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Newsletter 43

"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.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Darleen Roddenberry-Bacha, daughter of Gene Roddenberry and his first wife Eileen, step-daughter to Majel Barrett-Roddenberry. Darleen died Oct. 29 at UMV Medical Center in Las Vegas of head injuries she sustained in an accident. She was 48. Our sympathies to all her family.

We were also sorry to hear of the death of Glasgow member Mrs Ann Crozer. We extend our sympathy to her family.

This has been a very difficult two months for all of us. First of all, Janet lost Shona, who is badly missed by all of us; she was 16, and had had a very good life. Then Sheila's mother had a stroke and is currently still in hospital; finally Valerie had (another) absessed tooth.

During October, Janet went to Dundee and rescued a dog from the SSPCA centre there. Carrie is a 2-year-old lurcher who looks very like a greyhound; we think there's deerhound in her ancestry as well. She is a very affectionate, biddable dog. She wasn't being

ill-treated by her previous owner - but he had 19 dogs and found himself unable to feed them all, so the SSPCA took 17 of them to be rehoused.

Sheila's mother is still very sleepy most of the time, but has now been put onto physiotherapy, though we still don't know how full a recovery she will make.

Valerie's tooth may still be hurting, but it isn't hurting her...

Most of you have probably noticed our new logo. The main reason for changing it is that a member has offered to make round badges and the last logo would not have fitted. This one brings us up to date on all Trek series. Our thanks to Mark Mclean for redesigning it. Details of how to order the new badges will be in the next newsletter.

Mark also designed the new heading for the Latest News section, now titled Subspace Echo. We feel this title better fits the subject. The Star Trek Co-op puts out a newsletter called Subspace Echo but as we are only using the title for a section heading Anny

Wise has kindly given us permission to use it.

Many thanks to those of you who have sent in things for the newsletter - keep them coming in. While we couldn't use everything in this newsletter having a stock of articles and quizzes helps us try and balance the newsletter better. Also, since December/January tends to be a quiet time it is nice to have some things in hand for the next newsletter.

Would anyone who wants to write in to the Postbag, or submit an article, using a pen name (Klingon, Cardassian, Vulcan, etc, or even plain English) please remember to include their own name (or even just their address) on their letter to us. Most of you do, but Sheila got a letter this time from someone who simply signed the letter "Kurak" and no address. We can't use it. We can't use anything that comes to us anonymously; for copyright reasons we, at least, must know who sent it.

One or two people have asked us recently how they know their renewal is due. Well, first of all, the number of the last newsletter of your subscription is on your address label; but we also send a renewal form automatically with the last newsletter of your subscription. We do recommend that you renew fairly quickly; we don't get many extra copies of a newsletter printed, so if you're late renewing, you might miss an issue.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

The closing date for the next newsletter is January 17th. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS. If you send things to the wrong person it causes us extra work and expense.

PLEASE put your full name on all submissions (including individual disc files) - if you don't and they get separated from your letter then we can't print them.

Email - send to Janet and she will try to confirm receipt within 2 weeks.
(Email - janet.quarton@almac.co.uk)

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 anything to be typed up for the newsletter to Sheila. Send news & cuttings, to Janet.

Cartoons and anything else to be scanned - send to Janet.

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Our thanks to Peter Carmody, Karen Davies, Barbara Ellams, Michael Flett, Kathleen Glancy, Valerie Herd, Richard Hewitt, Michael Hill, Brenda Kelsey, Fiona McDonald, Nigel Nixon, Gloria Rigg, Mary von Heide, Baerbel Schmidt, Alan Stephen, Jenny Turner, Edward Woo and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for sending information and/or cuttings.

IDIC GUIDE DOG APPEAL

The Kennel Club has accepted Modachaidh's Kirk as kennel name for the puppy called Kirk that went to be puppy-walked recently. There's no word on Kirk's progress with his puppy walkers - but in this case no news is undoubtedly good news.

Brodie has qualified, so once again we're without a dog in training. We haven't heard yet where he's gone.

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 & Student Awards Agency for Scotland, Neil Barrett, Elizabeth Barrie, Joyce Bowen, Julie Burton, Linda Court & sister, Alistair Craig, E D Davies, Charlotte Davis, Veronica Duthie, Judith Farrow, Jane Fenn, Anne-Marie

Flowers, Mark French, Vered Gilad, Kathleen Glancy, Jo Healy, Martin Helsdon, Rachel Higgins, Catherine Hill, Michael Hill, Glyn Holland, Irena Hradecka, Sandra Hunger, John Hurles, Anke Kaiser, Carol Kean, Jessica Lemmer, Ingo Meinerzhagen, Mark Mclean, Nigel Nixon, Sylvia Paddock, R.A.Pater, M Payne, Claudia Peill, Gloria Rigg, Sarah Rooke, Allison Rooney, Stephen Rothwell, Neil Safi, Baerbel Schmidt, Jean Sloan, Ingrid Smith, Martin Stahl, Marcia Stanislawski, Margot Sykes, Jenny Turner, Olga Fernandez del Val, Karin Wendt, Bridget Woolven, Edward Woo, Ann Lindsay Wright and anyone we have inadvertently forgotten to mention, for donations of money, collectibles, and/or used stamps for the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

We can use all used stamps, whether British or Foreign. If possible please trim them, leaving '¼' of envelope around the stamp.

Please note that the next newsletter will be out slightly later than usual. This is both to give us a bit of a break over Christmas and the New Year and to allow for submissions to come in after the holidays. We plan to post the next newsletter out around February 7th.

We would like to wish our members all the best for the festive season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from

Janet, Sheila, Valerie 12/11/95

The passing of a dear friend.....

She slept with Gene Roddenberry and Majel didn't mind a bit. She always had immense dignity, even when obliged to attend a Masquerade party dressed as a cat. She joyfully galloped across the open countryside, never short of energy. When at rest, she lay with her paws crossed before her, neat and utterly feminine. Every fan who attended Conventions knew her by name, even if not at all sure of Janet's identity.

We shall all miss Shona. We salute a person of character and presence, loved by all. Fandom will be the poorer without her.

JYC



compiled by Janet Quarton

TV & SATELLITE

We certainly can't complain about the lack of Star Trek at the moment.

BBC 2 is screening:

TNG 6th season on Wednesday nights,

DS9 1st season on Thursday nights (Friday Scotland) since September 28th.

Original series 1st season on Sunday mornings since October 15th.

Sky is screening:

Voyager 1st season on Sundays since October

22nd.

TNG Monday - Friday since October 2nd. Also movies STII and STIII have also been shown on the SciFi Channel.

Star Trek Voyager - The Making of a Legend, a 1-hour special, was shown on Sky One on 21st October.

STAR TREK

DEEP SPACE NINE

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

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Date	Prod Num	Title
07/10/95	75	475 Hippocratic Oath
14/10/95	76	476 Visitor
21/10/95	77	477 Indiscretion
28/10/95	78	478 Rejoined
11/11/95	79	480 Little Green Men
04/11/95	80	479 Starship Down
18/11/95	81	481 The Sword of Kahless
25/11/95	82	482 Our Man Bashir

EPISODE SPOILERS

475 - Hippocratic Oath. Directed by Rene Auberjonois. Teleplay by Lisa Klink; Story by: Nick Corea and Lisa Klink. Guest Stars: Scott MacDonald as Goran'Agar, Stephen Davies as Arak'Taral, Jerry Roberts as Meso'Clan, Marshall Teague as Temo'Zuma.

Held prisoner by a group of rebel Jem'Hadar, Bashir and O'Brien clash over Bashir's desire to help their captors escape Dominion rule.

476 - The Visitor. Directed by David Livingston. Written by Michael Taylor. Guest Stars: Tony Todd as Adult Jake, Gwyn Gorg as Korena, Aron Eisenberg as Nog, Rachel Robinson as Melanie.

When a tragic accident causes Sisko to vanish before his son's eyes, young Jake begins a life-long obsession to bring him back.

477 - Indiscretion. Directed by LeVar Burton. Teleplay by Nicholas Corea; Story by Toni Marberry & Jack Trevino. Guest Stars: Penny Johnson as Kasidy Yates, Marc Alaimo as Dukat, Roy Brocksmith as Razka.

Forced to bring Dukat along on a

personal mission, Kira discovers the real reason her nemesis wants to accompany her.

478 - Rejoined. Directed by Avery Brooks. Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore & Rene Echevarria; Story by Rene Echevarria. Guest Stars: Susanna Thompson as Lenara, Tim Ryan as Bejal, James Noah as Pren, Kenneth Marshall as Eddington.

Jadzia Dax must choose between her feelings and the rules of Trill society when she is reunited with the wife of one of Dax's previous hosts.

"A hundred years ago, Dax inhabited a male host and had a remarkable love affair and marriage with Lenara, who inhabited a female host," Berman explains. "Three hosts later, they meet on the space station when they're both inhabiting female bodies and fall in love all over again."

The episode features considerable flirting and even a kiss. Terry Farrell admits the kiss was difficult because she doesn't find herself attracted to her own sex. "When Rick (Berman) first asked me last summer if I would kiss a woman I made some sort of wisecrack but then I seriously thought about it and realized that this is the the kind of brave stuff I always dreamed our show would do."

Terry credits Avery Brooks, who directed the episode, with being "very impassioned and supportive." (TV Guide Oct 7-13, 1995)

480 - Little Green Men Directed by James L. Conway. *Teleplay by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe, *Story by Toni Marberry & Jack Trevino. (*Writer credit not final as of 16/10). Guest Stars: Megan Gallagher as Nurse Garland, Charles Napier as Denning, Max Grodenchik as Rom, Aron Eisenberg as Nog, Conor O'Farrell as Carlson, James G. MacDonald as Wainwright.

A mishap sends Quark, Rom, and Nog back in time to Earth of 1947 in Roswell, New Mexico, where military forces mistake them for alien invaders.

479 - Starship Down. Directed by Alexander Singer. *Written by David Mack & John J. Ordover (*Writer credit not final as of 10/10). Guest Stars: James Cromwell as

Hanok, F.J. Rio as Muniz, Jay Baker as Stevens, Sara Mornell as Carson.

A fierce battle with the Jem'Hadar leaves the Defiant trapped in a planet's volatile atmosphere.

481 - The Sword of Kahless. Directed by LeVar Burton. *Teleplay by Hans Beimler; *Story by Richard Danus. (*Writer credit not final as of 25/10). Guest Stars: John Colicos as Kor, Rick Pasqualone as Toral.

Kor, a revered Klingon warrior, sets out with Worf and Dax in search of a mythical, ancient artifact they believe has the power to unite the Klingon Empire.

482 - Our Man Bashir Directed by Winrich Kolbe; *Teleplay by Ronald D. Moore; Story by *Robert Gillan (*Writer credit not final as of 3/11). Guest Stars: Max Grodenchik as Rom, Kenneth Marshall as Eddington Andrew Robinson as Garak.

Posing as a 1960s secret agent in a malfunctioning holosuite program, Bashir is all that stands between his trapped fellow officers and certain death.

- In High Trek 22/9/95 Nana Visitor comments on Vedek Baeli's death.

"I think it was necessary," says Visitor of Baeli's demise. "The idea of this visceral woman and spiritual man together was great, but, for whatever reason, we never fulfilled the relationship's promise.

"It was better that Kira be free to move on to different relationships."

STAR TREK VOYAGER

- **Janeway's hairstyle** - At the Farpoint '95 convention actor Robert Picardo talked about the new Kate Mulgrew/Captain Janeway hairstyle and remarked how the pageboy style would disappear after four episodes of the 2nd season..

Picardo said Mulgrew never wanted her hairstyle changed to begin with, but the producers wanted a new look. He commented that Mulgrew felt the "bun" look was far more professional. The problems began when her hair kept falling in her face

during shots, which required retakes. Soon they started using lots of extra hair spray. Picardo said they started having to use *so much* hair spray that her hair started to look really icky... so it was decided to go back to the old "hair bun" style originally introduced. (Posted by Sashi Alexandra German)

Star Trek: Voyager. Season 1 Broadcast Schedule.

Date = Date of satellite uplink.

Episode List-

Eps	Date	UPN #	Prod	Title
23	30/10/95	STV208	124	Persistence of Vision
24	06/11/95	STV209	125	Tattoo
25	13/11/95	STV210	126	Cold Fire
26	20/11/95	STV211	???	Maneuvers
27	27/11/95	STV212	???	Resistance

SPOILERS - Press Releases

STV208 - "Persistence of Vision" Written by Jeri Taylor and directed by James L. Conway. Guest starring are Michael Cumpsty as Lord Burleigh, Carolyn Seymour as Mrs. Templeton, Stan Ivar as Mark, Warren Munson as Admiral Paris, Lindsey Haun as Beatrice, Thomas Alexander Dekker as Henry, Patrick Kerr as the Bothan and Marva Hicks as J'Pel.

As they ready for a first encounter with the Bothan alien species, a strange psionic field causes the Voyager crew to succumb to a delusional state and their most deeply buried thoughts to surface. During the catatonic crew members' ordeal, characters in Janeway's holonovel program become real and her beloved Mark appears; Paris faces off with his disparaging father, the Admiral; T'Pol and Torres are seduced by Chakotay. The ship is effectively disabled and it's up to an unaffected Kes and The Doctor to block the mysterious field.

STV209 - "Tattoo" Written by Larry Brody, teleplay by Michael Piller. Directed by Alexander Singer. Guest starring are Henry Darrow as Kolopak, Richard Fancy as an alien, Douglas Spain as Young Chakotay, Nancy Hower as Ensign Wildman and

Richard Chaves as the Chief.

While Chakotay leads an Away Team to drill for minerals on a moon's surface, they accidentally disturb a village and encounter its defensive inhabitants - a group with Indian origins. A regretful Chakotay then experiences flashbacks of himself as a defiant 15-year-old who disappoints his father by not embracing the traditions of his tribe.

The natives employ a cloaking device to disable Voyager and the endangered Away Team must transport out, leaving Chakotay alone on the planet. When he's confronted by the aliens, they respond to his familiar tattoo marking. Chakotay recognizes the tones of their language as those of his own people and applies what he recalls from his father's teachings on their heritage to assure the natives of Starfleet's peaceful intentions and his sympathetic perspective. Along the way, he reconciles the conflicts he had with his now deceased father.

Meanwhile, while tending to the pregnant Ensign Wildman, The Doctor is challenged by Kes to show more compassion for his patients. So, he programs himself with a simulated flu virus to experience the discomforts living beings can feel.

STV210 - "Cold Fire" Written by Anthony Williams; teleplay by Brannon Braga and directed by Cliff Bole. Guest starring are Gary Graham as Tanis, Lindsay Ridgeway as the girl and Norman Large as an Ocampa man.

The crew is hailed by Ocampa colonists on an alien space station who, at long last, lead them to the female mate of The Caretaker, a mysterious being who may have the ability to send them home. As Tuvok tutors Kes in honing her rapidly maturing mental abilities, it's concluded that her burgeoning powers have been extremely underestimated.

Tanis, a male Ocampa colonist, agrees to introduce Captain Janeway and her crew to an entity they call Suspiria, the female mate of The Caretaker. As the Voyager crew builds great hope of returning home soon, Tanis implores Kes to stay with her Ocampa people on the alien space station.

STV111 - "Maneuvers" - Directed by David Livingston. Written by Kenneth Biller. Guest

starring Martha Hackett as Seska, Anthony DeLongis as Culluh, Terry Lester as Haron and John Gegenhuber as Kelat.

Kazon intruders board the U.S.S. Voyager and steal a Transporter control module. That collateral enables their leader, Culluh, to persuade rival sects to join together to conquer the Federation ship. Surprisingly, the mastermind behind the Kazon's scheme is an advisor with Cardassian, Marquis and Starfleet tactical experience - none other than Seska, the despised traitor and former intimate of Chakotay.

When Chakotay learns that Seska devised the Kazon plot, he secretly sets out alone - against protocol - to thwart her. The Kazon are one step ahead of him and he's quickly captured and brutally interrogated. With their First Officer in the hands of the enemy, the Voyager crew braces for a dramatic showdown, but Seska has more than one trick up her sleeve.

STV212 - "Resistance" - Directed by Rick Kolbe. Written by Kevin Ryan and Michael J. Friedman; Teleplay was written by Lisa Klink. Guest starring: Alan Scarfe as Augris, Tom Todoroff as Darod and Glenn Morshower as guard #1. The special guest star is Joel Grey as Caylem.

In search of precious tellerium needed to power the ship, Janeway, Tuvok, Torres and Neelix transport to an Alsaurian city occupied by the hostile Mokra. Tipped off to the Voyager crew's presence, Mokra soldiers capture Tuvok and Torres. During the commotion, Janeway is secreted away by Caylem, a local eccentric who believes she is his long-lost daughter.

Neelix is not discovered and transports back to the ship with the necessary mineral and the bad news that the others have [been] discovered and taken prisoner. As Voyager searches for its arrested crew, Janeway goes undercover, forced to rely on her own devices and the help of her odd new protector, Caylem, to break into the prison and rescue Tuvok and Torres.

Forthcoming Episode:

Death Wish - The omnipotent Q makes his triumphant return to a Starfleet vessel in a riveting episode of "Star Trek: Voyager"

airing later this season on UPN. He was last seen in the finale of TNG and, since then, the prospect of his return has been a topic of widespread interest among viewers. Jonathan Frakes, as Commander William T. Riker, also makes a special guest appearance in the episode.

Commenting on the storyline, de Lancie said, "It's the best yet! It certainly answers a lot of people's questions about the nature of being Q, but also begs many *other* questions."

In the episode a rebel Q (Gerrit Graham) escapes imprisonment from inside a comet and demands asylum aboard the U.S.S. Voyager. Just as quickly, the well-known Q (de Lancie) arrives to force the escaped Q back to the Continuum, the extra-dimensional domain in which their immortal kind exist. Meanwhile, the escaped Q proclaims that if Captain Janeway grants him sanctuary, he intends to commit suicide to end the tedium he has endured as an immortal being.

Noting the dictates of Starfleet protocol, Janeway holds a hearing to consider the request for asylum. The tables are turned on Q as Federation personnel preside over a trial in which he must defend the Q Continuum and the ever-logical Tuvok acts as counsel for the escaped Q. A courtroom drama ensues when Q calls himself to the witness stand along with a varied group of other people, including Commander William T. Riker, whose lives were profoundly changed by Q's influence.

In a collaboration between father and son, the story was written by Shawn Piller and the teleplay was written by Michael Piller. The episode is directed by James L. Conway.

- Tim Russ isn't happy with the writers' treatment of Tuvok.

"My only problems concern keeping Tuvok consistent with what was established as Vulcan culture," Russ says. "There were plot points that didn't take into consideration the physical difference between Humans and Vulcans.

"In general there wasn't enough attention paid to attributes of Tuvok's that, in many cases, could have gotten the crew out of certain situations. Instead the writers tended to tone down those attributes," Russ says.

Russ remembers a producer-writer informing him that Tuvok was envisioned as being somewhat similar to a Human and that the writers were trying to imbue him with Human qualities.

"You can't, because he isn't Human," Russ says passionately. "There are certain built-in things, Vulcan Achilles' heels that I'd like to see exploited. His strengths can be weaknesses, and vice versa. Those details are important to me.

"I know the producers are concerned with the overall picture, but I don't want the little things slipping through the cracks." (info High Trek 6/10/95)

STAR TREK 8

The story has been written by Brannon Braga, Ron Moore, and Rick Berman. It was enthusiastically approved by the studio. They have made some modifications and now Ron and Brannon are working on the first draft of the script.

The film is going to have a lot of action to it, perhaps a little more than *Generations*. It will focus on the TNG characters, there is going to be some time travelling involved and the story involves the Borg.

The film is going to tie up some loose ends that have existed for thirty years regarding the initial creation of Starfleet and the Star Trek universe as we know it. In Star Trek lore, there is not a whole lot known about what happened in the 21st and 22nd centuries. What happened between the age we live in today and the age when the United Federation of Planets and Starfleet was founded? Some of the loose ends of this are going to be tied up and some new revelations about that period of time are going to be unveiled in this film...We're going to hopefully clarify that a little bit including some surprises that people would probably not predict.

Concerning the Classic cast in the movie, Berman indicated that he won't rule out other possible characters, but his emphasis is clearly on the TNG crew. Berman says that while the main characters are Picard, Riker and Data they will try to strike a better balance with the characters this time around.

They hope to start filming early next spring and release the film at Thanksgiving

or Christmas of '96.
(info STOFK USA - ST Communicator)

MISC

- Horizon advertised tours of Paramount Studios with visits to the D59 and Voyager sets. They were to be held on December 2nd with a ticket price of \$129. However Paramount cancelled the tours on November 2nd with no explanation.

- **Star Trek: Klingon CD Rom Mini-update**

Simon and Schuster Inc. will be releasing "Star Trek: Klingon" this November. Cadets are required to pass Starfleet Academy the holo-simulation by mastering the Klingon Language and by knowing Klingon culture and traditions, including how and why Klingons fight. 'Star Trek: Klingon' will incorporate voice recognition technology. 'Klingon' has a full language lab built into it. Simon and Schuster received assistance from the foremost authority on Klingonese; Dr. Marc Okrand, the man who created the language.

Star Trek: Klingon is a first person perspective CD ROM, so it will appear that all the Klingons are addressing you personally. The video segments were directed by Jonathan Frakes (Cmdr. William Riker). Robert O'Reilly (Gowron) stars in video segments.

- **Microsoft Network acquires Star Trek On-line Rights**

Sept. 27--Microsoft Corp. scored a coup for its fledgling Microsoft Network yesterday, announcing a deal with Paramount Television Group for on-line sites for two of Paramount's hugely popular properties -- "Star Trek" and "Entertainment Tonight."

Paramount Digital Entertainment will "build" the sites. The company will create the environment that will make the on-line sites interactive and entertaining, said Scott Converse, senior vice president of technology for the Colorado company.

MSN is still finding its feet, and analysts say the loyal followings of "Star Trek" and "Entertainment Tonight" should bring a stream of fans in their wake.

"Star Trek is a powerful brand name; it will certainly boost MSN's image," said Tom

O'Reilly, editor of Multimedia Business Report.

"The Paramount agreement may be just the ticket to build consumer interest in MSN," said Ted Julian, who covers the computer and on-line industries for International Data Corp., a research firm. "Star Trek, in particular, is a great fit for the Internet," he said.

It's also a smart move by Paramount, a division of Viacom Inc. Paramount has a library of 15,000 movie and TV-show titles, and finding new distribution channels is just good business.

The new MSN sites for "Star Trek" and "Entertainment Tonight" are expected to include on-line chat sessions with the casts of both shows; a Starfleet Academy where Trek fans can earn rank and access to exclusive content areas; forums within each site where fans can chat among themselves; and advance information on TV shows, movies and books built around the Trek series.

- **New Skybox and Decipher Trek Set**

Skybox presents a time capsule of Trek entitled "30 Years of Star Trek: Reflections of The Future Series 1." The first of three 100 card sets showcase 30 years of Star Trek personnel, from Captain Kirk and his original crew to Captain Janeway, and the technology of the Star Trek universe, medicine, and engineering of the 23th and 24th centuries. This fully UV coated set includes never before seen images. Look for Series 2 preview cards and an exchange card, good for the first in a new series of 3 Sky Motion Cards.

Also, Decipher Unlimited Alternate Universe version of Star Trek Custom Card Game will be releasing the 121 new card set in December featuring characters and items that were only seen in dreams, other universes, or on the holodeck as well as a wide selection of new missions, dilemmas, interrupts, etc.. The set is priced at \$108.

- **Changes on CCG Horizon** - Due to an ongoing business dispute with Paramount, Decipher (creators of the TNG Collectible Card Game) president Warren Holland issued a state that Decipher would no longer be doing business with Paramount once Decipher's rights to the TNG CCG expire in

1997.

Among the disputes cited were delays by Paramount in approving the release of new CCG items, and Paramount's issuing a licence to Skybox for an Original Series CCG.

- Chemistry & Industry 21 Dec 1992 contained a 3-page article on Star Trek, pointing out the scientific and medical differences in the development and resolution of similar themes in storylines in CT and TNG which underlined the advances in knowledge and understanding that had occurred between the late 1960s and the late 1980s, the biggest of these advances involving DNA.

- New Scientist, 11 June 1994 contained a short article about warped space. According to one researcher in Britain, faster than light travel could be achieved without altering the laws of physics, by making the space-time near a spaceship expand and contract. The article includes a quotation by the researcher from Classical and Quantum Gravity, Vol 11.

- Paramount is withdrawing all its licenses, so, shortly, no more Star Trek comics will be produced by DC or Marvel. The Malibu/ Marvel ST:DS9 titles have already been withdrawn from the lists and DC's Next Generation and Original Series titles are expected to follow suit shortly. It is widely believed (although not yet confirmed by Paramount themselves) that the entertainment company is about to set up its own publishing house.

- Legend, the John de Lancie TV show, will be appearing on the new cable channel Paramount TV this month, and Gargoyles, the Disney animated show featuring the voices of Jonathan Frakes and Marina Sirtis will start on the Disney channel on Friday November 3rd in the programme titled Cyberstar.

- Alien autopsy: fact or fiction uncut video. This video delves into the famous purported 1947 crash of a UFO near Roswell, New Mexico, and the alleged government cover up. This special speaks with experts - including cynics and believers - in the fields of film, pathology and special effects. Hosted

by Jonathan Frakes.

- Star Trek Exhibition in Winnipeg
The Museum of Man in Winnipeg had a Star Trek Exhibition on (unfortunately it closed on the 4th September). There were about 14 interactive computer programmes:
Landing a shuttle craft
Changing the orbit of the Enterprise
Testing planets' atmospheres to determine which were a Class M planet
Trying to identify a new illness
Plus others that actually taught you about neutrons, gravity, e.t.c.

There was also a transporter simulator - you looked at a screen which took you from the Enterprise to a planet where you had to catch the wildlife by interacting with the images on the screen.

There were also displays on the costumes and technology behind the production of Star Trek: The New Generation.

Also at the same time was a show in The Planetarium about a Star Trek mission. This actually covered planets that have been seen from Earth. It was narrated by Geordi La Forge (Levar Burton). (info Karen Davies)

- Pages Bar - There is a good possibility that Michael O'Hare will be Xmas shopping in London. He may be attending a B5 get together at Page's Bar Westminster, London. 17th Dec.

Pages started as a Star Trek Club a couple of years ago, but has now become the place to see the stars in a smaller gathering.

Michael has visited before along with others such as Majel Barrett, George Takei, Jon Pertwee, Ed Wasser, Dave Prowse.

The Bar is closing down on 31 Dec and reopens in Feb as a Sci Fi Themed Bar.

If you want to see Michael at Pages their No. is 0171 834 6791 and ask for Bob.

- Sainsbury's do a 'plastic pot' of cheese called Quark. I've tried it and quite frankly I cannot recommend it - it tastes like something only a Ferengi would dare sell.
[info Brenda Kelsey]

- I wish to inform you of a problem with SOME signed Star Trek photos which a friend bought from a company called 'Frasers' in London and Bristol.

Please be very careful. 2 signed photos turned out to be fake or in serious doubt. A 3rd photo was ok and their other movie stars' photos seem to be ok. It is just certain members of ST to watch out for.

Make sure before you buy from anyone that you get a certificate of authenticity and money back guarantee.

Again I want to stress **ONLY SOME** signed photos are in 'doubt'.
[info IDIC reader]

- The BBC recently had to defend TNG when two viewers complained to The Broadcasting Standards Council watchdog over the episode Violations in which Troi is (mentally) subjected to an attempted rape.

The BBC said TNG has dealt with themes of an adult nature, within the genre of science fantasy, ever since its inception. It is not a children's programme. It has a sophisticated tone, and often contains complex language and ideas. The message of the episode - that

the resort to violence, whether physical or mental, does not solve problems - was a positive one.

The BSC rejected the viewers' complaints. (Info Starburst 206)

ON LINE

- **Cardassian Web Page**


The web site is up and can be accessed at
<http://home.navisoft.com/cardassians/secondorder.html>

"The Cardassian Oracle" and humor web page:

<http://home.navisoft.com/cardassians/humor.html>

and

<http://home.navisoft.com/cardassians/oracle.html>

[Sources of information include Warp 10, Engage & Dateline Starfleet, rec.arts.startrek.current/info/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 c/o Lincoln Enterprises, 14710 Arminta Street, Panorama City, CA 91402-5904, USA

Exceptions:

Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, POB 691370, West Hollywood, CA 90069, USA. Majel will autograph a photo if you send one, or she can supply an autographed photo for \$5 plus SAE and postage. (UK 3 IRCs) Please say whether you want Chapel or Lwaxana.

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

- **Majel Barrett-Roddenberry** - Majel will be appearing as a guest star on BABYLON 5 this coming season. The deal has been signed, it's a done deal...she'll be appearing in episode #9, "Point of No Return," as Emperor Turhan's third wife, Lady Morella.

- **Jimmy Doohan** - Jimmy recently had an operation. He needed calcium stripped from a leg artery and the angioplasty didn't work, so traditional surgery was used. The leg operation was a success and he's walking just fine now.

- **Michael Dorn** - The following excerpt is from an article with appeared in West, the Sunday magazine of The San Jose Mercury News.

Q. How will Worf's appearance on

"Deep Space Nine" be explained by the show?

A. The Klingons have gone crazy. They are basically at war again. The station needed an officer who has knowledge of Klingons, someone who knows their history and what they're like. So, guess who!

Q. Were you concerned about reprising a role you'd played for seven years?

A. I had concerns. During my year off, my career had gone in a direction that I was enjoying. And when "Next Generation" was over, it was *over*, as far as I was concerned: "OK, that's it, no more 'Star Trek' for me." I think what happened was, the producers of "DS9" decided to do a story line about the Klingons going nuts, and after they made that decision, they said, "Hey, what about using Worf for this? He's a character that's well thought of; what about bringing him on?" When they called me with the idea, I listened to their ideas and said, "That might be interesting. It might be fun." Really, the toughest thing was deciding whether I could deal with the makeup. I didn't want to deal with that at all. When Next Generation ended, they had my makeup down to a little over an hour. I told the DS9 producers that if they could keep to something like that schedule, I would be interested. So now I sit there in makeup every morning for an hour, an hour and 15 minutes, and read the L.A. Times and do the crossword puzzle while they get me ready to go.

Q. The DS9 group of actors has a reputation for being a close-knit ensemble. Has it been difficult for you to break into the show's vibe?

A. Not at all. I know this sounds like a pat answer, but it was a very easy transition, and the people have been wonderful. We've filmed five episodes so far for the new season. I can't really talk in detail about what's going to happen on the show, except to say that the producer told me that the first episode is one of the best he has ever seen. The second episode is, for me, a great episode, because I interact with Odo.

Q. You said in TV Guide that Worf "positively hates some of the members" of the new crew, including Odo.

A. Worf believes that Odo is without honor because those people don't stand and fight; they change into tables and things.

Worf isn't happy about Kira because she's a terrorist, she kills women and children, and again, Worf thinks that's not honorable. And as far as Quark is concerned, well, Ferengis, of course, aren't honorable anyway.

Q. Worf has been evolving over the years. Is he going to change in any big way now that he's with a new group of people with new challenges?

A. He will probably change in minor ways; I always want him to grow. But he won't change in any major ways. I never want him to lose his edge. He will *always* have an edge. After all, he's a Klingon! Klingons are sort of a cross between samurai and American Indian warriors. They believe that the strong survive, and that once their usefulness as warriors is over, they basically have no reason to live. The essence of being a Klingon is to fight and conquer and seek glory. However, they're not wild or barbaric. They're a very intellectual people; they just have this essence of battle that they can never get rid of. Worf still isn't very sociable; he does some socializing because he has to, but he doesn't enjoy it. The way I envision it, I think that for his whole life he's always had to be 10 times better than anybody else, just because he's a Klingon. He's the first Klingon in Starfleet. That's sort of like being the first black guy at West Point. Over the years, he's basically discovered that everything is *not* black and white and that Klingons aren't all that they're cracked up to be; there are a lot of good qualities about them, and there are [a] lot of good qualities about other races too. He's come a long way from being Mr. Intensity. He's a more thoughtful officer now, and a more thoughtful person.

Q. Why do you think Next Generation was killed off in 1994 at the very height of its success?

A. I went through three or four different scenarios in my mind about that. At first I thought it happened because they wanted us to start doing a movie at the height of our popularity. Then I was told it happened because Paramount wanted a Star Trek on their TV network rather than allowing the franchise to go exclusively to syndication. That theory made the most sense, but even that didn't make *much* sense. So I have to say that I don't know. It's a question that somebody, someplace, knows the answer to.

I always thought it was an odd decision to make. We were just hitting our stride. The show was going gangbusters. I thought we could have gone three more years, easily, and *then* done the movie.

(Posted by D.B. Mears)

- **Terry Farrell** has recently been acting in a CD-ROM game titled "Treasure Quest", from Sirius. She serves as a guide to the game players and gets to play 10 different characters. Treasure is an interactive mystery game with a complex plot. The first person to solve the mystery will win one million dollars.

- **Jonathan Frakes** and **Jennie Francis** are scheduled to appear in the 6th episode of season 3 of *Lois & Clark*. They will be playing a husband and wife as The Lakes, who are rich collectors of unusual things and are out to get Superman's cape.

- **Gates McFadden** will be in a play called "This Town". It will be at the Double Tree Guest Suites in Santa Monica CA. The dates are Oct 12,13 & 14th.

- **Leonard Nimoy** - Leonard's new autobiography 'I Am Spock' has now been released. Leonard was scheduled to tour the UK and Ireland between November 15th and 25th visiting London, Cambridge, Reading, Oxford, Nottingham, Manchester, Leeds, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin. As well as signing his book in shops he was due to give talks in Oxford and Edinburgh. We hope members had the chance to see him. Janet sent a copy of his schedule to members with email addresses and to those on Internet and asked them to spread the word.

In 1975, Leonard Nimoy wrote a memoir entitled "I Am Not Spock." Published at a time when "Star Trek" was becoming a fan phenomenon, the book's title alone caused anger and outrage among the show's aficionados, who felt that Nimoy was turning his back on the character that had made him a star -- the half-human, half-Vulcan starship officer, Spock. In "I Am Spock" (Hyperion; October 26, 1995; \$24.95), Nimoy finally gets the chance to set the record straight about his alter ego, to describe his relationship as an

actor to a character that has taken on mythic dimension, and to give his own unique perspective on the "Star Trek" phenomenon.

Like every actor who plays a character that becomes wildly popular, Nimoy fought the stigma of typecasting. But was it the epic battle that it has been purported to be? Now, in his own words, Nimoy leads readers on a trek through the cosmos of his career. Beginning with his childhood inspirations and early acting assignments, Nimoy relates eyewitness accounts of the origins of "Star Trek" and the Spock character, the making of the classic television series, the rebirth of "Star Trek" through a series of popular big-screen motion pictures, and the present-day spin-off television series -- and what he did in between. (Entertainment Weekly Online)

In a recent on-line session on Prodigy, Leonard was asked: George Takei and Nichelle Nichols have both written about their experiences working with Will Shatner, and they have had some unpleasant comments about that subject. What was your experience working with William Shatner like, and will you be addressing that in your new book?

Leonard Nimoy - I am aware of the negative comments and Bill and I have had our ups and downs. I write about it in the book and I have come to the conclusion that the friction was that of any family and a lot of good creative work was done by all the parties. I consider them all very talented and good friends.

- **Brent Spiner** - Brent guests on UPN's *Deadly Games*. The episode is directed by Adam Nimoy.

A few excerpts from Brent's talk at the San Diego Convention, 1/10/95 reported by Vince Denny.

Spot - "The first Spot was not a very good actor. The first Spot was male. Until Spot had to have kittens, then Spot was female.

"We have two Spots now. One is docile, the other is wild. Their names are Mandy and Monster. Depends on the scene. I don't care for it when Spot works. Cats do not take direction."

According to Brent, the script generally calls for Data to observe certain actions of the

cat. One scene called for Data to observe the cat "sleeping." Took all day for the cat to fall asleep so they could shoot the scene.

Destruction of 1701-D - Bent had a theory about that. His argument was that Paramount has to figure out what to market with the next movie. Coffee mugs and things like that. "Well, let's blow up the Enterprise," he guessed. That way Paramount could market an all-new Enterprise and people would buy it.

Favourite ST experience: "Every day was my favourite experience. There are not many jobs where you can go to work and laugh every day. We laughed all day long." His favourite scene was sitting across the table from Stephen Hawking. "He is probably the most intelligent human being on the planet."

• **Patrick Stewart** - Patrick Stewart is currently appearing in "The Tempest" at the Broadhurst Theater on Broadway. This transfer of the acclaimed "Shakespeare in the Park" production, which ran in Central Park earlier in the summer, will run through until Dec 31st.

In January, Patrick will return to California to start work on an independent film production called "Safe House", a psychological thriller, in which he plays a man in the first stages of Alzheimer's Disease. Presumably this means that any future Star Trek film will not now commence until later in 1996)

Patrick's film "Jeffrey", in which he plays a gay interior designer, should be available on video in the US in December, and his latest cinematic release, a romantic comedy called "Let It Be Me" should be out in the US early in the new year.

The November issue of Vanity Fair has a feature on The British Theatre - 100 photos by Lord Snowden of various theatrical luminaries, including our own PS, on p205, dressed in Biggles gear and posing with Concorde. (Info PSAS)

Jean-Luc Picard happy to be back on Earth.

After seven years in command of the starship Enterprise, actor Patrick Stewart has his feet firmly back on Earth.

Stewart said he's hoping to shed his

better-known identity, Capt. Jean-Luc Picard, with a series of roles on film and the stage.

"I'm currently working in a mode of looking for work that puts as much room between me and Capt. Picard's spacesuit as possible," Stewart joked with reporters.

Stewart is in a Broadway production of Shakespeare's "The Tempest." He completed a run of the same play in Central Park this summer.

He also has a starring role in the film "Jeffrey," a gay love story currently in theaters, and will appear as a ballroom-dance instructor in the upcoming "Let It Be Me." (An excerpt from the People column of the 4 Oct 1995 San Jose Mercury News.)

On October 2nd Patrick performed his one-man show, "Uneasy Lies the Head" to benefit ACTER (A Center for Theatre, Education and Research), based at UNC-Chapel Hill. ACTER brings Shakespearian actors from London to American campuses to teach and perform each year.

