episode and expressed regret at some of the changes that have occurred in Star Trek since the death of Gene Roddenberry.

There was no talk as to how expensive this type of link currently is but I can't help but think that at some future conventions some guests who would be too expensive to bring over to Britain or who have only a few hours free during the time of the convention could make their appearances via this method. It is of course no substitute for the guest actually being at the convention but it is far better than the guest not appearing at all.



PARAMOUNT AND ST FANDOM

• **Janet, Sheila & Valerie** - Following are the comments you have sent in on the report from Australia about the proposed licensing of all things Trek by Paramount/Viacom.

At the moment we have no further information on this. We understood that some sort of announcement was to be made inside the 2-month period since the last n/1 was put out. There has however been a deafening silence, and we hope that this means that someone in a position to be heard has pointed out to the Powers that Be at Paramount how counter-productive the adverse publicity and the resentment this could arouse inside fandom would be, and that they have therefore decided to forget it.

Stargazer was obviously expecting an announcement as well as they decided to postpone their conventions until August/September. We should point out that although Stargazer runs professional conventions these are not licensed - they are 'professional' in that the profits go to the organisers, unlike the fan conventions where any profit goes to charity. The only licensed convention organised from the UK was the Malta convention and it had to be cancelled due to legal problems with using the hotels.

The problem with licensing seems to have sprung up because Viacom bought Paramount and wants as much money as can be got out of it. A number of you have suggested a letter campaign but we think this is the wrong time. Star Trek Fandom has friends who have some influence with Paramount and we think it best that they are given time to persuade Viacom not to bring in these new measures. A letter campaign might just get Viacom's back up.

We will keep you informed of any developments and certainly let you know if ST fandom at large feels that a letter campaign is needed. For the moment it's just keep our fingers crossed!

• **Jenny Turner** - It's such a pity that Paramount has decided on licenses, etc, for cons. No doubt the price of these licenses will be exorbitant; small clubs will just have to give up. Big cons like Generations are starting to get a foot in the door here, which

won't help matters. How *do* you regulate things like this, especially zines, a lot of which have been going on for years? The reason people make their own things is because Paramount's stuff is so expensive. I would have loved a three-dimensional chess set or a porcelain Enterprise, but at those prices, no chance.

How will this affect people who make their own costumes, dolls, tribbles, sehlat's etc? And what about that pub in London? It's a wonder Paramount hasn't come down on them as well. I do hope they are not going to spoil people's enjoyment. I don't collect so much now, but I do like a zine occasionally to add to my small collection. If Paramount realised that if they dropped prices a bit, *more* people would buy their stuff, and that means more money.

I wonder what Gene would have thought of all this? Anyway, let's hope the licences, if they do come, won't be excessive; also that the zine problem is sorted out - for all our sakes.

• **Maria Woodward** - Why can't fans have their own conventions as in past years? Paramount has had enough money out of us in the past (and will in the future). As for showing videos - well, they have got to be out of their heads! It's *us* who keep the show going. For most of us conventions are the only place where we can see the very latest episodes.

As for zines and fan clubs - zines (most people who read them say) are more down to earth as people get to know their favourites will bring them out more. As for fan clubs, they bring people together, letting us know there are more of us out there.

What I reckon is, as there are over 1000 members out there, we should write and tell Paramount what the fans - us - have done for them over the years. It's their thirtieth year this year - surely that must say something! So come on, guys, put your heads together and let us give Paramount something to worry

about.

- Nicole Comtet - Has Paramount, by some strange turn of event, fallen into the hands of the Ferengi? To judge from information received in the last IDIC newsletter, it seems that Paramount has perfected to an unprecedented degree the Rules of Acquisition.

Of course we all know that Paramount has never been, and cannot be, a philanthropic society, and that the series, films and merchandise which it keeps releasing at an amazing rate are not produced for the love of Star Trek fandom, but to rake in the maximum profit from the franchise - a franchise which apparently is going to be used to the full now that Paramount has been taken over by the Viacom company.

The Powers That Be, having realised the precious gold mine that they have with Star Trek, want now to make the most of it, particularly by enforcing "the protection of Paramount's intellectual property to ensure its continual profitability". And so profitability, the *raison d'être* of the Ferengi, is also to be the key word in the dealing of Paramount with Star Trek fans the world over. It is their right, of course, but this intention of enforcing copyright laws might lead to a very bleak future for us fans.

The fan clubs are apparently still in the balance, but supposing they are allowed, and since no unlicensed materials are to be sold, what is going to happen to the clubs' production? Will that be totally banned? Or will the clubs have to pay a tribute for every zine, piece of artwork, tribble, every item produced by their members?

Nice of Paramount not to wish to close down the clubs altogether, but it seems to forget that these very fan clubs are what kept Star Trek alive and made its success for the last 30 years. But for the fans and their persevering support, I don't think that its precious Star Trek franchise would be worth much today.

Also Paramount decides that no videos are to be shown at meetings. Quite a blow for

all those fans who attend conventions just to watch videos. But then, there will be no more unlicensed conventions, so that solves the problem! Again the Paramount executives don't seem to realise that European conventions (I include Britain in Europe, of course) are not run for profit. Once the expenses are covered, I understand that all the money goes to charities - but does that mean anything to Hollywood moguls? The same goes for the clubs - they are run through sheer dedication, for the love of Star Trek and certainly not for money, otherwise every year Sheila, Janet and Valerie would be spending the winter months by the blue lagoons of Tahiti.

But of course this non-profit-making policy is beyond Paramount's comprehension, hence its accusation that fans have cost it money by "using its property without paying for it". That may well be, but do the Paramount officials not forget the billions they cash in, year after year, from the fans, through the films, videos and merchandise in general?

I wonder what Gene Roddenberry would say about all this?

- Katrina Heintz - Re Paramount and licensing. If Paramount succeeds in their goals of no unlicensed clubs and conventions, it will only serve to drive the fan-run events underground. Zines, etc, will still be published with or without their permission. Doesn't Paramount realise that by doing this they will kill their golden goose? Instead, they should concentrate on improving the quality of their merchandise. I'm sure most fans would be prepared to pay a little more for a better quality product rather than what is currently available!

- Eunice Pearson - Re the future of Star Trek fandom - it's very sad to see that Paramount wants to bite the hand that feeds it. Without the fans, ST would have been limited to CT. I pity Paramount for losing sight of the sheer spirit of Trek and the joy it has brought to so many people. I suppose we can't blame them. All their dismal minds can understand is money, money and more money. It's not as if the actors and writers of ST will benefit by

squeezing every last drop from the fans, only the executives. I would have said that Quark would be proud of them, but I'm sure even he wouldn't stoop so low. However, I have faith in fans' tenacity. Whatever they do, they'll only drive us underground. They'll never succeed in taking Trek away from us.

- Christian Gaeng - I was deeply shocked about the plans of Paramount. If Paramount do this, then every club (except the official) can be closed, also unlicensed conventions. Bad idea. I'm in the German club Star Trek Fanclub Enterprise Germany and our honorary presidents are Majel Barrett-Roddenberry and James "Scotty" Doohan, and I can't believe that Majel would accept that. In 1994 was the StarDream 1 Convention and the thought that we can never do it again is unbelievable.

Well, I agree with their position about videos at conventions and local meetings - but we made (in the past) no money with these meetings or videos. Paramount can be happy with the shows and the fans. Don't make all that collapse.

- Martin Stahl - What concerned me in an otherwise excellent N/L was the article about Paramount's plans for fandom's future. Perhaps Paramount is losing some money when fans use its "intellectual property" for fanzines and watch videos at conventions, but there is one thing Paramount should never forget - if there were no Star Trek fans for almost 30 years now, they would have lost even more money! It is fans who keep ST alive, who pay money for the videos, novels and all the merchandise that is already licensed. Fandom is the best promotion Paramount has for Star Trek. Fans are informed through the N/Ls about new material and are made hungry to look for new episodes by reading synopses. I'm sure a lot of fans would have lost interest if they were not in a club that gave them contact with other fans. Even if Paramount has the legal right to forbid unlicensed conventions and fanzines, it would be the biggest mistake they could ever make. If it happens, we fans should boycott all licensed material. But we should inform Paramount first that they are making a big mistake. Perhaps it's time for

another letter campaign? (Hi, Bjo!)

- Clare Finkel - Re: Future of Fandom (p 58) I cannot believe what Paramount is doing! (I don't even think it is good business.) How can they produce something so wondrous; then behave like that? Excuse the negative aggression and gloom & doom, but all I can say is that I think They (Paramount) are nothing but a bunch of Greedy &##\$*ääs!!! I'll never attend another professional convention or buy another novel, video, CD or anything that they have connection with. I'm even tempted to boycott Their TV and movie production. (I'll let you know how I do on that one.)

As long as there was fandom, I was able to ignore Them. Now They're set on stepping in and ruining that. This may well be the beginning of the end for me!

Maybe you're thinking, "She takes Star Trek too seriously." If that's what you're thinking, then you're Sää\$ right! I take it very seriously! All that Trek stands for, Gene's dreams, IDIC, hope for the future, fun, adventure, "Optimist syndrome" one of you called it. What was it Kirk said? "We can admit that we are killers, but we won't kill today." Or Data to Lal, "It is the struggle that gives life meaning." Paramount should practice what they preach, but then, they are not preaching, they are selling, grabbing, and taking all they can. It isn't even funny. It makes me sick! They're like some of those TV evangelists who prey on people's needs, dreams, hopes... everything near and dear... even Star Trek.

- Gary Heron - I was very worried to hear about the restrictions that Paramount are trying to put on fans in Australia and eventually the whole of the world. It seems that Paramount are only happy with fans when they are handing over large amounts of money to Paramount. I find the idea that all Star Trek should be licensed by Paramount particularly offensive; what right do they have to try and restrict people's rights to meet together in pursuit of a common interest?

The point made about Star Trek being Paramount's intellectual property may be legally correct but if asked I would have to say that Star Trek belongs primarily to its creator Gene Roddenberry, secondly to the writers, actors, technicians etc who put it on the screen and to a degree to the fans who have contributed to its success and expanded its mythology.

- Stephen Shaw - Bad news about Paramount hitting out at ST fans to "protect its property". Another US media giant is hitting out at Anime fans, and not only protecting "its" property, but ALL Anime from any source! Where can fandom go...?

- D Thorne - Re the future of ST fandom - I showed this article to my sister (a closet fan); her response (and mine) was along the lines of, "They're shooting themselves in the foot."

As I understand it, TOS continued for a third season due to fan interest - thus, to some extent, all later Treks are due to fan interest. Yet from the article, it appears that this isn't important - Paramount may be running the risk of losing the goodwill of the fans - you know, the people who go and see the films, buy the videos, etc. If Paramount wanted to regulate clubs, maybe it should have done so years ago; or has it now, with the creation of official clubs, decided to see if it cannot get money out of the fans?

Anyway, enough complaints!

- Lindsay Wright - To anyone - Has anyone noticed what seems to be an insidious take-over of all things Trek by Messrs Berman and Paramount?

Now OK, Paramount owns Star Trek and Rick Berman works for Paramount, but one man having such a great and final say in Generation movies, scripting, production and co-writing Voyager and DS9 I think is too much. It seems to me that a net is being tightened that one day will strangle fandom, eg the problem noted in N/L 40 re Zine ads on the internet. Witness the proliferation of mediocre to downright bad (well, maybe not all of it) fiction in the shops, and compare it with a good zine that is written by fans who

know and love their characters.

Paramount surely has no need to worry that fanzine writing will do any harm to their dollar empires, but I can see a time coming when Paramount will say that all writing involving characters from any Star Trek universe that is produced for fans by fans will need a license.

Then what about the cons? No doubt 'professional' cons that make money will begin to snowball. How will that affect the fan-run ones whose profits go to charity? Will a fan can be able to advertise itself as a Star Trek con, show videos or have guests from the series? Don't get me wrong, I thought the Generations con was brilliant, as I got to see the actors who had provided me with such joy over the last seven years; but for me fan-run cons are where it's at. Sol III was my first one and although I didn't meet many people the atmosphere of so many people dedicated in their enjoyment was heady.

OK, so someone out there is going to read this and run rings round my arguments. I would love to be convinced that I am wrong, but I wonder just what price we are all ultimately going to pay for Gene's passing.

- Jay Stevensen - With reference to The Future of Star Trek Fandom (P 58) - Who do Paramount think made Trek such a cash cow in the first place? How much money, one wonders, have they 'lost' by fan clubs 'using their intellectual property'? How petty-minded can a multi-million dollar corporation get?

- Ruth Durie - Re Paramount's ban on 'unofficial' merchandise. If they try to impose a ban here, I think it's definitely letter-writing campaign time. Imagine being left with only the official books, Horizon cons... arg! It's hard to see them suing the fan-run conventions anyway, given the resulting publicity - "Greedy corporation stops charity fund-raising meetings" etc. Without the fan network and conventions, most people wouldn't have seen much (if any) DS9 or Voyager and therefore wouldn't be buying the merchandise.

• **Mervyn Leeder** - With Gene's death and the sale of Paramount to Viacom, Star Trek has now just become another commercial property just to make money (eg like Power Rangers, etc). You don't kill the hen that lays the golden egg. Paramount saw this and turned a blind eye to some of the things fans did, because without them there would be no market; but not Viacom/Paramount. All it can see is the 'hole' in its 'financial pocket' through which it is losing income; the 'hole' it intends to plug up, destroying the spirit of Star Trek as it used to be. These days it's all about money, Paramount through licences, CIC through two or more versions of the same video, and now 'professional' conventions (which from what I've read are no more than a ST stage show). Over the seven years since the start of Next Gen there has only been 3/4 of the same guest attending conventions; this one had no less than seven actors over the weekend. Was it just coincidence? Without the fans there would have been no new ST and therefore no commercial markets and they should be reminded of this.

• **Baerbel Schmidt** - First of all, Original Star Trek would have been cancelled after the second season if there hadn't been the tremendous support of fans, and of course Bjo Trimble's campaign. Paramount owes it to us, the fans, that there is TNG, DS8, Voyager and that Paramount and CIC earn the huge profits from Star Trek!