During the performance, Stewart stuck to Shakespeare by and large. He did make a few references to Captain Picard. In one, he related having gone shopping in a tiny grocery in the heart of Umbria in Italy. Turning a corner, a middle aged woman saw him and exclaimed (in Manhattenses) "OH MY GOD! IT'S CAPTAIN PICARD!"

The other main reference occurred when he said that having portrayed all the Kings, Princes, etc. during the evening, that he would have to include one Captain. As the crowd roared its approval, he strode across the stage, and sat down in Picard fashion, crossing his legs and then tugging his shirt down briskly. That was the extent of the performance, as he rose and returned to the rostrum and said, "If you don't get it, someone will explain it to you."

(Posted by Chip Mims)

[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]



GUIDE DOG BRODIE



*Presented to The Star Trek Club - IDIC
with grateful thanks from
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association*



MERCHANDISE



compiled by Janet Quarton

• UPCOMING BOOK RELEASES

- Nov **Art of Star Trek** by Reeves-Stevens
TNG Crossover by Mike Friedman Hbk
VOY 5 Incident at Arbuk by John Betancourt
DS9 13 Station Rage by Diane Carey
- Dec **To The Stars** - autobiography by George Takei Trade
ST: TNG Blueprints by Rick Sternbach Trade
ST: GENERATIONS by Mike Friedman
ST:TOS 76 Demora by Peter David
YA/TNG 9 Nova Command by Brad Strickland Minstrel
- Jan **ST:TOS 77 Twilight's End** by Jerry Olton
ST:TNG 38 Dragon's Honor by Kij Johnson.
- Feb **ST:DS9 14 The Long Night** by Smith/Rusch
ST:VGR 6 The Murdered Sun by Christie Golden; Minstrel
ST:DS9YA 7 Gypsy World by Ted Pedersen

• VIDEO UPDATE

- Nov 6 **Star Trek Data Box Set** £34.99
Star Trek Crossovers Box Set £34.99
Star Trek Movies 1-7 WS Box Set £ 69.99
Voyager 1.8 £12.99
- Dec 4 **Voyager 1.9** £12.99
- Dec 27 **Star Trek Generations** £13.99
- Jan 2 **Voyager 1.10** £12.99
Star Trek 30th Ann. Trial Pack £24.99
 (4 pilot episodes)

DS9 season 4 will be released early next year.

• **ST:VOYAGER CD Single** now available from GNP!!! The disc contains three new versions of Mr. Goldsmith's theme that do not appear on "Star Trek: Voyager" original soundtrack album that GNP Crescendo released a few months ago.

These are all new versions done for this

CD Single release. The Catalogue number is GNPD 1405. Track Breakdown:

- (1.) Theme from "Star Trek: Voyager" Pop Version (3:07)
- (2.) Theme from "Star Trek: Voyager" New Age Version (4:48)
- (3.) Theme from "Star Trek: Voyager" Extended Orchestral Version (2:21)

The first two tracks are produced by Joel Goldsmith, the son of Composer Jerry Goldsmith. The Third track is a longer version of the Main Title Theme performed by the Paramount Studio Orchestra conducted by Jerry Goldsmith.

The List price is \$6.98 USA FUNDS

Here is the ordering information:

GNP Crescendo Records, 8400 Sunset Blvd,
 Los Angeles, CA 90069 USA. Tel:

Direct 213-656-2614

Fax: 213-656-0693

Toll-Free: 800-654-7029 (USA ONLY)

• Special Galactic Collection of New Ships!

Now you can build replicas from the new ST Voyager series! The Starship Voyager is half as long as its predecessor the Starship Enterprise and can fly three years without refueling, has landing and launching capabilities and also features an actual working kitchen! The 20" long model features display base, clear windows and clear engine panels.

The rebel Maquis ship of the resistance fighters is ultimately destroyed early in the TV series, but Monogram's Maquis kit delivers all the details in a 13" long replica including display base and clear windows.

The enemy Kazon-Ogla attempt to dominate the universe in their aggressive Kazon Fighter ship. This 13" long Monogram model duplicates the advanced weaponry and techno-gadgetry that makes the ST series so appealing to kit builders.

ST Voyager kits will be appearing in your favourite hobby shops in the 2nd half of 1995! From Monogram's advert in Fine Scale Modeller (Nov. '95)

• **"The Nitpicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers, Volume II,"** by Phil Farrand \$12.95 USA.

This large paperback (just like his last two books), contains the additional completed reviews of all of TNG's 7th season as well as the latest movie, "Star Trek: Generations." It also contains additions and corrections to nitpicking Seasons 1-6 episode reviews from Volume I.

The book also contains a list of almost 850 people across the globe who contributed Nitpicks for this volume release.

• **Limited Edition Star Trek Art Posters:** Former Glory (TOS Movie), Make It So (TNG), Voyager & Crew, Starfleet Enemies. Empire Publications, Unit 41, Somerset Place, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 4BB.

MAGAZINES

• **ST COMMUNICATOR 104** Oct/Nov 1995. This Special Klingon Issues includes: News, ST Update; Interviews with Merri Howard (producer) and Michael Dorn; articles on The Klingon Way, the episode Birthright, the book Make it So plus regular column by Richard Arnold.

• **STARLOG 220** November 1995. Includes articles on: Barbara Babcock who acted and provided voice overs for various episodes of Star Trek - Mea 3 in A Taste of Armageddon, the cat in Assignment Earth, the mother of God in Squire of Gothos and Philana in Plato's Stepchildren; Jennifer Hetrick who played Vash in TNG's Captain's Holiday and Qpid, and DS9's Q-Less.

• **STARLOG 221** December 1995. Includes articles on Brent Spiner and John de Lancie

• **STAR TREK DEEP SPACE NINE No. 13** (Starlog) Contains an article on Michael Dorn, plus 1st-3rd season checklist and episode reports on Distant Voices, Through the Looking Glass, Improbable Cause, The Die is Cast, Explorers, Family Business, Shakaar, Facets and The Adversary.

• **TV ZONE 71** October 1995.

Includes an interview with Michael Dorn, a ST:Voyager poster, part 2 of DS9 season 3 episode guide and an interview with Caitlin Brown who as well as starring in Babylon 5, appeared in DS9's The Passenger and TNG's Gambit.

• **TV ZONE 72** November 1995. Includes an interview with Michelle Forbes - Ensign Ro.

• **TV ZONE YEARBOOK Special #19.** Includes an interview with Rick Sternbach on Voyager.

• **ST:TNG POSTER BOOKS**

Issue 90 - Look into the Future plus episode guides to 4th season and Preemptive Strike.

Issue 91 - Interview with Michael Westmore plus episode guides to 5th season and All Good Things Pt. 1.

• **STARBURST 206** Oct. 1995. Contains an interview with Armin Shimerman.

• **STARBURST 207** Nov. 1995. Contains an interview with Majel Barrett and an article on DS9.

• **STAR TREK Monthly No. 8** Titan. This issue includes news, books, videos and merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, Brent Spiner, Designing Deep Space 9, TOS Cover Artwork, Andrew Robinson, TOS Season 2 Episode Guide, DS9 Comic Strip.

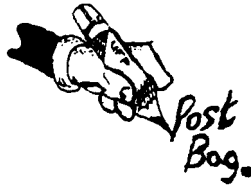
• **STAR TREK Monthly No. 9** Titan. This issue includes news, books, videos and merchandise; articles on DS9, ST Voyager, Fairy Tales, Ghosts and Goblins in Trek, Brannon Braga, Michael Westmore, Bob Blackman, TOS Season 3 Episode Guide, DS9 Comic Strip.

• **CULT TIMES 1** October 1995
Includes an article on ST:Voyager



I SWEAR, IF
ANYONE ELSE
SAYS 'FREATWILL'
I'LL . . .





We welcome your letters of comment and discussion for this section on the understanding that they may be edited for length or content at our discretion.

Some pointers: When referring to anything in a previous n/l make it clear what you are talking about for those who do not have that newsletter.

Keep your letters as short as possible - a maximum of 500-550 words. If you find this impossible consider whether you should be writing an article instead. As letters may be edited for length, if there is something you would prefer us not to cut please indicate this.

We encourage active discussion, but please try to avoid negative and aggressive letters. If you make a request which requires members to write to you please give your address.

Keep letters on a separate sheet from other submissions and put 'for postbag'.

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

- :-) Basic smilie
- :~) Winky smilie
- :-) Frowning smilie

• Sheila Clark - Dundee

To Gul Melset - Re newly-introduced organisms on a new planet. Europeans taking measles to the Pacific Islands or the common cold to the Eskimos isn't quite the same as Terrans going to Cardassia. Despite the events depicted in The Chase, the biology of different planets has to be markedly different, if only through genetic drift, and I would imagine that although an organism might be as susceptible to an alien disease as the Eskimos were to the common cold, it's more likely that it would be completely

immune to whatever diseases the alien world would throw at it. As for predators, I imagine that one mouthful of an alien creature would be enough to have any predator spitting it out in absolute disgust at the taste!

To Jo Buckwell - Re train spotters. I agree with you: I've never understood why train spotters should be particularly reviled as being a few starships short of a Fleet - at least, not in the old days of steam trains. The simple fact is, nobody, even when they have a compelling interest themselves, understands anyone else's compelling interest - but why anyone who has an interest should think another kind of interest is the domain of the half-witted escapes me. People who have no interests at all - and you get them - on the other hand obviously can't understand why anyone would want to have a hobby of any kind... but just what do they do with their leisure time?

To Jay Stevensen - Re pro writers - very few of them actually make any claim to being a fan. I suspect that some of them - and the Pocket Books editors - actually know nothing about Trek except the characters' names and just possibly the names of the various bits of equipment in the series, and the handful of writers who do know more are probably told sternly "Just because people work together doesn't mean they necessarily like each other particularly, so just tell the story and don't waste time on interpersonal relationships unless one of the crew - preferably a senior officer - picks up a bit of fluff to pad out a page or two..." Professional publishers certainly seem terrified of anything other than the most casual of relationships between characters - and not just in Trek.

Re Janeway's hair - I agree with David Raper & Marie Park. I like it the way it is. The odd time she's had it down, I thought it looked terrible. She has the sort of face that

suits the 'pulled-back' look. Incidentally, why do so many people criticise her voice? It, too, suits her. And what was wrong with Katherine Hepburn anyway?

On the hair theme, I understand Nana Visitor wants Kira to have more hair in the next season - please, no!!! She looks great with it short.

To David Raper - I agree about not leaving Voyager left 'out there' when the series ends. My own view is that it would have been more reasonable to have thrown the ship a possible 10 years away from known space, rather than 70. This would at least have given them the certainty that they would, in fact, be able to get home, without altering their wish to find a quicker way home if possible. As it stands, it would be realistic for them to decide to settle a suitable (uninhabited) planet and let their descendants rejoin the Federation (eventually) when it spreads out far enough to reach them. 70 years from known space is overkill. (On the other hand - see also my review of Way of the Warrior.)

• **Lesley Arrowsmith - Three Cocks, Powys**

I went for a drink at the Barrels last week - this is also the home of the Wye Valley Brewery. In the back yard were 4 beer tanks, each painted with a caricature of a Trek character. I asked the landlord about them, and he said, "Well, Bulmer's Cider have big vats that they name after the planets, Mars, Saturn and so on. That only gives them nine to choose from, so we thought why not go for Star Trek, where there's about 58,000 planets to choose from?

The pictures are really good, being a head and shoulders with the correct badge for the species on one side, so someone at the Brewery knows their Trek.

The four tanks are - Picard with Starfleet badge and 'Sector 001', Worf with Klingon badge and 'Qo'noS', Romulan with Romulan badge and 'Romulus', Ferengi with Ferengi badge and 'Ferengi'.

• **Baerbel Schmidt - Ashford, Kent**

Now that DS9 has finally started on BBC,

I am hoping that many people watch it and that the series will become more popular in this country. I think that ratings are not necessarily the indication for quality but it seems that Paramount is putting more and more value on that. Perhaps good ratings here in Britain could help to save DS9's future. Although I have watched DS9 from the very beginning, I watched it again on BBC. I hope Paramount doesn't forget that Star Trek has lost its monopoly (on SF) now, not only because of Babylon 5. Being the most popular syndicated series most of the time is still very good, I would say. Cancelling DS9 would mean that Paramount could not make money out of future episodes at all. Is nothing really preferable to less profit? Schedule changes and broadcasting episodes at night or very early in the morning, as well as competition with popular sports games, must also reduce ratings.

Dear Christian Gaeng, I hope that you will be proved wrong. Please accept that DS9 also has its fandom, and we also would like to enjoy our favourite series in future. If you don't like DS9, you don't need to watch it. Creating a show that is the most popular syndicated series most of the time cannot be "Berman's biggest mistake"! Unfortunately, some people still can't accept that even Trekkers have different views sometimes. I am certainly no Classic fan, but I would never wish that Classic was never to be shown again.

To Jean Perrin - SPOILER ALERT. Recently I got the first four episodes of Voyager's second season. In Elogium you can learn the solution to Kes' low life span. I am sure that one day Neelix and Kes will have a daughter together who looks exactly like her mother! Neelix will become more important as a guide (among other things). I loved the scene in Initiations with him on the bridge! Although it is early days concerning the new season, I can already see that the characters who were a bit underused in the first season can start to shine as well. Initiations is a must for Chakotay fans, and Aron Eisenberg (Nog) as Kar was really brilliant; I hope he will be back. I am looking forward to good episodes with Neelix and Paris as well.

Speaking of Voyager, when attending Dave Styles' local meeting, one fellow Trekker suddenly said, "I like Banana". I know, it's a bit silly a nickname for B'Elanna, but it stuck somehow and quite a few people in our group are using it.

• **Martin Helsdon - Chelmsford, Essex**

No doubt rumours of the so-called Rothwell Incident at Midcon have been spreading. Despite the statements of numerous witnesses (found to be suffering from mass hysteria) and photographic evidence (analysis proves these to be elaborate fakes) it has been concluded that this event did not actually happen. Stephen Rothwell was, according to reliable sources, not even at Midcon, having been stolen by aliens from the platform of York Station, although they later returned him. No SS potatoes went where no potatoes have gone before. No form of spacial anomaly was encountered by the non-existent SS potatoes. The King of the Potato People will definitely not be calling on Mr Rothwell in the near future.

Anyone who understands the above or believes the Rothwell Incident occurred is clearly delusional.

To Michael Flett- if Q fathered Spot's kittens, perhaps this makes them Kitties?

To James O Donovan - Sometimes paint bubbling on plastic kits is caused by the chemicals used in the moulding process. If you wash the plastic before assembly and painting, using a weak soap solution (and then washing this off too) this should cure the problem.

To Helen Thompson - Re Chakotay's tattoo. I suspect you're correct in suggesting a mixed source. At the moment many Indian nations are trying to recapture their past culture, but there's no reason why in the future new customs shouldn't arise. Even the most conservative societies are in the process of continuously reinventing themselves and everyone changes over time. If we assume that Chakotay's attitudes and beliefs are based on older traditions but subject to a couple of centuries of development, then the

dangers of conflict with tradition or modern belief are reduced. Even so, they seem to have got some things seriously wrong. Would anyone really share anything as personal as knowledge of their spirit guide? Perhaps Chakotay is from a society that does - but then anything is possible in the future.

• **Sarah Rooke - Southsea**

Firstly, to Eagle Mirror - In the Greek tradition, the pan pipes was a method of calling up the god Pan, with a certain set of 4 notes (said to correspond to the four alchemical elements) - kids, don't try this at home!

Re Paramount/Viacom debate - I really feel they are biting the hands that feed them here. Perhaps it is time for another letter campaign to stop this before it gets out of control, and too nasty. (Hi, Majel! Hi, Bjo!)

To Clare Finkel - Spirituality is about one's beliefs and values, emotionalism about our thoughts and feelings. Carl Jung (Memories, Dreams and Reflections) studied this in great detail, so I suggest you look in there for your own answers on this, relevant to your own needs (ie within yourself).

To Gul Melset - Appearances are all relative and are illusion. As someone said, "To an ape a human is ugly and an ape beautiful, and vice versa". The time will come when we will see we are all one and part of the all that is - there will be no more "them or us" as there is now, where people haven't separated from the collective umbrella of safety and 'used to' feeling of their own genus type.

To Allan Kelly - Yes, ST does appear to have got a bit "gloomy and doomy" of late. What's this I hear about Lwaxana Troi and Thomas Riker dying? Can't they leave off killing some of the main characters for a bit? I still haven't got over the Enterprise-D going up in Generations!

To Kathleen Glancy - I believe David Gerrold wrote a story for TNG featuring two gay characters but it didn't quite make it to the production stage. Shame, I would have liked to have seen it. They obviously didn't

have the guts, did they?

To Catherine Hill - I too cried at Hugh's "I am Hugh" bit in I, Borg - a super bit of acting from del Arco (hi, there!)

To Majel - I really do feel humanity is on a journey back to the alleged 'Golden Age of Atlantis', prophesised in the Hermes Trismegistua and called the 'Age of Horus' (ie Age of Aquarius) by certain well-known 19th century occultists. Gene's vision and message is so crucial at this time in bringing this to the fore at a level of mass consciousness (ie in the collective consciousness). I know of many, many Druids, wiccans and New Agers who share the view that Star Trek is a link in this (and who are all Trekkers as well!).

Slainthe! (Gaelic for Live Long and Prosper.)

• **Gul Melset - Cardassian Embassy**

I have finally heard the infamous German rendition of The Minstrel Boy and can only describe it as a refined form of auditory torture.

To Jason Rorbach - Michael Jackson as Klingon? Hopefully it is but a rumour - or are we getting Klingon eccentrics, too?

To Neil J Barrett - T'Pring did not wear an earring. Couldn't those earrings simply be jewellery anyone might wear?

To Jennifer Blanchard - Gul Madred uses prisoners to perfect his interrogation techniques, and informs the Order of their effectiveness. His actions towards Picard were a cat-and-mouse game, to borrow an Earth term. Normally a spy or saboteur is interrogated, signs a confession and (like on Earth up to the 1950s) faces execution or lifetime incarceration. Picard may hate individuals among us, not the entire race. He is too intelligent for that.

To Clare Finkel - I abhor the subjugation of peoples, torture and exploitation of races. You cite these examples of unjustifiable Cardassian atrocities. As to Bajor, the general population of Cardassia no doubt never knew what was happening, unlike a select

group of militaries known as the hardest and most uncompromising. Had a justification been required, it would have been "...primitive, superstitious, unintelligent people unable to govern themselves or use their planet's wealth" (cf the description of your unfortunate indigenous peoples on Earth). Lack of individual contact with the Bajora - a privilege I enjoy - was prohibited, and any protest would have been considered treason.

The trial in Tribunal was staged - this agent was trying to disappear with his knowledge. Commander Sisko never would have extradited him upon demand!

As to the attacks and counter-attacks in the demilitarized zone, they are ascribable to profiteers within the military and the war industry, whose only concern is wealth, no matter what the cost. The Cardassians will gain more acceptance as their way of life outside the military and Obsidian Order is shown.

To Michael Flett - I shall begin with something that surprised me in the beginning: your casual use of the term 'friend' among Earth people. For us it is only used for an associate we trust absolutely and who, thus, is nearly like a family member. In our society anything less would be a risk - we have acquaintances, certainly, but use this term only for them. For non-Cardassians it may take years of exceedingly patient contact to overcome our defensiveness, distrust and 'coldness' (that is often called arrogance). To force familiarity is a breach of trust and a serious insult, as is casual touch, which may be seen as a threat or lack of respect. It took me months to get used to being grasped by the shoulders by one of my more exuberant Klingon or Federation colleagues when our work was successful!

• **David Gallagher - Fulham**

This month, I come to bare my soul - and to confess my 'ignuruntz'! I am forced to admit to finding myself occasionally 'intellectually challenged' whilst reading the excellent Postbag. The reason? Well, in order to understand some of the arguments, points and debates that rage through these hallowed

pages, I sometimes think that I'd need a degree in physics, sociology, theology, biology - or just about every other ology known to mankind!

What I mean to say is that I sometimes find the subjects and counter arguments being made a bit too deep and serious for my own personal taste - but having said that, I still read them all avidly; after all, I may not understand them all, but they certainly sound good! My own view is that fandom should be fun (perhaps we could call it 'fundom'... Well, maybe not - sounds too much like a novelty condom!)

You see, I am not particularly clever - I am just an ordinary bloke what liked Star Trek, innit! I don't deeply analyse the programme, for me it is pure escapism. But since joining IDIC, I have been inspired to take part in the Postbag, draw (or should that be scrawl?) a couple of cartoons, attempted a few book reviews and written several (very short) short stories for ScoTpress zines.

I don't dress up (too shy/self conscious) or go to conventions (too skint!) or memorise pages of trivia about each and every episode - but that doesn't mean that I think anything less of the people who do that, and more.

My point is that everybody should get exactly what they want out of fandom - be it deep and meaningful intellectual discussion, or dressing up as their favourite characters. Each to their own. After all, isn't that what IDIC is all about?

So don't worry about what anybody else thinks or says about it all - enjoy yourself. The fact that a mere television programme can inspire such feeling and devotion, such passionate debate, says an awful lot about the show in the first place!

Phew! On a lighter note, have you ever wondered what might have happened if when the first movie was in pre-production, the Powers That Be had decided to rework the wording of Kirk's famous spoken intro, with the use of a handy Thesaurus? Perhaps it would sound something like this: "Vacuum - the ultimate perimeter... These are the

journeys of the stellar vessel Gumption - its perpetual assignment, to examine bizarre novel spheres, to quest after fresh existence, raw cultures; to confidently travel where no person has been previously!"

Somehow, it just doesn't have the same ring to it, does it?

• **Jill Searle - Shrewsbury**

Back in 1979 I joined STAG when it was run by Janet, Sheila and Valerie and for the first time in my life I felt part of something. While not everyone agreed on every aspect of Trek and we all had our particular favourites among the crew, it was often said (and I found it to be true at cons) that you could start up a conversation with any fellow Trekker and have instant rapport.

When IDIC began, we had TNG and already things were changing. I joined because I remembered the days when Janet, Sheila and Valerie were running STAG and for money reasons I eventually dropped out of all other clubs. I liked TNG and was glad that IDIC was going to cater for everybody. However, the day you open a newsletter devoted to your favourite programme and see it dismissed in two sentences (N/L 42, P 26) is the day you know the belonging is truly gone.

Now, every time I read the newsletter my depression increases. I wonder whether there's any point in staying in fandom. My feelings for ST and better TNG haven't altered, but the whole ST ethos is being changed by Berman and Co. and I have no interest in his destruction of the ST universe as we knew it. I'm astonished that so many people accept these changes and say, "Well, it's still Trek, isn't it?" Who says it's Trek? Berman & Co, that's who! Would it be any other name smell as sweet? Take away the Starfleet uniforms and what is DS9 to do with Trek at all? Paramount is taking us for suckers.

I realise that, as others have said, if each of us distilled down the 'essence of Trek' we would come up with different versions, but for me there's no other series which even vaguely comes up to ST (CT and early TNG)

in philosophy, and it's that which I believe drew me to the series. I would never have dreamed of joining a club or going to cons for anything other than ST. The CT ethos is the backbone of my life; Kirk and Co. are like old friends I've known since childhood. TNG was a continuation of everything I believed in although I feel it degenerated after the 3rd season into a shadow of its original promise. I cannot believe that Voyager, with its manufactured rebels, can be true to the original Trek theme. I'm hoping, but with Berman at the helm I fear it's a slender hope.

A recent search though my attic brought to light many pre-TNG newsletters from various clubs. So many of the familiar names in those N/Ls I haven't heard for years. Have all those people dropped out of fandom? Certainly they were all CT fans. Did they become disillusioned like me, or are they now silent members who no longer feel their contributions are as welcome as they once were?

Finally, thanks to Bill McClure and Clare Finkel for restoring my cheer. Bill - I agree with your every word on DS9 and Data's emotion chip, and Clare - it's nice to see someone regularly writing on CT - and Vulcans, too!

• **Alberto Gorim - Holland**

Peace, live long, join the party, Star Trek chat, give me a chance. This is a coded message.

I've read some of your thoughts. I'd rather see starships than a station; on the other hand you can't make the same script for a starship work for a station. You can't compare TNG with Voyager or DS9. I compare DS9 with Babylon 5, and find Babylon 5 looks like the time of Buck Rogers.

For me Generations was time to move on; to a new E-class ship with new enemies, new Captain, new crew; but I'd rather that James Kirk was injured than dead.

Last line - as Enterprise seeks aliens, new life forms. I see, new friends even though I ain't perfect like Spock or Data. Hey, guys, girls, give me a chance, will ya?

• **Kathleen Glancy - Edinburgh**

Whoever gave you the information on LN's promotional tour may be guilty of using 'England' when he or she means 'Britain'. He is certainly likely to be doing an event in Waterstones in Edinburgh and Linda Wood tells me he's also lined up for Glasgow.

To Michael Flett - Michael, Michael, now you've done it. You have suggested that William Shatner might have reasons other than pure and selfless love for the Trek ideals in refusing to draw the final line under James T Kirk's career. Next you'll be hinting that he is not as young as he used to be and using the 'w' word. And then you invite comments. His fans get very upset by this sort of thing, Michael, believe me. You'd better brace yourself, as I'm sure you're going to get comments.

Perhaps his Leonard Nimoy's book should have been called "Oh, All Right, You Win, I Am Spock". I'm actually a bit puzzled as to why Nimoy should do this now. One would think that as the director of a highly-successful non-SF film he would have rather more options than Shatner, who has yet to move away from the genre, and might rather be looking to distance himself a bit from Trek. Evidently he is not.

To Vivien Little - What ails you, and indeed Theresa Whaley, from using the inter-library loans scheme if your own branches don't have enough Trek material? True, you have to pay a fee but it's not much - 50p in Edinburgh - and certainly cheaper than buying books.

To Marie I J Park - Might not Tuvok be counting his marriage as having begun on his bonding at the age of 7? Spock, after all, refers to T'Pol as his wife despite having seen, presumably, not much of her since their bonding and nothing at all in the 18 years since he joined Starfleet. Such a count would make Tuvok 74, and given the longer Vulcan lifespan he should look like a man in his 30s, as indeed he does.

I'm now contemplating turning Spock's attention to children's songs such as "My Progenitor Has Declined to Purchase For Me

a Creature Described By An Infantile Rendering of the Sound Made by a Canine", or "Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me a Bow-Wow" (as we know it).

• **Maria Woodward - Ashcroft, East Street, Westbourne, nr Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH**

While I was in Max Grodenchik's cabin (Bermuda Cruise) I was talking to Lolita Fatjo about Generations at the Royal Albert Hall. We were saying (or rather I was) that the guests and the place were great, but the dealers' rooms were so, so small that it was impossible to have the guests do any signing and she told me some of them wanted to! (I thought I would get in my view, along with most others who were disappointed that no-one was signing!)

I understand there's going to be Generations II next year, and they will be signing this time! (Still, we will see.)

Has anyone got any of the agents' addresses? I have some but would love more. Just recently, I have got William Shatner's, Leonard Nimoy's, Whoopi Goldberg's and Avery Brooks' autographs!

I also forgot to mention we saw the very latest episode of Voyager, The 37s. It was a good show (don't want to spoil it for anyone) and quite funny at the beginning. Siddig el Fadil is changing his name to Alexander Siddig. I hate it!

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

I've just got back from Midcon (Leicester) which, incidentally, was a brilliant con. Loads of laughs, well organised, a great crowd of people (nice to see lots of familiar faces) and the guests (Jon del Arco and Todd Bryant) were excellent. 10/10.

The point I'm trying to make is, I believe Jon del Arco was not happy with the unauthorised photos sold by dealers and he, in fact, spoke to them about it. I can appreciate dealers have got to make a buck and I'm not saying they should be banned from selling pics of the con guests, but they should at least have a notice to say they do not have the guests' approval. (I believe the same thing happened to Brent at an

American con). This would save the embarrassment of guests signing photos they obviously don't approve of.

I bought one (unknowingly) and although Jon del Arco was not pleased with the photos, he's such an angel he autographed and personalised it anyway, bless 'im. In future I will buy guests' photos from Richard as they are obviously the official ones and I would advise other con attendees to do the same. (Plus the fact they were better quality and a much nicer photo.) The moral of the story is: don't buy the first thing you see.

In a lighter note - to Mike and Neil. Thank you for making me a Captain of KAC. You've made me very proud, boys.

To Bruce Grain - Janice Rand sez he'lllllllooooo, Bruce. Loved the Tux.

To Julie Evans - If you sent your heavies around I gotta warn ya they will be assimilated - I gotta friend in the collective so ya'll don't scare me. If that don't work, I'll git Frank Hollander ta sort ya'll out!!!!

• **John Steven Lupton - Liverpool**

My membership began with N/L 39 so I thought I'd wait a few issues before putting pen to paper. Congratulations to all on an excellent product. More importantly, however, are your efforts in putting people who love Star Trek (in its many incarnations) in touch with others. Gene would be proud.

My girl friend is a Mackinnon from that long and distinguished clan. Whereas she doesn't share my enthusiasm for Star Trek she is very respectful of my beliefs (even though there's a war to rival any Cardassian conflict when there's a clash of TV programmes).

So Star Trek is pushing forward into that great unknown... the future. From the original series to the Next Generation, from the movies to DS9, from Voyager to... Then there's books, magazines, fanzines, games, toys...

Star Trek is depicting an ever-changing

universe, evolving in ways undreamed-of by its creator. The men and women who shape; this much-loved make-believe world are respectful of the vision of that creator. Gene's vision is still there for all to see - shining through totally unclouded.

Even my beloved Mackinnon has admitted that Star Trek has made a permanent mark on society. Everyone knows the name. Its philosophy of an optimistic future with mankind solving its problems goes beyond the simple medium of good story-telling.

Of course, it's a franchise designed to make Paramount a lot of money. It's not cheap to make and the world presently demands a return on almost anything and everything.

The Human race has reached a very important developmental stage. It is reaching (somewhat clumsily / tentatively / expensively) to the stars. Our probes are leaving the solar system never to return. We are planning a space station that means nations working together. We are planning to return to the Moon and go to Mars. We are listening for intelligent life with the Seti program.

We are learning about the universe around us and our place in it, learning to share and co-operate in the process. The day may come when we decide to put all our greed/bitterness aside and learn to cherish each other because of our differences, not in spite of them.

That is Gene's vision. That's a good future to aim for.

Star Trek may be the spark that unites mankind. It may ignite fires of co-operation that's in all our hearts.

A torch to the future? Maybe, maybe not! I like the optimistic view. I like to think I can make a difference. If Gene could do it, then so can we all. After all, we're all Human and the possibilities are endless. Live long and prosper.

• Ann Lindsay Wright - Southport

To Bill McClure - I think it's a bit presumptuous of you to assume that Brent went along with the "film's lazy writers" for seven years because acting a "boring" non-emotional part made his life easier. I would have thought that having to act in an emotionless way would have been more difficult to maintain than showing the emotions present in everyday Human behaviour. Emotions are not just a succession of isolated, unrelated feelings and reaction to situations, they are always intense and basic and are learned from birth. To attain these from a 'chip' is impossible whatever the technology. Data will, I presume, have to begin to appraise and interpret his new-found Human emotions in his own non-human way. We will have to agree to differ over the fact that 'the chip' has stripped Data of his charm and innocence. I for one am willing to wait and see; I hope you're wrong.

Doesn't Voyager show promise? After my disappointment with DS9, I am enjoying the developing relationships between the characters on Voyager, even though it does seem to be taking some time. Thinking back to the first and second season of TNG, however, I seem to remember the same slow development. The holographic doctor seems to be developing a dry sense of humour. Chakotay - well, what can I say except I'll join the Maquis, for Tuvok see Spock and, perhaps, as time goes on I'll forget about Katherine Hepburn!! and enjoy the excellent Kate Mulgrew as Voyager's Captain.

• Allan Kelly - Glasgow

Hello again to all members of IDIC. I would like to thank Sheila for translating my handwriting.

To Lisa Livermore - I could not agree more. CT is so dull and boring. About the only good thing it did was set up the spin-off TV series.

To Helen Thomson - I heard somewhere that Voyager moves its nacelles because otherwise it would pollute the galaxy (Force of Nature). If this is true, why not build starships with their nacelles in the new 'up' position? Think of all the times the Enterprise

has warped out in the nick of time. What would happen to Voyager in an emergency? It would just get blown away, that's what! (Although it still looks good.)

In Generations they might not have had the option to use the escape pod because of the slipstream, but what about transporters? Did anyone notice, when watching Generations, that the light bulbs had gone out all around the ship? The whole film was dark.

To Roger Neal - DS9 does have its fair share of action, particularly since the Dominion and the Defiant have been introduced. The DS9 characters do work well. The thing that's wrong with Voyager is that most of the characters are in the wrong place. Tuvok behaves more like a combined Science and First Officer; as for the real First Officer, is he not meant to keep the Captain safe and take her place on away teams? What are Kes and Neelix doing on the ship? They don't serve any real purpose except to make soup and bad jokes.

To Anike Bissinger - I loved your article in N/L 42 about DS9. You have hit the nail on the head, although the Defiant has given some good episodes and strong action scenes. I just love to see that ship in action!

• Keren Breen - Neath

Right, I'm back! Life has been hectic lately, and I haven't had time to give you the benefits of the Thoughts of Chairman Ker. However, I have been cogitating (they can't touch you for it!) and ruminating (ditto!) so here we go. Some of this relates to N/L 41; sorry, but the combination of a school inspection and a septic middle finger on my right hand (the latter directly attributable to the former) made writing impossible for a while.

To Eunice Pearson, re Boarding Party - I just reported the event, having nothing to do with the organisation, but I believe the organisers held the events on Sunday because that was when the Dylan Thomas Theatre offered their facilities at discount rates. I do take your point about transport in South Wales on a Sunday, or even in the late

evenings; I've lost track of how many concerts, films, folk clubs or whatever I either didn't go to or left early because of problems with public transport; eventually I had to learn to drive because I couldn't get to work on time by bus or train. I also agree that publicity was very poor; I only found out about it by accident because my computer needed repairs and had to go into Swansea, where my husband spotted a poster. There were none in Neath, less than ten miles away.

To Jo Buckwell, and others who think Weslev's Not That Bad Really; thanks, I was beginning to think I was suffering from terminal bad taste! Actually, the person I really disliked in season 1 was Riker. Before you all jump on me, screaming *What?!!* I will add that he grew on me as time went on and I quite like him now. On the ratio of male:female sci-fi fans; I am presently involved with the Swansea Cult TV Society where I think I represent 33% or 50% of the female membership, and I've yet to meet another woman at meetings! (Do I know what I'm doing, or what?)

To Dave Styles - It just goes to show that one person's rip-off is another's treasure; I needed a new keyring for my car keys and was thrilled to find a Romulan Warbird! I was quite happy with the price, too. One man's wossname is another man's thingy, I suppose - or maybe the terminal bad taste mentioned earlier is not in remission after all! If you don't like it, don't buy it; they will keep producing whatever will sell. Incidentally, our local Blockbuster video store is now selling off a lot of previously hideously overpriced ST merchandise at knockdown rates (my husband got a phaser keyring at less than half price) because people obviously wouldn't pay the asking price.

• Rhiannon - Germany

To Baerbel Schmidt - My letters are in the mail. Lwaxana is one of my favourite NG characters. About Paramount destroying the fan clubs - what is Star Trek without fans? And what is Paramount without those fans? Isn't Paramount making enough money with Star Trek already? When will they have licences on 'Q-pads'?

To Catherine Hill - I liked what you said about Hugh. Last month I got to see that episode (once again) and I loved it (once again). I find the Borg quite interesting, mainly because of their 'mentality'.

To the Wicked Witch from the South - *Please* don't pick on my dear Michael Jackson, okay? And about MJ appearing in the next Star Trek movie - yes! yes! yes!!!

To Gul Melset - I agree with what you said about Ben Sisko, but apart from being an excellent commander and a fine diplomat he also seems more 'human', more 'realistic' to me, just like the whole DS9 series so far. That is why I like him. Unfortunately I have not seen too much of DS9 so far, I seem to live in the wrong country...

To Allan Kelly - You wonder what Gene would say about his dream now. Well, I can't tell you, but I think the reasons for all those changes there were in Star Trek can be found in this reality. Times have changed, causing people to change their attitudes and interests. In order to give the people something they find interesting, TV programmes had to change as well. Another thing is that the audience has got a lot bigger. As it is broadcast in many countries, ST had to become more 'international', more P.C. All in all, I guess Gene would not be too unhappy with it, but maybe I should not guess anything; I never got to know him, so how can I know what he'd think?

To Jo Buckwell - Well said! Since when is there a dress code in ST fandom? It is sad that so many people judge a person (or a person's state of mind) by his outer appearance! (And that's not only the Terrans!) If you feel like wearing a Star Trek uniform, wear one!

To Maureen Norton - Could Jadzia have grandchildren who are older than she is? Nope. Dax could, but Jadzia couldn't.

Since this won't be out before December - Merry Xmas to all of you.

• **Jessica Lemmer (finally 18) - Altweiherstr 58, 91320 Ebermannstadt, Germany**

To anyone who is familiar with the "State

the nature of the emergency" doctor from Voyager. He always wants to be switched off, and should he be switched off when he still has work to do, he can't go on. TNG's holo-Moriarty didn't have that problem. In Ship in a Bottle he took matters into his own hands, made himself appear and disappear whenever he wanted to; Barclay tried to make him disappear but didn't succeed. Moriarty was even able to reprogram the holodeck computer, so why is Voyager's Doc so limited in his actions? Janeway claimed her ship would be a relatively new one, but it seems its holodeck technology is the exception. Can anyone enlighten me why the Doctor can't decide for himself when he wants to be on or off?

I've been trying to find the right words to describe what I think of Voy. Then I read Roger Neal's letter in N/L 42 and I found what I've been searching for. It took a while for DS9 to attract me; it took over a season for the series to become better. Voyager has a lot of action, everything fits and the series has the 'certain something' already, I like the atmosphere aboard. Tom Paris got a second chance, Maquis crew members work together with their former opponents (okay they have to, but they could also fight with each other instead of co-operating). The crew is far from perfect and that makes it the more believable. Let's hope Harry doesn't find a bigger wormhole in the next couple of light years!

I'd like to wish my friends and everyone else a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Should anyone like to write to me, please do so - I love receiving letters as long as they aren't entitled 'phone bill'.

• **Alex Pidd - Selby**

Star Trek: Voyager. I like this show; it came as a breath of fresh air after the stagnant and stationary DS9. It also reminds me of the original series. There's now a whole generation of children and teenagers who refuse to watch the original because it's seen as 'old fashioned'. Is Voyager an attempt to quietly remake the spirit of the original show to attract a whole new audience? If so, I hope it works! I've no problem with Janeway beaming down, didn't Kirk say being away from Starfleet had its rewards (ST:VI).

Captain Picard also had such fun on an away mission that he teased Riker about it in Contagion. Also, if they're going to meet a new species then diplomatically shouldn't the Captain be the one to start the introductions? Given the situation in which Voyager finds itself, the Captain on an away mission is explainable - remember it's only a TV series :-). My only concern for Voyager is the future plans the producers may have for the series.

To digress slightly onto the subject of animal guides (Nigel Nixon, Taruka Q and Sarah Rooke, N/L 42 Pp 39 & 49, N/L 41 P20). You don't need religion, drugs or any other tricks. Everyone can find their own animal guide through guided meditation; in fact there's two, one each for the nice and nasty sides of your personality. The animal guide is there so you can learn about yourself and your place in the world (remember 'Know thy enemy & know thyself...' from TNG Last Outpost). The concept of animal guides has European roots in Norse teaching. In fact, there's speculation that the Vikings could have passed this knowledge on to the native Americans. Anyone interested in the European traditions to finding their animal guide should contact the International Stav Association, PO Box 915, Hull, HU7 5XP.

Finally, I'd like to add my voice to the debate over the direction Star Trek is taking. Once upon a time Star Trek fans were a little clique finding pleasure in small groups and discovering the odd trinket and memorabilia of their favourite show. Now Star Trek spin-off series abound and it appears you can buy Star Trek merchandise in most High Street stores. Has this stopped Star Trek from being special? Has it undermined the core beliefs of Star Trek? My answer is a definite maybe. Once Star Trek was something special, now I feel the show's started down a slippery slope towards mediocrity. Let's remember that Star Trek was created to make money, both for Desilu and Gene Roddenberry. The addition of the ideology and vision for the future by Gene is laudable, I for one rather like a world with IDIC in it (both the philosophy and the fan club!) However, the ideology didn't justify its creation, money did.

Now we have three versions of Star Trek on BBC 2 in addition to the satellite broadcasts. There's merchandise all over the place and, let's be honest, most of it is poor quality and the rest is overpriced. I believe there's now too much Star Trek and people can't take it all in. When it reaches this saturation point isn't it in danger of becoming this year's Mutant Turtles or Power Rangers fad? Don't the accountants at Paramount/Viacom realise that you maintain interest in a product by keeping the supply less than the demand? To do otherwise just swamps the marketplace and lowers its value. Such short-term avarice will tarnish the image of Star Trek for any future audience and series spin-offs; they're in danger of killing the golden goose and slaying the cash-cow in one fell swoop. This exploitation has cheapened Star Trek and it's now developing into just another run of the mill TV programme churned out to a pre-defined formula. Poor ratings killed the original series. Now poor ratings are used as the excuse to bring in more violent action and characters to undo the good work in expanding the Star Trek universe made by TNG. One thing appears to have escaped the producers, if you have a good enough concept and good scripts and actors you shouldn't need gimmicks to get good ratings.. It has been said that Rick Berman is a worthy successor to Gene Roddenberry in handling Star Trek. I think he and the other producers of Star Trek should rethink their short term goals and the direction they're taking.

• **The Kilted Klingon (SS Potato Leader) - Dundee (outpost of the Klingon Empire)**

To the committee of Midcon - Great con; 1940s night, brilliant. See you next year!

To Sue (frog stealer) Castle (room 621 illegal party) - Where's my frog?

To Richard, Julie, Dot, Marion, Martin - We invade the vegetable patch tonight.

To "The Kaferian Apple Club" - We know who you are! You got wasted at the Battle of Midcon 14.

To Farmer Giles (Marion) - You looked the part.

To everyone who attended Conundrum - We will be back in 1997 (long live The Wave!) Majel really enjoyed herself. Carel has to take his shoes off to drive. George did have a hangover. Scott McMillan wants to be a Redcoat. To anyone who didn't attend Conundrum - You missed a great convention!

To Terry and Jenny Elson - Thanks for getting everything autographed.

To everyone who knows me - Merry Klingmas & Happy Trek Year.

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

To Jay Stevensen, P 70 - You took the words out of my mouth. In N/L 40 I said a few things similar to what you wrote. Yes, we are being used, and yes, there should be no excuses. We deserve better. It's surprising that although there are very restricting rules, some writers can come up with lovely ideas and excellent characterisation. I think that what Pocket Books needs is new blood. Add new names to its regular list of writers. From what I understand, PB has a very long list of ST books to be written in the future and does not accept new writers. The idea is not to bother with authors who haven't yet proven themselves, and to stick with the ones who have already done so. Sort of a sure bet. We, the readers, eventually get the same product over and over. I like LA Graf, but they too have got set in their ways and their stories turn out quite similar to one another.

To get good characterisation, I think it's important that the writer has feelings for these characters, as if he himself had created them. In the case of ST, the characters have already been created and that is why it's important that the writer be a fan - someone who knows these characters well and can feel them and depict them correctly.

To Bill McClure, P 35 - I have to state that the first ST novels I read (PB) I enjoyed very much, and that was because it was all new to me. Gradually as I read more and more, my excitement wore off. Why do I still buy those books? Well, we do not have much else to choose from around here. Lucky for me, I mainly read TOS and I usually buy second

hand, or if I buy new books and am not satisfied, I return them to the secondhand bookshop and get half my money back. It's not the greatest situation, but beggars can't be choosers.

To Marcia - I know that I already read your view of Generations before, but every time I read it, I get tears in my eyes. Thank you for touching deep inside my heart.

To Jay Stevensen (again), P 30 - When we get old, we too will not enjoy the idea of becoming useless, but as we have no choice, we succumb to our fate and live our lives as they are, including the parts which aren't exciting. I admit that having Scotty live the rest of his life as an old retired man does not really appeal to me, because he's Scotty, but when I think some more on the subject, I see how human this is, and how this brings Scotty closer to us. He too will have to live a regular boring life at the end, and anyhow, why should everyone in ST leave this life with a bang?

To Michael Flett P 38 (Borg, ST 8) - Maybe they can use the trauma Picard has from his encounter with the Borg and that way the film will also discuss characters. I see great potential in such a story - again, if it were written right. I wish the producers of 8 to take their time and think before they come up with the final product; I would prefer waiting and getting a good product than getting something like 7. I also think there are too many plots thrown into the eighth movie. These should be cut down. The story will come out (again) too crowded and not focused.

Is there no way of fixing Enterprise-D? To me she didn't look too destroyed, at least saucer-section-wise. Who needs E? If D was insured, put her in drydock for a few years and patch her up. You can't do that with people, but with ships you can. (Think how cheap it will be for the producers of the eighth movie; they can use the old sets and also old footage again. [*Janet - Yes, but they will balance that with how much they can make by selling E merchandise!*])

To Vivien Little - Thanks.

To Allan Kelly, P27 - Add to your list of gloom the Klingon/Federation problem. That was a great treaty. Why did they have to ruin it? Yes - it's getting too gloomy. Someone should turn on the lights...

To Edward Woo, p 29 - The Voyager crew is checking various anomalies around it in case one of them happens to be a shortcut back to the Alpha Quadrant. Who wants to spend 70+ years living in a Spaceship? And anyhow, the ship can't go very fast all the time, as there is a restriction on using high warp speeds for long periods.

I don't know if an eighth season would have been more profitable, but it certainly would have been more enjoyable.

• **Nancy Wilson, 97 Stamfordham Dr, Springwood, Liverpool L19 4XD**

This is my first time of writing, so Hi! to everyone. A special Hi to my friends Vered and Martin.

To Dave Styles - I have no problems claiming my 10% discount from the local Forbidden Planet on anything in the shop as long as it's Trek related. Don't give up!

To Maureen Norton - You ask about rubber stamps - try the Sheffield Space Centre, 33 The Wicker, Sheffield S3 8HS. They have some in stock.

To SAM Bedford - I'd be interested in hearing your views on X-Files and B5. Drop me a line.

Can anyone tell me if there were other Deep Space stations, like 1 - 8?

I am really enjoying Voyager and I think the stories I have seen so far are great. Just one thing irritates me; Tom Paris.

Does anyone know where I can get a tribble?

• **Jay Stevensen - Essex**

I'm glad I saw some DS9 on video before the recently aired pilot. Has the quasi-mystical plotless ramble attracted any non-fan to the series, I wonder? At least Voyager

started off with a decent story. The only thing you can say for The Emissary is that it isn't as bad as the Babylon 5 pilot!

To Michael Flett (P38) - I don't know too much about Bill Shatner's past involvement with Trek, but Leonard Nimoy supported fandom/cons in the 60s and 70s with many personal appearances. He still attends some cons (work permitting) and has frequently acknowledged his debt to Trek. In the 80s he tirelessly promoted the films, listening to numerous repetitive 'ear jokes' and banalities in the process. As to Bill promoting his own brand of Trek ... well, isn't that what most fans (and some pro writers) do? And why shouldn't the actors cash in on Trek? Everyone else does!

To Julie Evans (P26) - If you can't think of a cartoon, just a picture would do - I'm sure the nice IDIC editors would publish it. I'd just like to see your version of the Original crew. It would be an antidote to some of the merchandise on offer nowadays. I agree with Dave Styles (P38), a lot of it is an insult to fans.

Karen Russel's plea about the William Shatner Connection (P51) made me wonder about IDIC readers' experiences with fan clubs, here and abroad. "Official" and otherwise. (What does "official" mean in this context anyway?) Which ones give good value? Have any taken your money and run?

Does anyone else get the same fascinating advice from their spellcheck as I do when it comes to Star Trek names? You've all heard of those well-known actors Gear Take, Leopard Nifty, Nicely Niches and Waffer Ko'ing, haven't you? And how about those noisy aliens from the Klaxon Empire? Unfortunately, Vulcans become vulgar, but insult of the week has to be to the Bajorans, who turn into baboons!

To anyone - Is "Make it so" standard American naval-speak? I always thought it was a Picard-ism, but recently heard it used in an American submarine drama. *[Sheila - Kathleen Glancy pointed out some time ago that "Make it so" is used in one of Gilbert and Sullivan's works...]*

To any Technical Fan out there - Why does the colour and definition of Trek episodes (all series) vary so much? And why do you sometimes get a clear steady picture when you freeze frame (at either LP or SP), and sometimes an irritating flicker and strips of light?

• **Christopher Howell - Coundon, Coventry**

This is my first IDIC letter, so I'd like to say hello to all Star Trek fans out there!

To Anike Bissinger (N/L 42): I enjoyed your article very much. I also love DS9 simply because its DIFFERENT!. It explores characters, interstellar politics and religion more than space. I know some fans think this isn't what Star Trek is about but DS9 was MEANT to push the Star Trek formula and dare I say it - break some of Gene Robbenberry's rules in the process. I'm a big fan of Next-Gen as well but DS9 is a more realistic, grittier and darker version of the Trek Universe which makes for a refreshing contrast.

To Anike (again!), Baerbel Schmidt, Edward Woo, Russell Witheyman, Raymond Spencer and any other DS9ers: I wasn't too pleased initially about Worf joining DS9. The 3rd series was brilliant and I couldn't see how the show would benefit from his presence. After I calmed down and thought about it however, I realised it could just work out in DS9's favour. How?

1) The circumstances surrounding Worf's arrival sound interesting (and exciting) to say the least. The Klingons (from their P.O.V.) wouldn't wait for the Dominion to invade the Alpha Quadrant, they would prepare themselves for battle and if that means invading Cardassia (a good strategic point to defend themselves from) and upsetting the Federation, then tough! It all ties in with the Founders' game plan first mentioned in 'The Die is Cast' and it gives Sisko and company something else to worry about. Besides friendships and alliances are made and broken every day in real life, and in a sense DS9 is reflecting this.

2) DS9's main strength is the realistic way the characters interact with each other.

People like Kira, Quark and Garak have their own agendas, which may or may not meet with other people's or Starfleet's approval. Sometimes they get along with each other, sometimes they don't. Worf's arrival is another source of conflict for the writers to exploit and it will be interesting to see how he interacts with the crew. I can see Worf now, interfering with Odo's security investigations, testing USS Defiant's phasers without permission ("These are the weapons of a warrior!") etc.

3) Worf's relationship with his new crewmates could be used to explore other characters on the show. (For example Dr. Bashir's friendship with Garak has revealed more about the tailor's past)

4) Finally, if details of early Series Four episodes are any indication, DS9 will continue to explore ALL of the characters on the show

Opinions, anyone?

PS - When is the DS9 Volume 4.1: Way of the Warrior video due out in Britain anyone?

To everyone - How's this for a proposal - The 5th Star Trek Series based on the Klingons, say a Klingon outpost on some small asteroid near the Romanian border, with NO Federation involved?

• **Andrew Carnegie - Leeds**

Since I have just started university I have not really got time to say much but I do have few comments about the different series.

DS9 : The 3rd season was excellent and I can't wait for the 4th. If Worf's transferring to DS9 does that mean that Deanna might come too?

VOY : It keeps getting better and better.

TNG : I really liked the movie and look forward to seeing the Borg (and Michael Jackson) in the next one.

TOS : Well done to the BBC! Putting this out on Sunday mornings as well as TNG and DS9 during the week is a great idea - the

perfect cure to the night before!

• **Bill McClure - 1032 South Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664, USA.**

To Allan Kelly - Thank you for pointing out that list of all the negative things which have been transpiring in the Trek universe since Gene Roddenberry's demise. (n/142, p. 27) That's exactly the point I've been trying to make all along... Also, during DS9's recent "Way of the Warrior," Dr. Bashir pointed out that Starfleet was breaking its own word of agreement with the Romulans by using the Defiant's cloaking device within the Alpha Quadrant (when the use of such technology by *any* Federation ships is supposed to be illegal anyway.) Because of that, the Klingons are absolutely right when they say the Federation is "without honor" these days...

To Alastair Craig and Alan Stephen - re: the similarities between DS9 and Babylon 5 - I once read somewhere that B5's creator actually pitched his idea for a space station-based sci-fi series to Paramount a few years before DS9's debut, and he was summarily rejected. Then, while Straczynski was busy forming his own production company to get his show off the ground, Paramount suddenly came out with their own "original" series about a space station full of aliens... Now, with the Klingons having declared war on the Federation, it looks as though DS9 is our "last, best hope" for imitation. Also, Bruce Boxleitner was recently quoted in a TV interview as saying, "Star Trek hates us. Paramount hates us... We're gonna stick 'em in the eye!"

To Neil J. Barrett - re: ST characters who are "too perfect" and "unrealistic" - What's wrong with having heroes or role models like that to look up to and aspire to? Would you say the same thing about our modern-day astronauts as well? They're also an incredibly multi-talented lot who haven't settled for mediocrity...

To Raymond Spencer - re: "The Adversary" as "a teaser of things to come" - Yeah, I thought so too, but it looks now as though - just like happened with the Borg - the Founders have become too big a threat to

easily work into any storyline. Instead, DS9 now seems to be focusing on their renewed war with the Klingons...

To Clare Finkel - re: racism, sexism and black Vulcans - Having been raised in a semi-racist family myself, I suppose I was "brainwashed" into ascribing to ST's underlying message of ultra-equality instead, even as an unknowing child who watched the show simply for adventure. It was not until recently that I realized what a profound impact the original ST series had had on me during my formative years. Fear and hatred of people who are "different" from oneself (and/or acceptance thereof) are not innate; they're *learned*. As for black Vulcans - well, hey, we all possess the same number of melanocytes...

To Tracy Saunders - Hey, what's all this business about ranking Humans and animals on some kind of numbered scale of spirituality? That seems awfully anthropocentric and anthropomorphic to me... How do you know Humans are the most spiritual of all animals? When was the last time you discussed metaphysics with a humpback whale...?

To Judith Taylor - re: "Time and Relative Dimensions in Space" (n/142, p. 74) - I couldn't disagree more! In *reality*, the concept of time is more analogous to an expanding balloon or bubble than a pair of pants legs. It is the movement of the "skin" of our three-dimensional universe through the fourth dimension as it continues to expand (forever?) which constitutes our concept of time. For more info, I would refer you to Carl Sagan's discussion of time, dimension and relativity - including Edwin Abbott's concept of "Flatland" - in Chapter 10 "The Edge of Forever" in Sagan's book (and public TV series) "Cosmos."

To Catherine Hill - re: your observations of Hugh and his species - I agree with you that not all members of the same species must act the same way, but I would also point out that your argument could just as easily apply to *gender* as well...

To Kathleen Glancy - re: another Trek

spinoff with a gay captain - Hey, what a great idea! Even though it will never happen, from the way things have been going, that might be the only way they'll ever keep us "Changelings" and "J'naiians" watching the show. (Alien Nation is a whole different story though...)

To Jo Buckwell - Cheers to you and your live-and-let-live philosophy! It's really a shame more people can't live their lives that way...

To Carole Taylor - I had many difficulties in writing my first few stories too, but "practice makes perfect!" I've just finished my third full-length ST novel and it's my favorite "child" so far. If I could be of any assistance to your writing endeavors, just let me know...

To Lisa Livermore and Theresa Murison - Data fans! Have I got a story for you! All I can say right now is that it's full of "android romance"! SAE/IRC me for more details if you'd be interested...

To Michael Flett and Martin Helsdon - Sorry, but all this fuss over Spot's kittens seems like a moot point to me. I mean, the iguana that Spot de-evolved into was clearly not anatomically equipped to nurse such mammalian offspring so his/her kittens would have obviously starved to death in a short time anyway.

• **Dave Styles - Ashford, Kent**

To Bill McClure: Re your letter of NL42. Did you mean me or another Dave? I'm sorry, but I'm not really sure what you are talking about?

Re marketing of utter rubbish: Have you seen the latest tat? You can now buy a "realistic" model of Data's head (as seen in "Time's Arrow"). You get a showroom dummy's head (which bears little, if any, resemblance to Brett Spiner) complete with what looks like carpet in place of hair, and a few wires hanging out of the bottom. And the price? Two hundred pounds!!! Am I alone in finding this sort of thing quite insulting? Perhaps we could have a little section in the

newsletter for "This Month's Biggest Rip-Off" >:->

To James O Donovan, Neil J Barrett and others of good taste :-> Takeover TV did tell me that I'd appear in the Sci-Fi weekend, but I think they must have thought better. Can't say I blame them. However, the good news for all my fans (I have done signed photos, well, OK, just one!!!!) is that I will be appearing in the trailers for Takeover TV's second series. The bad news is that I'm still waiting for Paramount to sign me up.....

And finally to Alan Stephen: And here I was thinking you'd forgotten all about me! Go on, growl for me, let me know you still care!!!!

• **Nigel Nixon - Reading**

Gul Melset/Pam Baddeley, N/L 42. Budgies in Space. Some birds are captive on Earth, they don't die in thunderstorms so why should a captive bird on a Starship die when it goes into warp? As far as I can judge there isn't any sort of noticeable disturbance inside the ship when warp is engaged so would the budgie (or whatever) actually notice any difference?

Christian Gaeng, N/L 42. Paramount and copyright. I can see why Paramount are doing what they are doing but that doesn't mean that I think it's a good thing.

Helen Thompson, N/L 42. Chakotay's tattoo. Michael Westmore has said that the tattoo isn't based on any particular tribe's design, he "just started doodling." So while you can probably find similarities between it and real tattoos they are not intended. Chakotay's background should be explained in the upcoming "Tattoo" episode.

Roger Neal, N/L 42. Class named ships. Of the 30-odd different classes that the Federation uses we've seen or heard of, 5 bear the class name, not enough to prove that there must be a class named ship.

Theresa Murrison, N/L 42. Beth Toussaint <slaps himself on forehead> And I made so sure that I didn't see any episodes of Dallas!

All and sundry. Smilies. Am I alone in preferring <emoticons>? A quick<g> after a comment seems just as useful as a :-)) and just try doing <g,d&rvvf> as a smilie, though there is the minor problem that you have to know what the initials stand for...<g>

Majel Barrett Roddenberry on Babylon 5. Cor lummy! That's a bit of a turn up and no mistake. You'd be amazed at how many die hard Trekkers on CIS suddenly turned into Fivers after jms dropped that little bombshell on line.

ST on the Beeb. Trek THREE times a week! I think I must be hallucinating.

• **Safi El Fadil - the Artist formerly known as Neil.**

To Victoria Roberts et al - Worry not. The great debate has been withdrawn from the pages of IDIC, but it continues fiercely in the real world. Myself and Sadler have opted to continue our dispute via the judicial courts - Sky and CNN have acquired the TV rights. Anyone know a good lawyer?

To the Klingons at Midcon - Sorry, I didn't know you were SCARED of ice! Although it makes sense - you do seem to wear a lot of fur. The Klingon/KAC alliance rests precariously in your hands/claws/paws/mittens. Say nothing and everything will be fine; but if you dare print what you did to me and Mike, prepare to feel the Wrath of KAC!

Glynn - So Brent touched your jacket huh? Well that's nothing, I've got a small authentic vial of BS's saliva - do you wanna swop? (I will of course resist all temptation to say "It's green") Sorry - bad taste mode disengaged!!!

Classic Trek is best, but one thing still puzzles me. With all the scientific developments that have taken place by the twenty-third century, why do the Enterprise doors go "shh" when they open and close. You would think that they would be able to make silent mechanisms by then (or maybe Scotty is being frugal with the oil). Or is it perhaps a way of reminding boisterous Ensigns to be quiet as they enter

the Bridge?

• **Sylvia Benson, 108 Casino Avenue, Herne Hill, London SE24 9PL**

Hi there fellow Sci Fi fans. Having just read the latest NL I am pleased to see that a lot of you guys out there like all types of science fiction, even though our favourite may be Trek in its various forms.

I do agree that Voyager seems to be very good, though I have only seen about 8 episodes - shown at various cons - I feel it will be a fitting addition to the Star Trek legend. On the whole the characters have some depth already. I am not mad on Janeway, can't quite figure out what it is that grates but, as someone mentioned in the last NL, she doesn't listen to her crew! As for Tom Paris, does anyone agree with me that he could just have easily been the Nick Locarno character a few years on, allowing for age and cynicism to do its thing?

I am not surprised that there are diverging opinions re Data and his emotion chip. Personally I am in favour. As you watch the series progress, Data's character has rounded out nicely. OK, so he went a bit overboard when the chip was put in, his own fault of course, he should not have let Geordi put it where he did, check out your copy of Brothers!! I think it confused his neural net work, no wonder it blew a fuse. A question, in what way has Data lost his innocence?? Would the Data sans chip be any more willing to trust a Ferengi? Was the Data before chip any less able to understand the loss of someone dear to him? Remember he 'got it' after Tasha's eulogy. And what about his firing the disrupter at Fajo! No he didn't lie to Riker, get your tape out, he just wasn't asked the right question so he was economical with the truth, rather a strange thing for an unemotional being to do don't you think? Will his endless curiosity be lessened by emotions, is your curiosity dampened because you have emotions? Will he suddenly suspect everyone, will he be less tolerant, or will he follow Picard's thoughtful attitude? I have always thought Data had emotions anyway, just repressed by his programming. So, come on fellow Dataphiles, in what way is Data less

innocent? As a PS to the above, if there is anyone out there who knows of any good Data stories, either as a stand-alone fanzine or in a TNG one, please let me know; good Data stories seem hard to come by.

• **Simon Clay - Leeds**

Hi! I've been a member for about two years now, and I've finally got round to writing in. I kept meaning to before, but never managed it, so here I go.

Carole Taylor - Re not knowing about Vulcan katra. I think that there is lots that we don't know about Vulcans, and that they don't talk about - for example Ponn Farr was unknown outside Vulcan, until Spock went through it. Perhaps katra is one of those things that aren't talked about. There could be a problem if it were widely known that Vulcans have a way of cheating, if not denying, death. Or it could just be another continuity error.

Helen Thompson - As I understand it, moving the warp nacelles improves efficiency at warp 8+ speeds by optimising the warp geometry. Or something like that - it's in the Tech Manual, under the bit about the Enterprise E.

Who is Amelia Earhart? Everybody but me seems to have heard of her. *[Ed - she was a well-known pilot in the 30s who disappeared while trying to fly right round the world.]*

Finally, about Captain Janeway's hair. Perhaps she keeps a concealed phaser within, for all those annoying hostage situations. :-)

• **Keith Dunn, 57 Hearsall Lane, Earlsdon, Coventry, CV5 6HF**

I write this a few hours after returning from my first ever Star Trek convention (Midcon 14). I think the only word I can think of to describe the experience is 'WOW!'. To say that I had a great time would be a massive understatement, and I'd like to thank everyone involved in the organising of the event.

The only regret I have in attending, is that I am now hooked, and will be hoping to attend other conventions in the future.

Whether my meagre wallet will be able to take the strain I don't know, but take the strain it will have to.

To others out there who haven't yet been to a convention, and are thinking about going for the first time, I'd say do it, you will be glad you did. I went alone, and although I was a little daunted and nervous at first, I soon relaxed and really enjoyed myself immensely. I got to see episodes that I would probably not see for a long time, and from meeting and talking to other Trekkers I learnt stuff that would probably have taken me years to accumulate.

To cap off a brilliant weekend, I return home to discover that my IDIC newsletter had arrived whilst I had been away. Needless to say I opened and began to read it as soon as I finished unpacking. Also waiting for me, my Voyager sweatshirt at last. Still waiting for my sweatshirt that I sent off 120,000 space miles for though.

Sorry to hear that the level of submissions you are receiving has dropped, I hope that readers will take heart and take steps to remedy that. Although I have to admit, I thought the magazine was excellent as always. How you manage to compile a zine of such quality again and again will never cease to amaze me. I run a little disk-magazine on the Atari ST range of computers, and I practically have to beg for submissions.

Re: the black Vulcan debate. I have no problem accepting Tuvok as a Vulcan. It stands to reason that Vulcan will not have the same climate all over its surface, so Vulcans in each region will have evolved in differing ways to cope with their environment, just as on Earth. I think the problem some have with accepting Tuvok as a Vulcan is not so much a black/white thing, but more of a Spock/Tuvok thing. Actually, I think Tim Russ plays a damn good Vulcan, and I'm looking forward to seeing more of him in the role.

I have a suggestion for those of you having problems with friends who mock the fact that you like Star Trek. Up until

recently, many of my friends thought it was a bit of a joke, and had a dig at the earliest opportunity. All I did was gather a few videos together, and got them to actually sit and watch a few episodes. Now I am constantly asked if I have any new episodes for them to watch. I think that you will find that most people who mock Star Trek have probably never even seen it.

Julie Evans - Great cartoons, keep 'em coming.

Jean Perrin - If I remember rightly, Richard Arnold said at Midcon that the thing with O'Brien's pips was an error, nothing more, and they just haven't done anything about it. I should warn you that I wasn't exactly sober at the time though...

Raymond Spencer - How about these ones:

Pamela Anderson - The Perfect Mate, Will Carling - the Best of Both Worlds, Michael Barrymore - Emergence, British Telecom - The Wire. Bill Clinton - Playing God, Kenneth Clarke - Profit and Loss, Paddy Ashdown - The Storyteller, Madonna - The Man Trap, Manchester Utd - Too Short a Season, The U.N. - Let That be Your Last Battlefield, Greenpeace - And the Children Shall Lead. I have a lot more, but I doubt that they would be suitable for printing in IDIC.....

Allan Kelly - Star Trek has always been a little gloomy. In nearly every episode at least one crew member or more has been faced with an impossible situation. The only difference now is that the end of the episode doesn't result in a situation where everything is hunky dory. It's no more gloomy, but the stories are elaborated on a bit more.

???????? (sorry, can't remember who was asking about it) - I have many favourite humorous bits in TNG, but I'll plump for the bit in Deja Q where Guinan stabs Q in the hand to test whether he's human or not. Whoever says that there are no funny bits in TNG has obviously only seen the first season. The Original series wasn't instantly funny, it took time for it to develop; the same can be

said of TNG and DS9. Voyager seems to be the exception though as there are already many bits I have been able to laugh at.

Well, that's it from me; if anyone wants to write to me, please do.

• Leslie Moyes - Glenrothes

Hi, y'all! Having seen all of DS9 3rd season, I reckon it is excellent, especially Improbable Cause/The Die is Cast, my fave DS9 ever! Voyager is getting better too. I can't wait for Projections and The 37s.

If anyone is interested, Global Video is selling Generations ex-rental for £9.99!!

To Anike Bissinger - Your DS9 article was brilliant and I agree with you totally!

To Julie, Jean and Ed - Congratulations on your Conundrum reports, they were excellent! Ed, how much is it for your con diary anyway? [Sheila - *for the con diary, contact Anne Page - see ads.*]

To Gul Melset - Are you a veggie, or do you enjoy wild tospars eggs?

That's all for now - hailing frequencies closed.

• Liz Caldwell - Taunton

To SAM Bedford - Your comment about Odan gave me food for thought. At first I wasn't too struck with the Trill because of the apparent inconsistencies between the way they were presented in The Host and the way all that seemed to change when Dax came along. I thought it was just the writers thinking, *Hey, this is a good idea, let's have a Trill in DS9*, without thinking through the moral implications of the race. The way the Trill are presented in DS9 irked me because it seemed inconsistent with the original premise in The Host. However, your comment that Odan wasn't very nice made me think. Perhaps most symbionts are OK and Odan was atypical of his species - in which case I pity his poor hosts whose bodies would be treated as 'just a host', with apparently little will of their own.

However (again) I remembered the

attitude of Dax when the other Trill host forced Bashir to transplant him (her, it?) from Jadzia into him. I could hardly believe Dax happily would have gone off inside someone who had in effect murdered Jadzia. Perhaps the crazy male host (whose name I can't remember) had a personality strong enough to subdue Dax's protests.

Re Voyager - Despite my initial misgivings, I've decided I like it! I took to it almost straight away, and like other people have mentioned, it has a feel of the original series about it. I think this is mainly due to Tuvok, who is *excellent*, but also Janeway reminds me of Kirk(!) There's only one thing about it I don't like - Neelix. He is irritating! I'm sure he's only there because Quark is popular. Classic Trek and TNG didn't feel the need for a 'cute' or 'funny' alien that so many other SF programmes seem to feel is necessary. I think Voyager doesn't need Neelix, and in my opinion would be better without him! I like Kes, though, and the relationship she's established with the Doctor.

I've yet to see a Voyager episode that equalled the best of TNG - nothing that made me go "Wow!" - but I've also yet to see one that made me cringe - so that can't be bad!

• **Catherine Hill - Burntwood, Staffs** .

To Baerbel Schmidt - AHH! They can't kill off Lwaxana! What is Paramount thinking? And Tom Riker too? What the hell is going on here?! I am definitely going to be writing to Paramount on this - I am livid!

To Marcia Stanislawski - Yes, I too feel like I'm part of a big family with Trek. If I'm getting slagged off for being a Trekker, I just think to myself, or sometimes even say, "I'm part of this special family and you're not and I'm the one that's benefiting from it - so there!" IDIC is such a close-knit and friendly club, unlike ST:The Official Fan Club, based in Colorado, which I was in for a while but left because it was kinda cold and I didn't get from it what I get from IDIC.

To Russell Witheyman - Re Worf joining DS9 - I really don't think DS9 needs Worf, either. It's a great show that has really found

its footing in this last season (or what I've seen of it). It can stand by itself, I have no doubt about that, no matter what the ratings show. However, Worf's a great character and it will be good to see him in DS9 - I just don't think it really *needs* him.

To Roger Neal - Long live Voyager- but long live DS9, too. In my opinion, *all* the characters work on DS9 and it has its fair share of action - just see season 3's Defiant or The Adversary and you'll see what I mean. I always defend DS9 because I love it so much and I seem to be in the minority - DS9 is every bit as good as CT, TNG and Voy - hey, it's Trek; of course it's good!

To Marie I J Park - Yep, I agree about Janeway's hairdo - I actually think it suits her and it is extremely practical. Loose hair is a pain in the neck and although perhaps it would be more flattering to wear it down, it would certainly get in her way and she'd be forever pushing it from her eyes (happens to me all the time - ahh!)

To David Gallagher - Great idea about the 'fan fact file'! It sounds fun and interesting. I say we go for it!

• **Mike (fly her apart, then) Sadler - South Wirral**

To all those wanting a nuclear-proof washing machine, they're very hard to get hold of as they are made out of lead and have walls 22 metres thick (I think you can buy them at Comet).

To Glyn Holland & Co, it was really good to see you at Midcon. I've got two things to say to you. 1. Ooooooh, Glyyyyn. 2) I've stocked up on jammy dodgers, fizzy pop and chocolate tospar eggs and my offer still stands (that will get people thinking!)

To everyone - a warning. Pay respect next time you see a Klingon and on no terms be brave enough to challenge them to a tribble duel at midnight. If you are foolish enough to do so, don't be surprised to be paraded around the disco half naked and then be reunited with your clothes (eh, Neil). Seriously, if there are any Midcon Klingons out there, then I thought it was a really good

laugh. Keep on Trekking!

• **Olga Fernandez del Val - Spain**

I'd like to tell you a story. I'm a teacher of English (don't ask! :-)) and, talking about hobbies, one of my students said she was a Trek fan. You can imagine it: disbelieving and surprised faces, and even one or two shocked ones... you know the picture. They were over her like vultures. "How can you like *that*?" "Oh, no - it's terrible!", "And I thought you were normal!" (Yes, one of them actually said that.) The point is, how come that they 'despised' the series? "All of them" had "never watched it", but knew *all* about it. They knew 'Dr' Spock (as they call him here. Did I miss a degree somewhere? :-)), they knew Picard, they know what the series was about... Don't you think it is a little suspicious? Think about it.

To Neil J Barrett - Re very small aliens. There's a story by Isaac Asimov (one of my heroes) about a tiny spaceship that crashes on a planet and is picked up by a child. His father says to him that they are sentient beings and he must let them go. At the end of the story, you discover that it's not the boy and his father who are the Humans, but the 'aliens'. It's a beautiful short story and you see how small we are - literally.

To Judith Taylor - I have always thought that the problem is that the Trousers of Time are not like our trousers but like those of an octopus, because once you have to decide something, the possibilities are many, some of them very similar and others completely different.

To Kathleen Glancy - Your Top of the Pops is one of the funniest articles I have ever read!

My grandma told me about the Maquis the other day. Most of you probably know it, but she told me that they were a group of Republican fighters in the Spanish Civil War who terrorised all the villages in the north of Spain. They fought in the second world war too, in France.

At last! We had a conference about ST in Madrid! It doesn't matter that half the

speakers didn't know a word about it (it was really funny to discover their mistakes) but it was a beginning. I hope it improves.

To Raymond Spencer (N/L 40) - My friend Sandra discovered that Matt McCoy played the husband in The Hand That Rocks the Cradle.

I'd hate to be stuck in a lift with Spock because I wouldn't be able to control myself. :-)

Finally, thanks to Clive Bilby, M Payne, Jason Rorbach and Vered Gilad for their kind letters. Hi, Vered!

• **Marcia Stanislawski - Trapped in a (malfunctioning) holodeck while running a Neverending Story program**

To Bill McClure - Hello, can you hear me? I hope you're picking up my signal loud and clear! Don't worry, my friend, you can check your hat any time and the sign on the door will still say IDIC (that is, after Odo lets you go from D59 - boy, what a torture for you to be on that awful place! :-)) When I disagree with you, that does not mean I'm attacking you for thinking differently, or that I don't respect your opinions; I'm just stating my own! So you send your thoughts, and I'll send mine - that's a fair exchange, isn't it? I think that's the Postbag's purpose - a place where we can exchange ideas and have interesting debates. Why, if everyone here agreed about everything, then all the submissions would say, "Yes, I think so too", but that would be boring! On the other hand, when people with different ideas come together they can learn from each other, they can grow - diversity enriches our lives. Isn't that what IDIC means?

Anyway, why do you think that everything in ST has to have a positive connotation? Can't an episode have a pure entertainment value? Not everything has to be a morality lesson - some scenes may be there just for the fun of it! Take TNG's Cause and Effect, or A Fistful of Datas - both are different from each other though definitely ST, and both are very enjoyable, but (surprise!) they have absolutely nothing relevant to say about humanity's future -

except maybe "Beware of time loops and holodecks" (Oh, no - I should have listened to them! Too late, I'm drowning in the Swamps of Sadness - where's that luck dragon when you need him?) Now, take DS9's *Destiny* - not only did O'Brien call the Cardassians "Bloody Cardies" but he also came to respect and admire Gilora for what she did; and Vedek Yarka admitted he had misinterpreted the prophecy and that it was possible that his people and the Cardassians could work towards real peace. If this isn't positive, I don't know what is!

To Kathleen Glancy re PC Captains - maybe the next Captain should be an alien?

To James O Donovan - Armin Shimerman was in *Blind Date*.

• **Jean Sloan - Liverpool**

The N/L goes from strength to strength. I loved Kathleen Glancy's *Top of the Pops* in N/L 42 and the cartoons are brilliant. Page refs in the following are all to N/L 42.

To Jennifer Blanchard (p 45) - Eric Menyuk was very earnest when he talked about the problems of making *Remember Me*; I rewatched the episode after the con and thought his performance quite in keeping with how he had played the character in *The Traveller*, but he thought it was a very stilted performance. Perhaps his view of the finished product was coloured by the trouble he had with the director which he admitted undermined his confidence in his interpretation of the role. They did lots of takes with the director dissatisfied with every one, and in the end Eric couldn't work out what the director was driving at. *The Traveller* is one of my favourite guest characters; I wish he had been scripted more often.

To Theresa Murison (p 48) - The TNG *Bohemian Rhapsody* was an entry for a music video competition at *Contagion*, and has been shown at several cons since. TNG extracts were edited to the Queen song to synchronise with both music and lyrics. It was excellently done. Perhaps it will be shown again at a future con - but copies cannot be distributed for copyright reasons.