Fan clubs don't cost Paramount any money. It is the contrary, they are one - if not the main - reason why Paramount is making money! Fan clubs are the best means of advertising Paramount can get; cheap, efficient and reaches fans all over the world. Many active fans put their own money into these clubs, not to mention their spare time and effort.

The same applies to fan conventions. Organising a convention is a huge and expensive task. Instead of accusing fans, Paramount should applaud their initiative and help them!

• **Nigel Nixon** - Regarding the actions that Paramount are taking against fan clubs.

Paramount are protecting their investment in the same way that other companies, like Rolls Royce or Harrods, whose court actions against copyright infringers are legendary, protect theirs. This is why Star Trek® fan clubs are being targeted, just as privatised rail companies want to control the use of their colour schemes on model trains, Paramount is trying to control the use of its products so as to maximise profit from the Star Trek® franchise.

• **Ben McClelland** - Gene Roddenberry was a remarkable, talented and generous man. There are very few Trekkers who would disagree with that. One of his best aspects, amongst all the others, was his love for the fans. Whilst outsiders ridiculed and mocked us, and William Shatner told us to "Get a life", Gene embraced us and our chosen way of appreciating Star Trek. His tolerance of the fans was so great that he even let us use his ideas and build on them through clubs, newsletters, articles, conventions, merchandise and the many other forms that Trekkers have thought up to evolve the Star Trek legend.

When Gene Roddenberry died in 1991, the Star Trek legacy was entrusted to Rick Berman, long time producer on the Next Generation. Everything seems to have been going smoothly until now. In issue 40 of the IDIC newsletter, a report from Australia reveals that Gene's fairly relaxed attitudes towards Trekkers using his ideas could well be disappearing through a wormhole.

The results of this could mean devastation in the world of Star Trek fandom ON A GLOBAL SCALE! Many fan clubs will be forced to shut down, unlicensed conventions will stop, videos will not be shown at conventions, conventions will not be able to advertise themselves as Star Trek conventions, and the majority of zines, especially the slash zines, will probably have to cease publication.

Basically, Paramount are trying to restrict the fans of Star Trek. If you want to join a club, you will have to join an "official club". If you want to attend a convention you will have to attend an "official convention". If

you want to read a Star Trek comic you will have to read an "official comic". The rich variety of the infinite Star Trek clubs that have shaped the world of Star Trek for over twenty-five years will be lost, and, just as seems to be preferable in the consumer society of today, everyone will conform.

Star Trek is a truly unique concept, and what makes it so unique is its ability to discard the instincts of power hungry

executives and to touch everyone involved with it. It stands for everything our race has accomplished, bringing us together, and ignoring black, white, English, American, gay, bisexual or disabled, but instead focusing on what we are really like inside. When you strip that ability from Star Trek, you abandon it.



Marlon Brando, Harrison Ford, Mel Gibson, Dave Styles ??

or

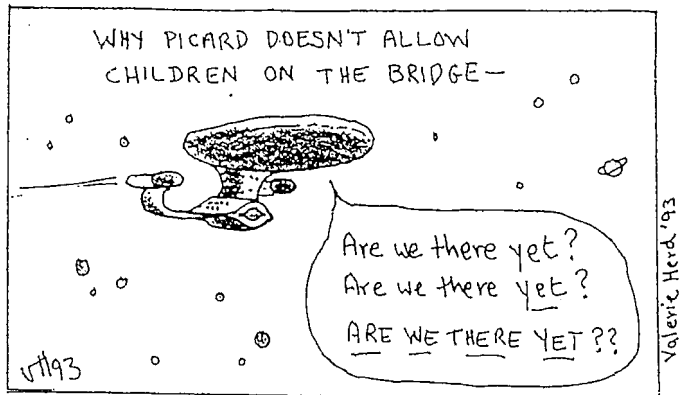
Did you see me on the telly? ("Takeover TV" - Saturday 13 May)

Well, we've all wanted to be on the telly, haven't we? My chance came last January when Takeover TV came down to film me at home. Despite the claim that the show is made up of videos sent in by the general public, the telly people actually approached me and asked me to appear dressed as a Klingon.

The chap from the TV company really knew his stuff, and was quite expertly suggesting and preparing shots. I started off quite sedately sitting in front of model Klingon spaceships in my living room, and chatted generally about Star Trek. Several shots were taken like this, including a close up of my make-up and a shot of my latest tattoo. (I have a large K'Vort cruiser on my left bicep) Another shot saw me in front of a wall of video tapes: "I have watched the occasional episode of Star Trek!". Another saw me glaring with contempt at the schematics of the U.S.S. Enterprise (NCC 1701-A). A "fun" shot of a Klingon with an apron in the kitchen preparing lunch; lunch being my pet snake, Alfie, a six-feet long bull snake! A friend's artwork was shown off as I gave a little spiel about Worf, and my little daughter got into

the act by looking me in the eye and saying "You look stupid, Dad!" But, amazingly, two hours filming produced only one minute and twenty seconds of air time. The show was aired on Saturday 13 May at 10.50 pm. I thought my bit was marvellous. (modesty !?) However the rest of the programme was a bit dodgy; with a blue movie starring Barbie dolls, a stripping witch, a plea for "decimalisation of time", and a man talking out of his backside (literally!)

Do you remember a few years ago when the Nationwide building society had an advert on telly featuring four people in a Mini dressed as Spock. At the time I thought they looked ridiculous. But, to everyone else who shared that sentiment, or thought I looked stupid, wait until your chance to appear on telly comes. You'll do anything to appear. I would have done!



THE LAST MAN

Strongwilled, egomaniac, irresistible - for three decades James T. Kirk, commander of the U.S.S. Enterprise, raced through space and time as a masculine archetype. In the new Star Trek movie death catches up with him. Are the days of the heroes past?

An obituary to the future by Wolfgang Freitag
(in: Die Presse, Saturday Feb 25th, 1995)

Translation by Waltraud Zucha-Glass

At first it was a well-guarded secret. Then it went round as a rumour. Now it's public knowledge even here - the incredible has happened - James Tiberius Kirk, commander of the starship Enterprise, is dead. His 23rd-century-mission "to boldly go where no man has gone before" has come to a much-lamented end. The pictures of his death, as currently shown in our local cinemas, prove it. What "Star Trek - Meeting of the Generations" (the translation of the German title) shows us doesn't leave room for doubts.

However -

James T. Kirk has, for 79 TV episodes and 6 movies, given us indubitable proof of his otherworldly talents in the most varied fields. Was this James T. Kirk simply a being from flesh and blood, mortal like you and me? No, for we can recall him and his deeds all too clearly: we worried about him when, with the sympathetic understanding of an inspired psychologist, he talked the mad computer M-5 into sentencing itself to death. We were anxious about him when he beat the crazy Lt.Cmdr. Benjamin Finney all through the engine room. We admired him when, after being split into Dr. James and Mr. Kirk by a transporter malfunction, he grew together again into one great unit, to united greatness.

There wasn't an enemy in space he wasn't equal to, there wasn't a problem he didn't solve. His formula? The deed. Don't talk, just do it. Yes, we're on a peaceful mission, we are tolerant, ready to talk, we are civilised human beings of the 23rd century, we have learnt from our martial past, we know about the merits of diplomacy; however, in case of doubt we'd rather trust our phasers, photon torpedoes and, if necessary, our own fists.

Years after that historical September 1969, when the starship Enterprise crossed our screens for the first time, a steady

succession of heroic Luke Skywalkers appeared. And they all promptly faded to straw men compared to Him - nice to look at, but nothing else. Generations of would-be space heroes failed to reach the measure of James T. Kirk; among them his successor in the 24th century, a certain Captain Picard. 20 years after Kirk he raced to the top of US ratings at warp speed: every inch not a hero, rather the magistrate of his own space adventures, with his oversleeves in his head.

Indeed, his predecessor was made of another stuff - the stuff the heroes of the western films of the 50s were made of: human, more than human, but still superhuman. A mythical figure from the future. He keeps navigating through faraway planetary systems like an Ulysses of the 23rd century, driven by fate from adventure to adventure, from danger to danger. Nothing and nobody can stop him - neither Klingons lying in ambush nor terrible space monsters nor mysterious radiation fields. Not even the sirens appearing now and then on the horizon can stop him - he doesn't succumb to them, but they will succumb to him; in the end they're either dead or they have had the new experience of a painful parting.

Kirk is not infallible. Kirk has his weaknesses, he may err, he may fall. But he'll always rise again, cleaned in catharsis, and nearer to his own perfection. He sitteth in the command chair on the Enterprise bridge like Jove, beneath him a whole range of undergods: the Vulcan Spock, God of Ratio, the doctor McCoy, God of emotion, the black, female officer Uhura, the Japanese helmsman Sulu and the Russian navigator Chekov, all of them the symbols of interracial and international cooperation; and one wouldn't want to forget Chief Engineer Scott, the Hephaistos of the Enterprise, who keeps the whole spaceship flying. This is an antique,

archaic order, beamed from the future directly into the sixties of our century. Why?

Cynics would say that this voyage of the Enterprise into the past was just made to earn as much as possible in the 20th century. The six Enterprise movies have made \$500 mil., one milliard from the sales of t-shirts, models and devotional articles of every kind, not to mention the constant current of money from the reruns in 75 countries all over the world.

However, we could also interpret Captain Kirk's visit to our century as an educational measure. It's the year 1966. The horrors of the Second World War barely over, the world is going through the turbulences of a Cold War which doesn't leave much to hope for either. That's the right moment for this man from the 23rd century to show us that tomorrow there'll be a brighter, better world, harmony and peace not only between the peoples of Earth but also of the universe - with the exception of some minor incidents with rebellious Klingons or Romulans, which Kirk settles with godlike (self-)righteousness.

Under these circumstances it's surprising that he didn't immediately get the attention he could have expected. In 1969 Star Trek gets thrown out of the NBC channels at warp speed. At second try - after Vietnam, the hippie movement and 1968 have left their traces in society - this Prince of Peace with the strong hand finally finds his following, which still grows from year to year and adores him like a Messiah.

And often they aren't even ready to believe that behind Kirk there's just a certain William Shatner, the not too gifted actor, son of a merchant from Montreal. Indeed, it's not Shatner who is playing Star Trek's Kirk; in real life Kirk is playing Shatner. Reality became fiction and fiction became reality, and this went on for so long that countless fans didn't know reality from fiction any longer (and not only in the States).

Sometimes even Shatner doesn't seem too certain about his own identity; just think of his remark that he and Kirk are somehow one. Even the unprejudiced people in the audience will have to admit that in TV series

like "T.J.Hooker" they'll recognise Kirk dressed up as a policeman, but not Shatner. It sounded more of desperation than of conviction when Shatner reminded his audience in a Saturday Night Show that Star Trek was just a TV show.

Many people know better than that and aren't convinced by Kirk's attempts to keep his Shatner incognito. They know their hero's the serial number (SC937-0176CEC) and all the medals he's ever got. And of course they know his biography by heart. Born on March 22nd, 2233 in the future world of the United Federation of Planets, on a world even then will be called Earth; to be more precise, in Iowa. A town called Riverside claims to be the future birthplace of this hero - in a quarter of a millennium we'll know whether they're right.

Kirk entered Starfleet Academy at the early age of 17 and successfully (of course) concluded his studies in 2254. He then served aboard the U.S.S. Farragut and got into some life-threatening situations, which he barely carried off. A slight hesitation at firing his phasers at a vampire cloud kills not him, but 200 other crewmembers, including his commander - one of the many blows fate deals him to forge the kid from Iowa into the invincible space hero.

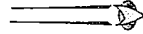
In 2264 James T. Kirk, having reached the rank of Captain, has attained the object of his desire: commanding the U.S.S. Enterprise he starts on his five-year-mission to explore space - and the people of the ending 20th century can project all their desires into his adventures: the yearning for security in an insecure world, the longing for a clear order in a time of change, the desire for future visions in an era filled mostly with administering the present. Whatever the desire - Kirk will fulfil it. Beyond space and time he has become a symbol: the most virile man of the universe. Strong willed, radically egomaniac, irresistible. The raider of the lost maleness. Perhaps the last of his kind. He makes male hearts beat faster and female hearts grow weak. We enjoy this virile salute from the future - a future which seems to have taken place long ago. And we are glad to meet the gentleman with the archetypical

soul on our TV screen, but not in our living room.

And now, after 30 years, the end: the Man Kirk has met his end at the hands of a hardly more than averagely dangerous villain called Soran. Maybe the time of the great heroes is past anyway - at least for now. The wild Kirk was suitable to the wild sixties, the days between Kennedy and Nixon; his tame

successor Picard is suitable for the Bush and Clinton era.

So Kirk is dead. Or that's what they want us to believe. The truth is that he's retreated inconspicuously into another space-time continuum, waiting for the right moment for his return. And the moment will come, again and again, as long as there are humans.



Viva Vulcan!

Neil J Barrett

I've held back from joining the great Vulcan debate over the last couple of issues but the temptation has overwhelmed me so here goes...

I miss the original Vulcans too. For me, the rot started with 'Conspiracy' and the Vulcan admiral played by Henry Darrow. I've no doubt that he's a talented character actor but to my mind he will always be Manolito from "The High Chaparral". Dr Selar was better but her pale complexion and obviously American accent jarred a little. Tuvok will have to be exceptionally good to make me believe that I am watching an alien and not an actor wearing latex ears. It may be politically incorrect of me but I have a big problem with a Black Vulcan. Some of you will already be jumping up and down and shrieking "Just because you haven't seen one doesn't mean they don't exist." Well, I've never seen an 8 foot tall Ferengi with 3 legs either so lets have one of those next, eh? I agree with Maggie Symon that we should really be looking for a greenish (tarnished bronze?) complexion. Maybe an Arab actor with make-up but not the obviously African-American Tim Russ.