To Pam Baddeley (p 46) with apologies to Vivien Little - I agree about Bareil - I didn't like the character either, and I don't want to see him return. I thought he was really wet, and not at all suited to Kira. **SPOILER ALERT** - I think the hinted-at Odo relationship has many more interesting possibilities. It gives *Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations* a whole new meaning...

To Michael Flett (p 38) - Leonard hasn't done any about-faces on Spock - "I Am Not Spock" was misinterpreted by people assuming the content from the title and not reading the book. I think Leonard regretted *calling* the book by that title. I think calling the new book "I Am Spock" is a recognition of his earlier faux pax.

(In the name of IDIC I can understand those who defend Bareil to the last breath and letter campaign; I feel like that about Spock.)

To Bill McClure - I love your lyrics. Actually I enjoyed your whole letter. I agree with you about *The Outcast* and about *Data/Brent*. The credit listing is very useful also.

A Post-singalong afterthought - "To bag some Maquis trash"... Tsk! Tsk Tsk!

An ego boost - To anyone who gets stick for being a Trekker - who cares what *they* think. We are all absolutely brilliant, talented, creative, imaginative, and probably mad.

But who wants to be sane?

• **Alan Stephen - Aberdeen**

I enjoy *Star Trek*, which seems an obvious thing to say in a *Star Trek* fanzine, but what gets me are some fans - now I'm sure you're not one of those - you know the type, who treats *Star Trek* as if nothing else matters.

In a recent issue of *Sci-Fi Universe* (No 7) there is an interview with Harlan Ellison, writer of *The City on the Edge of Forever*. While I think Harlan goes a little too far, I tend to agree with him; what's your opinion?

"I have no love for Paramount. Paramount is not a studio that I think is

particularly steeped in ethical behaviour. If you recall, I've sued it several times and beaten it. But it is a bum rap - it is an absolute bum rap - when Roddenberry and his apologists and torch bearers attack NBC and Paramount for not supporting Star Trek. In fact, Paramount kept the damn thing on the air for three years with lousy ratings and nobody watching it. The fanatics who feed off that whole money-making franchise, who live it and breathe it, who don't merely watch the show, are to me the most pathetic creatures in the world; suckers being mulcted by venal Paramount, publishers of garbage novels with stock characters, hustlers and inheritors of Roddenberry's scam and cult-like gurus who prey on Star Trek obsessives and Trekkies and Trekkers and Treksters and Trekoids and Treknoids and Trekiloids and Diploids and Dippies. They're like those sad couch potatoes who worship at the TV altars of the 700 club and Home Shopping Channel, which are one and the same, whether the viewers are being fleeced in the name of consumerism or Jesus. They are, in my view, absolutely the most pathetic creatures in the world. I mean, they talk about a TV series as if it were real life. They wear damned Star Trek uniforms. People change their names so they have the same names as the characters. Doesn't anyone else see the resemblance this all bears to the Branch Davidians or the Jonestown Cults?"

As I say, Harlan goes a bit far, but some fans seem to buy anything with Star Trek slapped on it, and will do anything to be closer to ST; tattoos, name changes, having a rank on their chequebooks... I'd be interested in others' views.

• **Chris Travers - Nottingham**

To Jay Stevensen & Neil J Barrett - I enjoyed Relics, but I think it would have been better with more interaction between Scotty and Worf. It seemed an obvious plot line, but I only remember seeing them on screen together once.

To Marysia Kolodziej - I enjoyed your article, but you said that 3-D chess was about the only game we'd seen. There are quite a few others: Stratagema (Peak Performance), Parrises Squares (mentioned in 11001001),

Dom-jot (billiards-like game in Tapestry), Ando-jytsu (martial art in The Icarus Factor) and of course Dabo (roulette-like game in DS9).

To James O Donovan - Armin Shimerman has also been in the film Death Warrant (a Van Damme movie) and Sledgehammer on TV.

To Bill McClure, Brendan Allen & Raymond Spencer - Re actors appearing in TNG, I have a few more.

Merritt Buttrick - T'Jonn (Symbiosis)/David Marcus (ST:III)

Rosalind Chao - Keiko/Soon Lee (M*A*S*H)
Erika Flores - Marissa (Disaster)/ Colleen Cooper (Dr Quinn Medicine Woman)
Walter Gotell - Mandl (Home Soil)/ Morzeny (From Russia With Love) & General Gogol in 5 other Bond movies.

Kevin Peter Hall - Leyor (The Price)/The Predator (Predator) & Harry (Harry & The Hendersons)

Lance le Gault - K'Temoc (The Emissary)/Decker (The A Team)

Tzi Ma - Biomolecular physiologist (Samaritan Snare)/ Pak (Yellowhead Street)

Carolyn McCormick - Minuet (11001001 & Future Imperfect)/Morse (Enemy Mine)

Robert Duncan McNeill - Nicolas Locarno (The First Duty)/Tom Paris (ST Voyager)

Patricia McPherson - Ariel (Angel One)/Bonnie (Knight Rider)

Lycia Naff - Ensign Gomez (Q Who & Samaritan Snare)/Dixie (Lethal Weapon)

Julia Nickson - Lt Lian T'Su (The Arsenal of Freedom)/Catherine Saakai (Babylon 5)

Tim O'Connor - Ambassador Briam (The Perfect Mate)/Dr Huer (Buck Rogers)

Ethan Phillips - Dr Farek (Menage a Troi)/Neelix (ST Voyager)

Dwight Schultz - Lt Barclay/Murdock (The A Team)

Tracey Walter - Ferengis in The Last Outpost & Rascals/many programmes and films including Young Guns II.

• **Jill Wadsley - 20 Chadworth Rd, Nettleham Park, Lincoln LN2 4SL**

To Lindsay Wright (N/L 41) - I too find it very difficult to make contact with people at cons. Everyone seems to know everyone else and have so much fun that it's hard for the

lone attendee to interrupt. It seems that the burden is on the shy person to make themselves known to others, especially groups. It never seems to occur to groups to make the first move and take someone under their wing - who knows, you may make a life-long friend!

If you, or anyone else, would like to write to me we could perhaps arrange to meet up at cons and form our own group, always remembering to watch out for the loner :-).

• **Anne-Marie Flowers - Glasgow**

Thank you to Marysia Kolodziej (N/L 42, P 68) for her stimulating article on human society in the 24th century. Okay, so the writers of Star Trek deliberately shied away from religion and sex to avoid controversy, but we all know that true trekkers thrive on moral debate, so I'm sure Marysia won't be offended if I put my oar (or very friendly boot) in.

Firstly, although church roles are falling in the West, other religions, eg Islam and Buddhism, are gaining more followers throughout the world so who knows what the position will be in the future? I agree that we don't see Kirk or Picard taking part in worship but we did hear Amazing Grace at Spock's funeral, we did see a Christmas tree in Generations and in Where Silence Had Lease we did hear Picard confess to belief in some form of afterlife.

As for sexuality, humankind has been around for more than 30,000 years and heterosexuality is still alive and kicking - why should it become obsolete in the next 3 centuries? We do not yet know the factors which determine an individual's sexual orientation, but there is a possibility that it is decided before birth and, that being the case, with our current penchant for pre-natal diagnosis and abortion, one could speculate that homo- or bi- sexuality could cease to exist altogether.

The age of consent is another fascinating subject. Sexual activity closely follows sexual maturity and in the well-fed Western world the age of sexual maturity has been falling steadily for over a century. On the other

hand, the age of intellectual maturity and financial independence has been rising steadily. All right, so there is no poverty in the 24th century, but even so, for the age of consent to fall we would need to have foolproof contraception and have eliminated the risk of sexually transmitted disease. It is interesting that in Justice we heard Wesley (age 15) say that there were some games he did not yet know how to play. In any event, I would imagine that the age of consent would be staggered in some way, eg 15 for (safe) virtual reality sex, 16 for Human sex and 18 or over for sex with an alien. Finally, I would hope that the age of consent to marriage would be the highest of all!

Re Andrew Robinson (Garak) - watch out for him in the new SF film the Puppetmasters.

• **Michael Hill - Crewe**

Why do people say DS9 is getting better in its 3rd season? In my opinion it's been a great series from the start. I like all the characters except maybe Dax, but she looks great, so that's OK :-)

Chief O'Brien's a bit of a hero in my book - well, more than a bit actually. Most of my favourite episodes are based around him. Here's my fave 5 DS9s - The Nagus (just so funny), The Storyteller (when Nog empties Odo's bucket over Jake, ho, ho), Rivals (when O'Brien catches the ball - hilarious), Whispers (I didn't blink through that one) and Visionary (another great O'Brien story). I'm glad the Chief made the move to DS9 - I think it helped the early stages of the series, having known him on TNG; but at this late stage it doesn't need any other cast members from TNG to move permanently onto the series to keep it going.

Friends of Vedek Bareil - Sorry, but he wasn't that good. The person I want to see again is Martus in the episode Rivals - his return would be more plausible and a bit of a laugh.

Anyway, here's my 5 faves for TNG - Who Watches the Watchers, Best of Both Worlds, Fistful of Datas, Starship Mine and Relics (a very emotional scene when Scotty

walks onto the bridge of the old Enterprise. "Here's to you, lads.") My OS faves - Amok Time, Journey to Babel, By Any Other Name, The Tholian Web and Space Seed.

Favourite film is STV: The Final Frontier. That's right, I think it's great! STVI is a bit of a drag in comparison. Why does nobody like STV? Is it the "god" thing? Because if it is, you're missing the point. I must insist you all watch it again, soon. The cast are at their best, especially Kirk (my favourite character out of all Treks). There are some great lines in it - "I miss my old chair" is one that springs to mind.

Speaking of STV, I recently filmed a friend of mine rock climbing and would love to put the music used during Kirk's climb to it, although the soundtrack has been deleted. It must be available somewhere! Can anyone help? I'm willing to buy the STV CD/tape or I can send a blank tape with SAE.

I'm getting settled in to ST:Voyager now. It took a bit longer than DS9 did, but by the end of the episode Prime Factors I was getting hooked.

ST:Generations - When we came out of the cinema I was thinking, "WOW, amazing film!" Only thing is, I haven't rushed back to see it again, so it couldn't have been that good. Perhaps a new Enterprise will give more of a cinema 'feel' to it. I was surprised to see Cameron out of Ferris Bueller's Day Off in the Captain's chair :-). Data's emotion chip went down well with us, "Open sesame"! but I didn't like the emotional Picard bit, and I certainly didn't like Kirk's death scene. Someone else has said this, and I agree; Kirk should have died in Spock's arms. That would've been very moving. Oh, well, the next one will be better.

One last point - Babylon 5. Good, innit - it's so different from Trek that the two co-exist nicely. Oh, and leave Sisko alone. Ben is a great man!

• Carol Sterenberg - Hove

To Carole Taylor: Many thanks for your supportive comments on the writing. I think every person who writes would give a

different reply to your question: does writing come easily or does it take practise? It would be interesting to hear from IDIC's many respected writers, on this subject.

I think the most important thing is to feel excited by your story and to want to share it, and if you feel like writing I would say you are cut out for it! I find some stories come easily and others don't. I have lots of stories on the back burner because I can't think how to achieve what I want; either I can't do my idea justice, or have technical problems like handling flashbacks or the passage of time. I hope to be able to resolve these as I become more experienced. Sometimes reading another author will show you how it's done.

You didn't say what problems you are having, but don't struggle on alone. Why not bounce your ideas off members of your local Trek group? Or you might find a writers' group in your area whose members would be happy to suggest solutions (try your library for addresses). May I make the following observations? Sometimes it's difficult to get started. But you don't have to begin at the beginning. Just start with a scene that excites you, or a conversation between two characters, and expand backwards and forwards ad lib. And don't try to write it all perfectly straight off. Sitting there for two minutes trying to think of the right word stops you in your tracks. Just get down the gist of it and worry about the perfect phrase later.

My number one practical suggestion is to type your work, or get it typed, even if you don't think much of it so far. For some reason this immediately gives me 100% more confidence in the quality of mine! I know it's psychological but I don't think that matters, and it might work for you too. Please persevere with your writing, and I hope to read your story in ScotPress.

To Jo Buckwell re: Trek fan clubs in and around Brighton: try 'Outer Zone', 17 Melville Rd, Hove or a more general SF club, NCC 1711, 13 Fairholme Rd, Newhaven, BN9 0NX.

Finally, my gripes about 'Generations' I felt quite indignant that Kirk didn't ask Picard what had become of Spock. And why didn't the saucer section burn up in the planet's atmosphere?

• **Neil J Barrett - Nowhere near Wimpole Street**

I would never have thought I'd find myself agreeing with a Cardassian but like Gul Melset, I think Ben Sisko is a fine commander. At first sight, some might mistake his calmness and laidback manner for weakness but there is a core of steel underneath which will not be shaken easily. As the Gul has pointed out, the diplomatic niceties of his command mean that Sisko does not have the wide latitude given to starship captains. He may sometimes have to work against his instincts and personal feelings but cannot let this show, hence the controlled stance. He doesn't go in for lecturing people or striking dramatic poses, he gets on and does the job. I find Sisko a good balance between the all-action Kirk and the endless committee meetings of Picard.

I'm equally surprised to find Jay Stevenson agreeing with me about books even though I appear to have been quoted a little out of context. In IDIC 37 I was talking about authors who use the Trek universe to promote their personal point of view, usually "green" issues or excessive political correctness. In IDIC 38 I was talking about authors who recycle their own plots into Trek stories. Both of these have roots in Classic Trek (and in The Twilight Zone and The Outer Limits too) but they should never overwhelm the characters or the story or realism. "A bit of moralising" is fine but a bookful spoils it.

I'm less surprised to find an indignant defence of Tuvok. At the time I wrote 'Viva Vulcan!' I had only seen photos of the character and my initial thought was that here was another case of Paramount just casting whatever actor came to hand, or even worse, indulging in tokenism. Having now seen him in action, I must concede that Mr Russ has indeed learned the typical Vulcan speech patterns and demeanour far more

accurately than the previous 24th century examples. I'm still not convinced by the appearance though and won't be even if I see him bleeding green... He just doesn't work in my eyes.

Has anybody considered the possibility that Chakotay's tattoo is purely for decoration? The design might just be something that he liked the look of without any cultural significance whatsoever. He may even have been drunk when he chose it. Why do many Trek writers and fans insist that anybody from a culture other than the European/American mainstream must continually reinforce it? Looking back over the past two or three decades we can see a tendency for society to become more multi-cultural. Take that on a couple of centuries and we will either have blended so much that cultural identity will be a matter of personal choice or pessimistically the lowest common denominator will prevail and everyone will behave like an Australian soap opera.

Here's another risky one... Peter David is a smartarse. The names that Marcia Stanislawski noticed in 'Imzadi' are a typical example. A lot of fans like him because he puts in the in-jokes and the cross-references and so on but I sometimes find them quite annoying. I expect a writer to entertain me not try and impress me with how clever he is. He is clever because the references come in at various levels; some are purely Trek, some are pointers to other shows and some are wider SF (his favourite author appears to be Ursula Le Guin). At least he is more subtle than John Meredyth Lucas was with the names of the Zeons in 'Patterns of Force'.

• **Eagle Mirror - Taking the cheese to Sickbay.**

To Tholas - Please make yourself known next time - and I'll shove a tribble down your tunic. I am not "lesser-spotted" - unless I'm in Trill makeup.

To Alberto Gorin - I can't help but think that an English penfriend might be of more assistance - try one in the penpals list at the back. Problems in translation when writing to someone who speaks a different

language... they go away after a while, with practice and a sympathetic reader.

To Helen Thompson and others re Chakotay. I passed the information I have on to a friend in Bolivia who has a wider knowledge than me, and received an interesting reply, including a possible translation of his name as "Road of the Rain God."

To Rhiannon - cats. Try saying that my Ro Laren wasn't playing with the fieldmouse she caught on the balcony. She brought it upstairs in such a way that she didn't hurt it... but it took me ten minutes to separate cat and mouse (it got away unharmed) and even then Ro spent the rest of the day sulking because I'd taken her toy away.

To Nitrite J Bogroll - how do you like it? Please will you end these silly paraphrases of my name or you will get a large parcel full of used cat litter on your doorstep. (Janet, please don't cut this, I'm getting annoyed by Neil's "joke" which new members might not quite understand).

To Ms Bedford - I'm not crazy... quite. I thought Rosie was called Rosie because she's a rambler - as in Rambling Rose! As for calling a striped cat Spot, I've got a shorthaired tabby/tortoiseshell called Fluff! Dave's show cat, Spot the Kitten, got her name purely because of the two white spots on her belly - she's black.

To Gill Marks - re reincarnation. I could have a wonderful debate with you on this subject. Personally I think everyone is here to learn. If they don't get the point the first time they get sent back. I've some bits and pieces on the subject you might find interesting. (15A Clevedon Rd, Ingol, Preston, Lancs PR2 3YL....why do I keep putting it in? I thought everyone knew my address by now!)

To anyone. I'm trying to find out what the word or words for "Maker of Good Medicine" is in either Dakota/Lakota depending on dialect or Ojibwa, as I have a cat who seems to have brought a lot of luck

and as a show name neither Kosa Hampiri (Quechua) nor Huixarica (Nahuatl) suit her. Anyone able to help? I would of course accept any other suggestions.

Sorry, no tribble awards this month - I'm still catching up on last month's lot!

• **Gary Heron - Falkirk**

To Lesley Arrowsmith: Rank does not equal frequency. Frequency is the actual number of times a word appears in a piece of text. The rank is simply the position the word would have if the words were put in order of frequency ie the most used word would have rank = 1, the second most used word would have rank = 2 etc.

An analogy for frequency and rank would be the top ten pop charts where frequency is the number of record sales of a song and the rank is its position in the charts. I hope this clears up the point and I am sorry if my original explanation was not clear.

I agree with readers of N/L 42 who praised Tim Russ for his portrayal of Tuvok. He seems to have captured the Vulcan character as seen in Classic Trek. I hope that we will see more use of the relationship between Tuvok and Janeway. With Voyager there is little opportunity for the writers to flesh out the characters by bringing in people from their past so the inter-relationship of the main characters is even more important than normal in giving the viewer insight into their personalities.

• **Brenda Allan - Dawson Creek, Canada**

Hi to all in IDIC land! I think Christmas is coming, 'cause the blowing snow is telling me so!

To Baerbel Schmidt p22 re DS9 Season 4. Don't discount Worf's presence too quickly. Season 4 has begun with a blast! SPOILER ALERT! The 2 hour opener introduces a whole new circumstance to our calm, orderly galaxy. The Khitomer Accord between the Federation and the Klingons has dissolved and basically, war has been declared! I can't wait to see what happens now!

To Michael Flett p38 - You feel Voyager is wandering aimlessly? They are heading towards Federation space, but they are taking the time to explore the Delta Quadrant as they go. What's a few day's delay while they investigate something compared to a 75 year journey?

Also, re Sisko's lack of emotion. Are you sure you're watching the same Sisko as I am? Sisko is capable of many emotions and does show them. True, he was a bit subdued in the first season, but he was still sorting through the loss of his wife and his new command. Also, Avery Brooks was still finding his character. I got such a kick out of his incredulous reaction to Jake setting him up with Captain Cassidy Yates; I felt the grief he shows when the worm hole entities had him relive his wife's death; the warm times he shares with Dax; the fire that flashes in his eyes when he's staring down an enemy. If this is not emotion, I don't know what is!

To Nigel Nixon p40 re number of people on the Enterprise. I was not referring to members of crew on board, but rather total number of people which is approximately 1000. You could divide this number at least by half to account for spouses not in Starfleet and more for children.

To Marie I J Park p43 re Nog entering Starfleet. I think he already has. In a Season 4 episode, we even see Captain Nog! (alternate universe, I think!)

Also to Marie and to Stephen Shaw - the fact that holodeck and replicator technology are incompatible doesn't make sense; it has been stated on the show and in the technical guide that the holodeck was created using replicator/transporter technology. Why incompatible? To create drama! If the crew of Voyager are required to conserve energy, it wouldn't look very good for Captain Janeway to be escaping into a holonovel! The holodeck would have been banned. But since the power is not good for anything else, might as well use it!

To Stephen Daniels p43 re Barzan Wormhole. If I remember correctly, the

wormhole shifted locations. The wormhole on the Federation side was stable, but the other end shifts. What's to say there isn't some rhythm to the shifting that would put the opening back at where the Ferengis were stranded? Also, I'm sure the Ferengis wouldn't just sit there; they probably set out to find food, energy, etc. Maybe Voyager will meet up with them?

To Leslie Moyes p46 I don't know what you've heard about Season 4 DS9, but let me tell you what I've seen! I see no rip offs from STVI. On the contrary, I thought the season premier has set the stage for some excellent future stories. I don't think I'm all that blind - then again, I don't see why people hate Spock's Brain so much!

Finally -- to ALL Brentophiles -- I was watching an episode of The Twilight Zone (the remade 80's version), and, suddenly, there were some beautiful blue eyes peeping between the slats of a cattle wagon. Even before the voice made a connection, I knew I had seen those eyes before! YES! It was Brent Spiner starring in a part that named his character simply as Draft Dodger. Everyone keep your eyes peeled -- you never know who you might spot next!

• Lyn Johnstone - Bristol

To Helen Thompson - I read in a magazine that Voyager has waggly nacelles so that it can get through narrow gaps :) (Yeah... right!)

To Maureen Norton - Who would I least like to be stuck in a turbolift with? Easy. Reg Barclay! I have a problem with lifts (elevators, whatever). I think it's called fear. Seeing as Barclay is paranoid about most things, he's the last person I'd need!

I'm worried about Chakotay. He seems to be developing 'Riker syndrome' (or in layman's terms, 'what-the-hell-itis!') It also seems to be progressing into 'damn-eumonia'; isn't it about time Starfleet Medical did some serious research into this affliction? For instance, is it something only First Officer's get? Is it catching, or does it come with the job?

P.S. - Why have the Kazon got Brillo pads stuck on their heads?

• **Edward Woo - a psychiatrist**

To Kathleen Glancy - I suppose that some political correctness will be reflected in ST with a female Captain, but one of the most notable things to come out has been the ratings war. In Classic Trek, poor ratings took it off the air, mainly due to a poor time slot on Friday evening, pushed for by the corporate men. TNG has always had good ratings, and DS9 only slightly behind, whereas Voyager has still to 'prove' itself, with a syndication schedule sorted out before a true picture is seen. I do not understand why Viacom is so worried - it's still in the top ten and making money! It was people at the top who stopped TNG in favour of a film, found it a costly exercise and are trying to recoup lost ground and revenue for their mistake.

To Allan Kelly - In the past, both on TV and film, it has been a fact that Science Fiction has always been portrayed as a 'gloom and doom' future for the Earth until ST arrived. Paramount believes a war and gloomy future will boost their ratings, but while this may increase in the short term, it will damage them in years to come. It's *positive* stories we need, hence the return to the old values of Original Trek and TNG in Voyager.

To Alistair Craig - Many fans have realised Paramount's attitude; I no longer buy the books (as I once did) being more careful because of the sheer proliferation of ST products. Now I wait for specific ones, and get second hand copies. It's Joe Public who is being conned; and that won't last for ever. All this merchandising is just a way for Paramount to recover costs incurred in the takeover battle earlier this year.

The growth of amateur and professional cons has caused money to be stretched, too; one con expected 500+ attendees with its Trek/B5 guests, and a mere 200 arrived.

To Dave Styles - Yes, what has happened to the OSTFCUK magazine? Is it still being published? The ST Monthly is poor, but at

least it is in the shops. *[Janet - I received a copy of issue 8 a few weeks ago.]*

Further to the question of ST having always relied upon stories and the quality of lesser known actors to play guest roles; to me there is a growing trend to hire famous actors to guest, to boost the ratings. I am dismayed by this; there are many high quality actors who will never get the chance in the ratings war. Rumour that Pamela Anderson may get a role is so annoying. It seems that to get a ST role or guest spot is the 'in' thing to do. *[Sheila - Er - Edward - pardon my ignorance, but who is Pamela Anderson?]*

To Nigel Nixon - As a fan of Kathryn Hepburn, I believe Kate Mulgrew makes an excellent Kathryn T Janeway, and if her voice sounds similar, well, it's distinctive. We should applaud the similarity, not detract from it.

To Marie I J Park - I find the story of Parallax poor because of a technical flaw. The holodeck should have been able to use power from the ship's power grid. If every system worked from its own power source, there would be no way that energy could be transferred to other systems in emergencies. If the holodeck can't work from any major energy source - even the warp engines - the Starfleet designers have made a real design flaw. There should not be a software problem for energy transfer because of computer reprogramming.

In watching Birthright I & II recently, I wondered - is Worf interfering with the 23-year-old culture of the planet? Is this a violation of the Prime Directive? The Romulans and Klingons have been living peacefully for over two decades, but Worf never acknowledges the fact. Nor could he accept a Romulan/Klingon child although he could accept a Klingon/Human one. What's the difference?

There are Romulans like those on that planet who want peace, and the underground movement on Romulus, but Worf fails to see it. All he is interested in is 'The Klingon Way'. Did the Romulan/Klingon girl go with the others to the Enterprise? We never saw that.

If she did, would she be accepted by Klingon society?

I would be interested to know what our Klingon friends think of this episode.

• **Michael Flett - Edinburgh**

I'll spare you my review of *Way of the Warrior* until more people have had a chance to see it. Dull first hour, great last half hour, but haven't they really got a lot to live up to now?

I heard a rumour last night - from the same source that told me of Lwaxana's death in the next film, and I hope this turns out to be just as (in)accurate. Apparently William Shatner is keen to appear in an episode of *Voyager* where they come across the Nexus in the Delta Quadrant. I'm horrified by the idea. Begone, foul rumour, I believe thee not!

To Helen Thompson - The reasons are twofold. a) In *Force of Nature*, it was established that prolonged high warp was detrimental to the fabric of space, Intrepid class ships use the 'swivel' nacelles to alter the shape of the warp field to reduce this, allowing environmentally friendly high speeds. Quite *how* this change is made has not been explained, and as the warp engines aren't used in impulse flight or atmospheric (perish the thought) why aren't they constantly up? b) Doesn't the warp entry (and outwarp when we finally see it in *Parturition*) made a nifty FX shot, with all sorts of merchandising possibilities? You can buy the microminiature in cruise mode, or the set with the warp version, or just wait six months to get the box set with the exclusive landing gear, or save up for the deluxe kit with movable nacelles... By the way, does anyone know if *Voyager* is real or not? It looks like model work, but my brother said the warp swingback in the titles would be almost impossible without using computer generated images (the landing gear in 37s is certainly a CGI).

To Edward Woo - Yes, the closing line of *Caretaker* was "Set a course - for home", so why are they meandering about the Quadrant? Where did they get the energy supplies? They were almost dead in the water

after *The Cloud*, then suddenly it stopped being an issue. And does anyone know how Neelix and Kes met in the first place? The Ocampa have no apparent spaceflight and the Kazon are hardly likely to encourage tourism. And why are the Kazon Oglia so desperate for water when not one other planet we have seen has shown signs of drought?

To Bill McClure - Fascinating viewpoint on the Founders, though I have never seen them as 'a despicable race of evil tyrants'. Their actions have been extreme and ruthless, but not without precedent. We are less evolved, barbarous and dangerous - and we have given them little cause to regard us as anything other than a threat to their stability and security. It is up to us to show them our good intentions and abilities. Someone like to persuade Messrs Berman and Piller that would make more interesting drama than war in the Bajoran sector?

To Marie Park - "The warp core could not be ejected safely since Geordi reported to Riker that there was nothing he could do to stop the warp core breach", you say. This is not an explanation, it is an evasion. *Why* could the warp core not be ejected? There was no dialogue to say the ejection system was offline, the hull plates buckled or the antimatter seals compromised - nothing. Also how do the holodecks and replicators run from different sources when they have been established to work on exactly the same principles - *Farpoint*, *Ship in a Bottle*, *Visionary*. Rather than creating a viable explanation, the writers fobbed us off. I want a reason that stands up to examination. Please don't feel I'm getting at you, Marie, but I would rather hear your own opinions and ideas than see you settle for quoting these excuses.

To Stephen Daniels - I saw the whole of the warp drive/wormhole article on the Six O'Clock News 7/8/95, and it didn't actually say anything or add any new information to theories that have been around for years. But - did everyone see the stunning Hubble photos of the Eagle Nebula released 3/11/95? It was beautiful enough to be a painting, and all the more so for being real.

I like the way Janeway leaps into conversations - she is enthusiastic about knowledge and discovery - I know, I feel the same way! And come on, some Voyager episodes could do with a kick up the butt - Twisted, anyone?

To Neil Barrett - You say Scotty didn't shake hands with Worf - but would Worf shake hands? By the way - excellent article.

• **James O Donovan - Cork**

The episode Life Support raises some interesting points. First - what has happened to Kai Winn? When she was a Vedek she was a scheming, cunning, conniving character willing to attempt anything in her thirst for power. However, in this episode she seems entirely dependent on Bareil's council. Bareil did conduct the preliminary negotiations and you would expect that Winn would need to consult him from time to time about the treaty, but she comes across as being totally dependent on him - so much so that he risks his life to help her complete the negotiations. Winn returns to her normal scheming self in Shakaar: can anyone explain the change of her character during the negotiations?

Secondly, the Cardassian negotiator says that once the treaty is signed the Bajorans would return all items of Cardassian origin (or words to that effect). I was surprised when Kai Winn did not see through the deception, but stunned when Sisko failed to do so, even though the Cardassian emphasised the point. When the treaty is signed the Cardassians can demand the return of DS9, it being of Cardassian origin. Comments?

On the subject of Chakotay's tattoo, in ST Monthly 4 Michael Westmore said that he looked at tattoos from all over the world (Indian, Maori, Philippino etc) and one day he started doodling and came up with the design - so it is not derived from any particular culture, there is a bit of everything in there.

To Sarah Rooke & Raymond Spencer - here's a few more famous favourite episode. The (Car) Chase - O J Simpson; The Perfect Mate - Pamela Anderson; Duet - Hugh Grant

& Divine Brown; Loud as a Whisper - Ian Paisley; The Wounded - Matthew Simmons (football fan attacked by Eric Cantona); The Outcast - Eric Cantona; Second Chances - Eric Cantona (again); and especially for the American members, Manhunt/The Hunter - Unabomber; Too Short a Season - baseball fans.

People have been talking about fan fiction v pro novels. I read a pro novel recently, A Call to Darkness, where people are constantly being teleported rather than transported. In another one, Power Hungry, the Nuaran ships travel at warp 11 even though the Encyclopedia (and Gene Roddenberry) say that no TNG ship can travel faster than warp 10. I have only recently been introduced to fan fiction, but it is easy to see that these people write their stories as a result of their love of Trek rather than for a pay cheque. From now on I know where my loyalties lie. (For the nit-pickers out there, in DS9 comic No 27 Odo can be seen using a phaser, and in the Mirror Universe Saga, the Federation have a device that can detect cloaked ships.)

Does anyone know how many Maquis personnel are aboard the Voyager?

• **Annik Bissinger - Germany**

To Albert Rosenfield (42/65) re Bareil - I really enjoyed your article..., although I don't agree with you on all points, especially in what you say about the way Bareil died.

I agree with you that his death was not necessary, but since they decided to kill him off, I agree with the way they did it. I didn't like or enjoy it, mind you, but I think Life Support was a very powerful and serious episode which won't be forgotten soon. The demeaning fashion Bareil was killed was the whole point of the episode, in my opinion. As you say, death is all too often shrugged off in Star Trek, and every time one of the regulars was killed off, it was with dignity (Spock in ST:II. Kirk in Generations. Even Tasha died fighting - more or less), but death is not always dignified.

Yes, it hurt to see Bareil gradually transforming into a machine, into a cold,

uncaring being. It hurt to see his body, knowing that his soul was no longer really there; but this is the way death approaches far too many people.

Bashir never even pretended that all was well. Had it been up to him, he wouldn't have continued with the implants in the first place - it was Bareil's own choice, and he was fully informed about the consequences.

In my opinion, Bareil sacrificed himself for what he believed in, and so his death was not meaningless or senseless. It meant to him. He saw no other way. Yes, it was demeaning, but it also made a difference. It also tries to make the audience think that sometimes it really might be better to switch off the machines for the sake of the people connected to them.

To Julie Bruin - I was lucky enough to actually see something of the Klingon opera and I also took some pictures which turned out all right. If you'd like to have some copies, just write to me.

To Kathleen Glancy - I really enjoyed your song quiz very much - but I must admit that it took me some time to get the right answer, and sometimes the urge to look for the solution was just too great. Hope to see another one some time in the future.

To Karen Russell - I am a member of the WSC - at least, I think I am. I haven't heard anything from them in ages, either. I'm still waiting for my first issue this year (!). (And yes, I paid my club fee.)

Re 'Fan Fact File' - I think this is a terrific idea, and I would love to read something about the regular contributors and the committee.

To Vicky Roberts - Very warm greetings. Hi, how are you? Did you get your cassette back? I hope it wasn't lost in the mail!

• **Jill Clements - Bexleyheath**

Isn't it great having all the TV Treks on? It's fun comparing them!

I think the title sequence of Voyager is

the most beautiful, visually and musically. I haven't seen the original series for a while and I'd forgotten some great moments, like how marvellous George Takei was in The Naked Time. He's enjoying himself so much! His laugh is more infectious than the virus they are fighting.

The differences in season 1 and season 6 TNG are interesting. The characters have changed so much physically as well as personally. They have really grown into a close community. They will always be my favourite crew.

To Gul Melset - I too am a Sisko fan (love the beard, really sexy. Don't think I like the bald head but I've only seen photos so far.) I want him batting for my team in a crisis, BUT what purpose does he serve for you Cardassians that you should be such a fan of his diplomatic skills? How could his replacement complicate matters? Would Garak know, perchance, and what orders is *he* under or is he a free agent? Help, I've got Cardy Conspiracy Disease!

To Kathleen Glancy - Loved it! My favourite songs are Nocturnal Periods Wearing Snow-Coloured Smooth Material by The Emotional Erratic Azures, and Arboreal Growths by Hurray**

Enquiry - Can anyone tell me who is the Cute Klingon with Keyboard on Sci-fi Weekend Take Over TV. My daughter and I are wearing the tape out! He's great - more, please. Some of the other items were too embarrassing to even remember!

To Neil Barrett - I really enjoyed your article. You hit on two out of a few problems I've had with TNG over the years. 1 - Tarchannen. How anyone could not have agreed with Picard's decision to quarantine the planet is puzzling. They did not so much reproduce as assimilate, just as insidiously as the Borg, and we do know that the personality is slowly eroded because Geordi only just had enough of 'himself' left to stretch out his hand for help. I have never taken to the symbiotic Trill relationship either. Maybe a sense of self is too important to me, and I don't mean only for myself.

2. I couldn't believe that Data, in Quality of Life, would hesitate for a moment between saving the life of Picard or the exocomps' lives. No matter how sentient he believed them to be, it's not in character, even forgetting Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics.

To all at Pages on Majel Barrett Night - Who enjoyed themselves most, her or us? She is a great lady, chatty, fun, tireless. When I saw her next day at Forbidden Planet she was still on a high, enjoying herself after two hours of signing, with another long queue still waiting. Her message to me was "His vision still lives" - a wonderful moment.

By the time you read this I should have met Leonard at Spotlight. A dream realised, I hope.

This year has been the best. I hope that next year (the 30th) we can all come together to celebrate Trek in all its forms, and that Paramount will allow us to do it in our way!

** Nights in White Satin by The Moody Blues and Trees by Rush.

• Ruth Borgars - Ware

To Catherine Hill, Annette Bohm and others who enjoy DS9, & to Bill McClure, Roger Neal and others who don't - *Why* does Trek have to portray unrelieved sweetness and light and harmony? Did CT and TNG always do so anyway? No way! See, for just two examples, Balance of Terror and Face of the Enemy: exciting episodes featuring conflict within and outside the decks of the Enterprise. These are just as valid as 'all pulling together against a common threat' stories (and DS9 has the latter too, eg Civil Defence). Facing up to the inevitable strains of interpersonal relationships is what lifts Trek out of the realm of the Barbie dolls (don't anyone mention Troi and Riker (whoops) :-)) and into *believable* fantasy. You can escape from the trials of C20th life without having to negotiate the Great Bland Nebula :-). Viva DS9, and the sooner Worf is promoted to that remote Klingon outpost the better (no hard feelings, Michael!)

While on this tack, *thank you* Jay Stevensen for braving the Gene-ticists

(reviews, P 83 N/L 42) and coming right out with what those of us who enjoy Trek but reserve the right to question its idealist/humanist (! "the very term is racist", to coin a phrase) philosophy have always known. Gene is the father of Star Trek, yes, but he was still a fallible human being and made mistakes, both professional and personal. When you father (or mother) a child it eventually grows up and begins to make its own way in life, perhaps with the help of mentors you yourself don't have much common ground with. People who bleat on about "Gene's vision of the future" and how Star Trek has deteriorated want to keep the grown-up in the Nursery.

To Michael Flett - you (and a zillion others) have the wrong idea about I Am Not Spock. Have you read it? It was not in any way a rejection of Spock, Trek or fans; the title was a piece of marketing "clever" that badly misfired, and Leonard knows this, hence the title of his latest (which I thought was naff, though I enjoyed the book itself).

To Jean Perrin - Even intellectuals need some "down time". Dixon Hill is no doubt Picard's brand of "bubblegum for the mind".

To Lisa Livermore - How much CT have you seen? Is Amok Time "same script, different alien"? Is The Enemy Within? Sure, CT had formulas, like many successful shows. Maybe it was your then lack of hormones - for kissability (and other related intimacies) you can't beat a nice sharp eartip!

• Marie I J Raper - Hull

Two points to make to Edward Woo - Firstly, if you read through Admiral Kirk's preface in the ST:TMP novelisation, he states that "...the plain facts are that ninety-four of our crew met violent deaths during (the five-year mission)..." Nevertheless, Kirk *was* the first Starship Captain to complete the five-year mission and to being back his starship and crew relatively intact.

Secondly, re my views on Generations, no offence taken, since I didn't want to you think that I was stating anything other than my *own* views. I only hope that I didn't come across as being *too* abrupt.

To Bill McClure - I don't think that I made *any* comparisons between Data's character change in Generations and actor Brent Spiner, *nor* did I imply that Data and Brent *were* the same person. If you read the "Behind the scenes" section in the ST: Generations novelisation the writers state that the decision to give Data emotions was not one that was made lightly. Brent presumably had the option *not* to do the film if he'd been uncomfortable with the prospect of an emotional Data, although he *did* express concern at Data's actually shedding tears as being too much of a change in the character.

To everyone who responded to my query re Saavik and Valeris's ruby earring, thank you for your help. I've since found in the novel *Dwellers in the Crucible* that a single ruby earring is indeed a symbol of an unmarried female. I don't think that Dr Selar wore one as she may be married, and Robin Curtis's Saavik without one was a case of a continuity error.

To Annike Bissinger - Whilst I agree with your statement that nothing has been set in stone re Chakotay's homeworld, his involvement with the Maquis raises a big question mark as to whether or not it is Dorvan V. Can you honestly see Chakotay willingly staying on a world under Cardassian jurisdiction? I doubt it very much. It is worth remembering that the colonists settled on Dorvan V about 20 years previously. If, for argument's sake, Chakotay is roughly 40, I don't see where his involvement at the Academy and the colonists settling on Dorvan V fits in.

Finally, to Paul Taylor - I'd have thought that Babylon 5 fans would be called Babylonians or something along those lines.

• **Adam J North, a lonely officer on a lovely Starbase - 88 Aylsham Rd, Norwich, Norfolk NR3 2HN**

Well, I have just been to the Exhibition in London. I expected more to see, but I found it fascinating. Well done to all the guides! Especially the nice girl in the blue uniform, she looked like Deanna! (If she's reading this, I was the guy in the Voyager sweatshirt running about having photos taken - drop

me a line?)

Now I continue my plea, *are there any Trekkers in Norwich?* If there are, where? Drop me a line. And please, anyone else * in the Galaxy, write to me! It's lonely out here!

Re Voyager - I am hooked! Its first season is far better than TNG's was, and all the characters fit nicely into it. Kes is the most beautiful girl in the world!

Dear all - lighten up! Some of you have become so obsessed with nit-picking and accuracy that you forget its only entertainment! Does it really matter is there are slight mistakes? I don't think so. We love it, and that's all that counts.

Curious, I now have three names - Adam J North, Adam H North, and Adam J Smith (or so it said in N/L 42!) *[Sheila - the H is a straightforward typo, J and H being next each other on the keyboard - but I'm not sure how we managed the Smith! Sorry.]*

• **Roberta Martin - London**

I have some comments on William Shatner. Firstly have you come across this new book called *Captain Quirk, The Unauthorised Biography of William Shatner*, written by Dennis William Hauck, priced £3.99 and published by Pinnacle Books, Kensington Publishing Corp 1995. I came across it by chance last week in *Forbidden Planet*. If you have not seen it this book is full of criticism and scandal about him. Many of the facts are misleading and inaccurate. I should imagine that Mr Shatner is not at all pleased about this book. The author has even printed his home address and there is a photo of his house.

Regarding the William Shatner Connection. Sadly I have to say that it seems to be very poorly run. I joined it at the beginning of the year. I received a newsletter dated September 1994 which I thought was a bit out-of-date and expected one to follow soon after. It never did. When June came I wrote to the organiser querying this and I also said I was not impressed with the club or Newsletter. I got a letter back telling me that that there was a good chance that I would not

always receive what was due to me because of her busy lifestyle and that she offends goofs on the computer. It would be up to me to get in touch.

I asked for my money back and got a very defensive irate letter back which shocked me. I was told that if I wanted my money back then I should send back everything I had so far received including the autographed photo.

I can only assume that Bill is unaware and too busy to notice what is going on and that the club may have gone downhill since Marcy is no longer involved. I do appreciate and understand how time consuming the running of any fan club must be, but if this lady cannot cope or her heart is not really in it, she should be prepared to hand over to someone better equipped.

• Rose Rogers - Kingsbridge

I went to Midcon last week and by chance met Ena Glogowska who runs George Takei's fan club. It was only a fluke I met her - I am in her club.

I think that at conventions they could have a notice board for club committees to put their names on to say that they are present at the convention, so that club members know and perhaps could find them.

• R.J.Robinson - Bishop's Stortford

I have discovered what happened to the tribbles since ST the Animated series. They stowed away on a cargo ship and were transported through a space/time rift when the ship was damaged and the crew died.

Left with nothing else to eat the tribbles acquired a taste for flesh and blood and are lurking somewhere, preying on helpless passersby. So look out. They say the first and last thing you hear is the munching sound.

This is why there were no tribbles in TNG. The Klingons changed so why shouldn't tribbles mutate? It would make a fun story. "Tribble the Terrible", perhaps.

Questions -

• Alberto Gorim - In 1991 there was a new Klingon battlecruiser, K'vort. In Generations they still used the older Bird of Prey. Are there any new battlecruisers coming out, and if so what do they look like and when are they coming out? Is there anything on the new E-class? Does anyone know what she will look like? (I hope they create new ships, not copies of older types.)



LIGHTSPEED 95

or NEVER MIND THE CON, LET'S PARTY

reported by K'tan Kuragan

As soon as I heard that Robert O'Reilly (Gowron) was to be a guest at Lightspeed 95 at the Leeds Hilton Hotel, the members of Klingons Unite and the Klingon Strike force decided to meet and invade the convention in honour of the Empire. Plans were set in motion at Conundrum to have a Klingon party, and to invite our Leader to it.

Imperial Date 950901: Crawled out of bed and finished packing my kitbags, headed to the bank to get some gold pressed latinum, made up some gagh for the trip south, engaged thrusters warp factor 6 and pointed

towards Leeds: left Kronos at 6.40 am via Cupar, Edinburgh and Newcastle. By the time I arrived at Leeds Central Station I had eaten all the gagh and drunk all the Romulan Ale (the Romulans are good for that one thing...) Walked around to the hotel and checked in. I headed up to my room; as the turbolift doors opened I was greeted by fellow Klingon brothers and sisters. Greetings were exchanged and we arranged to meet in the bar.

I threw my kitbag into the room and headed to the bar. Throughout the day fellow

members of Klingons Unite and the Klingon Strike Force arrived as well as three members of the Khemorex Klinzhai. Greetings were exchanged and we all agreed to meet to discuss the party for Saturday night. We also made plans for the opening ceremony - the members of KSF and Klingons Unite were going to present Gowron with a plaque from members of both clubs. The opening ceremony was to be at 9.00 pm, so we arranged to meet at 8.30 to go over what was to happen. We got into uniform and marched into the main hall, and took our seats. Gowron entered to great applause and asked everyone to get their cameras ready; he turned his back then when he turned round, his eyes were sticking out as they do in TNG and DS9. We were all laughing.

After he opened the con, Vixis and I walked forward and gave him his gift. I had put my kilt on for the occasion - Gowron thought it was great. He thanked us for the plaque and the invitation to the Klingon party. Would he go to the party or not? He is a party animal! Most of Friday night was spent sitting around having a good laugh; Robert O'Reilly joined our company for over an hour, then said he would go and mix with the other attendees, but would see us tomorrow. I went to bed at 1.30.

Imperial date 950902: Showered (yes, we Klingons do wash), headed down for breakfast, met up with some fellow Klingons, killed a few Feds and Romulans as we entered the dining room, and over breakfast we planned our day. Videos? No way! After helping to run Conundrum I was there to enjoy the convention; I didn't steward or volunteer for anything!

The dealers' room opened at 10.30; we entered to see what the Ferengis were selling. There was one American dealer, and their prices were OTT; a set of cards that I wanted was selling for £60. I just laughed at them. I bought a couple of items. The first autograph session was also at 10.30; I joined the queue. Had an interesting talk about Lursa and B'Tor with a fellow Klingon. I managed to get a few items signed by Robert, some for myself, others for charity auctions. After that we headed out to do some shopping - beer

and food were bought at a local supermarket for the party that night. Three members of Klingons Unite went and got their fortunes told (one chickened out). The X-files have nothing on this!

Returned to the hotel in time for Bob's talk. After that we headed to the local McDonalds, all dressed in our Klingon uniforms; we were put in a room all on our own (McDonalds didn't want to scare off customers); then back to the hotel for the disco and Klingon party. We headed for that at about 10.00, and two warriors were sent to escort Gowron up to the room. He entered to great applause and was given a drink. We talked to him about being an honorary member of Klingons Unite; he said it would be a great honour, and we then gave him a model of Gowron that Klang Tincest had built and painted. He liked it. The female Klingons had got a cake with a trefoil on it; Gowron did the honours of cutting it with a samurai sword. We also had a bonding ceremony, Gowron to Kara Druith. A great evening was had by all. Went to bed about 2.00.

Imperial date 950903: Got up at 9.00, packed my kitbag and headed down to breakfast. Gowron was behind me in the queue for breakfast; he told me he had enjoyed the Klingon party, and we knew how to have a good time. He actually had a guest talk at 9.00, but had been given time to have breakfast! I went to the talk, then said my goodbyes to my fellow members of Klingons Unite and KSF, and headed for the railway station.

Lightspeed was a good convention for us Klingons because of the guest, and it was a great weekend for meeting and talking with old and new friends. Would I go to Lightspeed again? It would depend on the guest - but Lightspeed 95 was a good convention.

ROBERT O'REILLY'S TALK

As he entered the room, he told everyone to get their cameras ready; he turned his back to the audience then turned back - his eyes

were sticking out like Gowron's. Everyone was laughing. He had a set of Klingon teeth with him - he put them in and started talking in Klingonese. He told everyone that J Doohan invented the Klingon language; Mark Okrand expanded it. He then joked about Patrick Stewart. He told everyone that the teeth he wears as Gowron sometimes fly out of his mouth when he speaks. (So do Michael Dorn's.) He also said his wife has problems with accents (she was visiting Scotland while he was at the convention). He then opened up for questions and answers.

Q: How did he get the part of Gowron?

A: He was an original Trek fan and was offered the part of a gangster in *Manhunt*. He was then offered the part of Gowron. Jonathan Frakes was directing the episode, and when he went to read for the part, he had Frakes laughing with his portrayal of the way he would play it.

He then told of his idea about painsticks. Going through Customs with painsticks, he would be stopped and asked who he was. Gowron, of course. He would be taken away and put in a padded cell with Picard, Scotty and Kirk also in it. He then said, "I'm a toy", holding up a Playmates action figure.

Q: Asked about Way of the Warrior, the recent episode of DS9 he had just filmed.

A: It lasts two hours. Michael Dorn is back as Worf. He wouldn't say any more - that would spoil the fun.

He then told a story about the Klingon uniform. The boots are a size 13; he takes a 9. He can't run upstairs very well, he's always falling over. The cloak weighs a ton, and he gets very hot in uniform. He also said he was hit in the face when the doors didn't open on set.

He then told a Klingon joke!

The cloak weighs 40 lbs. He'd slagged off Picard; Picard got his own back when he put the cloak on Gowron - he dropped it from a great height.

K'tal wore platforms and when they were doing the scene in *Redemption* there was no

air conditioning on, and K'tal fell over. He was OK, only his dignity was bruised.

Q: His favourite work and person he has worked with?

A: He likes directing on stage; he likes working with Les Landau and Jonathan Frakes.

Q: Does he understand Shakespeare?

A: No.

Q: How long does his makeup take?

A: 3 hours. A 4am arrival and on set at 7.30. It takes 30 - 45 minutes to dress.

Q: Would he like to direct *Voyager/DS9*?

A: Yes, but he doesn't think he will get the chance. It takes 5 weeks to prepare a show.

Q: Any chance of Captain Kavak (video game)?

A: No. He enjoyed doing the CD rom with Jonathan Frakes.

Q: What did he think of Lursa and B'Tor getting killed in *Generations*?

A: Only Toral was left - and if anyone saw *him*, to let him know!

Q: Where did he see Trek in 10 years' time?

A: DS9 finished, *Voyager* just about finished, maybe two other shows.

Q: Would he like to be a Klingon in the next movie?

A: No. They get killed off. Lowest scum, a Cardassian.

Q: Would he like to appear in any other series?

A: B5. A Shakespeare character.

Q: In 1997 it's the 20th anniversary of *Star Wars*. What character would he have liked to play in it?

A: Jabba the Hutt.

Q: What did he want to do as a child?

A: Every day, something different. An actor - he loves doing cowboys, having been brought up in New York.

Q: Did he like Classic Klingons?

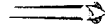
A: Yes, and he was glad to see them in DS9. It reminded him of The Wizard of Oz.

He ended his talk with the Tale of the Jabberwocky, and left to great applause.

Q: Would he like to create his own series?

Great guest, very funny - rating, 10/10.

A: A Klingon I Claudius (1 season only).



PETER DAVID AT IRECON

reported by Anne-Marie Flowers

In the middle of December, while the hordes were descending on Manchester for Wolf 359, I decided to be different and flew west for my first convention on foreign soil, ie Irecon 5, which was held in the beautiful coastal city of Galway.

Accommodation for the far-travelled was provided in the student halls at Corrib Village and I was delighted to find that not only do students these days enjoy en-suite facilities, they also have microwaves, dishwashers and satellite TV - all for only £18.50 a night, I might add!

After breakfast I set off bright and early to secure a good seat at the opening ceremony which was scheduled for 10 am. The convention was being held in the University itself, and the two lecture theatres which had been set aside for us held over 400 apiece. At 9.50 I was the only one there, at 9.55 I was joined by two teenage Klingons and by 10 am I counted the grand total of 20 Trekkers. Where was everyone? I thought I had come to the wrong place but then our chairperson, Anny Wise, proceeded with the official welcome and then immediately apologised for not being able to show the first video as the NTSC recorder had been stolen! Peter David gamely stepped into the breach. "Welcome to cock-up con," he said and then gave us a reading from his new novel, Captain Sulu's Daughter (set six months before Wrath of Khan and originally entitled Demora, but changed because Pocket Books didn't think anyone would recognise the name).

By this time the theatre was beginning to fill up, although there was still no need for microphones. Peter was happy to do an impromptu Q & A session. He was obviously

very excited about a new TV series he has written with Bill Mumy (Lennier on Babylon 5). It is entitled Space Cases and will be airing in the States early next year. The story revolves around a group of remedial space cadets who set off on a training mission with their rank-busted commander and an assistant principal who hates them all. Then they encounter a space anomaly and end up on the far side of the galaxy thousands of light years from home. Sound familiar? Peter was quick to point out that he wrote the pilot two years before Voyager was conceived.

Peter very much enjoys writing for TV and has done 2 episodes of B5. Joe (Michael) Straczynski is a personal friend and Peter revealed to us that the famous 'spaced' bear was a gift from his wife to Straczynski, hence the initials JS. Joe wrote the coda to Peter's script and had the bear tossed out of the airlock, *but* Peter says look out for it in Space Cases!

I asked Peter about the TNG script which he sold to Paramount but which never made it to our screens. The story was that Geordi discovers he has an illegitimate son who is also blind and is struggling to come to terms with his disability. To be honest, I think Paramount made the right decision on this one.

Peter is a keen Star Trek fan, which is obvious when you read his novels. He has a background in comics, so perhaps it is no surprise that he is drawn to the larger-than-life characters such as Worf, Lwaxana and Q. He is very fond of the Riker/Troi relationship and has no time for the Worf/Troi storyline which he sees as absurd. Talking of absurd storylines - he could hardly find a decent thing to say about Generations -

he hated it!

Chernobyl.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend Robert O'Reilly's talk but I did line up for his autograph. He was very charming - perhaps it's his Irish ancestry? I was rather surprised to discover that in reality Gowron is blond!

The other main event for me was the charity auction. I think the committee was apprehensive because the numbers were so low, approximately 250 registrations, but they needn't have worried. It seems that those present were eager to part with their cash. For instance, Peter's autographed manuscript of Demora raised £150, B5 script autographed by the cast went to £107 and a similarly autographed DS9 script raised a staggering £350! At the end over £1000 had been raised for the main charity, Children of

What else can I say about Irecon 5? Well, they did find another NTSC recorder and the video programme went ahead with mainly season 3 DS9 and Voyager. It seems that most homes in Ireland have satellite or cable so almost everyone had seen all of TNG and most of DS9. Another thing I learned about Ireland is that most of the fans appeared to be male and very young. As a thirty-something female I felt distinctly over the hill and out of place.

I asked the committee about the poor turnout. They were disappointed but not altogether surprised. It seems that the people of Dublin are very resistant to attending cons outside their fair city. It's a pity, because they missed a great weekend!



WOLF 359 - THE GATHERING

Manchester, September 1995

by Stephen Shaw

Wolf was sold out some months before, and as I did not recognise any faces from IDIC, a report!

The Gathering was mainly a Babylon 5 con, but there was a good showing of Star Trek material - most of the merchandise in the dealers room was Star Trek, two video rooms were Star Trek, and there were two guests from Star Trek - Majel and Sonni Cooper (a previous assistant of Mr Shatner).

Wolf was the third con I attended - RecCon was a video con for me! Sol 3 was a well balanced relaxed sociable con. Wolf was a MAIN HALL con.

At Sol 3 there was a problem with Stewards failing to do their duty. At Wolf this was a problem of crisis proportions! Why volunteer if you don't do anything? (To sit at the front...). There needs to be some tightening up if fan cons are to continue - perhaps a black list of regular defaulters? The Wolf committee did a valiant job of trying to run everything but didn't quite make it.

First impressions are important, and Wolf failed here. It was quite a late starting Con with nothing scheduled until 9am when everything except the dealers room was meant to spring to life. Including registration. So, if you registered for the Saturday, you could not sign in on the Friday but HAD to register at 9am on Saturday (or later). This meant you at best missed some of the first program items, or at worst missed an entire item! NOT a good idea!

The much rumoured BAB COM information monitors were briefly mentioned on Saturday morning, but never actually made it! The video rooms (five of them!) were far more miss than hit. I hoped to see nine videos over the weekend, but only one was shown at or near (within 20 mins) its advertised time. A number of tapes seemed to have disappeared! So again, did not see as much Voyager as I might have liked. The Babylon 5 videos had a wide screen TV, and quite possibly surround sound, but for some reason a rather violent film with Arnie was on when I looked in, instead of the advertised vid.

The main hall was only JUST big enough (so long as everyone was good friends!) and was often well packed. The large projection screen was really not bright enough and you got a better view behind a pillar at the back, from a small TV monitor (but no monitor on the other side of the room).

Majel had an hour spot on the Saturday and the Sunday, and also had a Lincoln Enterprises stand in the Dealers Room. Unfortunately on the Sunday over-running meant Majel was late to start and was then brought to an abrupt halt and shoed off before her hour was up, before she had a chance to get going.

Majel spoke of the relationship between Star Trek and technical developments in the intervening years; and also of the IDIC. LETTER ALERT - Majel asked that if we hear anything about ST8 or ST9 movies killing off Lwaxana we write in 'cos she wants to carry on!

Majel asked the attendees to name the five characters played by herself in the various Star Trek series to date (the computer is in all series and counts as one character only!).

She indicated that Gene chose her for Lwaxana 'cos she didn't have to act, and that she really enjoyed the role, especially working with Rene.

Majel is not writing a 'tell-all' book, but is working on a Star Trek cook-book, a fun publication. She was gracious about some other books, and merely expressed a lack of comprehension that some would prefer to destroy something (that is, criticism which was more negative than helpful).

Majel mentioned a possible CD Rom biography of Gene. She also spoke in support of the present two ST supremos, Executive Grey Suits trained by Gene over a short period to take over from him (from about mid way in season 2 TNG) so that he could rest up.

Sonni Cooper only had one poorly attended spot, so for all you ladies out

there..... William had a hairy chest. William was HAIRY everywhere except his head. And when his top fell off coming through a turbolift door it was passed back and forth between Dr McCoy and Mr Spock... and it isn't in the blooper reels. Those bare chests - to show off his muscles(!) - were the result of a little shaving. Sonni is a Mexican Indian and lives in a pueblo. She spoke of the distress caused to the Indians by the Voyager episode in which Chakotay spoke of his Spirit Guide. Within the Indian community that is NOT something that is discussed, it is very very personal. As it is not something spoken of, you won't see any mention of complaints from the Indians! She would have very much liked to have seen more ecological insight and sensitivity by Chakotay, whose represented culture hardly shows through. For the main part of her talk Sonni spoke of the ability with modern technology to create very convincing falseness, as in the Forrest Gump film or the Crow, where some of the filmed acting utilised a deceased actor, thanks to computer image manipulation. The photograph, film and videotape can no longer be accepted as evidence of the truth, and we are thrown back on our own sensibilities - which modern media presentations may have dulled.

Other guests included JMS, creator of B5, the original Commander Michael O'Hare, and Morden (Smiler) played by Ed Wasser. This is not the forum to discuss B5, but Michael O'Hare was captured by William Shatner in an episode of T J Hooker! And he did a nice impression of John Cleese from Monty Python (there's a penguin on the TV, and the Ministry of Silly Walks).

Sacha's Hotel is a lot nicer inside than out, and the staff proved well up to a gaggle of Klingons (and a little Ferengi). The restaurant had good cheap food, but the sandwiches on the snack bar were there - unchilled - for much longer than the Food Act thinks they should be! The hotel was HOT even after numerous hired-in air conditioners were brought in, soft drinks and ice creams (with stale cornets) sold well, and there were announcements about cutting back on alcohol and drinking soft drinks. Long queues had water available for drinking

(nice touch).

Is the art room something to be ashamed of? At Sol 3 it was tucked away in a corner and not very well signposted. At Wolf the art room did not receive a mention in the program and did not appear on the maps. If you found it, well done! I like to look at what can be fabulously talented fan creations.

The dealers' room closed an hour early


Wolf 359

(Or a weekend spent in the hotel from hell)

by Gloria Fry

Wolf 359 was held in Sasha's Hotel, Manchester, 15-18th September 1995. It was a ST/B5 convention and we were all looking forward to it. Little did we know what was about to happen. We had been booked in an overflow hotel and arrived there at 2pm Friday to find they had no record of us there even though I had a letter confirming our booking written by Sasha's banqueting manager. They tried to find out what was happening but Sasha's didn't call them back and after an hour of waiting, their manager suggested going round to Sasha's ourselves. We did and spent another two hours in the total chaos there with the manager denying that he had sent the letter even though his name was on it. He was very unhelpful and unpleasant. The Wolf committee did everything they could and I must praise them for their attempts to help us (despite their other problems with the hotel). Their calmness in the midst of such chaos was admirable. Eventually another hotel about 15 minutes walk away found us a room and that was only because someone else had been cancelled without them knowing about it. We finally arrived in our room at 5.30 that evening, angry, frustrated and exhausted.

During the con, the heat in Sasha's was intolerable. People were fainting all over the place. The dealer's room was uncomfortable due to the heat and smoke and some people left the convention early. Messages were broadcast advising us to drink lots of soft drinks and doctors seemed to be coming in at regular intervals to tend to people. Hotel

on Saturday and opened an hour late on Sunday, so I had almost no opportunity to spend money! Given a choice between Majel and the dealers' room, NO CHOICE! Sorry for any dealers who took all their stuff back home, but the dealers' room needs to be open when EVERYONE isn't crammed into the main hall! Despite the lack of videos, I enjoyed this con. 

staff eventually brought in inadequate air conditioning units.

I only managed to see a few talks. The B5 guests, Michael O'Hare, J. Michael Straczynski and Ed Wasser were charming and they mingled freely with the attendees. Majel Barrett did a similar talk to the one she did at Conundrum and spent hours signing autographs in the Dealer's room. George Marshall did a hilarious spoof of TNG but how he managed it is anyone's guess. He was dripping sweat onto his script and sometimes forgot what he was doing. At the auction some B5 memorabilia went for £500 and £600. Truly amazing prices.

I feel worse since I have come home. The post-con high just isn't there this time. It really is such a shame for in a different hotel the whole thing would have been wonderful. I have written a stiff letter of complaint to the hotel manager (so far there has been no reply) and I'm sure I won't be the only one. I would warn any committee to think twice about holding a convention there. I certainly would never go near the place again.

One final thought. This is the second con I've attended this year where the Dealer's room was hot and smoky. (The exception was Conundrum where it was cool and pleasant) Is it not time for smoking to be banned in Dealer's rooms? It is unpleasant for non-smoking dealers and for potential buyers. At each con I heard complaints about poor sales. Perhaps this is not the only

reason but it may be one of them. Surely if the room was more comfortable then people

would be willing to spend more time there.

MIDCON 14

reported by SS Potato

The following report of Midcon, I hope does not offend anyone, as what was done and worn at the 1940s night at the convention was done in the spirit of good humour.

I will start this this report of Midcon with a quick rundown of Friday and Saturday. (Jean Sloan will give you a full report of those.)

Arrived in the Holiday Inn at 4.00 pm on Friday Oct 6th after a 7-hour journey by British Rail. A 1-hour stop at Peterborough was the highlight of the journey... The first person I met was Jean Sloan, who was surprised to see me, told me she was writing the con report for IDIC and asked me to do the Sunday because she had to go home early. (Jean, you missed a great party - I will let you see the photos the next time I see you.)

Friday was a quiet night, meeting and talking to fellow Klingons and friends. Dot, Julie (Major Kira), Marion (Farmer Giles) and I went to hire fancy dress uniforms for the 1940s evening - Canadian airforce, Canadian navy, Land Army and German Officer respectively. (The worst thing about my SS uniform - everyone said I suited it!)

Saturday was spent at guest talks, dealers' room and enjoying ourselves. Todd was invited to the Klingon party, and we presented him with a plaque with the compliments of Klingons Unite. A challenge was taken up from the Kaferian Apple Club - a tribble fight at midnight. (It was no contest - the Kaferian Apple Club was well beaten, stripped of their uniforms and many a trophy was taken. They no longer exist as a club, as we know who they are and we have the photos to prove it!) The Feds were next to challenge (they lost also, many communicator badges and rank pips being taken as trophies). A note to all alien races - don't challenge the Klingons. You will only

lose.

The disco went down well. All the cast of Trek, NG, DS9 and Voyager really enjoyed dancing the night away. (Well, the cardboard cutouts did.)

Imperial date 951008: Got up at 9.00 am for breakfast; asked about a room party in 711 the night before - no, it was in 612. Went to Todd's guest talk and the Charity Auction. Dot and I were bidding for an item - we decided to split it. (I'm giving my half to Frances the Borg for Christmas.) Went for something to eat, then arranged to meet in 711, dressed for the 1940s night, at 7.00 pm. Everyone in uniform thought the others looked really smart. Martin (B5) of the SS Potato People was dressed in his B5 uniform. We headed for the lift, and left it to the tune of the German National Anthem. As we turned the corner, 2 Military Police were waiting. I was arrested and told I wasn't allowed into the Hall. The females said I was their prisoner and they were looking after me, so I was allowed in. As I entered, I was given a standing ovation! (The committee told me they knew someone had hired a German uniform, and they were worried in case it was for political reasons, but when they found it was me, they knew I did it for a laugh.)

The 40s night was a great evening, with a 40-piece swing band playing music from that era. I even got a Q'apla from Todd! Everyone wanted photos of everyone who was in uniform. I have got to say to the Midcon committee, it was a brilliant evening and a great convention. Will I be back next year? I asked the committee if I would be allowed - they said I was a good sport and would be made welcome next year.

Last words on Midcon - Eich bien eien Midcon! K'Spud, King of the SS Potatoes.

Report by Jean Sloan

Midcon is an annual event at the Holiday Inn, Leicester. It is a small con with a distinctive 'flavour' - relaxed, even laid back. The guests were Jonathan del Arco, Todd Bryant, Richard Arnold and Tim Gaskill. The programme ran from midday Friday until midnight on Sunday. Unfortunately I had to leave on Sunday afternoon so I missed the second guest talks and the 40s night with the live orchestra; I'm very disappointed about that because everyone hired uniforms from a conveniently situated shop in the city centre. Stephen Rothwell has promised to write a con report as well, centering on Klingon involvement in a British 1940s extravaganza. He'll probably also talk about The Battle of Midcon, which is to pass into Klingon legend; and he said he'd cover Todd Bryant's talks, which leaves me:

Richard Arnold, a veteran of 327 conventions

There was some discussion in Richard's Q & A session about the Viacom/Paramount organisation. Richard pointed out that Paramount has thousands of people in the Hollywood lot and that he can count on the fingers of one hand the people he has problems with, in terms of their philosophy or attitude. Paramount is there for money not art; but there are people in the organisation who do care about art. ST is a MAJOR money asset - "without it there is no Paramount". There are hundreds and hundreds of licensees producing merchandise; the quality control is dubious - Rick Berman has nothing to do with merchandising and the publicity people don't watch the show. There is a bumper sticker in the US which reads "Paramount is a Ferengi operation".

The only way to comment on the poor quality of some merchandise is not to buy it. The Viacom takeover was very expensive; they need to recoup the money, hence the aggressive marketing and the aggressive stance on their "property". They can't stop fan clubs or fan-run conventions as long as clubs and cons avoid using licensed titles, etc. The position of fanzines is more complex. Anyway, Viacom is flexing its corporate muscle "in areas it knows nothing about".

News from Richard

- Sid has changed his name to Alexander Siddig. Richard asked him why: he answered "Mischief". He is signing himself Alexander... so your signed photos from Warp One etc are about to become collectors' items.

- On DS9. Michael Dorn is a recurring character, not a full cast member. He is in the first episode, then makes brief appearances in the 5th and 6th. He was a bit apprehensive about doing the show for 3 reasons:

- 1) He wasn't keen on subjecting his skin to more make-up. It took a long time to recover from 7 seasons of glue.
- 2) Possible clashes with his movie appearances.
- 3) He had some personal problems with the production team at the end of TNG season 7.

In the end, Michael signed a "Colm Meaney" contract.

- In a DS9 4th season episode we see Captain Nog (you work it out).

- In 4th season there is a Defiant episode, a Kira/Dukat episode and a Nog, Rom and Quark meet the Roswell incident story.

- On Voy we see Barclay, Jonathan Frakes directs, Kes goes into heat, an alien swarm falls in love with the ship, the Voyager turns into a maze... Not, I hasten to add, in the same episode.

SPOILER ALERT and Jean's comment - In Twisted (the maze episode) our holo Doctor friend declares "I'm a Doctor, not an Engineer": (round of applause from the Midcon audience) and Tuvok almost rests his hand on Janeway's shoulder. Are we seeing the regeneration of the "Big Three" relationship from OS?

- Voy second season will be the longest season of any ST season to date - ie 30 episodes - 26 plus the 4 held over from season 1.

- At this point there are no episodes in the pipeline to give the Doc a name - everyone refers to him as Doc Zimmerman.

- There's a rumour that Keiko will be killed off; the only reason she hasn't been in a show is that no-one has written a script for her.

- Generations 2 (or whatever) will feature "a different Borg than ever seen before". There are rumours that it will be shot in the UK. If they start shooting in Jan. as planned, they can't work at Paramount - no sound stages available.

Jonathan del Arco

JDA was born in Uruguay and moved to the States when he was ten. He now admits to being 29. English is his second language, his first being Spanish. He remains fluent in his mother tongue, has acted in theatre in Spanish. It took him 2 or 3 years to learn English, then he started to take part in school plays; he had always wanted to be an actor. After school he went straight into the theatre without any formal training. His first real professional job was with The Torch Song Trilogy with Estelle Geddy. It was a touring production; he played a teenage boy adopted by a gay drag queen. The varied positive or negative reactions in different cities made it very interesting. Often older members of the audience would leave quite early on, unable to tolerate the theme.

Star Trek came about 3/4 years ago, and it changed his life. He travels a lot to cons, and his con appearances have helped finance a return to school to study acting. In school he is working on Shakespeare, and doing things he has never had time to do. "After classical work, it's really difficult to say stupid lines". He has a scholarship which pays his fees; he still gets residuals from TNG.

Originally Jonathan auditioned for the role of Wesley; he would have liked the role, and would have played it very differently from Wil - more emotional and aggressive. He would have liked the steady work. However, he got into TNG anyway. He was asked whether his stature was important in landing him the role of Hugh. "I am vertically challenged - but I think my bone structure was more important."

The Borg costume weighs 30 - 35 pounds

of rubber - "It's a very safe costume; that's why the Borg have to assimilate - there's not much else you can do in it. It's very toxic, too; you can't go to the toilet while wearing it so you stop drinking water." For this reason he is concerned for the actors making Generations 2 if it's shot in the summer. The prosthesis was glued at the head, neck and shoulder. In costume the actor is working with one eye and very little hearing. The eyepiece is removable - in one of the calendars there is a photo of the character with the eye off - it slipped through approval.

He has often been asked about Borg reproduction. Are there females? Do they reproduce or just assimilate? In Best of Both Worlds and in Descent, most of the Borg extras were women. He would love to see Hugh's origins explored, and there is a wealth of information to research on the Borg. He was given some say in playing Hugh. In I, Borg, it was quite difficult to keep track of how "Borgish" the character was at a given moment because the scenes were filmed out of sequence. In the end they worked out a "Borgmeter" to keep track of where any given scene was on the emotional scale. He did not care for Descent; he thought the connection with Lore was unbelievable and the story wasn't focused on one thing. He was surprised that Hugh was such a popular character with the fans - the press didn't react so favourably, and compared the character to Edward Scissorhands. He was warned by a friend that Hugh's popularity was a big deal; Michael Westmore said the same thing, and advised him to do cons. He and Michael remain good friends.

Jonathan is now wondering if he will be in the film, and what the film will do with the Borg. Personally he'd have Earth invaded by the Borg; the only hope would be the Enterprise getting help from Hugh to infiltrate the mother ship. Perhaps Picard and Hugh could work together.

Working on ST was a pleasure. He was never made to feel like the new kid on the block, and he was treated as special in I, Borg - fed, watered and looked after. It wasn't the same in Descent; there was much less care in the production of that episode, for example

the makeup was poorly done (NOT by Michael Westmore) and it was "every Borg for himself" at mealtimes. In Jonathan's opinion the lack of care showed in the finished product; he acknowledges the fans' intelligent appreciation of the relative quality of episodes - that is why there is general agreement that certain episodes are particularly good.

Jonathan's personal favourite sci-fi film is ST:IV; non-ST is the Star Wars trilogy which he could watch again and again. He is interested in the rumours of the Star Wars prequel. At the moment he is fully occupied with his studies. He prefers stage work to film work, although film work appeals to his vanity; you can look very good with makeup and special effects. Also it is interesting to be able to see the finished product. He would like to play some classical roles, perhaps Romeo, with Patrick Stewart as Friar Lawrence. At the moment he is happy with his studies.

TODD BRYANT

(CAPTAIN KLAA, ST:V)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

reported by The Kilted Klingon (K'tan Kuragan)

Todd entered the Hall to great applause. He started his guest talk by telling everyone that he was in ST:TWOK, ST:V and ST:VI. In ST:TWOK he was the cadet who was pulled under the engine room door by Peter Preston when the Enterprise was attacked by Khan; in ST:V he was Captain Klaat, and in ST:VI he was the Interpreter in the court scene with Kirk, McCoy and Chang.

The answers below are condensed; he went into far more detail!

Q: What else had he done other than Trek?

A: He started in a cigarette commercial, various other commercials, stage production of Oliver. His father was a stuntman; Todd became a stuntman at 13. Between 17-18 he played extras in films. He was a guest star in Our House, Coach, Murder She Wrote, Baywatch and a few other American soaps.

Q: His favourite ST film?

A: He liked ST:IV:TVH.

Q: Did he go for any part in Generations?

A: No.

Q: His favourite ST character?

A: Kirk.

Q: How long did it take to get into the makeup for ST:V?

A: 4 hours. He got up at 3.30 am and was in makeup for 4.30 am. On the first day of filming he kept falling asleep; he had only had 2 hours sleep the night before, he was so excited.

Q: Were there any practical jokes on the set of ST:V?

A: No, due to the tight schedule.

Q: Were there any bloopers?

A: Yes, at the wrap party.

Q: Would he like to appear on B5?

A: No.

Q: Would he like to work on X-files?

A: Yes.

Q: Is it only Star Trek he likes?

A: No, he likes Star Wars.

Q: If Klingons were real, would he like to be one?

A: Yes.

He then told how he got the part of Klaat while he was playing ping-pong at a beach party; how he went for the audition and how he got the part. He liked working with Spice Williams (Vixis), and being a Star Trek fan himself, thought it was brilliant working with all the Classic cast.

The Sunday talk had mostly the same questions! Todd is a good guest and a great Klingon.



BERMUDA CRUISE

by

Maria Woodward

The Cruise Trek 1995, from Boston to Bermuda, set sail on August 25th at 4.47 pm. The guest list was - Lolita Fatjo, Eric Stilwell, Eric Menyuk, Max Grodenchik, George Takei, Jennifer Hetrick, Patti Yasutaki, Mark Lenard, Andrew Robinson, Carel Struyken.

It was a funny time, as most of the main stars were working, but nevertheless the guests were wonderful and enjoyed themselves. As I went on last year's cruise, the people who were running it knew me, so I got away (most of the time) without wearing a silly pink badge around my neck.

Back to the beginning. While my friends and I were waiting to board the ship, Max Grodenchik shook my friends' hands, and he remembered me straightaway; he gave me a kiss and we had a very brief chat.

On Monday, while we were at sea, it poured with rain all day and at lunchtime I got the blame from George Takei, saying "It's the British weather", so I ended up telling him the summer's been the driest on record!

On Tuesday most of us went on the full-day tour to Hawkin's Island with most of the actors. While we were on the island, Max came over and had a long chat with me. A short time later (after dinner) I ended up having another chat with Max and Lolita, and I asked her what was happening about the fan clubs and conventions. She told me it won't happen yet for a few years, but she reckons they will get the go-ahead for it. (She even remembered me from the UFP convention, which she enjoyed doing very much.) Talk about the actors being the last to know - Max didn't know what we were on about!

On Wednesday and Thursday, we spent the days touring Bermuda on our own, which was a bit cheaper than buying the tours on board. On Friday we didn't do much as our group photo was being taken at 11 am. As I walked over to sit in the chair,

said "Hi!" to Max, who said, "Hello, Maria!" - which started Eric singing that song from that famous film which I can't think of at the moment! At 12.30 pm the ship set sail back to Boston.