Appearance is only part of it; mannerisms are important too. Leonard Nimoy and Mark Lenard have refined their portrayals over time and developed a style where a look or a raised eyebrow communicates as much, if not more, than the dialogue. Sort of a 'less is more' approach. This helps us suspend disbelief and accept that we are watching an alien controlling his

underlying emotions rather than an actor displaying his craft. Brent Spiner can also do this, provided the writers resist the temptation to use Data as light relief and allow him to explore the character. The more recent incarnations (including the Mintakans) just seem to be there to be the token alien.

We also have the gradual dissolving of Vulcan pacifism and the incongruity of a Vulcan Weapons officer. I mentioned this problem in IDIC 38 but I've been thinking a bit more about it since then. It seems to me that complete pacifism and pure logic may not be totally compatible. I see the Vulcan approach as being rather like Gandhi's - passive resistance but with the rider that force is the absolute last resort. A Vulcan will use violence when there is no alternative but there are always alternatives - as Spock tells us in 'The Galileo Seven'. In that episode, Spock explicitly gives the order "Fire to frighten", thus demonstrating that a display of force may be more logical than its use. When it comes to non-sentient life, there is less of a qualm - Spock does not appear to have any problems with destroying the creatures of 'Operation Annihilate!' for example.

This could well be a case where there is no alternative but to use force in order to secure the safety of others. The good of the many outweighs the good of the few, as it were. How about the Borg? If they simply do not respond to negotiation and are not swayed by passive resistance then only a greater force can prevent them doing harm.

Perhaps this was the logical reasoning applied by Captain Storil of the Saratoga at Wolf 359 or perhaps more simply this was an instance where duty took precedence over pure logic.

I suspect that these traditional Vulcan characteristics may be the reason that more fans choose to be Klingons. In IDIC 37, Jay Stevenson pointed out that it is easier for a Human to pose as a Klingon than as a Vulcan. Not because we are particularly alike but because it is easier to turn to the baser instincts than concentrate on the higher planes. As Jim Kirk said in 'Mirror, Mirror', "A civilised man can easily play the part of a barbarian." The reverse is rather more difficult. Fans who wish to appear as Vulcans may have less effort in the make-up and costume departments but staying in character involves more - not drinking alcohol for a start, not showing any outward sign of emotions, speaking precisely - when even some professionals can't do this.

I'm not so bothered about the Vulcan religious/mystical aspects. Many of us seem to equate logic with cold and mathematical thinking - as did McCoy on many occasions. But logic can also be philosophical and reflective - it could be considered illogical to deny the spiritual side of one's nature and logical to seek a harmonious balance between the two. Some see the Vulcan culture as inspired by 20th Century Japanese who can respect tradition alongside the high-tech world. Merely denying one's emotions is not what being a Vulcan is really about - it's about understanding and controlling them. Perhaps, as Pen Cramphorn suggests, some Vulcans revert to ancient rituals as a way of releasing the suppressed feelings in a controlled and safe way. What does annoy me though is when authors (both fan and pro) fall back on Vulcan mysticism as a device to help them through plot gaps or a *deus ex machina* - that's almost going over the border from Science Fiction to Fantasy.

Of course, the whole religious/mystical thing started with 'Amok Time' and the pon farr. Which isn't really mystical at all, it's a hormonal event linked to Vulcan psionic abilities. The culture may have developed

the childhood bonding as a response to this but I also think it reasonable to assume that there are disciplines or drugs which can lessen the effect; it appears from 'The Enterprise Incident' that the Romulans have developed ways to provoke it. Many writers have considered the approach of Spock's next pon farr and come up with various solutions - if not then there was always Christine Chapel to fall back on. Or do I mean forward? This may not even be necessary - the dissolution of the bond between Spock and T'Pol would be a pre-requisite to her bonding with Stonn and this should therefore relieve the pressure on Spock.

The question about 'little Spocks' rests on the unspoken assumption that pon farr leads inexorably to copulation and then automatically to conception. Maybe the hormonal effects are such that this would be the natural consequence but I would find it very difficult to accept that a race as logical as the Vulcans had not invented family planning. In 'Amok Time' Spock remains lucid for several days as the fever builds in him, plenty of time to make appropriate arrangements. Even if a full-blooded Vulcan is gripped far more strongly it should not be beyond one of the partners to be prepared. In the case of Sarek, there is no problem. Amanda will not suffer pon farr herself and even if she is able to sense it building in her spouse she can take precautions until such time as they have decided logically that it is time to start a family.

Perhaps the only case where nature may have taken its course would be on the Genesis planet between the reborn Spock and Saavik. Although the younger Spock was unbonded and the effects might not have been fatal, we see Saavik begin the finger embrace which could have led to the creation of a bond and from there onward... A more mature, better trained Vulcan than Saavik may have been able to comfort Spock without actually forming a bond. From here on in, the fan writers take over.

This has all been my personal view of Vulcans. I may well be wrong. A lot of our evidence has been culled from atypical examples. Sarek broke with tradition by

marrying an off-worlder, Spock and Saavik are half-breeds, Valeris was not brought up as Vulcan. If you read "Eye of the Beholder" by A C Crispin then there is a suggestion that

Selar is a rebel too. So do we really know what they're like at all? Probably not - they really are aliens.



STAR TREK NOVELS WORDSEARCH

by Margie Ferguson

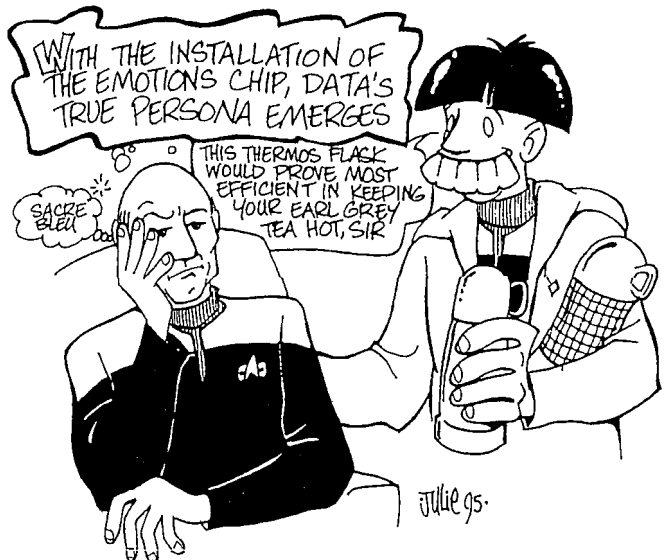
All answers come from the novelisations and some conflict with information given in the TV series.

Clues

1. Young girl adopted by Dr Selar (5)
2. Jackson Carter's nickname for Commander Riker (11)
3. Geordi's favourite childhood toy was a model ...? (8)
4. George named this race the Artists (5)
5. Character created by Data for his novel (5)
6. Tasha's homeworld (3.5)
7. Data's cat (7)
8. The baseball team from Fairbanks, Alaska (11)
9. Small endearing creatures from Alaj (9)
10. Rampartian security device (3-3)
11. Teller was Commander Riker's best friend at Starfleet Academy (5)
12. Human colony enslaved by the Tseetsk (8)
13. Destroyers of the Hamlin colony (7)
14. You have to wear masks here (5)
15. Data joined her in her quest (6)
16. Dorothy Taylor's nickname (5)
17. She had one of 9 named after her (2,7)
18. Wesley's troublesome holodeck program (9)
19. Mr Adin, Tasha's first love (6)

B U P V Q K U R S G K X I T O X Y L
P D Z N T D U E S F I M U P A C V X
N A I L E H T H E A Q X D O C U S S
S A O U R X N S I F T C N L R Q R X
X W N H D Z A U K O H B E S O X E G
K F E B A H M R S O A Z F T L B K J
X N E C R Y Y C G T L N I A N H A V
A U Y F R J E R N H A B T R G J E N
S N E W Y M G D I O G S T S H L R M
X G O R L K O O G L A H I H Y V B D
S J B L U W O L N D Z X F I T D E U
A I U K N S B P I G B A I P K D C P
Z F R F T O S V S A V Q A L P U I K
A R S A L H C Y B Y L A N S M W J M
G I Z P P L L A B R E D N U H T G F
T T C P O W Y L I L M U M U H Z O M
Z Z V X L H E W H X J Y R E T S Y M
N W Q E Q G C N U T Z I I A R O H C

20. A Betazed place for thought and contemplation (7.5)



THE TRIBBLE WITH KLINGONS

Stephen Shaw

Klingons in Classic Trek had a certain look to them. Then came The Next Generation and Klingons looked - rather different. Fans have been discussing this change for some time. (Increased budgets and couldn't care less producers are NOT acceptable answers!). Some rather nice ideas have been suggested, such as different races of Klingons... BUT then we have TNG episode BLOOD OATH in which Klingons from Classic Trek appear, played by the same actors even - but they don't look the same...

Take another look at the classic ep THE TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES.

Our brave Klingon commander seems able to (attempt to...) sweep tribbles off the bar counter, but when later on Kirk brings a couple close to him there is a fair bit of controlled flinching going on. As for the Klingon spy, HE is plainly terrified.

Taruka tells us that "modern" Klingons throw tribbles at each other. Some way from blind panic and utter fear huh?

It all became clear at Sol III when Erik Menyuk placed my son's long haired pet

tribble on his head as a hairpiece.

How did Kirk terrify these brave Klingon warriors? He approached them with loaded tribbles close to head height, AND the tribbles, wailing their attack song, made desperate movements to jump onto the Klingons heads.

Tribbles are parasites, locating themselves on their victim Klingon's head, and amending Klingon behaviour (taking over thought processes entirely or merely guiding them?). The Klingon skin grows over the insinuated parasite, leaving these odd bumps....

What did Kirk's crew do at the end of The Trouble with Klingons? They beamed a large number of tribbles onto the Klingon ship, where they undoubtedly took over the crew and used the vessel to spread the parasitized form of Klingon all over the Empire... where infants fall ready victims to the earlier cuter form of tribble imposed upon them by their controlled parents.

The problem of new Klingons is no tribble at all...



THE UNEQUAL ENTERPRISE?

Jay Stevensen

Are the words "equality" or "tolerance" really good blanket descriptions for Starfleet, as Sara Jackson (N/L 38, p 37) suggests? Next Gen and DS9 might be a little nearer to this ideal, but not much. Classic Trek isn't even in with a chance.

Tolerance? Was Classic Trek tolerant? Check out Kirk's attitude to any society he didn't approve of, especially if it was guided by a computer, didn't know anything about sex, or wasn't striving and struggling enough. And how much had the Human Enterprise crew changed by ST:VI? I almost felt sorry for the Klingons!

Equality? No way! Don't take my word for it. Leonard Nimoy, asked during a seventies Convention about Trek's attitude to women, admitted that "looking back....it was definitely chauvinistic" and quoted the only two incidents where women functioned in a command role: the Romulan commander, whose character he believed was handled with "dignity and taste"; and Janice Lester in "Turnabout Intruder" who represented "one writer's personal statement about the comparative capabilities between males and females." And a pretty insulting statement it was, too.

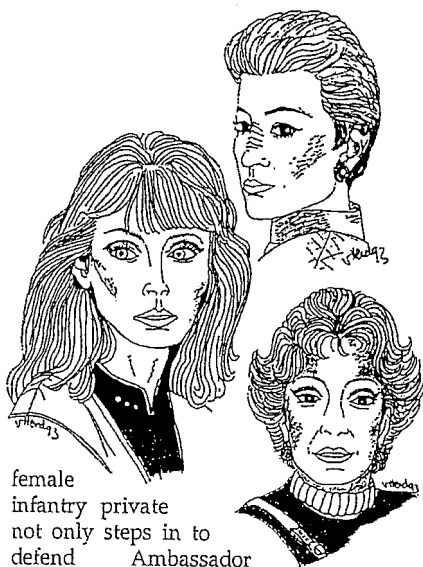
The main command positions on the bridge in Original (live action) Trek were always held by men. And who did Kirk leave in charge of the Enterprise when Spock and Scott were unavailable? Not Uhura (didn't I read somewhere that she was fourth in line?) but Assistant Engineer de Salle (Catspaw).

If women get command in Next Gen it's only temporary. Edward James (Science Fiction in the 20th Century, Opus 1994) comments that "the Star Trek universe gestures towards gender equality (there are women on the bridge) but in a half hearted way; if a strong minded woman appears, she is generally evil." (Or slightly masculine, like the visiting research doctor in Next Gen's "Ethics"?).

The general attitude toward women in the Swinging Sixties was often patronising. Phil Farrand (in the Nit Pickers' Guide to Classic Trek) comments on the way females are called "girl" in Trek, even when they're obviously mature adults and often supposed to be academically qualified as well. This was a contemporary trend. Check out the number of times women are called "baby", "little" and "girl" in the pop songs of the decade. Check out the fashions, which suggested that women should try and look like short skirted gangly teenagers. The bottom skimming, scoop necked "uniforms" in the original series reflect the opinion that the main purpose of women on screen is to be decorative. But in real life not everyone in the Sixties wore mini-skirts, and women in uniform certainly didn't.

All right, Trek *was* a TV show, and Nichelle Nichols has admitted that she liked the outfits, go-go boots and all, but what if you didn't have Ms Nichols' curves? The figure-hugging Next Gen outfits (not to mention Troi's sprayed-on bodysuit) are still aimed at those with a figure to hug. Watch my lips, ladies: if you're plain or tubby, never mind that PhD in astro-physics....forget Starfleet!

Babylon 5 is still way ahead on equality with its unisex outfits, Susan Ivanova flying on combat duty, and a recently aired (April 1995) episode (I didn't catch the title) where a



female
infantry private
not only steps in to
defend Ambassador
Delenn, but does so by handing out the kind
of punches usually the exclusive preserve of
men. (Ivanova can dish out a neat right cross
too.) All right, so this slam-bam fight wasn't
really credible, but neither is it when men
take all those bone crunching wallops on the
jaw and still stay upright, and it was a
welcome example of role reversal, further
emphasised (by a script writer with a nice
sense of humour) when the woman was
shown as making all the sexual advances (to
Garibaldi) and *he* was the one to turn the
offer down, with a sort of 'I need time'
excuse!