On Saturday afternoon, Max's fan club had a meeting with him in his cabin, and I was asked to go along! We had a great time. Even Lolita spent most of the time with us. We ended up talking about Max's favourite episodes (House of Quark and Family Business, which he loved doing. It only took one shot when he and Armin were fighting each other.) Lolita also told us there will be a follow-up with Nog. Max said it was a shame that Philip Anglim (there's more to that than I will say, as I'm not too sure if he should have said it) left the show, and at first he didn't like the idea of Michael Dorn coming to DS9; but after he gave it time to sink in, he now likes the idea as he thinks it will give DS9 more viewers.

On Sunday we arrived back at Boston, cleared Customs (which took forever). When we were allowed to leave the ship, I ended up next to Max and he even said how much fun he had with us in his cabin, and only wished he had done it earlier in the week!

So that was my week with the actors. I had a lot of fun. Next year they are going to The Caribbean Exploration (June 15 - 22). They have even got some guests already - Tim Russ, Roxanne Biggs-Dawson, John de Lancie and Eric Menyuk.

One thing I forgot to mention - at the charity auction, a signed photo of Gene Roddenberry went for \$15000. I only wished I had that kind of money - then I'd be going on next year's cruise!



'ON DIT' or WILL 'HE' BE IN EUROPE OR NOT

by
Annette Bannasch

The events surrounding the European premiere of ST:VII were terrific.

The premiere in Germany had been announced for Feb 9th; I managed to get a ticket for that event in Munich in December. Unfortunately I didn't get any information about what was planned for the famous film festival in Germany, the Berlinale, at this early time. Thanks to the fact that I know people who worked on the German version of ST:VII I heard rumours about something special being planned for the European premiere. This was Jan 31! Everybody can imagine how frustrated I was. I had to make a lot of phone calls in a very short time. I got for sure that a convention would take place in London at the date of the British premiere (Feb 3rd) with the whole TNG cast.

I knew I would not get the chance to go to London, so I was hoping for other possibilities. At almost the same time, I was told that the first movie at the Berlinale would be ST:VII and guests had been announced! It was clear that I would not get a ticket at that time, but I saw the possibility that maybe some of the cast might be guests at a German talk show. My guess was right; after a lot of phone calls, I knew Bill Shatner would come. I think I never talked so much on the phone before. The talk show was to be taped at a studio near Munich.

The ST:VII premiere not only took place in England and Germany, but also in France (Feb 4th). Being raised near the Swiss/German/French border and having my mom near Basel (Switzerland), I luckily got information about a Fantastic Film Festival in Gerardmer (France) - among other guests were John Carpenter, some famous French actors/directors and Bill Shatner, Patrick Stewart and David Carson.

I think Bill is much more famous in France for his characterisation of TJ Hooker. That show has been running for a lot of years on a big French TV station.

One day before the spectacle was to occur I got all the information I needed. It was a weekend, so I decided to go see ST:VII in Gerardmer.

Gerardmer is about 80 km north west of Basel in the high Vosges Mountains. It's famous for its skiing grounds and beautiful narcissus. Two friends of mine from Augsburg went by car to Gerardmer during the night (it's a six-hour trip). I went by train on Friday afternoon to Basel. Because it's very difficult to get to Gerardmer without a car, I was happy that my mom was willing to drive me there. She saw the trip as an excursion. I admit she also likes Star Trek and Bill, which made it easier to convince her. In Gerardmer we met my friends.

The first problem was finding a place to sleep; every room in town was occupied by Festival guests. High in the mountains there was snow and ice. Finally we got two rooms in a luxury ski hotel at the summit of the Vosges, about 20 minutes away from Gerardmer, but we had no other choice.

The day of the ST premiere was the 50th Liberation Day of Alsace, so the plane with Bill and David (Patrick could not come) had a delay of about an hour. The Premier Minister of France, Mr Balladur, arrived in Colmar at the same time (the local newspaper's headline of the next day - "Balladur contre Star Trek").

After we returned to Gerardmer we first went to the ice stadium. There it was said that the guests stars would not come there (which had been announced in the festival programme). Getting no other information, we read the Festival programme again and decided to go to the City Hall. It was nice to see familiar faces: other fans had had the same idea. From there we were sent to the ice stadium again. There, there were some reporters who interviewed fans, and so my friends got the chance to talk on radio!

A press conference with Bill and David was held at the City Hall while we were waiting for them at the ice stadium, but since we didn't know how to be in two places at the same time, we decided to stay where we were - we had great front row seats we didn't want to give up! It was wonderful how the fans reacted, although we had to wait for more than an hour. Nobody complained. People from the organisation gave free ice cream for all!

When Bill and David arrived at the ice stadium my mom had the chance to say "Hello" to Bill! How lucky for her. I think both guests had come direct from London, and Bill looked very tired. It was very nice when he spoke to the people in French. We took a lot of photos. When he left, the next event was the premiere of ST:VII, so we went to the casino to see it.

Can you imagine that we had to wait about 2 hours in front of the theatre? It was raining, snowing and it was night, and we got more free ice cream while we waited.

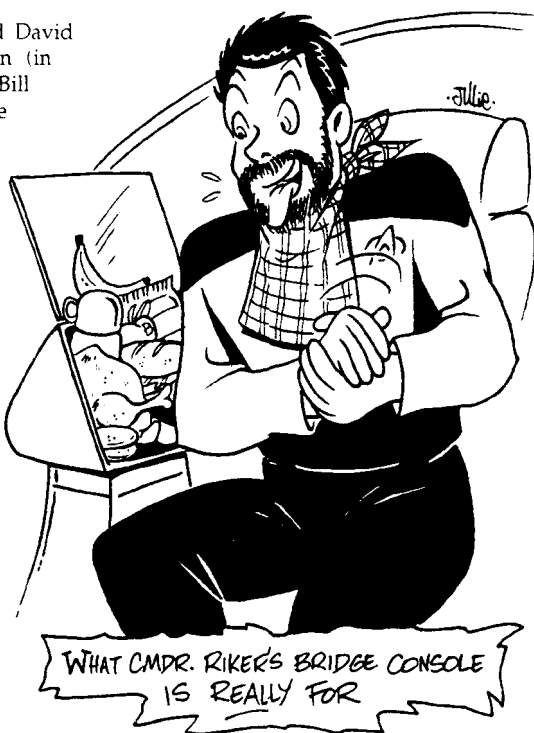
Before the movie began Bill and David came to the stage and spoke again (in French) to the auditorium. It seemed Bill was less tired than at the stadium. I've been a fan of Bill for more than 20 years; it was wonderful to see him live on stage. Bill was much different from what I expected; he is a fine man.

I have to admit that my friends, my mom and I were not satisfied with the film. I liked the opening scenes very much but was not happy with the Klingons and how Data developed in the movie. I also didn't like the holodeck scene. But I was happy with the Soran character and the Nexus. I liked Kirk's characterisation very much, much better than the out-of-character Kirk in ST:VI. The music was fantastic, so were the special effects. Some of the scenes reminded me of Highlander or Conan.

It was midnight when the show was over. After we had had a meal at a creperie we headed for the hotel. We all agreed that this weekend was like being in the Nexus! Even today when we speak of that event we all have wonderful feelings about it. The next morning we had to say goodbye to Gerardmer.

Three days after the event it was time to prepare for the talk show in Munich. Living in Munich, it was only a trip of some minutes for me. People from all over the country came to see it - and guess who was the surprise guest? Brent Spiner came along with Bill and Patrick. Unfortunately, the talk master asked a lot of silly questions, but I think all the guests had a wonderful time - and so did I.

Next day, the three were at the Berlinale. It was the ultimate spectacle for everybody who was attending. I'm a little bit unhappy that I missed it, but after the wonderful experience in France, I will not complain.



WHY VEDEK BAREIL'S DEATH WAS A MISTAKE

An answer to Albert Rosenfield

by

Baerbel Schmidt

First of all, there is one thing where I most definitely agree with you: it would be a big mistake to resurrect Vedek Bareil - but it would also be a mistake to resurrect Kirk or any other characters who died. It is hardly possible to write a resurrection story that is believable and doesn't cheapen the concept of death. We've already had our share of resurrection stories in Star Trek; I think it is time to stop bringing dead characters back. I agree, Vedek Bareil made the ultimate sacrifice; he died for peace, for the future of his people. I don't have to like the story, but I have to accept what happened. For me, the only believable possibility to see him again is a Mirror Universe story.

For me - and I can imagine most of Bareil's fans - the relationship between Kira and Bareil was unique in Star Trek's history. Never before was a relationship between man and woman explored with so much depth and feeling. Yes, when Bareil was introduced in *In The Hands of the Prophets*, there were only subtle hints of an attraction - but that is how a healthy relationship starts. Usually you don't fall in love overnight unless it is only based on sexual attraction. In the few episodes with Bareil, we could see how this relationship deepened. The beauty is that Kira and Bareil were both friends and lovers. Have a look at other relationships between men and women, like O'Brien and Keiko or Deanna and Riker (and later Worf). You can see that they like each other, they are good friends but when it comes to love, all we see is perhaps a kiss and a tender embrace. With Kira and Bareil, it was the first time that we saw a couple together in bed and touching each other as lovers do. Their love was one of mutual respect, combined physical attraction and true friendship. I found this very appealing and beautiful. Their relationship enriched both of them. No, it didn't cause Kira to lose her spark, as you put it. It added a new side to her. In a way, her relationship with Bareil made her stronger and more interesting.

There are only two other episodes in modern Star Trek (I am not too familiar with Classic) that went into the sexual side of a relationship between

man and woman, the Next Gen episodes *The Emissary* and *Sub Rosa*. Both K'Ehlyr and Ronin died, and now Bareil as well. I reacted very strongly when K'Ehlyr died, and hoped that Paramount would not do something like that again. I was wrong, and that is another reason why I think that Bareil's death was a terrible waste and a mistake.

When the pain and anger about Bareil's death was still fresh, I absolutely resented the idea of Odo becoming Kira's lover. That Paramount was so tasteless to broadcast the episode *Heart of Stone* directly after *Life Support* didn't help either. Today, my feelings about Bareil's death haven't changed, but I think that Odo and Kira should become a couple one day, if it is done very gradually and with care. Bareil's death was very tragic but I think it would be even more tragic if Kira never found a new love in her life. I am sure that Vedek Bareil wouldn't have wanted that and a new relationship would not mean that Kira will stop cherishing the time she had with him.



Kira & Bareil



STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

PILOT EPISODE EMISSARY

Reviewed by Edward Woo

After watching this pilot and the following few episodes, I have found DS9 very enjoyable.

The opening titles and musical theme are terrific and I found the music growing on me all the time. The first five minutes has Starfleet engaging the Borg at Wolf 359. There were some new Starship designs - pity we didn't see more of them. The Vulcan Captain of the Saratoga seemed to have a familiar look (he resembled the Vulcan Admiral on the Board of Enquiry in First Duty). The damage to and destruction of the Saratoga is very realistic, especially as the escape pods are jettisoned.

Commander Sisko arrives at DS9 - it does have a run-down feeling. He meets Miles O'Brien, who's got his hands full. O'Brien is an Ensign, but he's been a CPO or Lieutenant on the Enterprise. Surely he's Lieutenant or Lt. Commander if a move to DS9 is promotion - he's Chief of Operations. I think O'Brien will get the technobabble lines in DS9 like Data and La Forge, and I think is 3rd in command.

Even Ben Sisko's son Jake is likeable and does not intrude or think he knows it all, like Wesley in Encounter at Farpoint. Major Kira Nerys' introduction is confrontational, not even saying hello, just "So you want the office, then" to Ben Sisko. I like her already - but does she ever smile?

Odo is in some ways an enigma like Data. He is the only one of his race and has unusual abilities. He is unsure of his origins. Being Security Chief, he runs into Quark the Ferengi on many occasions. These two are going to have a love-hate professional relationship - that's going to be fun.

Dr Bashir is definitely 'the green kid on the block' in DS9, both as a doctor and a Starfleet officer. His relationship with Dax will be interesting. Even more so, the Trill

inside Dax is a long-time friend of Sisko's.

The pilot episode is very action-orientated with personal conflicts providing the edge. It also fleshes out the characters. Sisko just oozes with confidence, with a different feel of authority compared to Picard. As the pilot progressed I liked the idea of Sisko trying to explain baseball to the aliens, and how Humans can't foresee their future actions in linear time, ie what will happen the next time the ball is pitched.

There are some very good one-liners. Dr Bashir is out at the edge of the Frontier of Space and wants to be a hero, whilst Kira says heroes can die young. Kira's best line is when the Cardassians are about to attack; she says "If you want war, we'll give you one." Odo's line about Sisko, "I thought I was going to dislike him" was very good at the time and funny, as it was aimed at the Ferengi.

The idea of the Bajoran spiritual leader and the mystery of the orbs provides a fantasy element which mixes very well with the gritty realism of DS9; for it has become a personal mission for Sisko now, not just another command post.

O'Brien leaves the Enterprise and the transporter room for the last time; Picard does the honours - a nice touch. It's unfortunate that other members of the bridge staff were not there. I think Data, La Forge and Dr Crusher could have waved him goodbye - and what about Keiko's departure?

The DS9 uniforms are very impressive and are an offshoot of TNG. The visual effects are stunning, especially the wormhole. This means the Enterprise and other science vessels can go further out into the galaxy than before.

Over all it's an excellent start to the series and I have heard of no-one who dislikes it yet. As for the US, the pilot screening had its

highest audience in America and because of the action, the Americans loved it. We do as well! I can see a definite success story for future seasons. (Two are definite, with options for a total of 7 if successful - no

doubts about it here!)

I hear D59 - just the pilot - is due out in June on video (for rental). Does anyone know anything more?



STAR TREK:VOYAGER

THE TREK ADVENTURE CONTINUES

by

Valerie Herd

Voyager. The name speaks of the spirit of adventure, and until recently brought to mind an image of Earth spacecraft two robot explorers intricately designed to think for themselves moving silently away from our solar system, their journey taking them far into the unknown. Also in mind is V'ger, the lost Voyager of Star Trek: The Motion Picture which, now transformed by the joined consciousnesses of Wil Decker and Ilia, journeys through another dimension. Now, however, the name prompts an image of a brand-new addition to the Star Trek family: the USS Voyager, a ship captured and moved by alien forces to a far, unmapped quadrant, seventy thousand light years from home.

Seventy thousand light years. That's a long, long way to be from home - particularly to we twentieth century, Earth-bound Humans; but it is also quite a daunting distance for those aboard the Starship Voyager, who are forced to live with the fact that, without the aid of a wormhole or time-saving alien technology, their voyage home will take at least seventy years.

In other words, without outside help, the Captain and crew of Voyager - perhaps with the exception of the long-lived Vulcan Tuvok - are never likely to see their homes and loved ones again; something they must face up to on a daily basis.

This knowledge, however, is the driving force behind the Captain's resolve to explore any and every avenue open to herself and her crew; drawing strength from their predicament, she meets each challenge head-on, instilling hope and optimism in those around her.

These are the adventures of the Starship Voyager. Lost in the far reaches of space, Captain and crew proceed as Starfleet would want them to, exploring strange new worlds, seeking out new life and new civilisations boldly going where no-one has gone before, forever in the hope that, somewhere in the next star system, on the next new world, they might find a solution for their dilemma, which will lead to a short-cut back to Federation space.

The crew of Voyager, made up of Starfleet and Maquis personnel, are a personable lot; at first bound to be at odds with one another, they have settled into a family of sorts, and as each episode unfolds, we see them learn to trust one another, to find friendship, and gradually become a tightly-knit group aboard this smaller, somehow cosier, Starship.

Voyager, designed to be small and fast, was built for a crew complement of less than 200. The first of her kind, she is an admirable vessel, powered by bio-technology never before used in a starship. Compact, she was designed to venture into the tight spaces of the Badlands, where the Maquis have often led their adversaries; filled with many unknown dangers, the Badlands have proven to be a formidable place for ships of the Fleet to enter. This new vessel, with a slim primary section and movable nacelles, is easily manoeuvred into the tightest of regions, sliding quickly past obstacles in pursuit of her foe. This design has proven to be fortuitous to the crew of Voyager in the uncharted region of space in which they now dwell.

Voyager's Captain, Kathryn Janeway, is a strong, knowledgeable officer, whose dedication to her crew is surpassed only by her loyalty to Starfleet. Like Captains Kirk and Picard, Kathryn Janeway has the heart of an explorer, and she possesses the ability to boost the morale of her crew, always willing to listen to the concerns of those around her and happy to join in a game of pool on the holodeck. She is a firm but gentle leader, who is genuinely interested in the welfare of all who accompany her in exploring the new frontier.

First Officer Chakotay, originally in command of a Maquis ship, occasionally finds himself at odds with Janeway, but in a quiet way; this gentle spirit is often a calming influence on her, and between them they maintain a balance between Maquis and Starfleet crewmembers. It was Chakotay who suggested B'Elanna Torres as the new Chief Engineer when the Captain was more in favour of choosing someone she knew, a Starfleet officer. However, Chakotay was insistent, and eventually Janeway realised that Torres had proven herself worthy of the job, for despite her fiery Klingon temper, Torres and Janeway are of like mind, both possessing an extensive knowledge of science, as well as of the ship's complex systems. Although each has a strong personality, both women have often worked together to solve problems and smooth unexpected hitches.

The Vulcan Tuvok is Janeway's voice of reason; her counselor and friend, he shares his logic and acts as her guide when requested to, and like that other Vulcan well-known to all of us, it seems his eyes are everywhere; not much happens on his ship without his knowing, as he carefully studies the actions of the crew and gauges the emotional status of those around him. Being Vulcan, he makes an excellent Chief of Security; for how much plotting could go on aboard a vessel policed by one of such superior hearing, eyesight, strength and intellect?

Tom Paris' reputation as a troublemaker created some problems for him for a while, but now he and fellow bridge officer Harry

Kim have the makings of a firm friendship. These two adventurous young men have proven their courage and enthusiasm; and each brings a touch of humour to the series.

Also contributing a large portion of humour is the ship's Doctor, a lovable, holographic fellow whose testy one-liners bring back fond memories of a certain Leonard McCoy. At first annoyed when the crew forgot to 'switch him off', he began to hope that each visitor to sickbay would remember to leave his program activated, as his new job as full-time physician left him with a lot of work to do. His pre-programmed medical expertise and extensive knowledge of holographic imagery have often been put to the test during various adventures he has taken part in; it seems there is much more to him than the usual holographic image, and he leaves viewers wanting to learn more about him. His friendship with Kes is an interesting part of the television series, as the Doctor explores his own capabilities and tries to understand why Kes is so insistent on looking upon him as a friend rather than as a mere holographic back-up system.

Neelix and Kes have proven to be valuable additions to Janeway's crew, Neelix as a knowledgeable guide whose cooking skills are interesting but questionable! Neelix, having spent a great deal of time exploring this quadrant, is a funny, quirky, walking A-to-Z of alien culture, upon whom Janeway and her crew often depend for information. Kes is an intuitive voice in unknown territory, her sweet and gentle nature and air of childlike innocence belying a great wisdom. In journeying to the stars, Kes has discovered that she possesses a sixth sense, which came to the fore in an early adventure in which she sensed death and devastation on a nearby world not explained as telepathy, but more as empathy.

And so the adventure continues. Star Trek: Voyager brings back many fond memories of the original, classic Star Trek. Its well-cast group of space travellers echo the spirit, enthusiasm and humour of the original series, and the opinionated, wise-cracking Doctor and coolly logical Vulcan are a

welcome sight to many Classic Trekkers. Voyager also reflects elements of its sister series *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space 9*, and in incorporating many of the popular aspects of all three series into this story of exploration and adventure set in a new corner of Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek*

universe, *Star Trek: Voyager's* creators have come up with a worthy addition to the *Trek* legacy, which promises to boldly take Trekkers on a fascinating, thought-provoking journey into the twenty-fourth century and beyond.



THE SEARCH FOR SPOCK

In an excerpt from his memoir, the actor reveals the logic behind *Star Trek's* most compelling star. *Entertainment Weekly* 15 Sep 1995

By Leonard Nimoy

Should I be jealous of Spock?

I joked about that, in a book I wrote in the mid-'70s called *I Am Not Spock*. I enjoyed writing the book. I wanted to answer a lot of oft-asked questions and also explore the relationship between an actor and the character he breathed life into -- especially since that character seemed to take on an existence of his own.

But I made an enormous mistake choosing the title for the book. I've made a lot of mistakes in my lifetime, but this one was a biggie and right out there in public. Perhaps it wasn't quite as bad as Roseanne Arnold singing "The Star-Spangled Banner" off-key, grabbing her crotch, and spitting in a stadium full of baseball fans, but mine did start a firestorm that lasted several years and caused a lot of hard feelings.

When I wrote the book and handed it to the publisher, we discussed the title and agreed Spock should be mentioned. I thought *I Am Not Spock* might work. Certainly, it would attract the attention of potential readers and arouse their curiosity.

I Am Not Spock was published in 1975, at a time when the *Star Trek* phenomenon had just taken hold. Having had only marginal success on NBC, where we limped along for three years, the show took on new life in syndication. By the mid-'70s, it was becoming a media event. Colleges avoided scheduling classes during *Star Trek* hours to avoid predictable absenteeism! Thousands and thousands of new devotees sat in front of their TV sets, memorizing each episode's

dialogue word for word. Soon, throughout the land came a heartfelt cry:

"Give us more *Star Trek*!"

In the midst of this desperate demand, my timing and choice of title couldn't have been worse. What came back was a deep, sad moan of public frustration followed by outbursts of anger, even hatred. Unfortunately, press articles followed which served to fuel that anger. After all, it made good copy: "Actor rejects character who threatens to consume him."

For some years afterward, the public assumption was that more *Star Trek* was not forthcoming because I had vowed never to play the Vulcan again because I hated Spock.

One of the reasons I'm writing this is so I can forever put those ugly and unfounded rumors to rest. Here it is in print: I don't hate the Vulcan. In fact, I've always been downright fond of him, and as I mentioned in *I Am Not Spock*, if someone came up to me and said, "You can't be Leonard Nimoy anymore. But you can be anyone else you want," I wouldn't hesitate a beat with my answer. I'd want to be Spock.

In *I Am Not Spock*, I wrote about the birth of my two children, Julie and Adam, and how I could pinpoint the precise time and place those wonderful miracles occurred. But coming up with a date, a precise moment, that Spock first sprang into being was far more difficult, even though I was in

many ways more "present" for his birth than those of my children. To say that he was "born" on Thursday, Sept. 8, 1966, at 8:30 p.m. EST -- the date Star Trek first aired -- seemed at best arbitrary and artificial.

However, I've had 30 years to think about it since then, and I realize now that there was a defining moment, a flash of revelation where I suddenly realized, "Aha! So this is who the Vulcan is...."

It came during the shooting of the third Star Trek episode ever filmed, "The Corbomite Maneuver." It was one of the scenes on the bridge where the crew members were all reacting to an enormous glowing globe on the view screen. (Of course, we actors saw nothing but a blue screen.) We were all supposed to be concerned about this strange new threat, and my line consisted of that single fateful word, "Fascinating...."

I just didn't have a handle on how to say it. Until, that is, [director] Joe Sargent wisely said, "Look, don't act uptight about what you see on the screen. Instead, when you deliver your line, be cool and curious, like a scientist."

The moment Sargent said it, something inside me clicked; he had just illuminated what it was that made this character unique and different from all the others on the bridge. I composed myself, drew a breath, and calmly said, "Fascinating...."

What came out wasn't Leonard Nimoy's voice, but Spock's. And even though the Vulcan veneer would later slip from time to time (for example, when Spock smiles at Harry Mudd's glamorous entourage in "Mudd's Women"), I began seriously to understand where Spock was coming from. The Vulcan was among us.

I think it's time that the world knew the hidden, ugly truth about what was really happening on the Star Trek set: Bill Shatner's "five-year mission" was to crack me up on the set.

My former costar was an inveterate prankster. In certain instances, his practical

joking became an outright obsession. I'll never understand why, but my bicycle became an object of his fixation.

It started fairly innocently -- with Bill simply hiding the bike on the set one day, then returning it with a chuckle when I fumed and demanded it so I could pedal to the commissary for lunch. But from there it escalated. On different days, my poor bike wound up chained to a fire hydrant, then in Bill's trailer, beneath the watchful eye of one of his most ferocious Dobermans.

In frustration, I took the ultimate step, I locked the damned bike in my Buick and parked the car right next to the soundstage.

Bill, of course, had the Buick towed.

Bill's Captain Kirk was a swashbuckling Errol Flynn type of hero; he played the role with a great deal of energy and elan and wasn't afraid to take chances. That elan has cost him at times; people have made fun of his exuberance because it made it easy to do a caricature of Kirk. His attack on a line of dialogue, his unique way of pausing before blurting out a final word or phrase, were readily captured by imitators. But that energy was vital for the show, and made it possible for me to finally find a niche for my role.

Once Spock's popularity took off with the fans, all the gossip columns and tabloid magazines insisted that Bill Shatner and I detested each other and weren't on speaking terms.

Was there hatred? No. Sibling rivalry? Yes. We were like a pair of very competitive brothers, and there were times when I complained to Gene [Roddenberry] about Bill, and times when Bill complained to Gene about me. Many times, Gene was effective in his role as daddy, solving the conflicts between two squabbling kids. And there were times when he wasn't.

A major area of conflict was Bill's concern that Spock was getting ahead of Kirk in terms of problem-solving. Of course, the Vulcan's primary function as a science officer was to do research and provide data -- but Bill

worried that Kirk would seem unintelligent by contrast. And so lines of dialogue that had logically been Spock's soon became Kirk's.

I addressed the situation in a memo to Roddenberry dated Feb. 21, 1968, which says, in part: "It would be as if Shakespeare had written 'To be or not to be' to be played by two characters instead of one...."

Roddenberry tried to smooth that one over, but the conflict kept recurring. One of the wisest things I think Gene ever did was to consult Isaac Asimov on the friction between Shatner and myself, and the problematic popularity of Spock. Asimov advised him to make Kirk and Spock loyal, inseparable friends, so that when the audience thought of one, they'd automatically think of the other.

The advice worked with the viewers -- and maybe even with Bill and me, because we certainly came to appreciate our friendship more as time went on.

Even if it was really mean of him to keep stealing my bike.

When did I know that Star Trek was over for Leonard Nimoy?

At the end of Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country, the crew has been called home to retire, and pass the torch on to a "new generation." And that brings me to what I feel was the most important scene for Spock (and for me) in the film: the scene where Spock -- defeated and depressed after his realization that his protegee, Valeris, is a traitor -- is lying quietly in his quarters, clearly indulging in a very Human moment of melancholy. Kirk enters and makes an effort to cheer his friend and to rally him to action.

In reply, the Vulcan calls to Kirk and says softly, "Is it possible that we two, you and I, have grown so old and inflexible that we have outlived our usefulness?"

It was a very poignant question for me as well as for Spock. For not only was the

Vulcan on the verge of retirement, and meditating on that fact, at long last, the Enterprise crew's missions were over -- but I was well aware that this was most likely the last Star Trek film for both of us. And as I turned toward Bill and uttered those words, any sense of "mask" slipped away. I honestly felt myself merge with the character, Spock...and at the moment that the Vulcan spoke to his captain, Leonard Nimoy asked the question of Bill Shatner. I recall looking at him and wondering: "Are you thinking what I'm thinking, Bill? That this is really the end of our 'mission' together...?"

In my own mind, that will always be the moment of emotional closure for Star Trek VI -- and, indeed, all the stories involving the original Enterprise crew. For me and Spock, the original Star Trek ended at that very moment.

My plate is very full now, even without Star Trek. If invited, would I ever go back?

Well, as far as I'm concerned, Spock is still under deep cover in Romulan space, working toward the reunification of the passionate, warlike Romulans with their cool, logic-loving Vulcan brothers (as explained in "Unification," the Star Trek: The Next Generation episode in which I guest-starred). Knowing Spock's stubbornness -- or as he'd probably prefer to put it, his persistence -- some very interesting events are bound to result. And, if the right opportunity came along, he and I wouldn't mind picking up that story thread....

Do I miss Spock?

No, because he's a part of me. Not a day passes that I don't hear that cool, rational voice commenting on some irrational aspect of the Human condition.

I can only hope that, once in a while, when people look at Spock's visage, they might sometimes think of me. But it doesn't matter; because, as far as I'm concerned, we two are twins, joined at the hip.



VULCAN ANOMALIES

by Jacqueline Y. Comben

"Why," asked Carole Taylor, "didn't Spock tell Kirk about his katra during all their years of friendship?"

The true answer, of course, is that the idea of a 'transferable' spirit or essence only came up because Harve Bennett and others wanted a way to reincarnate my favourite Vulcan. They failed to consider the obvious possibility that the radiation had not quite killed him. Forgetting that the beam contained mainly particulate radiation which would wreck only his surface tissues, that Vulcans do not die of pain, that they had already stated that Vulcans can survive high doses of penetrating radiation and that McCoy could be forgiven for mistaking deep, catatonic healing-trance for death, they decided to create a baby able to get out of a sealed torpedo tube and give him Spock's soul, handily deposited in the good doctor.

Virtually all anomalies and inconsistencies spring from much the same cause. Given a plotting problem, the writers just invent what they need, be it a half-brother or a katra. Continuity fails when writers forget what has gone before, or have simply never seen the episode(s) concerned. I long since stopped trying to reconcile novels with what we had seen on the screen, when I realised that the books were not even consistent with each other. I have a similar feeling of futility with respect to the movies, save when they affect my favourite Vulcan. It so happens that the story I have written for that reason, and which IDIC will be publishing, also deals with the ways in which the last movie contradicted assorted TNG episodes, but I am unlikely to take the trouble again, unless Spock is involved in the film, or, as was the case with 'Generations', should have been.

There are, however, two Spock-related anomalies with which I have not dealt in print. One is that highlighted by Carole; the other is the little matter of a birth in an extremely uncomfortable cave. Since birth comes before death, I shall deal with the cave

first.

"Where did I come from, Mama?"

Children begin to seek enlightenment on this point at quite an early age.

Young Spock, when first interested in this subject, happened to be alone in the living room of a relation's home in California, watching the early evening newscast.

"A baby was delivered today at a refuelling station on the Santa Monica freeway," declared the voice of the anchorperson, "by Traffic Patrol Officer Angela Markevich."

The entire event was recorded by the Officer's surveillance equipment and broadcast in living full-colour holographics to the viewing audience. Fascinated, young Spock watched the screaming, straining young mother. Once delivered, the infant was handed to the young, inept, nervous, and inexperienced father. His youth and incompetence explained the very fact that his first-born son had arrived in a vehicle on a freeway rather than the hospital for which they had been heading. Awkwardly holding the child at arms length, he muttered,

"Oh shucks, I'll likely drop him. You take him."

The picture made a deep impression on Spock - the screaming Human mother, the tall, gangling father gingerly rejecting his son. It made an impression because it answered his question about how he had come out of Mama's tummy!

Soon after this, young Spock started school on Vulcan.

"Spock is different from us," stated the teacher, "because he is half Human."

This was the cue for a lesson on IDIC, but Spock, of course, did not want to be different.

Very soon, he was absolutely convinced that the one thing he did not want to be was Human. Certain of his classmates, mainly those whose parents lacked a true appreciation of the value of IDIC, insisted on calling him 'Human' in pejorative terms, and demanded that he demonstrate his difference. Due to his extreme youth, he obliged them by shedding tears and hitting them, often both at once. Spock's father made clear to the child that such Human behaviour was intolerable. A chance gibe from one of his tormentors brought back into Spock's mind that freeway picture, with notable minor changes.

The tall, gangling youth now sported pointed ears and black hair. He still did not look like Sarek, but, in Sarek's voice, he said, while rejecting the baby,

"So Human."

Spock had never really understood the colloquial muttering in the original newscast. This version stuck.

At the age of six, Vulcan children are prepared for the kahs-wan and told a little about pon far.

"You were born in the caves under Koon-ut kal-if-fee and one day, you will return there..."

Spock had never visited the ultra-modern obstetrics facility in the brilliantly lit, spotlessly clean complex situated under the red ground of the ancient place of marriage and challenge. He had, however, seen caves. His vision subtly altered. The vague background of the refuelling station and the open vehicle door was lost and, instead, the incident was placed into a stone cavern. Officer Markevich had already become a Vulcan healer who had mentioned being present, "when you were born." The complete picture lodged into Spock's young mind, indelibly associated with the certainty that he was a disappointment to his father because he was Human.

(In fact, due to having blood totally incompatible with that of Amanda, Spock must have been delivered very, very early by

Caesarian section and kept in an artificial womb until sufficiently developed for final removal.)

Sybok, coming across his little half-brother crying into I-Chaya's fur, soft-talked him into explaining, "Sarek does not want me. I am Human like Amanda. When I was born, he pushed me away."

To be fair, Sybok tried, at the time, to convince his little brother that Sarek merely wished him to follow the Vulcan way, but this attempt did not seem to comfort Spock much and, almost immediately thereafter, Sybok left the family home never to return.

When, so many years later, they met again, Sybok, knowing nothing of Spock's journey to completeness, to the reconciliation of his divided nature, delved into his mind to find that old pain. He found that picture, left over from Spock's extreme youth. Spock, as an adult, knew that every aspect of the scene was wrong, so it is hardly surprising that he was not converted to follow his half-brother in his insane quest for a meeting with the Almighty.

Turning, now, to the subject which concerned Carole Taylor, I would maintain that you do not discuss something which has no relevance to you.


At most, about one Vulcan in a million is sufficiently remarkable to merit the honour of placing his or her katra in the Hall of Ancients. 99.98% of the population of Vulcan are ordinary farmers, factory workers, doctors, bakers, artists, scientists, musicians etc. etc.. They are vaguely aware that, when they die, their katra'i will join their ancestors in some sort of after-life. Of the 0.02% who are leaders of their professions, adepts of Gol or Seleya, or otherwise remarkable enough to consider the possibility of entering the Hall, only 0.00005% are actually chosen. Just as most of us do not seriously consider the likelihood of winning a Nobel prize, so most Vulcans do not think about entering the Hall of Ancients. The possibility is not a subject of discussion until someone does something so special that he or she is short-listed.

Spock is well aware that he is unique in a very special way. He is also only too well aware that many Vulcans deplore that uniqueness. He is convinced that no half-Human would ever be chosen to deposit his katra. He is more than half convinced that a half-Human could not deposit his katra. He discounts the value of his own scientific achievements, seeing them as largely a result of his good fortune in being on a starship which takes him to places never before visited, to observe phenomena never before studied. He is absolutely sure he is not one of those whose katra will be welcomed in the Hall. He is virtually certain that his katra is ill-equipped to make the trip! Thus, he has no reason to discuss the matter with his best friend. He certainly would not choose to discuss it with McCoy.

Sarek is very aware of how special his son is and believes that Spock's katra belongs in the Hall of Ancients. By his own merit as an outstanding Ambassador, Sarek is one of the 0.02% potential candidates and, thus, knows that those chosen, in effect, choose

themselves by depositing their katra at the moment of death, into the mind of the one closest to them. Not surprisingly, therefore, he expects to find Kirk hosting his son's essence. He was both right and wrong. Kirk having been unavailable, Spock's instinct caused him to make use of McCoy, almost without realising what he was doing, certainly with no possibility of resisting the urge. If he could, he would have asked permission, but he had already made that impracticable by rendering the good doctor unconscious so that he could not interfere with Spock's self-sacrifice.

Question: "Did Picard host Sarek's katra or was Sarek's katra lost because his last wife was an unsuitable and unwilling hostess?"

p.s.: When Picard said that he had met Sarek at his son's wedding, he did not say that Spock was the son. Sarek surely married again after Amanda died and before marrying the Human to whom he was joined at the time of his death. Spock could have numerous siblings. 

NO CHILDREN ON BOARD

by Vered Gilad

I was reading DS9's *Fallen Heroes* when this thought started nagging at me: Why do they have children on the *Enterprise-D*? Although I like the fact that the *D* has children on board, I find it hard to understand. How can Starfleet allow its personnel to bring their children on board a ship with obvious militaristic capabilities, and by that, risk their lives? Even though *1701-D* is said to be a vessel of exploration, it is well known that she is ready to go into battle every second she spends in space.

In the beginning of the series there was some attempt to give a solution to this problem in the form of saucer separation. This technique was only used a small number of times and I believe it was given just to quieten all those who would have said, "The children are not safe"; so the producers, knowing their fans, said, "Here, you see. We've solved the problem of the children."

But then the *Saucer Sep.* was forgotten, or maybe the existence of children on board was forgotten, as this method was hardly ever used again. It was resurrected for *Generations*, but was used at the wrong time. Picard should have initiated separation immediately after finding out about Soran's plans. It was just pure luck that the time line was changed, because in the original one all were killed.

All right, so let's say that we know that the *Saucer Sep.* wasn't seen too often because it was an expensive special effect, and so we assume that it was used in all the times that it could have been used. It still only gives a partial solution. There are many instances in which a *Saucer Sep.* is useless. Here are a few examples. When the *USS Yamato* was affected by the Iconian computer (*Contagion*) her Captain never even thought that this could be deadly, and never even bothered

about the separation. Even if he had tried it, there was a good chance that the malfunctions would have prevented it, or might have caused it to go wrong. What about what happened in Disaster when the whole ship turned into a death trap and only a lot of luck saved the crew? What about subjecting the children to tests on the warp drive with unknown results (Where No One...) There are many instances of surprise attacks when there is no time to initiate separation, and many cases of aliens boarding the ship without the crew knowing about it until later, when there are deadly results. The separation is only good if you know about the dangers in advance, and in many cases that does not happen.

Death is not the only reason why children should not be aboard a starship. Nobody ever gives a thought about how all these encounters, deadly or not deadly, can affect the child. We are never shown long counselling sessions with Counselor Troi where a child talks about his fears caused by dangers brought upon the ship, such as not being able to breathe after an alien or terrorist got control over the environmental section. Encountering strange and sometimes very scary illusions (Where No One...). Going through a body transformation (Genesis). Befriending a very dangerous species (Imaginary Friend) and many more events. All these can have a very traumatic effect on a young mind which is not fully developed mentally. Many mature adults cannot see themselves going through such things, yet Starfleet personnel submit their children to this every day.


The child being in danger may also affect the thought process of an officer who is also a parent, and that will get in the way of the performance of his/her duties. In a crisis it is critical that everyone keeps their wits, but how can you expect that from a parent, whose only thoughts at a time like that will quite probably be about the safety of his child. To say that Starfleet personnel are well-trained and will not behave in this manner is to expect them to all turn Vulcan on us, which most likely won't happen. Fallen Heroes proved to me that in a time of crisis, even the commander of the space station,

whose job it was to set an example, could not take the safety of his son out of his mind. All the time he kept thinking what could he do at least to try to save his son, even if nobody else survived. What about what happened to Sisko during the fight with the Borg? He did stay at his post almost till the bitter end, but when he was faced with the death of his wife, and the almost-death of his son, he completely broke down, which was quite understandable. After all, he is only Human. These events also affected him and his career. He was never quite the same again. Sisko could have been spared this unnecessary trauma if only his family hadn't been on board, and since I am already discussing the battle at Wolf 359 - why wasn't the saucer separation initiated then? Why were there families on board a starship that was undoubtedly going into war?

Even nowadays, with all our technology, naval officers don't bring their families with them to sea because of the dangers this can bring. To argue that it isn't the same, because the oceans are here, on Earth, and the officers don't really get that far away from home compared to the distances of space travel, is unacceptable. The Enterprise in the 24th century does less exploring of unknown territory and stays within Federation space most of the time. There are no five-year missions during which you never come back to Earth. Space becomes much smaller with warp capabilities and so a parent who has a child somewhere in Federation space can always take some leave and catch the 24th century equivalent of a bus/plane/train from a starbase and visit his/her kid. If people are still quite worried about the crewperson not being with his/her child at the early stages of life, then maybe that person should choose to take a longer leave of a few years and devote that time to the child, at least until the child has had enough bonding time. The parent can still work for Starfleet but at a ground job, or at a job that doesn't demand that he/she leave the ground for more than a few hours per day.

It doesn't really matter. When someone chooses a military career (and Starfleet is at its base militaristic), and if that someone chooses to serve on a Starship, then there will

always be something he/she will have to give up when it comes to leading a normal family life. The need to have your children with you must not come before their lives.

The children did not choose a Starfleet career, their parents did. The children should not die or suffer because of the parents' decision. 

Write On Trekkers!

By unpopular demand, Neil J Barrett explains his views on fan fiction...

I definitely seem to have shaken up a few people in IDIC by reviewing *Make It So 22* back in IDIC 36 (that's just over a year ago for the newcomers) and being honest about it. I had no intention of slighting anybody, all I did was express my opinion. The author who had the most reason to feel aggrieved wasn't but a few other people decided to launch angry attacks on her behalf. Gosh, it's almost as if my opinions were actually important!

Over the same period, there have been an increasing number of comments where a correspondent has basically said "Because professional novel X was so bad, I'm only going to read fan fiction from now on." You're perfectly entitled to that decision. Usually a number of others agreed with neo-Orwellian cries of "Pro Fiction Bad! Fan Fiction Good!" However, this hasn't made any dents in the profits of Pocket or Titan Books and it hasn't stopped me from reading some truly awful fan fiction over the years.

Carol Sterenberg speaks for many of you when she says that "fan fiction generally offers much better characterisation and more interesting stories". I have to disagree. That's true of the better fan fiction but not of all. Better characterisation is a fair claim since fans are often writing because they know and admire the characters but better stories is being a bit optimistic.

Anyone who has read a fair amount of fan fiction will be familiar with the concept of a "Mary Sue" story where the protagonist basically fulfils the author's wishes to travel aboard the Enterprise, have adventures and/or seduce a main character. These were common when fan fiction first surfaced in the late 60s and early 70s but the term is usually a criticism these days. They only work if the author's fantasies tie in with yours. The

worst of these are absolutely ridiculous.

I'd like to add another category - "the trouble with technobabble". Often, fan writers will use technobabble in the desire to give stories a sense of realism and an edge. Unfortunately, they get it wrong. Some write complete garbage and never think of getting somebody else to check their work. The story then falls apart because it relies on a scientific impossibility or huge leaps of faith which take into fantasy rather than science fiction. Others will drown their work with detailed, accurate and irrelevant technobabble so that the plot is lost. Medical stories tend to be prone to this and usually the author turns out to be a nurse or a medical student of some form. I like to quote the Great Bird on this subject. "When Joe Friday picks up his .38, does he explain how it works?...So why should the captain explain his phaser?" The technobabble supports the plot, it doesn't drive it.

Because fan fiction is often driven by the characters more than the plots there's a sub-genre which involves taking the characters out of their usual setting and plonking them somewhere else. Sometimes this is done by abandoning our heroes on a planet where they have to blend in with society and sometimes by time-shifting them. It happens in professional fiction as well - 'Ishmael', 'Home is the Hunter', 'Shadow Lord', 'Time for Yesterday' and 'Yesterday's Son' - but some fan writers have gone as far as to produce a series. This stuff can be really fascinating, the authors may know an awful lot about the society they have used and they may really explore the character. But, and it's a really big but, this isn't Trek! This is a budding writer who won't take the plunge and create a character themselves.

Then there's the phenomenon that I like

to call 'precognitive plagiarism' which Alistair Craig mentioned in IDIC 42. A fair proportion of fan fiction is triggered by an episode; the writer wants to take the story further or explore some of the ideas raised. Great! Exploring the ideas is one of the things that I really enjoy about fandom. However, there's the danger that if fan A sees a connection and produces story X then pro writer B can also see the connection and produce novel Y or later episode Z. The reader who comes to them later is then led to think that X is a copy of Y or Z even though it may have been written first.

Now don't get me wrong here. (Assuming you haven't already skipped this article in disgust). I don't have a downer on fan fiction. There is some superb stuff out there and I really admire some of the authors. However, I'm a pragmatist and a realist. There is a range of quality in both professional and amateur fiction and to simply dismiss one in favour of the other is, to my eyes, rather narrow minded. In some cases, the weaknesses of fan fiction are simply those of inexperience and the writers will improve with practice and with feedback from editors and reviewers and readers. After all, a significant number of pro Trek writers admit they started as fan writers and their early works may be just as stumbling as anyone else's.

So let's talk about reviews and criticisms. I still stand by my earlier comments that if I am asked to pay for something then I expect reasonable quality for my money and the right to criticise if I feel I haven't got it. That applies to both professional and fan work. The absence of payment or profit is not relevant to me. As an amateur actor I have appeared in charity shows but I still endeavour to give the audience the best entertainment I can provide for their money. If you are not publishing something for profit and you don't want to provoke a response then why do it at all? Is it vanity publishing, perhaps?

If you want a bland review that merely expands on the blurb then fine. I don't write those. I said above that I enjoyed exploring the ideas and if I think a story is worth

commenting on or it raises ideas that I'd like to explore then I will. Usually I prefer to write a longer article addressing the ideas that a story has provoked. Anybody who has read my novel reviews in Final Frontier should appreciate that. In IDIC, the shortage of space prevented this and I'm sorry if that made me appear peremptory.

All I have ever expressed is my opinion. If I didn't like something, I usually say "It doesn't work for me." You are all perfectly entitled to disagree with me or even to ignore me altogether. I'd prefer it if you argued because I enjoy the cut and thrust of debate or 'petty bickering'. Reasoned debate please. There is a difference between saying that A is wrong because of fact X, theory Y or evidence Z and saying that A is wrong because A is a slope-brained moron.

If you want to go with the philosophy that says you should always be nice to everybody and encourage every fan writer, no matter how bad they might be then that's fine too. I'd find it terribly boring. But please remember that I am not a professional writer of any description. I am not a Star Trek consultant (much as I'd like to be!). Therefore if you hold this particular viewpoint, you have no right to criticise me whether I write fiction or non-fiction.

Nobody actually said it but I'm sure some of you thought it. "If you're so clever, let's see you do better!" I'm not sure if I could. I have written fan fiction and I have won convention prizes for it. However, I don't find it easy to write fiction and I don't think I'm particularly good at it. I would not dare to ask anybody to pay for it. I think I work better as a proof-reader and editor but that's a relationship that has to be built. The editor's role is a very difficult one to do properly and perhaps that's sometimes the reason for poor or incomplete work making it into print.

I do appreciate the great contribution that fan fiction has made to Trekdom (not forgetting fan art and fan editing as well). It may be hard for some of the younger or Next Gen fans out there to imagine what it was like in the 70s when there were no videos, no films, only a few pro novels and it was fan

fiction and letter 'zines that kept Trek alive. I haven't read as much from that era as I'd like to but enough to know that the Hugo nominations were earned. (For those who aren't aware, a Hugo award is the science-fiction equivalent of an Oscar.) I'm sure there's really good stuff out there that I've missed. Unfortunately, I do have a life so I don't have the money or the time to see everything.

I hope all this has made my point of view clearer. (I hope somebody has actually read it all the way to the end!!!) If you still want to

debate the issues, fire away. If you can't do it in the Postbag or would like to read my attempts at fiction then my new address is:-

11 Granville Square, Peckham, London SE15 6DU

If I've put anybody off writing fan fiction then please forget everything I've ever said. If I've actually encouraged anybody to take it up then I hope you have plenty of fun along the way. In either case, this is IDIC, your viewpoint is just as valid as mine. So, remember you are not alone and go for it...



MANCHESTER STARFLEET September 1995

by Stephen Shaw

Despite seeing this local group advertised in IDIC, somehow I managed not to do anything about it. My loss.

Local groups have a brief ad in IDIC but very little other mention, so this is to recommend all readers to search out and ATTEND at least one meeting of their local group.

I had visions of the meetings being hard to get to - far from it, they are just a three minute walk from the nearest bus stop.

The meetings run from 1pm to 6pm, and are mainly made up of viewings of Star Trek episodes on a large screen (a better large screen that Wolf had!), normally being two episodes of Deep Space Nine, Two episodes of Voyager and one episode of either classic Trek or The Next Generation.

The meeting we attended had a special screening of the latest movie GENERATIONS - I didn't go to see it in the cinema, avoided it at Sol 3 and Wolf 359, but here I saw it. It's a movie with Trek characters. Sort of. Not a classic. When Kirk died if I felt anything it was relief the movie was nearing the end. There was no emotional response - unlike when Data retrieved his cat, Spot! (Awww). Maybe the fourth best ST movie (or is that the fourth worst?).

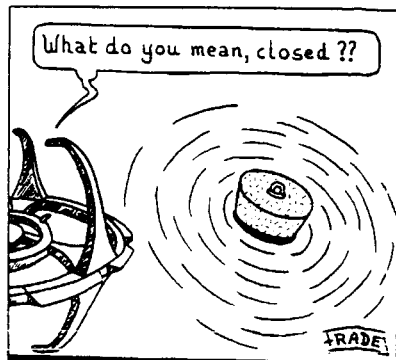
Manchester Starfleet also have a number

of dealer stalls with all manner of goods available - I took advantage of some very nice Tribble notepaper!

And food is available, including salad sandwiches and Chow Mein pot noodle for George!

The meetings are monthly, and very inexpensive - for George and me the cost was the same as hiring a two episode videotape! For anyone wanting to catch up on older episodes (and maybe obtain sponsorship for Children in Need) they are holding a 49 hour continuous video show in November.

Every local group will be different - some small, some large. But until you go, you will not know what you are missing! (AAAAAGH!!!). I now wish some kind soul had dragged me along to Manchester Starfleet back when it all started!



A NEXT GENERATION CHRISTMAS

by Bill McClure

'Twas the night before Christmas
And all through the *Enterprise,*
Not a creature was stirring,
Not even Data's feline.

Our clock was on night-watch,
We were all in a state of R.E.M.
Even Data had settled his brain,
To await a positronic phantasm.

Young Wesley was home
From Starfleet Academy,
With visions of captaincy
Dancing through his sleepy faculties.

When up on the bridge,
There arose such a clatter,
I sprang from my quarters
To see what was the matter.

The crest of the moon
Outside of my porthole
Gave a shimmering of light
To the planet far below.

"Computer, emergency lights!"
I shouted on the go,
And the turbolift became filled
With an eerie red glow.

When the doors finally opened
On the very top floor,
I scanned the room with my VISOR
And nearly dropped to the floor.

Because what to my artificial sight
Did I view,
But a type-6 shuttlecraft
And all the rest of the crew.

They were all adorned
In the finest holiday trimmings.
But I could tell from the captain's
face
That he had serious misgivings.

With a bright flash of light,
Santa quickly came into view.
Such a wicked-looking elf,
We knew in a moment... it had to be Q.

He laughed and he shouted
As he called us by name,
'Dear Crusher, Dear Worf, and
Counselor Troi,
My good Riker, and of course,
Data, my poor android...

"You're all quite dear to me--
Yes, even *you*, Guinan--
So tell me what you want.
Oh, don't look so upset,
my good Captain!"

With a snap of his fingers
And a bright flash of light,
Our deepest wishes all came true
There in the middle of the night.

Data became Human.
My VISOR turned to air.
Will and Deanna fell in love.
The Captain even grew hair!

"Peace with the Romulans."
Santa/Q proclaimed,
"Goodwill toward men,
And even the Borg will be nice
on *this* day.

"To the galaxy's edge
I have taken you all,
Bringing your dreams to life
Because you're so simple, so small.

"But 'tis the holiday season,"
He shouted in glee,
"And I wanted to spend it with you all,
My friends on the Enterprise-D."

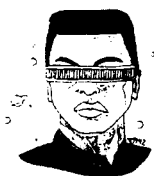
With another flash of light,
He soon disappeared,
Leaving us all to ponder
What it was we had so feared.

And we heard him exclaim
As his flash became short,
"Merry Christmas, Mon Capitan!
You're such a poor sport!"

TOTP 2

by Neil Barrett

Data's sensitive ears picked up a soft footfall amidst the hubbub of Ten-Forward. He looked up to greet the approaching engineer. "Ah, Geordi. It is most kind of you to assist me with my endeavours to understand human emotions."



La Forge settled himself across from his colleague and waved to a nearby server. "No problem. I gather you've been following up some research of Ambassador Spock's?"

"Indeed I have. The ambassador was looking into the popular musical forms of the late twentieth century and found that they were extremely illogical. For example, an impassioned plea to a mail delivery operative to carry out their normal function."

"I think you mean 'Please, Mr Postman'." Geordi explained. "It's artistic expression you know."

"I have tried many forms of artistic expression myself", continued Data, "but I have never found it within myself to consider such illogical subjects as these." He pushed a datapadd across the table towards his friend.

Geordi picked up the padd with a resigned air, sipped at the drink which had now arrived and read the list-

1. Additional Segment of a Highly Rhythmic Musical Form.
2. Musical Vocalisation During Atmospheric Precipitation of Water.
3. Remaining in a Physiologically Active Condition.
4. Terpsichorean Activity in the Absence of Illumination.
5. He is Not of Significant Mass, He is a Male Sibling.

6. I Wish To Express My Gratitude for the Euphonious Arrangement of Sound.
7. Domicile of the Solar Body Becoming Visible Over the Horizon.
8. Desist from Lachrymosity on My Behalf, Major South American Nation.
9. Suffering from a Powerful Physiological or Psychological Attachment to a State of Deep Emotional Attraction.
10. I Was Responsible for the Discharge of a Firearm Thus Occasioning the Demise of a Law-Enforcement Official.
11. Desist from Fracturing My Prime Circulatory Organ.
12. Periods of Darkness Clad by Undyed Fabric Woven from the Excretions of Bombyx Mori.
13. A Less Colourful Variant of a Hue Which is Already of Low Intensity.
14. An Employee of a Potato-Based, High-Speed Catering Establishment is Insistent that he is a Popular American Singer Generally Presumed to be Deceased.
15. I Am No Longer in Possession of My Prime Circulatory Organ Since it was Taken From Me by a Security Officer Assigned to a Major Space-going Vessel.

"Do you see my dilemma?" enquired Data hopefully. "However, I am most puzzled by the large number of references to intense emotional attraction."

"Love, Data. It's called love." Geordi couldn't quite help smiling as he spoke.

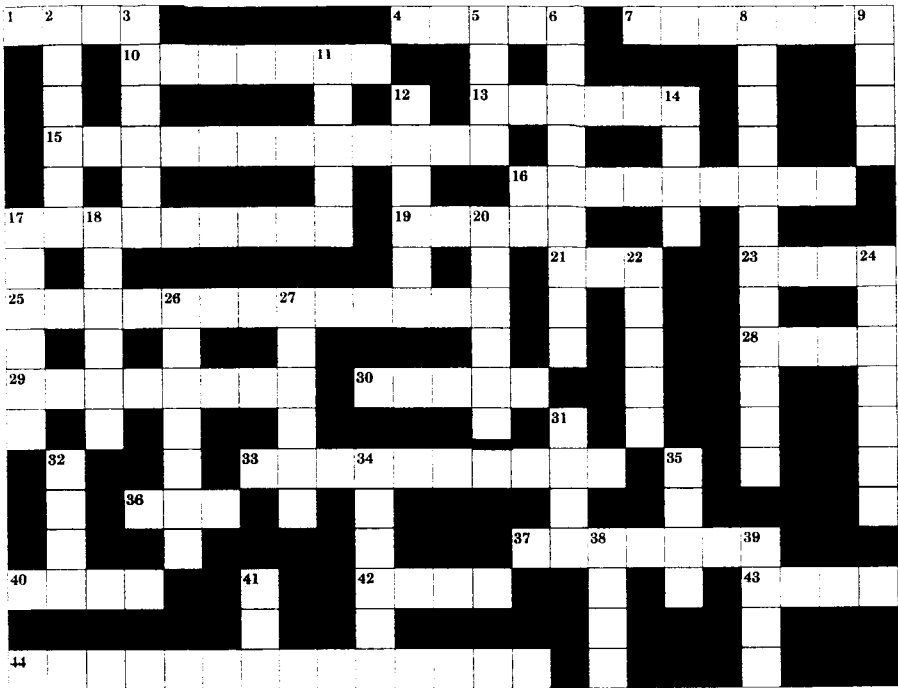
"Exactly." Data cocked his head to one side slightly, "There were a number of songs which were intended to assure the listener that this particular emotion was of great importance. For example, 'Emotional Attraction is Ubiquitous' or 'Emotional Attraction Permeates the Atmosphere' or 'Emotional Attraction is a Multiply Decorated Concept' or 'Emotional Attraction has the Highest Concentration of Sucrose' or..."

Geordi groaned softly and signalled for another drink...

Answers on page 85

A Non-symmetrical Crossword

by Keefy



ACROSS

1. Reptile creature sent to a planet with Kirk by the Metrons (4).
2. Stores its eggs in the Vault of Tomorrow (5).
7. The S.S. Botany Bay was this type of ship (7).
10. Asteroid deflector built by the Preservers (7).
13. The crew of this ship were turned into crystals (6).
15. Ben Finney died in this episode (5,7).
16. Illusion creators, almost destroyed by nuclear war (9).
17. Life-forms who took over Mira Romaine's body (9).
19. The Dohlman of Elas (5).
21. The building blocks of life (1,1,1).
23. Sister world to Zeon (4).
25. Roman T.V. program featuring gladiatorial combat (4,3,6).
28. Sol is one of these (4).
29. The Enterprise encountered this race whilst trying to rescue the original Defiant (8).
30. The Vulcan living spirit (5).
33. See 8 down.
36. Android built by the old ones (3).
37. A race of Chicago mobsters ? (7).
40. See 35 down.
42. Murderer of High Teer Akaar (4).
43. Died on Eden after eating acid fruit (4).
44. American leader re-created by the Excalbians (7,7).

DOWN

2. Computer that guides the Fabrini (6).
3. Admiral who gave Kirk the Enterprise to tackle V'Ger (6).
5. Scalosian jealous of Kirk and Deela (4).
6. The Platonian lacking telekenetic powers (9).

- 8&33 Across. Gary Mitchell's power (5,7,10)
 9. Yeoman Janice (4).
 11. Andorian ambassador at the Babel Conference (5).
 12. Very over-crowded planet led by Hodin (6).
 14. Yeoman Teresa who danced with Trelane (4).
 17. Volatile mineral/gas found on Ardana (6).
 18. Taught Chekov to fight for the games on Triskelion (6).
 20. Ship stolen by Dr Sevrin to look for Eden (6).
 22. Book character conjured up by McCoy on the amusement park planet (5).
 24. Cloud City (7).
 26. Planet on which only children survived mass suicide (7).
 27. Commanded the Lexington during M5 test (6).
 31. One of the Elders on Miramanee's planet (4).
 32. One of Khan's followers (4).
 34&40 Across Disease that McCoy still hadn't a cure for (6,4).
 35. Ruled a quarter of Earth from 1992-96 (4)
 38. Sulu didn't like being called this (4).
 39. Richard Daystrom was not this (4)
 41. Forced by Vians to watch as Kirk, Spock and McCoy are tortured (3).

Answers page 85



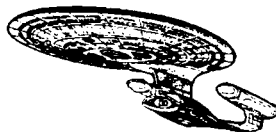
NAME THAT EPISODE!

by
 Lindsey Jane Shelton

Which TNG episodes did these dialogue gems appear in? If you get them all correct, give yourself a treat!

1. "I refuse to believe the after-life is run by you. The universe is not so badly designed."
2. "How did you like command?"
 "Comfortable chair."
3. "Those who cannot hear an angry shout may strain to hear a whisper."
4. "Ugly bags of mostly water."
5. "If you were not an Ambassador I would disembowel you right here!"
6. "It's possible we've tried this a thousand times and it's never worked."
7. "And you, Jean-Luc, I wasn't aware you had such handsome legs."
8. "Oh, and get that fish out of my ready room."
9. "You're not used to playing with anyone, are you?"
10. "Commander, tell me about your sexual organs."
11. "It thinks the Enterprise is its mother."
12. "Aren't you going to mingle, Mr Woof?"
13. "I have not observed anyone else on board consulting you on their procreation, Captain."
14. "A blind man teaching an android to paint. That's got to be worth a couple of pages in somebody's book."
15. "Sir, I protest. I am not a merry man."
16. "This intelligence that swims naked through space like a fish in the sea. Totally alien, mysterious... ancient and alone. Lonely."
17. "Why didn't you ever tell me you were in love with me?"
18. "I should have done this a long time ago."
19. "If you are going to use this person to destroy his race, you should at least look him in the eye once before you do it."
20. "Honey, I'm home!"

Answers page 85



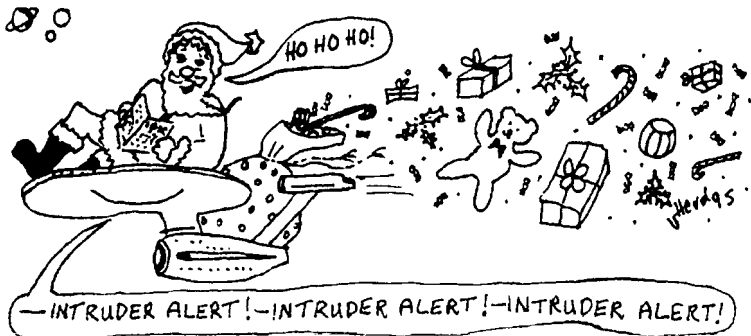
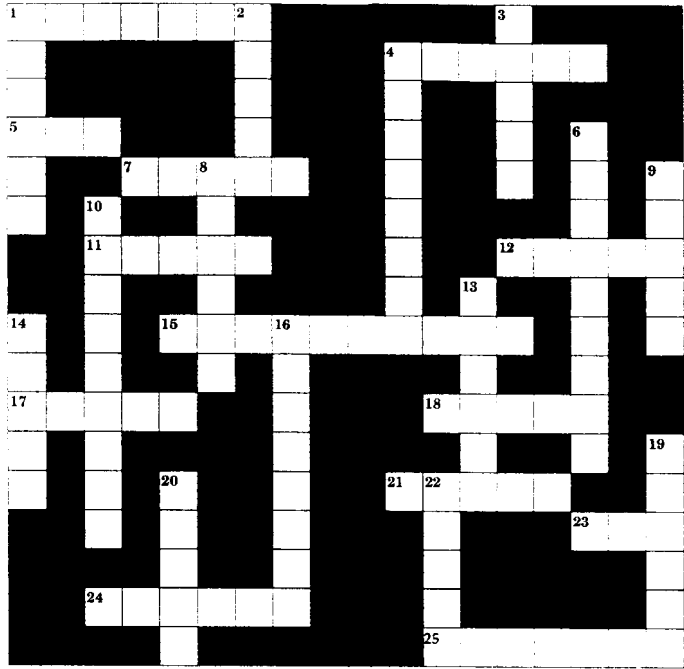
DS9 CROSSWORD

Compiled by C ²

Across


- 1 How to find the answer (7)
 4 Make no Bones about it! (6)
 5 A shifting force (3)
 7 Find the people (4 down) and you find the place (5)
 11 One of a singing duo (5)
 12 A suitable humanoid (5)
 15 Rancid ass, a new foe! (10)
 17 Travel far for an engineer (5)
 18 The first quadrant (5)
 21 A major advantage for DS9 (5)
 23 One Ferengis' best feature (3)
 24 An earlier version of 11 across (6)
 25 Rap on the port for Sisko and Dax (7)
- Down
 1 Keiko puts Jake in his place (6)
 2 Does he ski? So far, no! (5)
 3 Usually the boss, but actually 17 across (5)
 4 Who bars Joan from station owners? (8)
 6 Where to find 23 across (9)
 8 Foremost of 4 across (6)

- 9 He left the hot seat for Sisko (5)
 10 Fleets art is always worth a look (9)
 13 Occupation for 12 across (6)
 14 Magma found through the wormhole (5)
 16 The force through the wormhole (8)
 19 Odo's dearest wish when Quark errs at last (6)
 20 One who lives by many rules (5)
 22 Bashir's attitude, you'll agree! (5)
 Answers page 85



1. Name the very first Star Trek pilot.
2. Which 2-parter featured footage from the above pilot?
3. In which episode did Chekov 'die'?
4. In which three episodes did Kirk 'die'?
5. Temporarily suffering from a terminal illness, McCoy left the Enterprise crew. Name the episode and woman he intended to marry.
6. In which episode did the landing party meet Abraham Lincoln, Kahless and Surak?
7. In Friday's Child, Eelen was the wife of the High Teer. Name her new born son.
8. In Amok Time, when Spock is confronted in his quarters by the Captain, who wants an explanation for his odd behaviour, what is he holding behind his back? a) a pen, b) a bowl of plomeek soup c) a picture of T'Poling. Choose one.
9. Name Kirk's brother.
10. In All Our Yesterdays, Kirk was jailed for a) stealing b) owning a sword without a license c) witchcraft.
11. In which TNG episode did Colm Meaney first appear?
12. Name Worf's son.
13. Data's cat is called a) Tribble b) Spot c) Stinky
14. In The Icarus Factor, which member of the Enterprise crew did Riker discover his father had had an affair with?
15. Name Deanna Troi's mother, and the actress who portrays her.
16. In which episode did we first meet K'Ehleyr?
17. Who discovered that Data was 'fully functional'? In what episode?
18. Name Picard's old flame in We'll Always Have Paris.
19. What was the name of Wesley's father?
20. On which ship did Wesley's father serve with Picard?
21. In which DS9 episode did O'Brien meet Rumpelstiltskin?
22. Which first season Bajoran religious leader named Sisko the Emissary?
23. What is the name of Quark's brother?
24. Jadzia Dax is a) a Trill b) a Brillo c) a Bajoran.
25. In which episode did Tahna Los arrive at DS9?
26. What did Lursa and B'Etor come to sell him?
27. What popular TV character inspired Morn's name?
28. Name the final episode of DS9's first season.
29. What is the name of Quark's nephew?
30. Name the Ferengi Grand Nagus.

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Answers Page 86



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(THE KLINGON DIRECTORY)

There are over a quarter of a million fans out there with a Klingon Dictionary, but how many of them have started on the road to bilingualism, get stuck at the first hurdle and end up content to reel off a few standard phrases? All this because they didn't know anyone to practise with or discuss any problems.

In order to provide a means for all current and would-be Klingon students to get back on track and raise their over-all level of Klingon competency, the Klingon High

Council have instructed me to produce The Klingon Directory. The Directory is to list all those interested in and currently studying the Klingon language, thereby providing you with the necessary access to all those other Klingon students. You never know, you might actually find yourself writing or talking to an actual Klingon. 'oy' DaSIQjaj.

For those Klingons on covert missions wishing to honour the High Council instruction, you must write 'covert' in front of your current address. Your location will then

not be listed, but remain a secret. i have however been empowered to redirect all your correspondence arriving at Directory HQ. jljathpa' jath Hovmey.

It is to your advantage to be included in the first edition, and you can be listed with as many or as few details as you wish. Preferably the details provided for a listing will consist of -

Skill level/ Terran name/ Klingon name/ Address/ Comm. Ref. No.

Skill Level Chart

	<u>Spoken</u>	<u>Written</u>
Fluent	1	A
Good	2	B
Beginner	3	C
Interested	4	D

(For example, a good speaker learning to write = 2C)

Send your details enclosing only 10p to cover admin to the address below. Your listing is for life, if you wish it, and you can change your details as often as you wish. When the Directory is ready for publishing I will notify your clubs in the same way. Orders should not be sent until then. QuvlljDaq yIH tu'be'lu'jaj.

Send details to - Jon Brown, Terran Liaison Officer, The Klingon Directory, 21 Linden Way, Ellington, Northumberland, NE61 5EY, England, comm ref 01670 862037

vlgHltlhta' DalaDmoHtaH Hlbatlh.

ANSWERS

TOP2

1. Rock'n'Roll (Part 2)
2. Singing in the Rain
3. Stayin' Alive
4. Dancing in the Dark
5. He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother
6. Thank You for the Music
7. House of the Rising Sun
8. Don't Cry for Me Argentina
9. Addicted to Love
10. I Shot the Sheriff
11. Don't Go Breaking My Heart

12. Nights in White Satin
13. A Whiter Shade of Pale
14. There's a Guy Works Down the Chip Shop Swears He's Elvis
15. I Lost My Heart to a Starship Trooper

Data's confusion continued with 'Love is All Around', 'Love is in the Air', 'Love is a Many Splendoured Thing' and 'Love is the Sweetest Thing'.

Non-Symmetrical Crossword

Across:

- 1 Gorn; 4 Horta; 7 Sleeper; 10 Obelisk; 13 Exeter; 15 Court Martial; 16 Talosians; 17 Zetarians; 19 Elaan; 21 DNA; 23 Ekos; 25 Name the Winner; 28 Star; 29 Tholians; 30 Katra; 33 Perception; 36 Ruk; 37 Iotians; 40 Cold; 42 Maab; 43 Adam; 44 Abraham Lincoln

Down:

- 1 Oracle; 3 Nogura; 5 Rael; 6 Alexander; 8 Extra Sensory; 9 Rand; 11 Shras; 12 Gideon; 14 Ross; 17 Zenite; 18 Tamoon; 20 Aurora; 22 Alice; 24 Stratos; 26 Triacus; 27 Wesley; 31 Goro; 32 Otto; 34 Common; 35 Khan; 38 Tiny; 39 Sane; 41 Gem

Name that Episode

1. Tapestry (season 6); 2. The Emissary (season 2); 3. The Host (season 4); 4. Home Soil (season 1); 5. Liaisons (season 7); 6. Cause and Effect (season 5); 7. Manhunt (season 2); 8. Chain of Command I (season 6); 9. Lessons (season 6); 10. The Outcast (season 5); 11. Galaxy's Child (season 4); 12. Dark Page (season 7); 13. The Offspring (season 3); 14. 11001001 (season 1); 15. Qpid (season 4); 16. Tin Man (season 3); 17. Attached (season 7); 18. All Good Things (season 7); 19. I, Borg (season 5); 20. In Theory (season 4).

DS9 Crossword

Across

1. Sensors, 4. Bashir, 5. Odo, 7. Bajor, 11. Trill, 12. Garak, 15. Carrasian, 17. Miles, 18. Alpha, 21. Nerys, 23. Ear, 24. Curzon, 25. Rapport

Down

1. School, 2. Sisko, 3. Chief, 6. Quarks Bar, 8 Julian, 9. Dukat, 10. Starfleet, 13. Tailor, 14 Gamma, 16. Dominion, 19. Arrest, 20. Quark, 22. Eager

Quiz

1. The Cage 2. The Menagerie 3. Spectre of the Gun 4. Amok Time, The Enterprise Incident, The Tholian Web 5. For the World is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky. He was to marry Natira, High Priestess of the Oracle of Yonada. 6. The Savage Curtain 7. Leonard James Akaar 8. a 9. George Samuel Kirk 10. c 11. In Encounter at Farpoint, Meaney played a conn ensign 12. Alexander 13. b 14. Dr Pulaski 15. Lwaxana Troi; Majel Barrett 16. The Emissary 17. Tasha Yar in The Naked Now 18. Jenice Mannheim 19. Jack Crusher 20. The USS Stargazer 21. If Wishes Were Horses 22. Kai Opaka 23. Rom 24. a 25. Past Prologue 26. Bilitrium 27. Norm, of Cheers 28. In The Hands of the Prophets 29. Nog 30. Grand Nagus Zek.



REVIEWS - BOOKS/VIDEOS ETC.



• **THE WAY OF THE WARRIOR** by Diane Carey, based on the episode written by Ira Steven Behr & Robert Hewitt Wolfe DS9 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

The Klingons are threatening the newly-formed civilian Cardassian government; Sisko calls Worf to DS9 to help him understand the Klingons, and try to prevent a war which will destroy the Klingon-Federation alliance and risk the entire future of the Alpha Quadrant.

The above is a very potted resume of the story - I don't want to say more in case I spoil things for those who haven't seen the episode and want to see it before they read the book.

In her review of First Frontier, also by Diane Carey, Catherine Carter commented on the use of the oddest words instead of "he said". This one falls into the same trap - "He cauterized", for example, where "he said caustically" would seem more grammatically correct. Is Diane Carey trying to start a new fashion in brevity taken to idiotic extremes?

In spite of the above comment, I felt that the book does move well, and I thoroughly enjoyed it - as a book. My only objection is that, although all the DS9 characters do get at least one scene (and in Quark's case, very short) it's primarily about Worf - of course, the episode is introducing Worf to DS9. I do, however, hope that Worf's opinion of the Klingons' actions and way of life (as given in the book) is also included in the episode. 9 out of 10.

Although I enjoyed the book, I'm not so sure I enjoy the way DS9 is heading; and I'm beginning to think that the crew of Voyager had maybe better stop trying to find a quick way home - they're better off where they are!

• **THE LAST STAND** by Brad Ferguson TNG 37 Pocket Books. Reviewed by Sheila Clark

During a routine mapping expedition the Enterprise picks up three short bursts of warp energy. Investigating, the crew finds a world that is about to be attacked by an enormous enemy fleet which is bent on the total destruction of the race living there - an attack which has been six thousand years in the making.

Even although the basic plot is hardly original, I think this is the best TNG book there has been for some time. Mr Ferguson avoids the trap that Ms Wright fell into with Violations, and eschews technobabble, concentrating instead on the reactions of the various characters to the situation in which they find themselves. The result is a highly readable story with a mix of characters ranging from the ones who would like to find a peaceful settlement to the ones for whom peace is a betrayal of all their ancestors fought for.

I read the book at a sitting (although I had other things I should have been doing) and give it a well-deserved 9.5 out of 10.

• **STATION RAGE** by Diane Carey Pocket Books DS9 13 £4.50.
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

While investigating some previously unexplored sections of the station, O'Brien and Odo find a sealed, airless room; inside it are a dozen stone slabs, with a Cardassian corpse lying on each one. Garak tells Sisko that the existence of these bodies should not be reported to the Cardassian authorities, and the room should be sealed up again - but then he returns secretly, applies a heating unit to one of them, and the corpses revive - they have been in suspended animation. They proceed to take over the station... but meanwhile the Cardassian officer who was responsible for preserving the High Gul and some of his elite guard 80 years previously decides that he must now destroy them...

Frankly, I found this one much ado about very little, and not particularly believable. I couldn't see how stone slabs could hold anyone in suspended animation, especially in an airless environment (I always understood that although breathing slows down considerably during hibernation, it does not cease altogether), I would certainly have expected them all to die after 80 years with no nourishment, nor could I see how merely applying a heating unit to a slab could revive them. I was doubtful about the ease with which the "corpses" understood the technology on DS9, built threequarters of the way through their hibernation, even although it was basically Cardassian. Added to that, there seemed no logic in the Cardassian officer not killing the High Gul and all his men when he had the chance 80 years earlier (even though it is explained why he didn't). I may have missed something, but I don't remember anything being said about Cardassians living to be an active 100+, either. There were the threads of a good story in there somewhere; I just found it impossible to suspend disbelief.

From the writing point of view, Ms Carey's own characters, especially the High Gul, are well enough drawn, and I did like, towards the end, when Kira found herself respecting the High Gul despite herself. It's a pity the plot is so in, un or non credible.

One last point - I *hate* the cover. It's not quite a phobia, but I do have an extreme dislike of skulls. 5/10.

• **INCIDENT AT ARBUK** by John Gregory Betancourt Pocket Books Voy5 £4.50
Reviewed by Sheila Clark

When Harry Kim picks up a faint distress call, Janeway considers it her duty to answer it., and finds herself in the midst of what can only be called a civil war.

I do like it when a plot can be described in one sentence; it argues a straightforward story without too many convolutions and subplots, and that is exactly what this is. It's not a brilliant story, but it is straightforward. I do wish, though, that writers would get away from the formula of - situation arising, Janeway calls Neelix, Neelix, giving reasons, recommends avoiding the area, but Janeway goes in anyway (and of course Neelix is right). Mr Betancourt tells a plain story, with only one obvious subplot (one of the ex-Maquis, a mercenary con-man, trying to set up a scam) which is resolved in exactly the way I like that kind of situation to be resolved. In other words, he didn't feel the need to pad out his story with complicated side issues. He also knows his Trek well enough to make a reference to a (classic) episode.

All too often, when reading the pro novels, I either positively ignore the grammatical or spelling mistakes I see or - in the worst cases - reach mentally for a red pen; here I was only aware of one mistake - I didn't take a note of the exact quote, but basically you do not martial your thoughts. (Actually, I've been aware of homonym mistakes a lot recently.) I'd give this one 7/10.