It couldn't be done in the Sixties when the network and the TV audiences (as Gene Roddenberry found out when he tried to put a strong trouser-wearing woman on the bridge) just wouldn't take such equality in action. But this is the Nineties, and apart from a few token New Women like Kira Neys (and how often does she get a really strong story?) Star Trek hasn't caught up with the equality trend yet.

Will Voyager, with its female Captain, change things? I certainly don't want to see a martial-arts style Trek, but if Janeway is anything like Ivanova it will be a step in the right direction.

KEEPING A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

or IS JASON NELMES A DEAD MAN?

by Glenn Cooper

Is it just me, or was the last newsletter a tad confrontational? I'm talking specifically about Jason Nelmes' probably already legendary article Keeping a Perspective. Thank goodness the preceding Where's Your Anorak piece by Jay Stevensen provided some kind of a contrast to it.

I've known Jason for a couple of years now; we work in the same building and indeed I was the friend who accompanied him to the Generations showing in which we witnessed first hand grown men reduced to tears by a pack of playing cards. Although my reaction isn't as strong as Jason's, it's still pretty unnerving seeing Star Trek have this kind of affect on people. When *anything* becomes an obsession, it's time to re-evaluate that something. Too much of anything, even Trek, can be a bad thing. But I don't want to get heavy here. "Each to his own, whatever gets you through the night" - that's what I say. If these people want to spend £30 or £40 on these playing cards, it's their money. They enjoy it, so what's the big deal? Who am I - or Jason, for that matter - to judge?

I've spent a fortune on the videos - I'm hardly one to talk about restraint when it comes to spending money on Trek stuff. I'm about to fork out over £30 for registration at the big Cardiff convention next year. Voyager's out on video soon; I'll be handing over my Switch card for that, too.

Yes, I'm a friend of Jason's and I think his piece was very well written, if a little ill-advised. We're all Trekkers here, just to different degrees. I personally wouldn't be reduced to a gibbering wreck by a playing card and I wouldn't dress up at conventions, but I've done some stupid things for Trek in my time. Walked miles in the rain to get Yesterday's Enterprise. Taken a day off work to go and buy Best of Both Worlds and watch it half a dozen times.

It's the wider issues we must all be aware of. We're all being taken for a ride here, and it's got to stop. Paramount is releasing so much Trek and we're just lapping it up. Their latest brainwave of releasing all the Next Gen two-parters in a movie-length format is the last straw. That's the *third time* All Good Things has been released! What is going on here?

Despite the rather confrontational tone of his article, Jason at least summed up one thing perfectly. Star Trek is just a marketing tool for Paramount, a simple and easy way to make money. We have to send them a message that they can't manipulate us any more.

Believe me, I'm trying to remain positive and as rational as I can, but the situation is getting worse each year. Trek is getting complacent, coasting on its own success. TNG was a show that should have been cancelled after its fifth year. Season 6 was patchy, season 7 was a joke. But Paramount knew they had a good solid audience base no matter what, so they gave the green light. And made millions. Star Trek needs to be 'hungry' again. What I mean by this is that Paramount has to realise they can't label any old tripe Star Trek and expect us to welcome it with open arms. The production team is counting on the fact that the Trek fanbase will guarantee good ratings and put out whatever they can come up with as a result. They have to push it, and stop taking us all for granted. The best thing that could have happened to DS9 was its recent ratings scare at the end of season 2. Rick Berman and company pulled out all the stops and made a good show even better. I haven't seen Voyager yet, but I hear that after an impressive start, ratings have fallen dramatically. Maybe this will stimulate the writing and production staff on that show to perform a similar overhaul.

TNG paved the way for the current sci-fi boom on TV; it's ironic that Trek now seems

Our love of Star Trek is not at issue here,

so tame compared to certain episodes of The X-files or Babylon 5 (yes, that show again). I know it's not a good idea to compare totally different shows (like Trek and X-files) but you can't avoid the conclusion that Trek needs to get its dramatic edge back. I was eagerly awaiting DS9's Past Tense two-parter, but bitterly disappointed at the end result. Despite giving Avery Brooks a meaty role at long last, the story was a pale imitation of City on the Edge of Forever, with some truly absurd technobabble. The 'social commentary' on the US homeless policy was about as subtle as a housebrick.

I'm no longer in awe of the stuff being produced. I've just become jaded by Paramount's cynical marketing tricks. Perhaps it's simply because we're run out of stories to tell? I couldn't wait to get my hands on third season TNG, you had the sense that they were really pushing the envelope. I've enjoyed most of DS9's third season so far, but it's not sending my pulse racing as Best of Both Worlds or X-files/B5 does. I look

forward to each new release still, but not to the extent I once did. I hope Voyager changes all this, and proves that Berman and Co have taken into account the rapidly changing climate of TV sci-fi. Trek is in danger of being left behind; it's simply not the innovator any more, it's become the sad, mad old uncle of the genre. The key to putting this right is trying to show Paramount we're not going to settle for anything less than first class Trek any more. I'd rather see the next movie scrapped and the two TV shows cancelled than see the Trek universe fall further behind and become a laughing stock of the sci-fi community.

Yes, Jason - there are maybe a few of us in IDIC and other fan clubs who take our Trek a little too seriously. But we all love Trek in one way or another or we wouldn't be in this club at all. It's time to put this affection for the programme to good use and start turning things around before it gets any worse. Any suggestions?



WHAT OF THE FUTURE

by Jenny Turner

When I say "What of the Future?" I don't mean Star Trek, but the future of Mankind.

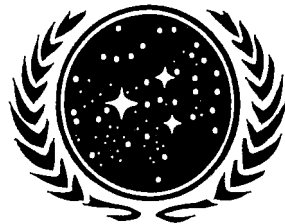
In the last 50 years we have come on in leap and bounds. What would our great grandparents have thought of today's wonders? What would the pilots who fought in the two world wars think of our planes today - the Harrier jump jet, Concorde and the Stealth bomber?

Kirk said in The Voyage Home that we were a primitive and paranoid society; well, we would be, wouldn't we, compared to the 23rd and 24th centuries! Man has fought two World Wars and doesn't seem to have learned much. He is still fighting. Let's just hope World War 3 and the Eugenics wars don't happen.

But a lot of science fiction has become fact. We have lasers - why not phasers? We have the little telephone screens where we

can see who we are talking to, and the recent advances in medical equipment are almost miraculous.

I would love to come back in 300 years and see if we do have a ship called the Enterprise, with Captains like Kirk, Picard and Riker, which go where no man has gone before. I look up at the stars and wonder what is out there. Let's just hope they are friendly, like ET, and not like Aliens!



FRUSTRATED NOTES ON POCKET BOOKS

by

Vered Gilad

I am writing this to share my frustration with people who understand, as I believe that writing to the guilty party (Pocket Books) and expecting to get some form of reply is hopeless. As time passed I managed to gather a number of what I call Pocket Book Annoyances.

The most recent annoying fact - releasing the new NG Companion, but not bothering to release a supplement for all those loyal PB customers who bought the first edition. Like me, I bet there are many others who would like to have information on all the 7 NG seasons, but are hesitant to buy the new book because of the question "What shall I do with the old one? Shall I use it as..." and you get the basic idea. The other question asked: "Will this also be the fate of the next edition of the ST Encyclopedia?" Even though it is full of mistakes (some of them unforgivable) I think that most people would prefer a supplement to the old edition rather than an enlarged version.

Also I've noticed that the covers of the novels are getting more and more uninteresting. Although they are beautifully done, they give you hardly any information about the story itself. The older books had covers with pictures of planets, non-regular characters, regular characters doing some sort of action related to the story, etc. Nowadays you usually get 2 - 3 'busts' of the main characters (Kirk + Spock, Kira + Sisko, etc) and maybe if we're lucky the picture of the Starship or space station, with a star/ nebula background. It seems that PB publishers think "No matter what we do, these hopeless Trekkers will buy anything we publish."

On the same note, I wonder how good could books written in a period of 1 - 2 months be. I have a feeling that many of the recent books took about that long to be written and the result is many low-quality stories (not well developed, with shallow

characters and "not-thought-till-the-end" story lines). As this trend continues, I believe that eventually the only PB ST books worth waiting for will be the giant novels which take at least a year to be written (I hope). I know that many have quit reading these official novels for this reason and have gone on to reading fan written ones, but what about people who don't have access to these books? I consider myself a loyal buyer of PB ST novels (as I have no other choice) and I feel cheated. Even though I'm bright enough to understand how profitable it is to publish at least 2 - 3 novels per month, I still think we deserve better.

Two more points and I will finish my whining.

First, the placement of the book number of the Voyager novel The Escape. The number was placed in a rather large red circle between the two legs of the letter "A" in the name "Voyager". I don't know what others think, but this seems to me quite ugly and unaesthetical. I hope they change it quick or get themselves a different graphic artist.

And last, I've sent two letters to J M Dillard via PB, one quite recent (a month ago) and another more than a year ago, both letters with SAE + IRC). It looks like PB doesn't bother to forward these letters to the authors. I know authors are very busy people, but a period of more than a year of waiting for a reply is very, very long. I believe that even a very busy writer could manage to find some time to answer letters from fans, even if it only to say "Thank you" and nothing more, and if the writer really can't afford time to answer, there should be someone at PB who could write some sort of letter acknowledging the fan's letter (even just a form letter. They're getting enough money to afford a clerk just for that purpose).

Opinions, anyone?

THIS IS AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL MEMBERS

Greetings to our fellow Star Trek fans around the world. Welcome to a new and exciting event in Star Trek history, an event that only the care and devotion of Trek fans could make possible. Across America and around the world a call for action has rallied fandom again and the response, as always, had been swift and sure.

The Star Trek:Deep Space 9 episode which aired in America the first week of February, 1995, was witness to the unnecessary death of the character of Vedek Bareil, played by Philip Anglim. Fans who felt this plot device was a mistake and a waste of great future opportunity have come together in hopes of reversing Paramount's decision.

For our friends overseas who don't yet know of this character's demise, it will occur in the third season episode Life Support. To complete negotiations for a treaty between Cardassia and Bajor, a gravely-injured Bareil is given an experimental drug by Dr Bashir. It allows him to function during the negotiations, but at the cost of his own life as the drug eventually does irreversible damage to his brain.

Months before this episode was broadcast, fans of the character and the award-winning Philip Anglim went into action. Clubs and individuals began to send Paramount Studios letters asking for Bareil's return. Death, after all, is hardly a permanent state on Star Trek. Take a moment and you could probably come up with a believable way to return him yourself. If Paramount is convinced to change their minds, it might be the one they use!

'Friends of Vedek Bareil' is the banner under which fandom is rallying, both clubs and individuals, in hopes of returning Star Trek:Deep Space 9 to its diverse, poignant and character-driven roots. Losing Bareil is damaging to the warmth and complexity Nana Visitor has brought to Kira Nerys and deprives us of a character who epitomised Gene Roddenberry's vision, a future filled

with open-mindedness and intellectual solutions. This campaign is being conducted in the spirit of that character, without malice or insult, and in respect for Mr Anglim's wishes, although he is not involved. It is our hope to return Bareil with Mr Anglim in the role and that Star Trek will continue to bring us heroes who are men and women of peace.

When writing to Paramount please identify yourself as one of the Friends of Vedek Bareil to become part of this campaign. If you are inclined, we are also seeking liaisons all over the world to expand our reach. Please contact the campaign at the accompanying physical or E-mail addresses if you would like to help.

Peace to you all and may we walk with the prophets.

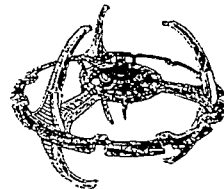
Friends of Vedek Bareil

To reach the campaign contact

Gayle-Lynne Gordon, West Coast Co-ordinator, 4919 Murietta Avenue, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423, USA or Stella Sutkiewicz, East Coast Co-ordinator, 119 S Camden Avenue, Fruitland, MD 21826-1323, USA; campaign e-mail address: sisc@loc.gov

Please address your letters to Rick Berman, Executive Producer: Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Paramount Studios, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038, USA. Also address a separate letter to: Ira Steven Behr, Co-executive Producer: Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Paramount Studios, The Hart Building, 5555 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90038, USA.

It is very important that a letter is sent separately to both Mr Behr and Mr Berman.



Enterprise NCC 1701-D

by Nigel Nixon

The USS Enterprise NCC 1701-D is, we are told, a Galaxy class Starship, the most powerful spaceships ever constructed by the Federation. Formally classed as an Explorer it is able to accommodate up to 4,500 scientists on voyages to observe phenomena of interest. Its powerful weapons systems make it the most formidable Battleship the Federation has ever had. It is the pinnacle of the Starship builders' art.

Is it any good? Frankly the answer has to be no.

Let's explore why I think this.

As an exploration vessel:

When the -D has a full complement of scientists on board they should at least be able to use the sensors. They cannot, or at least not until the Wretched Wesley and Ensign Lefler have recalibrated the sensor settings (The Game). This is not good design. Luckily a full complement of scientists is a rare event, which is unfortunate because to run a Starship at something less than one quarter capacity is a terrible waste of energy, it's rather like using a single-decker bus as a family car. Obviously conserving energy is not a priority in Starfleet.

As a warship:

Because the -D was made to hold those 4,500 scientists it has to drag around empty cabin structure, internal inertial damping, life support and replicator equipment that is only used when the ship is full. Because of this the -D is bigger than it needs to be, presenting a very large target indeed. We know the -D does not have inertialess drive, so, when it has to manoeuvre, it has to move all the excess weight that it carries. This does not make it an agile fighting machine. In any situation where the -D has to move in any way (i.e. accelerating, braking) it would be totally outclassed by a smaller, lighter, ship with the same size engines, and because a smaller ship would need less energy to

manoeuvre, that saved energy can be directed towards phasers and shields, meaning that the -D can be outmanoeuvred, outgunned and would not be able to break through the enemy vessels shields.

So, what use is the Enterprise-D? As far as I can see its only real purpose is to be used as a psychological weapon against less well developed races, to impress them with the Federation's power. After all, smaller, more efficient ships could do what the -D does, and do it cheaper and better, but they would not look anywhere near as impressive, or menacing, as the sight of the -D entering your star system. As part of the -D's mission is to make first contact with alien races, it must raise some doubts about the way the Federation regards these missions.



Answer to Word Search

B G P V Q K U R S S G K X I T O X Y L
P D Z N T D U E S F I M U P A C V X
N A I E B H T E B A Q X D O Q U S S
S A Q U R X N S I T C N L R Q R X
X W F H D Z A T H O B B S Q X G
K F B B H M E S O N Z F T I B E J
X N E C Y Y C Q T I N I M H A V
A U T F J T E N H A B T F G J E N
S N E W T M G D I O G S T S H L E M
X G Q R L K O O C L A H I Y V B D
S J B L U W O L N D Z X E I T D E U
A I U K N S B P J G B A I P K D Q P
Z F B F T Q S V S A V Q A L P U T K
A R S A L H C Y B T L A N S M W J M
G I Z B E E N B E E D N E H T G F
T T C P Q N Y L I L M U M U H Z O M
Z Z V X L N E W H X J Y R E T S Y M
N W Q E Q G S N U T Z I A R O H C

1. Thala (13), 2. Thunderball (10), 3. Starship (13), 4. Ylans (13), 5. Fritz (13), 6. New Paris (4), 7. Mystery (GN1), 8. Icebreakers (15), 9. Nefitifi (14), 10. One-Eye (11), 11. Conlon (15), 12. Foothold (21), 13. Choraii (3), 14. Lorca (7), 15. Thelia (GN1), 16. Chops (11), 17. Dr Crusher (14), 18. Boogeyman (17), 19. Darryl (4), 20. Singing Skies (10).

The numbers in brackets are the book numbers.

REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



• THE FEARFUL SUMMONS by Denny Martin Flinn No 74 Pocket Books
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

This is stated to be a sequel to ST:VI The Undiscovered Country, but in my opinion can only be called this because chronologically it follows the movie.

Captain Sulu of the Excelsior and ten of his officers have been kidnapped and are being held to ransom by the Beta Prometheans, a race of traders with moral similarities to the Ferengi. When Starfleet makes no attempt to rescue the missing officers, instead sending Sarek to negotiate with the planetary ruling family (which actually has little power, the religious leaders being the real power) James Kirk gathers his now-retired senior officers and heads off in a borrowed vessel to attempt a rescue.

I can't quite make up my mind about this book. As a space adventure it's fine; as Star Trek? Well... The writer (a co-writer of ST:VI) admits to coming into Trek with the movies, and his lack of knowledge of the TV series does show. On P 36, for example, the Excelsior's sensors can only detect the presence of life forms, but cannot differentiate between Human and a markedly alien race (for a start they have four legs). Certainly, if they could have done so, the story would have finished on P 40. Unfortunately, on P 63, the sensors *can* detect that there are several different life forms on a planet. If you're going to make a boo-boo of known facts, you should at least be consistent.

I've spoken before about repeating plot themes, and this includes another of the "oh, not again!" subthemes - the race that wants nothing to do with the Federation, while believing unquestioningly everything the Klingons say.

I didn't feel Mr Flinn got the Enterprise characters quite right, either. I can't see Scotty as a drunken layabout, for example,

Chekov as a gambler or Spock acting in Shakespeare (that Vulcan critics would think Shakespeare illogical, however, does ring true). And how Uhura can apparently just walk away from the responsibilities of her new job without even assigning anyone to take over from her...

It also seems as if the name of the aliens was changed at some point - throughout the book they are referred to as Beta Prometheans; in the cover blurb, they're Thraxians.

The actual writing is competent, and Mr Flinn's own characters are well drawn. He has some very nice turns of phrase, too - unfortunately, like so many American writers trying to write Scotty speaking broad Scots, he fails pretty comprehensively in that - which wouldn't be so bad if he was consistent. Once again, he was not. For example, "do not" varied between do na, do nay, dinna and do nae, with dinna also being used for "did not". Or do I blame the editing for all that? At any rate, it kept making me shudder, though probably only a Scot would notice, and it certainly coloured my over-all view of the book.

It could have been worse. On the other hand, it could have been better, especially in the small details that lend colour to a book. 6 out of 10.

• DEVIL IN THE SKY by Greg Cox & John Gregory Betancourt Pocket Books
Reviewed by David Gallagher

En route to Bajor via Deep Space 9, a Mother Horta is abducted by the Cardassians, leaving Sisko to look after twenty unhatched Horta eggs. Kira, Dax and Bashir mount a covert rescue mission deep into Cardassian space. Meanwhile, Sisko is left holding the baby - quite literally - as the Horta eggs hatch into twenty hungry and confused infant Hortas with voracious appetites. While Kira and her rescue party come up against more than they bargained

for, Sisko and O'Brien have to find a way to prevent the hungry horde of Horta from devouring the entire space station.

Although the historian's note at the front of the book places this adventure in DS9's second season, for me the characterisation was more reminiscent of the first season - for example, Sisko's distrust of Kira's command ability when he asks Dax to keep a discreet eye on her during their away mission, and Bashir's complete social and technical incompetence - and even Jake and Nog's juvenile behaviour, which only served as a catalyst for the station's problems in the first place.

The book is an entertaining read - with a lot of humour coming from the on board station antics and all their efforts to stop the rampaging Hortas - especially at the expense of one young ensign whose uniform of the day becomes a blanket - and just as you forget about him, he makes another comical appearance. The fun is offset by the serious story line of Kira's rescue attempt - and her discovery of a Cardassian-run Bajoran death camp.

I found the blatant kidnapping of a member being from a Federation ship, with no apparent fear of reprisals, a bit hard to justify in the first place - but then without it we wouldn't have had a plot! And why it took so long for O'Brien to follow his daughter's lead as a temporary solution is a mystery. Even Sisko's final answer to his Horta infestation was blatantly obvious from the beginning of the book.

All in all, a light-hearted tale punctuated by some hard-hitting scenes on the Cardassian mining colony. Lots of action, and a few light-hearted moments along the way. An enjoyable, if not welcome, addition to the DS9 range of novels - with Odo getting some of the better one liners. I'll give it 7 out of 10!

• INTO THE NEBULA by Gene DeWeese
TNG 36 Pocket Books
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

When answering a distress call, the Enterprise finds a disabled generation ship

that has left its home planet nearly a century before. On investigation, they find the planet surrounded by a thick layer of polluted dust, only a few million of its inhabitants still surviving. They also detect a number of energy bursts, and link these with some strange ships they detect in the dust cloud - ships that disappear virtually into thin air.

At first sight this is yet another conservation-style plot; it isn't, and there's rather a nice twist.

I enjoyed a lot of this book. The Enterprise characters are in character and most of the Krantin natives are well-drawn too, though I did find their leader rather too paranoid to be true. However, I did find some of the middle part of it was... I'd hesitate to say *dull*, but I certainly found my attention wandering while Data was investigating the mines; the description seemed rather pedestrian. I also felt at times that Mr DeWeese wasn't quite sure of his own technobabble and hadn't thought his background through quite thoroughly enough. I did, however, like his organic sensors... 7 out of 10.

• RAGNAROK by Nathan Archer Voy 3
Pocket Books Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Ship's sensors detect a brief coherent tetrayon beam, similar to the one that resulted in their transfer to the Delta Quadrant. Hoping that this might give them a way home, Janeway ignores Neelix's warning that they are heading into an area avoided by all the spacefaring races in the region - the Hachai and the P'Nir have been at war for centuries, and although the Hachai might give them a warning before shooting, the P'Nir are more likely to shoot first, assuming that any ship not P'Nir is an enemy. Before long, they find themselves in the middle of a battle'field' - with thousands of ships involved...

I'm not a reader of war stories so I don't know how those are usually developed, but considered dispassionately I wouldn't have considered that this plot, no matter how well developed, would have had enough scope to carry a story 270-odd pages long. Mr Archer

manages it very adequately, however. My only minor quibble concerns the extent of Neelix's knowledge of the war and the attitude of the two warring parties.

As a story, I neither like nor dislike it. Mr Archer seems to have considered all the ramifications of this plot thoroughly, unlike his recent DS9 book *Valhalla*. There's nowhere I could say that the development depends on a hole in the plot, or felt "But why didn't they...". On the other hand, Janeway's hope that they might bring peace to the warring races seems rather naïve when you consider *Voyager* is one small ship and the aliens' ships are numbered in thousands, some of them as large as small moons, the battle has already lasted some 6 to 8 centuries and neither side is willing to talk to anyone. The characterisations are fine (except that Tuvok is a little more willing to fight than I'd have expected of a Vulcan, even a Vulcan security officer). The story is well enough told, the changes of viewpoint nicely enough done; *but*, as with *Valhalla*, I felt there was no real spark, nothing to stir the blood and make you want to know what happens next. I know Pocket has imposed considerable restraints on what the writers are allowed to do, but some writers seem able to operate inside these restrictions and produce a well-told, exciting story. Mr Archer, alas, apparently cannot. 6 out of 10.

• **THE CARETAKER** by L A Graf ST;Voy 1
Simon & Schuster £4.99
Reviewed by Leslie Moyes

So here we are again, the first novel in a new Trek series, and this is another first for me as it's the first book by this writing team I have read. But what a start!

I had not seen any *Voyager* before I started this book, so I had no idea about the show at all. I enjoyed the way the writers developed the characters, such as Janeway and Kim, and from what I read of Janeway she looks like being one of Trek's strongest characters for a while - well, on the printed page, at least!

A lot of the characters who did not make it, including the ship's original doctor, get

their own background stories, which is quite refreshing as it has not been done before. The scene between Tuvok and Neelix is a gem! Although I had not seen it, I could just picture it.

I also loved the DS9 bits at the start, which as well as having Quark has another DS9 character - I'm not saying who, you will have to read it to find out! From what I have read, The Caretaker looks like being the best Trek pilot ever... and this more than makes up for the lacklustre *Generations* fiasco. 10 out of 10 - a highly recommended debut!

• **ASHES OF EDEN** William Shatner and Judith and Gar Reeves-Stevens.
HB £9.99 (but I paid a fiver because the cover was bent)
Reviewed by Catherine Carter

This is a very odd book. I hated it at first and started to write a review from that standpoint. However, as I did so I realised that I'd short-changed it and went back for another look. I came away this time with a lot more respect for it and for its authors.

It's after STVI but before *Generations* - Kirk is feeling worn out and depressed (one reason I liked *Federations* is that he's in a good mood for once), he is lured away from Earth by a nubile Romulan/Klingon young enough to be his daughter with vague promises and half-truths which everyone except him can see are phoney. Also involved are a life-long enemy (whose hatred is never adequately explained) an undercover mission for Chekov and Uhura, the intervention of Captain Sulu and the *Excelsior* with Spock and McCoy aboard and murky politics back at Starfleet. When he gets where he's going he finally realises that "all is not well" and becomes more like the character we've seen in countless other books. The other characters, except possibly Uhura, get a reasonable look in too.

This is not a comfortable read and die-hard "Kirk can do no wrong" fans will hate it. It is, however, a brave and largely successful attempt to write Kirk as both fallible and entirely human and not merely as a hero.

In it he behaves both badly (Carol Marcus must be a glutton for punishment) and foolishly (he's supposed to be in his sixties - surely he'd have learned to think with a portion of his anatomy somewhere north of his gonads by now) and yet, and yet although he makes mistakes they are Kirkian mistakes and the solutions are Kirkian solutions and it is, after all, merely another demonstration of the fact that on Earth the character is a fish out of water, only in space is he both alive and extraordinary.

Two things to watch out for. The first is Kirk's musings on the difficulties of being very famous for a long time, when everybody thinks of you as an uncle because they've grown up knowing you and you get asked the same questions over and over again. You cannot help but hear the voice of, sometimes uncomfortable, experience from the actor as well as the character. It may just be a calculated plea for sympathy from a trio of clever writers but it's certainly effective. The other is the last two pages which although neither canon nor suggested plot for the next film (unlike other things in the book) remind us that "there are always possibilities."

I'm giving it 8/10 for bravery if nothing else; nobody else would have dared write this.

• **THE ASHES OF EDEN** by William Shatner, Reviewed by Jean Sloan

The opening of this novel is so sad! Spock stands beside Kirk's grave on Veridian III... There is then a flashback to the time after the Enterprise has been decommissioned after ST:VI. The story takes place in the period between that event and Kirk's 'death' on the Enterprise-B.

Sulu is of course a Captain. Uhura and Chekov are on an undercover mission. Spock is being a diplomat. Kirk is seeking a direction for his life which he finds in the company of a young, nubile, Romulan/Klingon hybrid named Teilani. She offers him a chance for adventure to save her world, reunited with the Enterprise-A, sold off as a private vessel, stripped of its Starfleet equipment. All is not as it seems, and Kirk is

believed a traitor; even Spock and McCoy are unsure of him.

I enjoyed the story though not unreservedly. Some aspects of Spock and McCoy's attitude to James T I found out of character. Also the actual style of the book - short sentences, often staccato - irritated me sometimes. However, I thought the story in tone and content fitted in with the universe established in the films, and Kirk's character is entirely in line with his attitudes in ST:VI and Generations.

This is the first ST novel in ages that I would recommend.

PS to Jackie Comben - I look forward to your rewrite of the ending of Generations with anticipation...

• **CAPTAIN'S LOG SUPPLEMENTAL 11**
Seventh Season Guidebook By Edward Gross & Mark A Altman Boxtree 1995
Reviewed by David Painter.

This is the third instalment of the Boxtree guides to all seasons of Next Gen.

Let's start with the cover. There are two problems; the crew picture is obviously from the first season showing an unbearded Riker and a bun-headed Troi. It also misses out Worf and Dr Crusher. The sub-title is misleading, as only 50% of the book covers the 7th season. The large typeface inside certainly cuts down the amount of information we get for our money. Also on the question of space, the photocopies of magazine covers which advertise episodes do nothing for the content and serve only as padding. I accept that it would be boring without some break from the text and I understand that without Paramount's sanction these books have to use photographs of the actors taken at conventions and the afore-mentioned adverts. However I'm assuming that Trekkies would rather have as much background, interviews and critical reviewing as they can cram into the book.