• **STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE 9 - REQUIEM** (Graphic Novel) Boxtree £7.99
Reviewed by James O Donovan

This graphic novel is made up of 3 stories, which vary in quality so much I will review each one separately.

REQUIEM - This story takes up half the

book and is by far the best of the three. When DS9's primary reactor explodes the crew is left with a choice of evacuating the station before reactor No 2 goes down, or trying to power up one of the redundant reactors. Sisko decides on powering up the redundant reactor, with a little help from a renegade Cardassian engineer. The plot deepens when O'Brien finds the diary of a Bajoran child who has been living in the core of the station for two years, thinking the Cardassians are still in charge. This is a very good story which keeps you guessing right up until the end, and you really do feel for Kira who becomes obsessed with finding the child. It easily scores 8/10.

DESCENDANTS - This story has a great start, but it all goes downhill from there on. It begins with two humanoid creatures emerging from the wormhole without the use of a ship or spacesuits. Once they enter the station they are mobbed by the Bajorans who believe they are the Prophets; obviously they are not. Overall the story would have been OK if it was made clearer how Odo saw through the creatures' deception, and as this is an important point in the plot, it really ruins the over-all story. If anybody can explain how Odo saw through the ploy, please write in and tell me! Because of this discrepancy, it only scores 6/10.

A SHORT FUSE - Words can't describe how bad this story is. It deals with Jake, Nog and a bomb on the station. This example will show you how bad it is; Jake and Nog are sitting above the Promenade when they see Odo coming, and expect to be moved on.

However, when Odo ignores them Jake

asks him what's wrong. Odo tells them there's a bomb on the station and asks them not to tell anyone! Does this sound like the Odo we all know? I'll give this 4/10, but that's mainly due to the daydream sequence at the start and when they talk about their mothers.

Over all, the books scores 7/10, but this is mainly due to the first story, *Requiem*. If you can get a loan of it, do so; if you can get it from the library, do so - but think twice before buying it.

• **STAR TREK 1996 DESK DIARY** Pocket Books £9.99 Reviewed by Sheila Clark

Well, a diary is a diary is a diary; the question is, is this one worth £9.99?

On balance, I'd have to say yes, it is. All left hand pages consist of colour pictures (from all four series, movies and animations, some from make-up, and a rather nice shot of Majel and Gene) and some of the right hand pages also include a small colour photo; the reproduction of these is mostly pretty good. These pages also include some general Trek information.

The calendars give the birthdays for the actors involved in that particular series; the diary gives them all, as well as public holiday dates for all round the world and even the start and end of British Summer Time!

My only objection is, it will be hard to use it as a diary; the temptation to keep it as a photo album is very strong!



ZINE REVIEWS

• **MAKE IT SO 14**

Reviewed by Lindsey Jane Shelton

This zine has a lovely art cover by Christa Richert which warmed me to it before I'd even opened it! It contains three poems and four stories. Being a fan writer I have a great respect for poets; I always find poetry so

hard. All the ones in here are excellent. Particular mention must go to Lee Sansome's *Letting Go* - Riker's thoughts on taking command following Picard's abduction by the Borg. A very moving depiction.

Inquest on a Final Mission by P J Poole is what the title says, really - a short story

centering around Wesley Crusher. I really liked this, which speaks volumes as Wes has never been a favourite of mine. I loved Captain Postikov. I know this zine was probably printed a few years ago (being number 14, and ScoTpress is currently on number 25!) but a crossover story pitching her against Picard - what a story that would make!

Surprise, Surprise by Bonnie Holmyard. A shortie about Worf's attempts to entertain the other senior staff, and what happens when it doesn't go according to plan. This was quite good, one of several, I gathered, about the senior officers spending more leisure time together. I liked the idea - you never saw much of that in the programme, and I'm sure they would have in reality (apart from the constant poker games, and why do they always wear their uniforms even when they are off duty?)


The Right Born by Gaile Wood. Quite an interesting read, introducing the Lavithians, a blind humanoid race who have developed sonar abilities and telepathy. The story concerns the inauguration of a new President after the death of the old one under suspicious circumstances.

Lost and Found by Debbie Lee. The final and longest story, which took up over half the zine. I loved this - what a great story, and a must for Beverly Crusher fans. "How the hell did we manage to leave one of our most senior officers behind?" Riker asks, but the answer is totally believable. The good Doctor is accidentally left on Batta 5 after its


evacuation. Still unconscious, she is taken aboard a ship captained by none other than Lore. The verbal duelling between them is very enjoyable. The author depicts Beverly's firm, no-nonsense attitude to her predicament brilliantly, and Lore's obviously unstable nature and bizarre mood swings are equally accurate. Dialogue is hard to write, but in this story you can hear the characters speaking. It's simply great!

All in all, MIS 14 is one to get your little mittens on. I've read lots of Make It Sos, and this is definitely one of my favourites. At £2.50 it's excellent value. Get it now while stocks last!

Make It So 14 is available from ScoTpress - see zine ads for ordering info.

See zine ads for ordering details. 

NEW ZINES

Gloria Fry
KINGS OF PROPHECY - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 2. Sequel to BOOK OF PROPHECY. Kirk and his comrades continue their quests and attempt to fulfil the prophecy if they are to save the land of Arigol and its inhabitants from the King of Evil. A4 format. 106 pages. UK: £5. Europe: £6 or £5+3 Irc's (incl p&p). Includes more fabulous art by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless. Kirk T-shirts now available at UK: £11. Europe: £12 or £10+5 Irc's. 

ZINE ADS

You can send your Zine Ads to either Janet or Sheila. We reserve the right to edit for length. We will print these ads in **two** consecutive newsletters only unless we receive an update. **Each advert has the date of the newsletter it was last updated with.**

"Age statement required" means the zine will be sold only to readers who are legally adults.

Zines referred to as K/S or "/" indicate zines with a homosexual element.

IDIC/ScoTpress (12/95) @ = new title
All zines A5, UK Price £2.50, unless otherwise stated, includes postage. Rest of Europe add £0.50 per zine.

IDIC LOG 16 - Kruge's family seeks revenge for his death on Genesis, and Kirk is their

target. Few left.

IDIC LOG 17 - The Enterprise is on a mission to a planet whose inhabitants destroy everyone who contacts them; Kirk and the Enterprise are pawns in a vengeance hunt; others.

IDIC LOG 18; Dreams, a novel by Ruth King.

ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 11 - Stories by Jay Stevens. An alien entity takes control of the crew - but do they know it?; Kirk and Spock encounter a teacher... with a difference.

SODDE'S GAMBIT - a novel by Brenda Kelsey. Sequel to Fifty Ways, but does stand on its own. T'Pring has changed her mind and now wants Spock after all... Few left.

BLOW BACK by Nicole Comtet. A sequel to Return to the Source. T'Pring's hatred of Spock continues. Few left.

ENTERPRISE INCIDENTS 12 - story by Rosemarie Heaton. A series of errors by Spock shakes Kirk's confidence in his First Officer.

ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 93 - stories by Rosemarie Heaton, Alan Boag, Linda Carter, Alex Blakeney, Pen Cramphorn & Jean Sloan.

ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 92, Kirk is charged with treason; Spock and McCoy are stranded; an Admiral comes aboard for an inspection; McCoy is very ill and there is no other doctor available.

MAKE IT SO 25 - stories by Anne Keown. Sandra Edge, Liz Aris & Christine Carr.

MAKE IT SO 24 - more stories about the crew of 1701-D.

MAKE IT SO 23 - An old friend of Picard's thinks Jack Crusher is still alive and Wesley just a baby; four new crewmembers turn out to be more than the crew bargained for; an Admiral discovers that Data has routinely been assigned to working 24 hours out of 24 on all his previous ships; a new crew member has dreams; Deanna is kidnapped; two stories featuring Spot.

MAKE IT SO 21, 22.

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.

Foreign prices: Europe, add 50p per zine for

A5 titles, £1 per zine for the others; Australia/Japan write to Sheila for prices, enclosing an SAE + IRC. We have authorised Bill Hupe to reprint and sell IDIC & Scotpress zines in America, Canada and APO/FPO outside Britain; send to him for prices, enclosing a SAE.

SALE

A4 zines all now sale price - £2.50 unless otherwise stated. Price includes UK postage; rest of Europe please add £1 per zine.

We have very few of some of these titles.

ATTUCLAC by David Gomm;
CAPRICCIO ITALIEN by Sue Jones;
CHOSEN BROTHER by Gloria Fry;
KINDRED SPIRIT by Gloria Fry;
LOVELY - A LITTLE PROBLEM by Brenda Kelsey; **ORCADIA** by Joyce Devlin; **ENTERPRISE-LOG ENTRIES 82, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89**; **IDIC LOG 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15**. **STAR TREK CREDITS** - a listing of the Classic Trek credits by Janet Quarton £1.50; **A CITY WITHOUT WALLS** by Alinda Alain £2; **GZAZARA** by Alinda Alain £2; **ESSAYS OF AQUARIUS** by Marion van der Voort £3.00. This one is not Star Trek but there are many similarities
TNG - MAKE IT SO 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14; **IDIC LOG 14**.

Send submissions of **TNG, DS9 & VOYAGER** material to Sheila Clark, (address above) and Classic Trek material to Valerie Piacentini, 20 Ardrossan Rd, Saltcoats, Ayrshire, Scotland.

BILL HUPE & PEG KENNEDY (10/95)

Authorised US agent for Scotpress/IDIC, Deep Dark Press, Gloria Fry, Kay Stag, Janet Ellicott, Linda Wood, BSFR, PPPress (all of their zines have been turned over solely to us for publishing), Airwaves Special Editions, Naked Now (South Africa). We are also US agent for Horizon, the B&B Appreciation Society and Judith Proctor.

Many 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'Kuhntian Press titles (Warped Space,

Obsc'zine) and many other classic out of print fanzines; many other titles available. SASE + 4 IRCs for a full list. We can accept personal cheques from the U.K. Please add 1.5% for bank charges. Bill Hupe & Peg Kennedy - Footrot Flats, 916 Lamb Rd, Mason, MI 48854-9554 USA. 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 (12/95)

"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.

Merry Men Press (10/95)

Merry Men Press catalogue. This comprehensive catalogue contains complete information for all the publications from one of fandom's longest running and most 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 and 2 IRCs for when you want the current flyers to be added to the rest. 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 8** (DS9 stories) SASE for info. Merry Men Press, 274 Roanoke Ed, El Cajon, CA 92020, USA.

Gloria Fry (12/95)

NEW: KINGS OF PROPHECY - A Star Trek

fantasy adventure: Volume 2 (Sequel to 'Book Of Prophecy') in which Kirk and his comrades continue their quests and attempt to fulfil the prophecy if they are to save the land of Arigol and its inhabitants from the King of Evil. A4 format. 106 pages. UK:£5. Europe: £6 or £5+3Irc's (incl p&p). **BOOK OF PROPHECY** - A Star Trek fantasy adventure: Volume 1 - in which Kirk, Spock, McCoy, Uhura, Chapel, Sulu & 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. UK: £5. Europe: £6 or £5+3 Ircs (incl p&p). Art includes stunning long-haired Kirk and Spock portraits by Maggie Symon. Short run of T-shirts available M, L, XL. (Kirk or Spock) UK: £11 each. Europe: £12 or £10+5 Irc's (incl p&p). Also available cards - Kirk or Spock 60p each. For up to five cards add 30p for p&p. For up to ten cards add 50p for p&p.

SHADOWS OF THE MIRROR (A mirror-universe crossover novel taking place immediately after the episode 'Mirror Mirror.') The Mirror-Kirk, after a purge against all who oppose him, takes vengeance on his and Spock's counterparts. His actions alter the course of the Empire and his relationship with his First Officer forever. A4 format. 124 pages. UK: £6. Europe: £7 or £5+5 Irc's (incl p&p). All 'zines illustrated by Maggie Symon and Raymond Sless. Available from: Gloria Fry, 16 Frankfort Street, GLASGOW, G41 3XG. I have authorised Bill Hupe to sell my zines in America.

SPACE-TIME CONTINUUM (12/95)

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 7HG 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.

(10/95)

FICTION FILE - an all fiction based newsletter dedicated to ST-TNG, Babylon 5, The X Files and Blakes 7. Dues £3 plus 6 stamped addressed envelopes (A5) for year's membership. For further information contact Lindsey Shelton, 94 Parkes Street, Smethwick, Warley, W. Midlands B67 6BH.

10/95

K/S Zines - various. Also slash Hooker/Corrigan stories - A Touch of Blue £6; Blue Heat £5, and a Hooker/Romano story - Blue Murders £6.50. All prices include p/p. Make cheques payable to Mrs Barbara Grainger. SAE for lists. Age statement required. Mrs Babs Grainger, 268A High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1OZ.

Brenda Callagher (10/95)

DREAMS - a full-length story by Ruth King. This version was revised and rewritten in 1995 and differs from the first draft which has just been released by IDIC.

"I can afford to be patient. I have all the time in the world. And I will have my revenge, maybe not in your lifetime, Kirk... but I will destroy you." So vows Sepek at the start of a full-length story that has an Away Team from the Enterprise D travelling through the Guardian of Forever to prevent the destruction of James Kirk and his crew. 81 pages with photocopied cover. UK - £3 including postage. USA/Canada/Australia - £7 airmail, £5 surface. Europe/Eire - £5. (IMOs or bank drafts in UK sterling only), made payable to B. Callagher. Order from Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ

AIRWAVES: a computer printed multimedia zine, photocopied Issues 39 and 40 now available. Issue 41 out in December. SASE (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 - issue 1 contains standard leaps, issue 2 will feature 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. Send to: Miss B Callagher, 195 Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 0TQ.

Zines by Pat Mitchell (12/95)

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.

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.

10/95

STAR TREK DISK MAGAZINE. Two high density disks crammed with articles, guides, reviews, games, pictures, sounds and fonts. The majority of the contents will work on any

PC and everything is easy to access thanks to instructions on disk and paper. I hope to make this a bi-monthly production and would appreciate letters, questions and articles for future issues. To order send a cheque for £5 inc. P+P to C Jonkmans, Finavon, Pepin D'or, Petites, Capelles, St. Sampsons, Guernsey GY2 4GS 

CONVENTIONS/ADVERTS/CLUBS/GROUPS

Conventions



Janet receives a list of conventions worldwide 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 an 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.

STAR TREK: THE EXHIBITION: The London Group is organising a private party for fans at the Exhibition at the Science Museum on Saturday 27th January 1996, from 7.00pm until midnight. Five hours private viewing, canapes, cash bar. Tickets £25 each until 31/12/95, £30 thereafter. Hotel rooms available nearby. Tickets only available in advance: no on-the-door. Please send SAE for further details to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

STARBASE 96, Starbase 96, February 2nd-4th 1996, Hilton National Hotel, Leeds. Guests of Honour: Patti Yasutake (TNG; Nurse Ogawa) and Jennifer Hetrick (TNG/

DS9; Vash). Full video programme including latest DS9 and Voyager, as well as the new US Sci Fi programmes from this year. Fancy Dress, Discos, Competitions and much more. Registration: Full Weekend £40, other rates available upon request. Hotel room rates: £29pppn sharing and £35 single including breakfast. For more details and a registration form contact: Carol Looby, 152 Otley Road, Headingley, Leeds LS16 5JX.

CEILIDH Friday 9th Feb 1996 at the Cafe Royal, West Register Street, Edinburgh in aid of The Scottish Star Trek Convention. 8 pm till 1 am. Tickets £8 each or £15 for two. For more info SAE to Starbase East Coast, 195/2 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh EH6 5LQ or email us on local@starbeco.demon.co.uk.

UNIFICATION II: 15th-17th March 1996, Holiday Inn Leicester. Confirmed guest Roy Brocksmitth (Kolrami, STNG). Other guests to be announced. For details send SAE to: Unification II, 8 Ennerdale Close, Leicester LE2 4TN.

IRECON 6, (Klingon Language Academy) Date: 4th - 8th April 1996. Location: Jurv's Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Republic Of Ireland. Theme: Activity Based Fan Con for fans not wanting to attend the professional con in the Royal Albert Hall on the same weekend. Rates not yet set. GOH: (To be Confirmed); Support: Lawrence M. Schoen, Director of the Klingon Language Institute. Information send a SSAE (in Ireland) or IRC/SAE (Outside Ireland): Mairead King, Dublin Fan Con, 4 Lisin, Tullyglass, Shannon Town Co. Clare; Tel:INT-353/(0)61-472812/361986; Fax: 360210 and E-Mail: wise@iol.ie

GENERATIONS II 6th-8th April 1995. Albert Hall, London. Guests (subject to work commitments): Leonard Nimoy, James Doohan, George Takei, Walter Koenig, Robert Picardo. More guests yet to be confirmed. Tickets £10-£45 per day. This is run for profit by Stargazer Productions International Ltd. To book phone 01527-65655. For more information phone 0891-517037 (UK only). Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times.

WARP TWO The 41st British Star Trek Convention. 2nd to 6th May 1996, Cardiff International Arena. Videos, discos, auctions, games, dealers etc. Confirmed guests (subject to work commitments): Robert Picardo, Nana Visitor, Walter Koenig, Mark Lenard, Richard Arnold. Registration £35. For details send a large SASE to Warp Two, David Simons, 69, Merlin Crescent, Edgware, Middx, HA8 6JB, England.

MERIDIAN - 21 - 23 June 1996 in the Rieckhof in Hamburg, Germany. Confirmed guests Marc Alaimo, Bjo Trimble, Dean Jones (make-up artist). Send SAE or SASE to Antje Freudenberg, Scharnbecker Weg 5, 21365 Adenholz, Germany,

VISICON 22nd-23rd June 1996. Dublin City University. Guest of Honour is Nana Visitor (Major Kira Nerys, DS9) Special Guest is Robert Picardo (Doc Zimmerman, ST Voyager). The guest list grows: We are delighted to have Diane Duane (author of Spock's World and Dark Mirror), Peter Morwood (author of Rules of Engagement and the Demon Lord series) and Michael Carroll (author of the Pelicos Trilogy) The convention charity is the Coombe Maternity Hospital.

Limited accomodation will be available on-campus (on a first come first served basis to fully paid up delegates) with futher accomodation available ranging from B+B to hotels close by. We hope to have a shuttle bus available. Prices for the convention will range from 35 Irish pounds (early registration) to 40 pounds on the day. Under 12s half-price. For more information and registration forms, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: VISICON, PO BOX 1996, Dublin 14. E-Mail Info: wise@iol.ie

CONSTITUTION III 5th to 7th July, 1996. Tollgate Motel, Gravesend Kent. Registration: Full £20, 5-16/disabled £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.

CONTAGION, The Sixth Annual Scottish Star Trek Convention. Your only choice for the best guests and most fun in 1996. 13 - 15 July 1996 at the Glasgow Thistle Hotel (formerly Hospitality Inn). Registration (until 31/10/95) £31 adults & £16 for children. From 1/11/95 registration goes up to £36. Under 5s FREE. Accommodation available at Glasgow Thistle, Charing X Tower Hotel and Baird Hall to suit all budgets. Confirmed guest Richard Arnold. Others to be announced in November/December. All proceeds to charity. For full details contact Contagion, PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 4HR, FaxBack: 0141-429 8223, email: contagion@awayteam.demon.co.uk, www: <http://www.cityscape.co.uk/users/fn45/startrek.html>

CONCORDE 42nd British Star Trek Convention. 23rd-26th August 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London. First Guest Patricia Tallman (Actress and stuntwoman, she has guest-starred in TNG, DS9 and Voyager and was a stunt co-ordinator for Generations.) More guests to be announced. Concorde will be presenting a fantastic weekend of fun, entertainment and dancing. SAE for Registration form to Concorde Registrations, 138 Crosslands, Stantonbury, Milton Keynes MK14 6DF.

LIGHTSPEED '96. 13-15th September, 1996. The Leeds Hilton National, Leeds. A Star Trek Convention for all Generations. Covering the entire spectrum of Star Trek from the Original Series to Voyager. Rates £35 for full registration. UK Guest Dr Jack Cohen, USA Guest to be announced shortly. Reduced rates for Children/One day registrations. A packed programme of events including Guest talks, Competitions, Videos, Dealers, Disco and lots more. SAE for information and registration form to:

Lightspeed '96, 16 Bramwell St., Eastwood, Rotherham, South Yorkshire S65 1RZ.
 Lightspeed 95 raised the sum of £850 for The Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

MIDCON 15. Europe's longest running Star Trek Convention. October 4th-6th, 1996. Holiday Inn, Leicester. Confirmed guest, Chase Mastersen (Leeta, D59). For details send SAE to: Midcon 15, 8 Ennerdale Close, Oadby, Leicester LE2 4TN.

TEROK NOR (44th British Star Trek Convention. 22nd - 25th August 1997, The Radisson Edwardian, London. SAE for info to Terok Nor, 43 Eastern Avenue, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6HG.

OTHER EVENTS

NEUTRAL ZONE 15th -17th March, 1996. Sci-Fi/Multi-Media Convention. The Forte Crest Hotel, Newcastle Upon Tyne. Guests: Robert O'Reilly (Gowron), Bjo Trimble, Gareth Thomas (Blake's 7). Full registration £35, 2-day £25, 1-day £15. Under 14's half price, under 5's free. Hotel rates: single £35 pppn, double/twin £28.50 pppn. Price includes breakfast. For further info send SAE to The Neutral Zone, 16 Annandale, Darlington, County Durham, DL1 3QX.

48 HOURS IN SPACE 29-31 March 1996, Comfort Friendly Inn, Hull. A sci-fi video extravaganza featuring a non-stop programme over 4 video rooms, a fully stocked dealers room and space theme disco on Saturday night. Full weekend booking £25, Saturday & Sunday £20. Other times are available and all age 14 and under are half price. Hotel rates, per room, per night are double £35, single £20, including VAT and full breakfast. For a booking form or further details send SAE to '48 Hours in Space', c/o Hull Starfleet, PO Box 1701, Hull HU4 7YU. All profits from this event will be donated to the local Age-Concern and Hessele Dog Rescue charities.

ACCELERATE 96 - The 3rd British Quantum Leap Convention: 12-14 April 1996, Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow. A charity event in aid of Greenpeace and the Pediatric AIDS Foundation. First Confirmed

Guest, subject to work commitments - John D'Aquino. Full three-day programme of non-stop QL entertainment. 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.

VOYAGE 97 the 2nd British Convention devoted to 'Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea'. 25th-27th July 1997, Novotel, Sheffield. Reg: £30 until 31/7/96 then £35. A small friendly convention with a full programme. For further info and registration form send SAE to: Voyage 97, 15 Fullers Court, Exeter, Devon EX2 4DZ.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Aileen Dickie would like to contact any members going to Starbase '96. Aileen Dickie, 6 Rosebank Cres., Ayr KA7 2SS

To Alon Kirsh - Did you get my last letter? Please reply! I can get you the video you wanted. Marise Morland-Chapman, 12 Marsh Court, London Road, High Wycombe, Bucks HP11 1EW.



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 - 8 TNG videos nos: 64, 67, 70, 74, 79, 84, 86, 88. £5 each plus 50p for p&p. Dany Peeroo, 26 Kentonway, Woking, Surrey GU21 3QQ.

FOR SALE - Trading cards including White border game cards, TNG Inaugural and Master Series One. Miss Arline Lawrie, 37 Mainholm Road, Ayr KA8 0QN.

FOR SALE - Data Entries, Data Matrix, Starbursts, D.W.B., Cuttings. Low prices. SAE to: Mrs Jennifer Blanchard, 14 Eashing Lane, Godalming, Surrey GU7 2JZ.

FOR SALE - Beautiful Star Trek related artwork from German artists Heike Huebner/Gabi Steine. For catalogue send an A4 38p SAE to: Ms. Sylvia C. Paddock, 8 New Buildings, Broadclyst, Devon EX5 3EX.

FOR SALE - Files magazines ST:TNG File (1st season) £2.70; TNG novels - Vendetta £2.80, Ghost Ship, A Call to Darkness, Perchance to Dream (£1.95 each). Starlog nos. 2,3,4,7,8,9,10, 12 to 16 (£3 each). Warp Speed 1-8 (Ten Forward newsletter) £1 each. TV Zone no 19 £1.50, Critical Wave 20 (Feb 91) £1.30. Make It So 21 £1.20, New Enterprise 2 £3. All prices include postage. Tel. Marguerite Morris, 0121 455 9907.

FOR SALE - K/S Zines. SAE for list. Mrs M. Prew, 54 Beaulieu Gardens, Blackwater, Camberley, Surrey GU17 0LB. 01252 874996. Best before 9 am or after 8.30pm.

FOR SALE - I have some rare figures for sale. Please send an SAE for a price list, or make me an offer. To find out what figures I do have, write to Maria Woodward - Ashcroft, East Street, Westbourne, nr Emsworth, Hants PO10 8SH

FOR SALE - Brent Spiner's Ol' Yellow Eyes.. is now available on the Infinite Visions label. We have copies of the CD, cassette, T-shirts, bags and mugs available. Lots more to follow soon. For information, please send a SAE or IRCs to Donna & Dawn Macey, 66 Albert Rd,

Worcester WR5 1EB, tel. 01905 764161.

WANTED: Weetabix Cards (must be complete with stickers), Shuttlecraft Goddard, Enterprise Original, Romulan Warbird, Klingon Vor'cha Attack Cruiser Available for swaps: Ferengi Marauder, Borg Cube, Enterprise NCC-1701-D Alan Jones, Rock Lea, 9 Hodgson Fold, Bradford, BD2 4EB Tel: 01274 638392, EMAIL: alan@propath.com

WANTED - any video footage of Midcon 14 1940s night; Star Trek 3D Collector Cards that were issued in videos by Woolworths, No 1, 2, 3, 4, 6; 1993 Star Trek Classic episode video cards issued in videos in the USA; Star Trek NG Inaugural Edition 1992 album for set, holograms No 031, 033; all Star Trek 1995 Fritt stickers issued in Germany; 1976 Classic Topps set, 88 cards/22 stickers; TNG 1992 Panini (red backs) No 162; TNG season 2 HG 3 & 4 Troi and Riker holograms. Will pay your price within reason. Stephen Rothwell, 20 Baxter Park Tce, Dundee.

WANTED - Can anyone lend a pattern for TNG uniform to fit child age eight, height 128cm..chest 66cm..suitable to make Starfleet Medical uniform or lend/sell ready made uniform same size Starfleet medical. Tel. Marguerite Morris, 0121 455 9907.

WANTED: Back Issues of IDIC newsletters 1-33 inclusive. Also Star Trek TNG official video cassettes 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14-16, 28, 29, 39-41, 43-45, 47-49, 53, 55-59. All must be in good condition and reasonably cheap as I am unemployed. Write to: Keith Dunn, 57 Hearsall Lane, Earlsdon, Coventry, CV5 6HF. Or telephone 01203 715921. Penfriends also wanted.

WANTED - Trading Card specials: Season One Sp3, Sp4, Sp5, Sp6. Season 3: Sp13, Sp14, Sp15. Miss Arline Lawrie, 37 Mainholm Road, Ayr KA8 0QN.

WANTED - Due South episode 'The Deal' and Demi Moores on David Letterman around 10/11/95. Will supply tape + postage or costs. Harry, 18 East Greenlees Cres. Cambuslang, Glasgow G72 8TX.

WANTED - TNG season 2 cards from Skybox No.s 111, 131, 129, 151, 159, 193, 198, 200, S7, S8, S9, S10, S12, HG3, HG4. I will trade them for swaps or money. Dany Peeroo, 26 Kentonway, Goldsworth Park, Woking Surrey GU21 3QQ.

WANTED - to buy the following K/S zines. Duet 6, Gemini by Janice MacDonald (not Gemini, The Flame and The Fire!), Mirror Reflections, Hidden Desires and Aftermath, A New Future/Out of Bounds, IKS 4 Connections. Name your price incl postage by EC in £ sterling! Write to: Antje Rubenach, Domplatz 5, D-93047 Regensburg, Germany.

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.

QAPLA MAIL ORDER - TNG videos nos: 1, 17, 20, 24-27, 29, 30, 33, 34, 39, 42, 48, 49, 51-53, 56, 60 @ £5 each; Voyager Series II Trading cards. Star Wars cards; Playmates - Bajoran Phasers @ £13.50, Bajoran Tricorders @ £13.50, Classic Phasers (last few) @ £15, Next Gen Phasers @ £13.50; Enesco Bird of Prey Figurine @ £28 as well as Pewer Figures. SAE for further info to Qapla Mail Order, Jason Mark Hulott, 2 Kellsboro Avenue, Wroughton, Swindon, Wilts SN4 9HT.

MISC

OPEN HOUSE (not a local group as such - and not just for "Star Trek" fans - but just what it says) 43 Brooksbank House, Retreat Place, Morning Lane, Homerton, London E9 6RN. Most Saturdays 12-4, sometimes longer. Contact Janet Ellicott as above 0181 985 0425. Please phone before turning up.

STAR CLUSTER - Play by Mail game of Interplanetary warfare. There are twenty players in each game of Star Cluster, and

each player is leader of his own race. As leader your aim is to conquer the other players' Empires and take them for your own. Moderation: Computer; Players: 20; Turnaround: 2 weeks, Set-up: £5 (includes rule book & 2 free turns), Complexity: Medium; Gamesmasters: Full Time; Newsletter: Each turn; Rule book: 20 page quality A4; Turns: £1.75 per turn (no hidden costs). SAE for further info to: Star Cluster, Stock in Trade PBM, 297 Rochdale Eoad, Royton, Lancs OL2 5SX.

SHAKAAR, brand new science fiction magazine. X-Files, Star Trek, Babylon 5 and much more.... For details, contact :Lisa Walshe, 4 Carrig Lawn, Upper Kilmacud Rd., Dublin 14, Ireland.



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.

USS DESTINY- quarterly newsletters, local meetings. For info contact USS Destiny, First Contact Unit, Desmond McCarthy, 5 Dunmisk Place, Belfast BT11 8GS.

PATRICK STEWART APPRECIATION SOCIETY - PSAS is Patrick Stewart's officially sanctioned fancub. **Please note change of address** effective immediately - for details of PSAS, please send SAE (or 2 IRCs from abroad) to PSAS c/o 12 Anderson Close, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6HF, England.

OFF WORLD SOCIETY OF VULCANS
\$5.00 per year (US) and \$8.00 per year
Foreign & Canada. The Rata T'afar Tapan is
published 4 times a year. For more info send
SASE to T'Letyah c/o Valerie La Rue, 304
Caroline St., Neenah, WI 54956 USA

ROBERT BELTRAN FAN CLUB - Do you
like Chakotay?? Do you love Robert
Beltran?? Then consider joining the Robert
Beltran Fan Club. We are a group of like
minded individuals who all enjoy the works
of Robert Beltran.

Right now we are currently seeking
sanctioning from Mr. Beltran. We are hopeful
that this will be done around the end of this
year or the beginning of next.

Membership Benefits: 6 issues of First
Officer's Log- Official Newsletter of the Fan
Club; any special issues through the year;
access to the main web site, which will
contain up to date information that could not
make the newsletter; access to our monthly
IRC chats.

Membership Fees: \$20US/\$25 Foreign US
Funds per year.

E-mail rbkamala@ix.netcom.com for
more info and for a electronic sample of the
newsletter.

Visit our preview website-

<http://home.aol.com/kamotay>

Email: Kamala@aol.com

delafuen@suntan.eng.usf.edu

or here at the netcom address

or via snail mail

Robert Beltran Fan Club, 6123 Halifax Drive

New Port Richey FL 34653-6030, USA

Attn: Kam

KHEMOREX KLINZHAI INTER-
NATIONAL N/L subscriptions UK £5, USA
(\$20) for 6 issues. For German language
edition contact European Commander.

New UK address: The Membership Secretary,
Khemorex Klinzhai, 15 Westwood Gardens,
Paisley PA3 1NA, Scotland tel: 0141 848 5212.
Europe: Khemorex Klinzhai Europe, c/o
Andreas Duck, Am Spitzberg 26-56075,
Koblenz, Germany. Tel-Fax (00 49) 261 53438
email.jesse@informatik.uni-koblenz.de

USS EUROPEAN ALLIES - a new free club
and newsletter group. New 4 A4 fanzine
including USS European Allies Awards/

Penpals/Ferengi. Write to James Woodman,
Le Relais Des Garrigues, Route de Fronton,
82170 Grisolles, France. It would be nice to be
sent International Reply Coupons.

STARFLEET ACADEMY - Join this new Star
Trek fan club and join the excitement with
others like yourself who just like having fun
for only £8 per year. You receive 6 x 48-52
page newsletters, introduction pack, a unique
laminated photo I.D. card, discounts and lots
more. Lee Close, 101 Barton Terrace,
Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9LL.
Email: academy@parabbs.demon.co.uk

LOCAL GROUPS - Update

**If you know of a local group not listed
please send details to Janet.**

Most of these groups have monthly
meetings. Please enclose an SAE when
writing to them for details.

New Trekker in the Norwich area seeks fans
nearby. Perhaps if there is enough interest
we could form a club. I've got an extensive
collection of TNG videos as well as a few
Voyagers. If you are interested contact Jo
Dale at C/o ENV 1, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ.
Or E-mail me at J.Dale@uea.ac.uk

Aberdeen - Starbase Apollo, PO Box 10076,
Portlethen, Aberdeen AB1 4YE. Meetings:
Dec 10th, in Douglas Hotel.

Airdrie - USS Renegade is a local group, run
from Airdrie in Lanarkshire. Meetings are
held at Lilybank Community Centre, Chapel
Street, Airdrie from 1.30pm until 4.40pm.
Upcoming date 10th Dec. (Dates subject to
change. USS Renegade, POBox 5425, Airdrie
ML6 9BW.

Aldershot - Nexus Crew Club 1701. Venue
Connaught School, Tongham Road,
Aldershot, Hants. Meets 1st Thursday of
every month at 7.30pm. Other meetings,
events, outings throughout the year/social
club/discount card for merchandise/club
library. Contact Chair 01252 313699 or club
secretary 01252 313106.

Asford - Energize. Weekly meetings for the

over 18s include video nights, role-playing games, games nights, laser battles, theatre/cinema trips, etc, etc...

The under 18s (Energize Cadets) do much the same sort of thing!

For further details contact:

Over 18s	Under 18s
Dave & Tina Styles	Allen Tullett
117 Beaver Road	6 Southbourne
Ashford	Washford Farm
Kent	Ashford
TN23 7SG	Kent
Phone 01233 642687	TN23 5UB

Birkenhead Star Trek Club meets first Saturday each month, 1 pm onwards at The Carlton, Borough Rd, Birkenhead; £2. For details contact 0151 651 1055 or 01973 172436

Birmingham - Maquis, a new sci-fantasy club with the emphasis on FUN. Four newsletters a year. Bi-monthly 2 day meetings. Membership £3.50 for 4 newsletters, £5.00 for 8 newsletters. For further details contact Maquis, Mo Rowley, 36 Kingscote Close, Church Hills. Redditch B98 9LJ.

Edinburgh - Starbase East Coast. We meet 10am to 10pm, at the Carlton Highland Hotel, North Bridge, Edinburgh for twelve hours of non stop Star Trek - the latest Voyager and DS9 episodes, plus favourite episodes of TNG and Classic. Admission: £4 adults, £3 under 15s who must be accompanied by an adult. All profits to the Conundrum charity. Next meeting 17th Dec. Enquiries - SAE to Starbase East Coast, c/o Greg Lamb, 195/2 Great Junction Street, Edinburgh EH6 5LQ. Email: local@starbeco.demon.co.uk

Edinburgh - The U.S.S. Claremont is a weekly ST club which meets every Thursday night at the Claremont Bar, 133 East Claremont St. Edinburgh from 7.30pm. All the bar staff are enthusiastic Trekkers and enquiries should be made to Robin or Alex on 0131 556 5662.

Glasgow - The Away Team: Contagion (Away Team), PO Box 867, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 4HR. Hospitality Inn 10.00am to 10.00pm, £6, (£4 under 14s). Next meetings: 7th Jan 1996.

Hull Starfleet - Beam down to the Comfort Friendly Inn (formerly the Vallent House Hotel on the corner of Analby Road and Ferensway). Regular monthly meetings. For further info send SAE to Hull Starfleet, PO Box 1701, Hull, UH4 7YU or telephone (01482) 875208 (evenings).

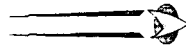
Leicester Starfleet - meets every third Tuesday in the month at the Victory Pub (Opposite Granby Halls). Quizzes, raffles, information, latest videos etc. Everyone welcome. £1.50 to join, £1.00 thereafter.

Liverpool - Fek'lhr Meets Coopers Wine Emporium Bar, Kingston House, James St/Strand Liverpool, first Sunday each month. Future date 3rd Dec. For info, SAE to J Panter, 51 Church Rd, Liverpool L3 2AU (tel 0151 228 1567)

London - The London Group: Bi-monthly Trek group, 10.30am-7.00pm, Britannia Inter-Continental Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1. 1996 dates: 13th January, 16th March, 11th May, 6th July, 14th September, 2nd November - price £7 per meeting. Please send SAE for further details to Kim Knight, 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex IG10 2BS.

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.

Sleaford, Lincs. - The Picard Maneuver. Come along and meet new friends and watch videos. All Trekkers are welcome. SAE for info to The Picard Maneuver, 17 Parkfield Road, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincs. NG34 9HS or telephone 01526 833877.



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The opinions stated in this newsletter are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the committee.

Send to:-

Janet - Subscriptions, renewals, all newsletter submissions on disc or my email; all news, cuttings, info etc. ; used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

Sheila - All Zine orders; submissions for the newsletter which have to be typed up - postbag, articles, reviews, adverts etc; TNG & DS9 submissions for zines (stories, poetry and artwork); used stamps for the Guide Dogs.

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.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

This is a statutory notice as prescribed by the above Act. In accordance with the conditions governing the maintenance of machine-readable records by non-incorporated members' clubs, IDIC must advise that the names and addresses of every member are held in a computer-readable format in order to more efficiently prepare and despatch newsletters. The information is used for this purpose only, and will not be disclosed to any other party whatsoever without the specific consent of the Data Subject (i.e. the member concerned). You should also be aware that you have a statutory right for your name to be deleted from the computer record and for your newsletters to be addressed manually.

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