The layout of the 7th season guide half of the book follows the format of the previous

volumes with each episode headed by credits with the original American airdate (not included before). A short plot synopsis follows. Thereafter the book concentrates on comments mainly from the writers, occasionally from the directors and rarely from the actors. There is some fascinating background stuff in this, but a lot of it is self-congratulatory. I personally believe that season seven contained some of the worst and the best of Next Gen. I think that they should have quit sooner, they were definitely running out of ideas. An example which I liked was that of Gates McFadden complaining that they wouldn't let her show corridors littered with excrement in "Genesis" (her directorial debut). Come on, the episode contained enough crap without needing any more!

The nit-picking approach pioneered by Phil Farrand would be welcomed here and could easily be accommodated in the space used by the poorly reproduced photographs. On the other hand there is a superb photograph of William Shatner and Patrick Stewart seated either side of Gene Roddenberry. I was delighted at this, believing that the two actors had only met recently. I am sure the reader would love to know the background to this shot, but all we get is a 1995 copyright credit with no explanation.

This picture is in the second half of the book which mainly deals with the

"Generations" movie. A few pages are used discussing the background to the film and cast in much the same way as the episode guide. Almost all of what remains in the second half of the book is question and answer transcripts of Rick Berman, David Carson, Patrick Stewart, Brent Spiner, Malcolm McDowell and William Shatner taken from a "meet the press" promotion at the release time of Generations. As you would expect, this is all upbeat, mutual admiration society stuff, interesting in an historical context now that most of us have seen the film, although I think I saw a different film to the one these glowing transcripts referred to. There are three appendices at the end. These are "The Last Trek" being further discussion of "All Good Things", already adequately covered in the first part of the book. This is followed by a short piece on Patrick Stewart's appearance on "Saturday Night Live". The third is "A Breast of Both Worlds" which is a discussion on Marina Sirtis's costumes and cleavage which I found pointless (no pun intended!).

Summary: I can recommend this book only for the insight it gives into how a storyline evolves into what we see on the screen. I would have preferred some genuine criticism of the direction, acting and plotlines etc and less of the self-congratulatory bovine deposits. There are one or two nice photographs. There is some interesting background on how the movie "Generations" came to the silver screen.



ZINE REVIEWS

• **THE LEGACY** by Rosemarie Heaton
 ScoTpress Comments by Jenny Turner

At first I was becoming really fed up with James T Kirk when he kept having a go at poor old Spock; obviously they were not as close as Kirk thought, and it all seemed to centre round Gary Mitchell. They didn't seem to know much about the planet or what was going to happen when they got there. Eventually I discovered that it was Spock that

Gary was after; Kirk and Spock get together again after various problems, but Kirk then realises that he has a lot more to learn from Spock.

I really enjoyed this story - eventually! - and couldn't put it down. I hope Rosemarie is going to do some more stories.

Incidentally, I like the small 'book' size of ScoTpress's zines.

• SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR by Gloria Fry
Reviewed by Joan Foxley

Shadows is described by the author as a mirror-universe crossover novel. The action takes place immediately after the episode Mirror Mirror, and the five main chapters are set alternately in Empire (the Mirror universe) and Federation. Each main chapter is well structured and is sub-divided into small sections - a good way to pace the various strands of the story lines. Quotations are used at the start of each main chapter to set the scene.

The overall plot is based on the reaction of each captain to the instability of the region of space surrounding Halka. The Federation sub-plot considers how the members of the landing party come to terms with problems caused by their experiences in the alternate universe. The Empire sub-plot explores the character of the mirror Kirk (with his changing attitude to Spock, who has been influenced by the Federation captain) and how his actions precipitate a confrontation which changes all their lives and which will ultimately alter the course of the Empire by allowing Spock to fulfil his destiny.

This is not an action zine - the plot exists primarily to allow the strength of the writing to surface in an exploration of all the characters and their interaction. The portrayal of each character (whether from the series or invented) is excellent, from the devious, insecure and malicious mirror Kirk, via a confident and capable mirror Uhura and an uncertain (series) Sulu who has lost confidence in his Uhura, to a pair of Spocks who have a great deal in common, not least their nobility of spirit. The characters are well-mixed (eg Sulu and Uhura, Spock and McCoy) in the various scenarios.

The dialogue (with its linking narrative) is skilfully written - it is always clear who is speaking, even without the character being identified. The use of italic asides gives an insight into the thoughts and motivations of the characters and enhances the account.

There are some neat inventions, indicating that the author has thoroughly

researched the additional background required for the mirror universe.

My only grouse (very minor) is that the section where the mirror Kirk is finally reconciled with his crew only amounts to about a third of a page (which is a little abrupt for my taste).

Throughout this zine it is clear that the author is rare in being able to understand the nuances of command, and what makes the interaction between the characters (especially those within the command team) 'tick'.

In all, this is a well-written and thoroughly enjoyable 'good read'.

Shadows of the Mirror, 124 pages, A4 format, large type, is available (£6) from Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort St, Glasgow G41 3XG.

• NEW ENTERPRISE

reviewed by Anne-Marie Flowers

New Enterprise is a brand new TNG zine from this side of the Atlantic. Issue 1 contains 75 pages of fiction, articles and computer images with a definite bias towards Picard.

First of all I have to say that I was impressed with the cover - plain 'command' red with a gold-embossed graphic of the Enterprise 1701-D. Rather classy.

The first piece of fiction takes the form of a trilogy with the writing shared between Lesley Turner and the editor Ann O'Neill. Set after Chain of Command, the story deals with Picard's recovery but it centres not so much on his own crisis as on the feelings of his fellow officers, particularly Riker and Dr Crusher. The story flows well despite, or perhaps because of, the two-author team and the characterisation is excellent.

Next up is It's Played This Way, Too, again by Turner. This story is set during a cricket match and was written in reply to a baseball story by Lillie Deans which appeared in Beverlyfile 2. Unfortunately the rules of cricket are a complete mystery to me though I did enjoy the imagery of Jean-Luc


dressed in cricket whites with his shirt half undone.

To Sleep, Perchance to Dream (S Lock) is a post-Borg recovery story, this time highlighting the Picard-Guinan relationship.

The Chain (Turner) follows on from Attached and was definitely my favourite story in the zine. Jean-Luc accuses Beverly of cowardice with regard to their relationship and from then on the gloves are off! The tension is electric and the dialogue crackles with more than a few home truths. A wonderful piece of P/C. Read it and gasp!

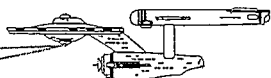
Dream Enough, the final story by Ann O'Neill, won first prize in the fiction competition at Contagion last year. Set after The Inner Light, this is a poignant cameo featuring a very moving conversation between Riker and Eline.

I think this zine could turn into the UK version of Involution, and I am eagerly looking forward to the next issue. I recommend it to Picard fans everywhere.

New Enterprise, £4 (inc UK P&P), available from Ann O'Neill, 38 Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Reading RG7 3UY, England. 



NEW ZINES



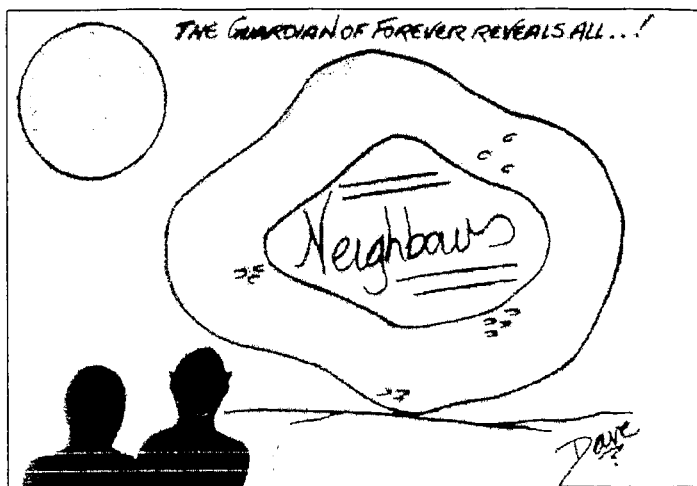
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Gloria Fry.

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2 - Counselling
Skills by Anne-
Marie Flowers. Who
counsels the
Counselor? Set post-
Thine Own Self;
Man of Sorrows by
Ann O'Neill. What if
Beverly had been
less than successful
in removing Borg

implants from Captain Picard? Set post-Best of Both Worlds 2; Time for Everything by Sarah Lock. Does everything have a price? Q returns to the Enterprise; The Big Goodbye by Lesley Turner. Picard is court martialled. It is a time for grief and maybe even love. Set post-ST:Generations - to be continued in Penpals and Reunion; Fear No Fall by Isabelle Wood. A Picard/Riker hurt/comfort story - tortured by Romulans, Picard is eventually rescued by Riker. Part II will be in issue 3. See Zine Ads for ordering info.





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Order from Sheila Clark, 6 Craigmill Cottages, Strathmartine, by Dundee DD3 0PH. Please make cheques/POs payable to Scotpress. Visa/Access/Mastercard accepted but please add 5p per £1 (or part of £1) to your total order.

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Many other zines available. We are authorised to reprint the following zines; out of print ScoTpress zines; Stardate Unknown 1 - 5; R & R; Archives; Showcase; Masiform D; Quartet + 2; all T'Kuhtian Press titles (Warped Space, Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. Our British agents are Lynne Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics, LE12 9HG and Janet Ellicott (see below) - SAE to either for British prices.

Greycloud Services (8/95)

"Star Trek" and many other zines always available from Janet Ellicott, 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN. I agent for Bill Hupe and Peg Kennedy, Bjo Trimble and Bernice Russell, and publish my own zines as well as dealing in secondhand zines. Send me a large (at least A5) SAE for a copy of my list.

New Enterprise (8/95)

NEW ENTERPRISE issue 2 is an A5 booklet

with a colour card cover featuring gold foil inlay both front and back. The interior is photocopied and totals 80 pages. This is a limited run of 100 copies (each copy is numbered) and there will be no reprints. Includes news items, articles, adverts and fiction. Available mid-July 1995. Includes stories by Anne-Marie Flowers, Ann O'Neill, Sarah Lock, Lesley Turner and Isabelle Wood. Every effort is made to despatch orders within 48 hours of receipt. Prices (inc P & P) - UK. £4.00 (sent first class), Europe £4.50, USA/Australia £5.00 (sent airmail). Cheques, POs should be made payable to Ann O'Neill and should be in sterling due to the high cost of converting foreign money into sterling; wherever possible, cash should not be sent. Order from Ann O'Neill, 38 Stephens Firs, Mortimer, Reading, Berkshire, England RG7 3UY. Please enclose SSAE with any queries.

There are a few copies of Issue 1 left, which will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

ZINES by Kay Stagg (8/95)

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 (6/95)

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 art work 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. Please send \$6.00 US currency for foreign or (IRC's). 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 42; SCATTERED STARS 7; WITHIN THE MIRROR 10; WHERE ANGELS FEAR (a K/S novel); PLAYFELLOWS 9 (multi-media '/') SASE for info. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Ed, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Orion Press (6/95)

ERIDANI 24 (TNG) 140 pages, \$13.75; OUTPOST 3 (DS9) 180 pages, \$15.75; GIVEN TIME by Caroline Kummer (OT) - the Enterprise encounters time travellers from the future. 108 pages, \$12.00; A DIFFICULT CONCEPT, a collection of cartoons, 22 pages, \$4.50; INVOLUTION 7 (TNG), 180 pages, \$15.75; IDYLLS 12 (TNG) 174 pages, \$15.50; DELTA QUADRANT (Voyager) (Marge Robles, PO Box 491144, Ft Lauderdale, FL 33349-1144, USA) and INTERLUDES (CT stories about the crew before, during, between and after their missions) (Ann Zewen, 11729 Fairway Drive, Irvington, AL 36544, USA) both due later this year and are soliciting submissions. Prices include US postage

Gloria Fry (8/95)

NEW: BOOK OF PROPHECY - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 1 - in which Kirk,

Spock, McCoy, Uhura, Chapel, Sulu and Chekov are snatched away to an alternate universe where magic rules. They must learn to accept their destiny as Heroes of the Prophecy and save a land from the Evil Lord and his minions. A4 format. 98 pages. Price UK: £5.00. Europe: £6 or £5+3Irc's. Art includes stunning long-haired Kirk and Spock portraits by Maggie Symon. Short run of 50 T-shirts available M, L, XL. (Spock only) £11.00 each. Europe: £12 or (£10+4Irc's.) If there's enough interest Kirk T-shirts next. 30 names minimum required. **SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR** (A mirror universe crossover novel taking place immediately after the episode 'Mirror Mirror.') Federation - 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, takes 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. Europe £7 or (£5+5Irc's). Sterling only please. Prices incl p&p. 'Zines illustrated by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless. Available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW, G41 3XG Scotland. I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell my zines in the U.S.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (8/95)

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 \$15 Bulk mail, \$20 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 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.

(6/95)

FICTION FILE - an all fiction based newsletter dedicated to classic and TNG Trek, Babylon 5, The X Files and Blakes 7. Presently available for an SAE only. (A5 preferred) For further information and a copy of Issue One write to Lindsey Shelton, 94 Parkes Street, Smethwick, Warley, W. Midlands B67 6BH.

TrekDistribution (6/95)

A TNG/DS9 Amiga disk-based zine with parodies to serious stories, poems and spec scripts as well as behind the scenes and background character information.

Disks 1 + 2 include over 20 fan produced stories such as Back to the Future and Quantum Leap crossovers and a strange story with a certain Wesley Crusher running Deep Space Nine... Disks 3 + 4 include TNG/DS9 behind the scenes gossip, season lists as well as information on the main and supporting cast. 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.

8/95

QUADRANTS FANZINE

Issue two is now available, featuring indepth reviews of Star Trek Voyager, Generations and The Horizon Convention in February. Also we have a MASSIVE Klingons in focus section, containing everything you need to know about this honourable race. Read about the current USS Enterprise, the American aircraft carrier CVN-65. You'll be pleased to find that Deanna Troi continues her open counsel in this issue. Plus the latest News on the state of Deep Space Nine and Voyager, ALSO prove your knowledge on all matters Star Trek and join our StarFleet Registry by passing the Academy entry test.

QUADRANTS FANZINE Available at a cost of £1.50 Make your Cheques or Postal orders payable to : Quadrants And send them to: P.O.Box 1701, Leicester, LE4 0ZU, England.

8/95

K/S Zines - various. Including Kismet I, an anthology of K/S stories. £16. Also - slash

Hooker/Corrigan stories. A Touch of Blue £6, Blue Heat £6. 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.

8/95

Outpost presents its first gen-zine. Original Star Trek stories, poems and artwork, most done by members. Printed in English. Send SAE plus 2 IRCs for details. Karen Hayden, Markstrasse 94, 47798 Krefeld, Germany.

Brenda Callagher (8/95)

AIRWAVES: a computer printed multimedia zine, photocopied Issues 35, 36, 37, 38 and now available, 39. SSAE (or 2 IRCs) for 10 page comprehensive flyer of contents, prices. Submissions wanted for future issues. Submissions also needed for THROUGH THE IMAGING CHAMBER, a new "Quantum Leap" zine featuring cross-over stories where Sam leaps into characters from other television series. Stories accepted so far include Sam as Howling Mad Murdock (The A-Team), Jeff Randall (Randall & Hopkirk [Deceased]) and Jason (Mighty Morphin Power Rangers). Hoping to include Sam as Fox Mulder (X-Files). The main QL limitations (leaping within Sam's life-time) don't necessarily need to apply in this zine - he's journeying through the Imaging Chamber (in other words, the television) and could become anyone in any time. No limits to the length of story but no slash material, please. If there is enough interest, this publication could become semi-regular. Work can be submitted on disc PCW (3" - 180k or 3.5" 720k). Compatible with PCs using 720k, (but please store files as ASCII). Manuscripts (typed if possible, otherwise CLEAR handwriting) will be returned if requested, discs by return of post. Sent to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

8/95

LET'S SEE WHAT'S OUT THERE 2 - a multi-series zine. New price, £3.95, plus 2 IRCs for overseas orders. Any profits to Childline. Orders and submissions for issue 3 to K Heintz, 23 Birniehill Ave, Bathgate, W Lothian EH 48 2RR

Zines by Pat Mitchell (8/95)

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 stories, all by Tish. UK price £9.00. PROMISES, PROMISES; a B/D short story zine based on The Professionals. UK price £10.00. *NEW* - SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN; a B/D novel 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.

Margaret Basta (8/95)

THE BEST LAID PLANS by Margaret A Basta, a post-Generations novel. Picard wants peace but doesn't get it; Beverly wants Jean-Luc but on her terms; Deanna wants her mother to stop matchmaking (but you know Lwaxana); Geordi wants to design new engines and Data wants to compose some music. The emphasis of this somewhat humorous novel is on personal relationships and their possible resolutions. 190 pages, UK \$25, USA \$21 priority mail. ATTACHED MEANT by Margaret A Basta, a ST:TNG post-"Attached" tale about what should have happened after Beverly and Jean-Luc enjoyed the hospitality of the KesPrytt. 150 pages, due July 1995. UK, \$23, USA 18 priority mail. Order from Margaret A Basta, 21811 Coolidge Hwy, Oak Park, Michigan 48237-2805, USA.

(8/95)

FEDERATION AND EMPIRE The original Federation and Empire series was published in Babel throughout the 70s. It garnered critical, professional acclaim including a Hugo nomination for the author. The first two stories were reprinted in Face Forward, vol 1 no 1 (May 1994), and the last two in vol

2 no 1 (May 1995). Finally, after twenty years - the sequels! The next two novels in the series, *BLOOD SEASON* (TOS/TNG) and *THE WIDOW TREE* (TNG) are currently available, \$18 each (USA), \$23 (foreign) + \$5.00 P & P for a hard copy, priority mail. They can be supplied on disc formatted to your specification (\$10 + \$5 P & P). Four more novels are in the pipeline - *TEARS OF A VULCAN* (TNG) due Dec 1995, *SENESE* (TNG) due May 1996, *THE BLUE TATTOO* (TNG/DS9) due May 1996, and the final one, *SOQUIEM* (TNG/DS9) in Dec 1996.

E-mail inquiries/orders to:

ad095@detroit.freenet.org. Send cheque or money order to Laura Sandler, 25207 E Roycourt, Huntingdon Woods, MI 48070, USA; allow 3 - 4 weeks for delivery.

Due South (8/95)

PARTIAL RECALL - a Due South novella (112 pages) involving theft and a multiple homicide, available from Elyse Dickenson, 43 Topfield Rd, Wilton, CT 06897, USA. UK \$17.00, USA \$13.00.



CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS



Conventions



Janet receives a list of conventions world-wide off the Internet. If you would like a copy send Janet an Acorn or PC 3.5" disc plus return post and packing, or, for a printed copy a SAE 9"x6" plus an extra 25p stamp. Please specify that you want the Internet list of 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.

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 pppn.

For further info send an SAE to Nexus 95, 26 Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol BS7 9PQ.

LIGHTSPEED '95 1st-3rd September 1995. The Hilton International Hotel, Leeds. Charity R.N.L.I. Confirmed Guests (subject to work commitments): Robert O'Reilly (Gowron) and Dennis Ashton (space expert). Full Registration £35. SAE for registration form to Lightspeed Conventions, 16 Bramwell Street, Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ. The convention will host the first British STING Customizable card game tournament over the weekend with special prizes for the winner donated by Decipher Inc. Entrance forms and Rules on application to the convention.

NEA'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, Sacha's, Manchester. Confirmed Guests: Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, Michael O'Hare, Sonni Cooper, George Marshall. Registration: Full £35, Two day £25, Any One Day £15.00, reduced rates for children. Room rates pppn: Single £40, Twin/Double £30,

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 Ireland International Star Trek Conference, 16th and 17th September 1995, University College Galway Conference Centre, with Guests: Award-Winning Writer Peter David, Robert O'Reilly (Gowron), and the return of the popular Fan Organiser Shelley Jarvis. Luxury Student Accommodation available on Campus. Charity: the Children of Chernobyl. Send a SSAE or IRC to: Mairéad King, c/o 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon, Co. Clare, Republic of Ireland; Tel/Fax: INT-353-61-472812; E-Mail: wise@iol.ie.

VIENNA CON '95: New date: October 20th to 22nd 1995, Venue: The AUSTROHOTEL, Felberstr. 4, A-1150 Vienna, Austria. Guest of Honour: George Takei, Richard Arnold, other guests to be confirmed. For info send SASE (IRC, Brit. stamps and money accepted) to Karin Embacher, Krottenbachstr. 104/2/3, A-1190 Wien, Austria.

CONFEDERATION '95 Nov 4th & 5th, 1995 Starbase Apollo presents Aberdeen's first full Star Trek weekend at the Douglas Hotel. New screenings of Voyager and DS9 plus TNG in Dolby Prologic and some classic ST, episodes. Discos, parties, competitions, fancy dress and Karaoke Trek are just some of the events planned. Also, a large merchandise area will be available. All profits to local charities. For full details on registration and reduced price accommodation send SAE to Starbase Apollo/Confederation, P.O. Box 10076, Portlethen, Aberdeen AB1 4YE.

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, 152 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX.

WARP TWO The 41st British Star Trek Convention. 2nd to 6th May 1996, Cardiff International Arena. The weekend's events will be held in the many function rooms available in the arena. Amongst other items our programme will include: Guest Talks, Dealers, Auctions, Discussion Panels, Videos, Competitions, Theme Parties etc. etc. Registration £35 for full weekend. For queries send an email to me at 100531.2147@compuserve.com For a registration form send a stamped self addressed envelope to me at David Simons, Warp Two, 69, Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middx, HA8 6JB, England.

CONSTITUTION III 5th to 7th July, 1996. Tollgate Motel, Gravesend Kent. Registration: Full £20, 5-16/disables £10, under 5's free. Room rate £29.50 pppn for twin/double room. SAE for info to Tina Hewett, 115 The Brent, Dartford, Kent DA1 1YH.

OTHER EVENTS

INTERSECTION The 53rd World Science Fiction Convention 24-28 Aug 1995. Scottish Exhibition Centre, Glasgow. Full registration £90. Guests of Honour Gerry Anderson & Samuel R Delany. 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.

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: £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 Léonard 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.

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.

WHO'S 7 STRIKES BACK (WHO'S 7 1996) 26/27 October 1996 at the Ashford International Hotel, Ashford, Kent. Full registration £40.00 (until 30/4/96) then £45 - supporting £20.00. Guests, videos, games and lots of other things! Contact Who's 7 Strikes Back, 10 Filebrook Hall, Filebrook Road, Leytonstone, London E11 1AG, England. E-Mail: lexin@cix.compulink.co.uk.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Hello! My name is Ben McClelland and I am looking for penfriends who enjoy all forms of Star Trek, especially TNG and DS9. Anyone, anywhere (especially France and America), any age! I am 13 years old and, as well as my undying love for Star Trek, am interested in the X-Files, Quantum Leap, the New Adventures of Superman and certain other aspects of general science fiction. Write to me and I will try to answer any letters I receive! My address is: 78 Woodward Road, Dulwich, London S.E.22 8UL.

40 plus female longtime fan of all aspects of Trek welcomes penfriends from home and overseas. I would particularly like to hear from fans of Meaney, Schultz, Menyuk and Beltran regarding their careers in and out of Trek. I will try to answer all. Elaine A. Edmonds, Flat 59, Chatsworth Drive, Hucknall, Notts NG15 7NT.

I am a great Star Trek fan and hope to get penpals, especially from Scotland, who are interested in Star Trek too. I'm 24 years old and my hobbies include reading, playing computer and video games, Runrig, Star Trek, collecting glow in the dark stickers. I'm a member of Star Trek Central Europe and Hololog in South Africa and a founder of our monthly Trek dinner. Susanne Hänsen, Dionysiusstrasse 20, 56642, Kruf, Germany.

Hi fans, I would like to hear from any Star Trek : Classic, TNG, DS9 and Voyager fans. Please contact me. James Woodman, Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton, 82170 Grisolles, France.

I'm 20 years old and a Next Generation follower. My favourite actors are Marina Sirtis, Gates McFadden and Wil Wheaton and my favourite all time aliens are the Borg. I love dancing, sport and travelling. I am looking for Trekkers in Northampton. You can contact me at Duncan Brounlee, 46 Crestline Court, Goldings, Northampton NN3 8XP.

I'm a fan of all ST, but especially DS9 and Dr Bashir. I'm 35, a would-be writer, and I'll answer everyone who'd like to write to me. I also like B5, X-files, Starcops (anyone remember that BBC series?) and cats! Eunice Pearson, 2 New Houses, Pant, Merthyr Tydfil, Mid Glamorgan CF48 2AB

Would anyone care to write to me? Will answer all letters. Love to hear from people abroad or from here. Got loads to talk about (as one of my friends will tell you!) I am 32. Please write to Miss Maria Woodward, Ashcroft, East St, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH.

Jerry Silber would like to contact IDIC members in the New York State, or the east

coast. Jerry M. Silber, POB 2545 - Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12220-0545. Tel. (518)449-7499
silber.jerald@albany.va.gov

Sonja Cameron, 28 E. Bedford Ave, Aberdeen AB2 3YQ is from Germany and would like to make contact with Scottish fans, especially those living in the Aberdeen area. Her main TV interests are Original Trek and Starsky & Hutch, although currently she does not have a television set. Other interests include history and Gaelic. Her telephone number is 01224 481866.



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 - screensavers for Acorn computers. Amateurlly produced, but still extremely good. Send an SASE for details: Screensavers, Ben McClelland, 78 Woodwarde Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8UL. ALSO! If anyone else has any Star Trek disks that I can run on an Acorn Archimedes 3000 I would love to hear from you!

FOR SALE - Trading card singles + sets of the following: TNG inaugural, TNG Episode 1 + 2, Generations, Masterpieces, DS9. 25th Anniversary 1 + 2 and Voyager series 1. Also available TNG Panini stickers and TNG limited + unlimited customizable cards. Please send SAE to Alexis Stokes, 26 Becketts Hertford, Herts SG14 2AN.

FOR SALE - K/S Zines. SAE for list. Mrs R.J. Boycott, 14 Rochford Tower Lane,

Boston, Lincs PE21 9RQ.

FOR SALE - K/S Zines (CKS, Sojourns, Duet, Nome, Out of Bounds, FT, NT, M/A, DA, CT, Shades of Grey a.o.) and MM (DYAD, WG, HK, B7 PRODS stories a.o.) SAE + IRC or \$1 for list A. Maether, Parkstr. 15, 32105 Bad Salzuflen, Germany.

FOR SALE - Full set of Limited Edition (black border) Star Trek Customizable game cards. Also factory sealed box of Limited Edition booster packets. Best offers secure. Contact Malcom or Karen on 01277 633836.

FOR SALE OR SWAP - ST:TNG customizable cards, black and white border. Send SAE with lists to S. A. Taylor, 129 Wynford Road, Half-Moon Crescent Estate, Islington, London, N1.

FOR SALE - Customizable cards (white & Ltd), Inaugural, Generations, 25th Anniversary, STTNG Season 2. Single cards available. Send SAE to Nancy Wilson, 97 Stamfordham Drive, Springwood, Liverpool L19 4XD.

FOR SALE - Star Trek trading cards, game cards and POG's for 25th Anni, DS9. Masterseries and TNG. Sets range from between £6 and £10. Single cards between 10p and 20p each. Also available Chase/Bonus cards. Send SAE for details to Mark French, 23 Colgrove, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL8 6HY.

FOR SALE - Photos from Sol III of Dwight Schultz, Eric Menyuk, Richard Arnold and Harry Harrison. £1 each, includes p+p. Cheques/Pos to Miss R Morris, 32 West Road Ellesmere Port, Wirral L65 9AR.

FOR SALE - Zines - gen and K/S, plus IDIC newsletters. Please send SAE for list to Christine Jones, The Bungalow, Recreation Ground, Leeholme, Co Durham DL14 8HN

FOR SALE - Classic Trek zines - genzines and some K/S. Please send SAE for list to Lynne A Buckley, 160 Fairway Rd, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leics LE12 9HQ

HELP - loads of uncommon and rare white border TNG game cards; willing to swap 3 - 1

for black border cards. Also quite a few common (and uncommon) black border cards available - send SAE for my wants list and my list of what I've got available to swap. Will also sell cards at the new reduced prices. Chris Coxon, Westway, Rectory Lane, Winchelsea, E Sussex TN36 4EY

FOR SALE - Alan Dean Foster's Star Trek Log series 1 - 9, good condition. £11. 12 assorted Star Trek audio novels, £3.50 each (or all 12 for £40). William Shatner's Ashes of Eden hardback novel. Mint condition - read once - unwanted gift. £6. All enquiries, SAE to David Gallagher, 47 Broxholme House, Harwood Rd, Fulham, London SW6 4AA

FOR SALE - Attention, folks! Brent Spiner's Ol' Yellow Eyes is back and coming to Britain! This is available on CD or cassette; and a range of merchandise. For more information, please send SAE to Donna & Dawn Macey, 66 Albert Rd, Worcester WR5 1EB, England. Overseas (inc. Europe) please send 2 IRCs for replies.

FOR SALE - Excellent quality 6 x 4 convention photos of most actors from all Star Trek series. For a list of availability, please send SAE to Donna & Dawn Macey, 66 Albert Rd, Worcester WR5 1EB, England. Overseas (inc. Europe) please send 2 IRCs for replies.

FOR SALE - I am selling my Star Trek merchandise. This includes K/S zines as I don't read them any more. If interested please send an SAE to Jenny Turner, 46 Chinnbrook Rd, Billesley, Birmingham B13 0LX, or ring 0121 443 2995 after 6 pm, please.

FOR SALE - Comic collection. TNG comics from No. 1 (Oct 89) to No. 70; TNG 6-issue mini-series (1988); Star Trek comics from No. 1 (Oct 89) to No. 70; Star Trek - Modala Imperative 1 - 4 miniseries; TNG Modala Imperative 1 - 4 miniseries; TNG 'Annual' comics No 1 (1990) to No. 5 (1994); Star Trek 'Annual' comics No. 1 (1990) to No. 5 (1994); DC Star Trek specials 1) Space 1999, 2 Winter 1994; Star Trek 'Annual' comics No 1 (1990) to No 5 (1994); DC 1984, odd issues, Star Trek Generations and All Good Things. Reasonable offers considered. Frances

Abernethy, 6 Mitchell St, Dundee DD2 2LL

WANTED - S.O.S! I'm looking for everything about or with Leonard Nimoy - interviews, films and photos. I can exchange material, and will pay all expenses. Silvia Boy, H-Burmeister Strasse 22, 18435 Shalsund, Germany.

WANTED - Has anyone out there got a season 2 episode of seaQuest, plus any photos from the convention of all the actors (they don't have to be all together) or the whole set of Generations trading cards. Please write to Miss Maria Woodward, Ashcroft, East St, Westbourne, Nr Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH.

WANTED - Does anyone have a copy of the soundtrack CD of The Hunger (an early 80s vampire movie starring David Bowie and Catherine Deneuve) that they are willing to sell? I am desperate to obtain this CD and will pay any reasonable price for a copy in good condition. Wendy Wootton, 8 Longlands Close, Ossett, West Yorkshire WF5 0RD Tel 01924 277853

WANTED - Some kind satellite dish owner willing to record for me 7th Series TNG, 3rd series DS9 or any Voyager (or Space Precinct!). All expenses met! Also any UK source (buy or borrow) for the Star Trek cast recording of War of the Worlds from US public radio? Stephen Shaw 10 Alstone Road Stockport, Cheshire SK4 5AH

WANTED - First Time zines from Merry Men Press. Mrs R.J. Boycott, 14 Rochford Tower Lane, Boston, Lincs PE21 9RQ.

WANTED - Good quality close-up photos of Schultz and Menyuk at Sol III. (mine aren't that clever!!). I will pay postage etc. of course. Elaine A. Edmonds, Flat 59, Chatsworth Drive, Hucknall, Notts. NG15 7NT.

WANTED: Novels of STTNG and DS9, must be in good condition. Also NG Weetabix cards. Nancy Wilson, 97 Stamfordham Drive Springwood, Liverpool L19 4XD.

WANTED to buy or swap - Weetabix card of

Romulan Warbird. Will pay good price. Please write to Mrs Jo Healy, 17 Pembury Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8BU.

WANTED - Does anyone have a copy of the pilot and first couple of episodes of the current series 'Due South' for sale or loan? I will cover all postage costs and promise to return them promptly. Please write to Miss Leah Dore, 82 Little Dock Lane, Honicknowle Plymouth, Devon PL5 2LZ.

WANTED - US Readers! I'll exchange the last four episodes of Babylon 5 Season 2 (shown here in the UK) for the last six episodes of DS9 season 3. Write to Matthew Deegan, 57 Wentworth Avenue, Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset BH5 2EH.

WANTED - Star Trek (all series) books, incl novels, reference books, whatever; any blooper tapes to borrow, copy or buy; any Voyager tapes, likewise. Got any zines you'd like to sell on? Drop me a line? Craig Lemon, 78 Mountbatten Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 6TP.

WANTED - Videos of Jonathan Frakes pre-TNG to borrow (I'll pay costs), or to trade for fairly good Generations photographs (most of the cast available). Please contact JFNNetwork, 16 Celandine Close, Seaton, Devon EX12 2XA.

WANTED - Babylon 5 Comic issues 105 and Babylon 5 Times, issues 1-3. Will buy or swap for rare ST:CCG (black border) cards. Please contact Martin Helsdon, 1 Meon Close Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 5QG.

WANTED - to borrow, preferably to buy: Mahko Root 1. Metamorphosis 1,3,4, Nexus 4, Rigel 1, Rising Star (ed. Karen Fleming), Sun and Shadows (ed. Carol Frisbie). Also wanted: complete bibliography on Sue Jones and Rayelle Roe. All postage paid. Waltraud Zucha-Glass, Im Taeli 8, CH-3052 Zollikofen, Switzerland.

WANTED - Video recording of The Champions episode, The Iron Man, shown on BBC2 on 25th May. A copy of the recording would be most welcome, but failing that, a

loan of the tape will be fine. I'll refund costs of tape and/or postage as appropriate. Lesley E. Hatch, 74 Pitfields Road, Brandhall Estate, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands B68 0RQ.

HELP! At Rec-Con/Leeds in 1989 I bought a movie-uniform-jacket at a fan-table. Could he/she/they please get in contact with me - or anybody, who produces authentic Star Trek uniforms (esp Movie and Classic). I would also like the address of the 'Klingons', who usually have a table at the Glasgow Cons! Karin Embacher, Krottenbachstr. 104/2/3, A-1190 Wien, Austria Tel. 0043 1 36 19 412. (If you write to me, please also give your telephone number, thank you.)

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.

"Bird of Prey" are a dedicated Star Trek Rock Band, mixing Rock/electronics and dialogue (no singing) from the Star Trek shows to form complete songs. If you would like further information or for them to play at a gathering contact Bird of Prey, 45 Fairview Crescent, Rayners Lane, Middx. HA2 9UB. Tel: 0181 248 1014.

MISC

PENPAL LIST! Send your ad to: S'Talisha (SM), 46 Broughton Road, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE33 2RP, England. Please give date of birth and age. For a copy of the list (continuously updated) send: UK: 2 second-class stamps; elsewhere 2 International Reply Coupons (buy from post office). List currently (June 95) has 81 listings, male/female age 10-53 from 22 countries worldwide. Includes 30 SF fans. Any queries? UK - send SAE; elsewhere - send 1 IRC.

MODEM: Got a computer and modem? Want some of the very latest news - hot off the internet? Pictures of the casts of Classic Trek, TNG, DS9, Voyager and other SF pictures (inc. B5), stories and info. Email addresses are available and all the help you need. With Free access and extended subscriptions for specialist areas. Starbase Alpha BBS: Open from 10pm till 8am, 7 days a week.

Tel: (01202) 570737. Fidonet 2:251/106.

In the Benthalls shopping centre, Kingston, a shop called Starlog has opened up. They sell a whole range of Star Trek goodies such as T-Shirts, uniforms, badges, Bajoran earrings, stationery etc, and also other Sci Fi products such as comics, Red Dwarf etc. Phone: 0181 541 0210.



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.

STARBASE 74: Annual membership UK £5, Ireland/Europe £7, overseas £10. Each member receives 4 newsletters (booklets), on TNG, DS9, Voyager and the Movies; a rank based on age, and position; a membership test; advancement tests. Starbase 74, 46 Boyn Valley Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 4ED

The Patrick Stewart Appreciation Society PSAS Now sanctioned by Patrick Stewart as his official fan club, this UK-based society is for those interested in Mr Stewart's past

career and in following his future work. Individual and family memberships, 4 newsletters per year. SAE for information/application form to 38 Ashbourne Grove, Halifax, West Yorks HX1 4JU. E-mail enquiries may be made to 100027.151@compuserve.com

GALACTIC FRIENDSHIP, 6 bimonthly n/l's and 6 updates plus Yearbook per year (German), monthly meetings and video viewing; membership Austria ATS 350,—, rest of Europe ATS 400,— also AMIGA TREK disk magazine, PC disk magazine. For info send SASE (IRC, Brit. stamps and money accepted) to Karin Embacher, Krottenbachstr. 104/2/3, A-1190 Wien, Austria.

THE TAILORING TIMES: For those who appreciate a well cut suit, and Cardassians, a new bi-monthly newsletter/discussion zine. We want information, gossip, speculation, reviews, character and episode analysis, thoughts on their society (political/social) etc right down to what they have for dinner (oops - strike the last point, the Obsidian Order ALREADY knows!). Are they as nasty as the Federation and the Bajorans would have us believe - nah!? To kick off, Issue 1 will concentrate on Cardassians in TNG plus articles on any of the above, and in particular Garak and Dukat. Please send in your submissions NOW! We hope to publish by August and the first issue will be available free of charge, just send an 8"x6" SAE to: The Tailoring Times, c/o Ann Neilson, 53 Howth Terrace, Anniesland, Glasgow G13 1SS.

KHEMOREX KLINZHAI is a Klingon Star Trek club for fans with 6 n/l's per year and an art special mid year. Write for further info and applications form to Fleet Commodore Klaa Sutai Kedar, c/o Lee H. Close, 101 Barton Terrace, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9LL.

Aron Eisenberg Fan Club A sanctioned fan club for Aron, (Nog) has recently been established. The club will cover DS9 only and will also cover Armin Shimerman and Max Grodenchik For more information about the club and membership please send a SAE (+IRC) to: Anita Campbell, 1659 Porter Road, Union, NJ 07083-4359 U.S.A.

E-mail address: SoupTime@aol.com

A **Rene Auberjonois** mailing list has been started. If you are a Rene fan, here's how you join:

send e-mail to:

rail-request@webcom.com

The SUBJECT should be blank.

Your MESSAGE must be:
subscribe

That is all that is required in the message. Anything more will at best be ignored, and at worst will prevent your message from being processed.

OUTPOST - (Classic Trek Club) New address: Outpost, Karen Hayden, Markstrasse 94, 47798 Krefeld, Germany. Send SAE plus 2 IRCs for details.

BABCOM: The Club for fans of Babylon 5. Quarterly news-zines featuring interviews, cast bios, US episode reviews/updates and much more. Dues £7.50 for one year membership (payable to M Ali). For more details send SAE to: Babcom, 14 Champion Grove, London SE5 8BW.

QUANTUM QUEST: a British newsletter for fans of Quantum Leap. [Dues for four issues: UK £3.00, Europe £4.00, USA \$12; cheques in British currency payable to Ms H C Broadribb, dollar payments acceptable in cash only.] For further details, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Quantum Quest, 5 Sandfield Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8AW, England.

KAFERIAN APPLE CLUB - Mike and Neil would like to thank all members for their help and support in getting the club off the ground. Membership has increased significantly since Sol III - we still however want more members! Look out for the KAC Roadshow Live at Wolf 359! Keep 'em peeled - the fruit is out there...

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

Most of these groups have monthly meetings. Please enclose an SAE when writing to them for details.

Aberdeen - Starbase Apollo, PO Box 10076,

Portlethen, Aberdeen AB1 4YE. Meetings: Aug 20th, Sept 10th, Oct 15th, Nov 12th, Dec 10th, in Douglas Hotel.

Brighton - If you are interest in a new Star Trek group contact Jon Massey, 18 Middleton Rise, Brighton BN1 9AN.

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: 3rd Sept., 15th Oct., 26th Nov.

Hull Starfleet - Beam down to the Comfort Friendly Inn (formerly the Vallent House Hotel on the corner of Analby Road and Ferensway). Meetings 12 noon - 5pm. Meeting dates: Aug 20th, Sept 24th, Oct 15th, Nov 19th, Dec 17th. For further info send SAE to Hull Starfleet, PO Box 1701, Hull, UH4 7YU or telephone (01482) 875208.

Portsmouth - The imaginatively titled Portsmouth Starfleet - Sarah Rooke, Flat 3, 20 St Davids Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO5 1QN. Ring 0705 723892 (office hours) or 0705 341946 for details of events locally.

Watford - Deep Space 8. Meetings held every other week, alternating Sats (1.30pm) and Suns (12 noon), at 'The Happy Hour' pub, Eastbury Road, Watford. August meetings will be Sun 6th and Sat 19th. For more info send SAE to Claudia Ventrella, 65 Brookside, Eastbury Road, Watford, Herts. WD1.

* * * * *

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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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 £9.00, USA/Middle East Air \$25.00 (£15.00), Australia £16.00, Europe £11.00.

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